

U TODAY



TIME'S
NEW MAN
EDWARD FELSENTHAL





An African sunset at Geiger's Camp, taken by Little Rock, AR, podiatrist **Allan Gold '60** on his safari adventure last summer. "African sunrise, sunset, and the night sky and Southern constellations are gorgeous," Gold says. As long as he continues to find beauty and inspiration in nature and wildlife - and his health permits - he plans to keep journeying with family, friends, and his wife, Laura, his favorite traveling companion. Read more about his 2017 trip on page 20.

Swinging for the Fences

At *MUS Today* we often publish photos submitted by alumni, including the picturesque Africa travelogue offered by **Allan Gold '60** in this issue (page 20). Never had we requested that a subject shoot a photo for his own article, until we asked **Edward Felsenthal '84** – the editor-in-chief of *Time* magazine, no less – to photograph the Manhattan skyline as he rode the ferry over the Hudson.

And he did.

Took him a while – winter's gloom hugged the riverbank well into spring – but on the first clear day, April 13, he whipped out his iPhone 6s and captured the best part of his daily commute (page 56). Moreover, last fall Felsenthal invited his 10th-grade English teacher, **Lin Askew**, and me to the *Time* New York City office for an interview, and in February he agreed to a photo shoot in the newsroom (page 7).

Nothing like making a guy jump through hoops for his high school alumni magazine. Felsenthal didn't flinch – or at least, he didn't let on – fitting us in amongst French President Emmanuel Macron, Guest Editor Bill Gates, the Time Inc. acquisition, and too many world crises and Trump stories to count.

We can thank his sense of gratitude. He says he wouldn't be where he is without the education he received at MUS – especially from its Titans of Grammar and Literature.

"This is my sophomore English teacher," Felsenthal said, proudly introducing Askew in the *Time* newsroom.

"I'm sorry to hear that," a colleague joked, shaking Askew's hand.

The impressions great teachers make can last a lifetime.

David Dunavant '76, who has launched a company to employ adults on the autism spectrum (page 26), says religion teacher Dr. **David Jackson** helped him view ethics through the lens of faith. "It changed my life," Dunavant says.

Wilson Waller '10, now working to bring technology education to children who might not otherwise have access (page 14), says a discussion with **Clay Smythe '85** in Philosophy and Ethics sparked an interest in entrepreneurship. "He brought up the idea of us building solar panels and starting our own business. That was part of my experience at MUS that motivated me to travel to India to start a project in clean tech."

Waller also recalls the influence of **Rosalyn Croce** in Honors Accelerated Chemistry, a "smart kid" class. "I was intimidated since I am a slow learner in technical subjects. She was awesome in the sense that she understood my setbacks. That experience shapes my work today as we give students in under-resourced areas the opportunity to learn subjects that will put them ahead of the curve."

Years from now **Conner Hobbs '18** might look back to his MUS days and the influence of his calculus teacher and



Pitcher/first baseman Conner "Chobbs" Hobbs and Math Instructor Darin "Hulk" Clifft

Incredible Hulk aficionado, **Darin Clifft** – especially during one 2018 varsity baseball game.

Grading papers as he cheered on the team, Clifft watched Hobbs take the plate and yelled, "I'm grading your quiz right now." The pitcher/first baseman hit a double, and as he reached second, he pointed at his math teacher.

"OK! OK! You got an A!" Clifft said.

Later, with Hobbs at bat again, Clifft hollered, "It looks like we're in bonus-point territory," and his student hit the team's first home run of the season – a three-run homer! The fans (mostly parents) went wild, and Hobbs gestured to his teacher again in acknowledgment.

Of course, Clifft was joking about the grade – "We have an honor code around here," he says. But, he adds, "I am incredibly proud of the team and the hustle they showed on every play." (The win added to a strong season, at press time 16-5-0.)

Years from now, when he looks back, Hobbs may realize Clifft was watching him hit that homer when he could have been at home.

Watching *Incredible Hulk* reruns ... and grading papers.

The impressions *green* teachers make can last a lifetime, too.



LIZ COPELAND

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

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ON THE COVER



Edward Felsenthal '84 has had a big year. It has been eight months since the veteran journalist was named editor-in-chief of the award-winning, 95-year-old *Time* magazine. As a proven leader in the news media's digital revolution, Felsenthal is enthusiastic about the

opportunities ahead as he continues to grow *Time* across platforms and around the world. Photo by Reed Young

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Editor's Note: We received several letters and emails in response to Instructor in English Norman Thompson's most recent The Last Word column titled "One for the Books," published in the previous issue of MUS Today (Winter 2018). See his latest column, "Ode to Mentorship," in this issue on page 54.

Dear Mr. Thompson,

I guess I should now call you Norman as I am beyond the middle of my years!

I look forward to reading your The Last Word in every *MUS Today* magazine; in fact, it has become the first piece I read. As I have a 15-year-old son, your most recent essay hit me square between the eyes. I will share it with him and who knows, maybe he will even read it!

All the best,
Davant Latham '80
President, Davant Latham Bloodstock
& Insurance, Inc.

P.S. Although your poetry class was the worst grade I received at MUS, it remains one of my favorites. There is truly no frigate like a book!

Dear Mr. Thompson,

I have enjoyed reading your essays in *MUS Today*. Your insight and humor remain appreciated and keep each issue from the recycling bin for a few extra minutes.

Having just finished "One for the Books," I wanted to reassure you that some of your former students continue to enjoy your influence. I, for one, can focus on any task at hand despite the presence of someone whistling birdcalls while spinning a book on his index finger. I'm certain it will come in handy any day now.

I continue to enjoy reading an old-fashioned paper book, but I must admit to succumbing to the siren song of the word processor when I write. (I'm using the frappe setting currently.) Thanks to your Convention and Experiment class (memory fades; I hope I recalled the name correctly), I have enjoyed both the reading and writing of poetry throughout adulthood. I should not omit the similar influences from Mr. **[Jim] Russell** and Professor Richard "Doc" Wood at Southwestern/Rhodes College who encouraged my strange inclination to put pen to paper – usually for nothing more

than my own amusement. (Lately I have found that my writing can elicit a reliable eye-roll from my girlfriend, so I get "double the pleasure, double the fun.")

I very much appreciate your efforts four decades ago. I have enclosed a few examples just to let you know where my mind has strayed in that time. I didn't quite become the William Carlos Williams of my generation (I fear I'm closer to Ogden Nash), but I have enjoyed your gifts.

Stephan Sharp '79
Medical Director, Clinical
Research Associates

Dear MUS Today,

I was distressed to read Norman Thompson's column and hope there are exceptions. Interestingly, my husband and I had a conversation on that very topic with [Faculty Emeritus] **Terry Shelton** at [Headmaster Emeritus] **Ellis Haguewood's** retirement party. There was a student (oh, how I wish I could remember his name) who recounted the hoops he went through to avoid reading anything Terry assigned (CliffsNotes, movies) and who now is an avid reader.

Gloria Felsenthal,
mother of Edward '84,
Marty '87, and David '88

Dear Mr. Thompson,

(I still can't call you Norman, as I can't call Mr. Haguewood Ellis, even though I am a grandfather and my granddaughter just got married! Feel old yet? I do!)

As always, I truly enjoyed your The Last Word in the latest *MUS Today*. [Like] my mother, Frances Day, who had a master's degree in English from Vanderbilt, I have always had an affinity for both reading and English – "Southern English," to be more precise. Mother grew up in the Mississippi Delta and, as God is my witness, my grandmother slept with a Confederate pistol

under her pillow as she still believed that [Gen.] Grant would come down the street and take our long-gone chickens!

Just wanted to say thanks for teaching me the value of reading. Unfortunately, most of my reading is done in trade magazines and learning more about what I do for a living: schlep kitchen equipment. Thanks for always keeping things fun and interesting. Like Mr. Chips: We grow old, the boys stay the same.

All the best,
Charles "Chuck" Day '74
President, Manning
Brothers Food Equipment

Dear Mr. Thompson,

I recently read your column "One for the Books" in *MUS Today*. I was moved, as I do believe we are a society moving away from books, and it is not for the good. Noise is prevailing in the world with Instagram, Twitter, Snapchat, etc. Please continue to spark the imagination of young men as it is instrumental to their development and becoming critical thinkers. If they need encouragement, please explain how many "school speed limit" scores I achieved in your classes, and now I'm telling them to read more books and not CliffsNotes.

The famous quote by Sir Francis Bacon convicted me as the books I had read made me. I have thankfully realized the importance of reading.

Thank you for all that you have done and continue to do for the students at MUS. I feel like we are all on the journey of becoming a "full man ... a ready man ... an exact man."

Sincerely,
Richard Moore III '98
Director of Business Development,
Lehman-Roberts Company

Fit *to* Print

After 40 years in journalism – if you count *Half Hoot* and *Owl's Hoot* –
Edward Felsenthal is editor-in-chief once more, this time for *Time*

BY LIZ COPELAND



As editor-in-chief of Time since September 14, Edward Felsenthal oversees the 95-year-old news magazine, sometimes from the couch in the newsroom conference area.

Photo by Reed Young

Forty-four years after he began collecting *Time* magazines and five months after being named editor-in-chief of the esteemed publication, **Edward Felsenthal '84** is talking about firsts. His first Person of the Year cover, “The Silence Breakers,” activists who launched the #MeToo movement against sexual harassment. The first guest editor in the magazine’s 95-year history, Bill Gates, who curated the January 5 issue focusing on optimism. Felsenthal’s first trip to Davos, Switzerland, for the World Economic Forum, where he moderated a panel on cyber warfare.

After mentioning last fall’s Emmy for the *Time*/PBS documentary *A Year in Space* and four pending National Magazine Award nominations, he stops mid-thought.

“Oh, and I interviewed [French President Emmanuel] Macron. That was cool!” Felsenthal says, laughing.

Given the eventful months since his September 14 ascension – a span that included the sale of New

York-based parent company Time Inc. to Iowa-rooted media conglomerate Meredith and a pending sale of *Time* – Felsenthal could be forgiven a momentary lapse. Even if it was overlooking “The Next Leader of Europe (If Only He Can Lead France),” as the cover lines put it on *Time*’s November 20 magazine.

In these tenuous times when journalism’s traditional business models are under siege, Felsenthal seems undaunted – indeed, energized – by the obstacles and opportunities he faces as editor-in-chief of the iconic magazine.

“It’s a challenging time in this business, but I can’t imagine a more fascinating time,” he said last October. He was sitting in a *Time* conference room with **Lin Askew**, his sophomore literature teacher, talking about old times and new. (See Q&A, opposite page.)

“One of the reasons I got into this – besides the fact that I liked editing *The Owl’s Hoot* – is that I knew I’d never spend a day at the office bored. That has never been

truer than the last year. The story of our times is turbulent, and fascinating, and full of surprises. Then there’s the state of this business. We’re reinventing it. We are able to use the platforms we have to tell stories in much more exciting ways than when I started doing this. If you count the *Half Hoot* [Lower School newspaper], he says with a smile, “this is my 40th year in journalism.”

Announcing Felsenthal’s appointment last fall, then-Time Inc. CEO and President Rich Battista cited the new editor-in-chief’s “record for driving significant digital and video growth” for the company. “Edward has demonstrated that he is also an entrepreneurial, innovative talent and the perfect person to lead *Time*’s continuing expansion across all platforms.”

Continued on page 10

Time Editor-in-Chief Edward Felsenthal, left, and Paris-based correspondent Vivienne Walt interview French President Emmanuel Macron at Elysée Palace November 7.



Photo by Jonathan Woods for *Time*

On an Indian summer day in Lower Manhattan last October, newly installed *Time* Editor-in-Chief **Edward Felsenthal '84** sat down in a glass-front newsroom conference space with his sophomore English teacher, **Lin Askew**, and *MUS Today* Editor **Liz Copeland**. What follows – between bites of turkey sandwiches – is an excerpt from the conversation.

QA
&A

Liz Copeland: I read that you had 85 people contributing to *The Owl's Hoot* when you were editor-in-chief.

Edward Felsenthal: I was very proud of that at the time. Part of what I love about journalism is the feeling that you are part of a community, a school, a city, or a community of readers. One of my goals was to bring more of the MUS community into *The Owl's Hoot*. We created a few franchises to get people interested who might not otherwise have wanted to be involved. **James Hudson '84** was the Mystery Poet. Evenings with Evans was **Evans Jack '84**. **Len Hardison '84** did a sports column called Len's Losers. **Frank Watson '84** – we created a column for him called Frankly Speaking. When I got this job, he posted on Facebook that he wanted his column in *Time*.

Lin Askew: Did he want to call it Frankly Speaking?

Edward: Yes, Frankly Speaking. Another hilarious comment – **Bob McEwan's '84** wife, Emily, posted, 'Bob always bragged to our children that he once beat Edward in the spelling bee, and now we are even prouder of Bob.'

Lin: I find that hard to believe.

Edward: Spelling was never my strength. One of the things I'm grateful for is spellcheck.

Liz: Any lessons learned from *The Owl's Hoot* applied here?

Edward: I don't want to be too overserious about it, but one thing I've carried through is that publications ought to be



Edward Felsenthal and his sophomore English teacher, Lin Askew, in the Time newsroom

serious, and confront the issues, and be tough ... but also have a sense of humor. Once we were too tough, and I got called into Mr. [Gene] Thorn's office. I pushed it, and we had an editorial involving library policy. I'm sure it was one of the great issues of our time.

Lin: In an interview with *The Owl's Hoot* years after Edward had graduated, I said that he was my all-time favorite student. This was before [sons] **Will '97** and **Charles '05** were students at MUS – I have to get that caveat in.

Edward: My mother immediately sent that to me.

Liz: Why was Edward your favorite?

Lin: He had an enthusiasm and passion about reading – aside from being obviously brilliant. That, combined with humility. It's a lovely cocktail.

Edward: I'll drink to that! We haven't talked about my family. They're more important than I am.

Liz: We hear your two daughters have a baby brother.

Edward: Yes, 9-month-old Eric – it's great. My college friends are starting to be empty nesters, and I have a 9-month-old. Eric figured out very early that he needed to be easygoing, and it might be a few minutes before we would get to him. He's a very good-natured, brilliant child.

Lin: As is my new granddaughter, Ellery.

Edward: I have no doubt. They should meet. Eric has a famous head of hair – like lifted from Elvis's head in the '70s. His two older sisters are excited to have a doll that talks and cries. Sophie's in fourth grade. She would love Lin's class – she is never without a book. She took piano last year, taking violin this year. Louise is in first grade. She's a personality – very funny, and a great reader too. She's into Barbie and Polly Pockets. We did a story on Mattel coming out with more realistic body types for Barbies, and I showed her the video. She felt quite lucky to have a father who was in on the new Barbie.

Liz: And your wife, Ali?

Edward: Ali is a nurse practitioner. I could never have handled medicine. But Ali has what I think is a pretty rare combination of scientific precision and deep empathy. She meets people for the first time, and they unload their life stories in vivid and sometimes alarming detail. She spent 10 years in an amazing family practice in the city, took a leave a couple of years ago to help care for her stepfather, and then we had Eric. And now she's really excited to go back to work. It's much harder juggling three kids than sitting here, having lunch, and talking to your 10th-grade teacher.

Battista has gone the way of Time Inc., and Meredith – publisher of lifestyle brands *Better Homes and Gardens*, *Family Circle*, and *Ladies' Home Journal* – is selling *Time*, along with *Sports Illustrated*, *Fortune*, and *Money*. (No word on the sale at press time.)

Felsenthal is ever-optimistic – “So far, so good,” he says. And realistic – “Change happens to be a tradition at TIME,” he wrote in his first column as editor-in-chief last October. (See page 13.)

DON'T STOP THE PRESSES

Following a very successful *Owl's Hoot* tenure – under his leadership 85 students contributed to the paper – Felsenthal graduated from Princeton and earned a master's in law and diplomacy from Tufts and a law degree from Harvard. He gained journalistic chops as a *Wall Street Journal* reporter and Supreme Court correspondent. He was the founding editor of the newspaper's *Personal Journal*, whose staff won two Pulitzer Prizes, and he served in various leadership roles before finishing his *WSJ* career as deputy managing editor.

The first executive editor of the news and pop culture website *The Daily Beast*, founded in 2008, he has been in the vanguard of the news media's digital revolution. He joined *Time* in 2013 as digital editor and three years later became digital director of Time Inc.'s news and lifestyle group, which included a dozen brands. He promoted the creation of a 24/7 news operation that spans the globe and the expansion of video production and multi-platform content delivery.

John Marcom '75, president of international for Meredith (and formerly, Time Inc.), sees Felsenthal's choices both in his previous digital

roles and as editor-in-chief as strong enticements for media-promiscuous readers to click and stay awhile.

“He's very focused on making a mark in news,” says Marcom, who oversees publishing the international editions of *Time* and *Fortune*. The two connected through their Time Inc. association and discovered their mutual MUS connection. (See sidebar, opposite page.) “The world sees [*Time*] mostly in terms of these cover choices that get on Instagram and get shared. Underneath that, people really do read these stories and develop an affinity for what *Time* brings to storytelling.”

In Felsenthal's view, it all begins with the story – and print. “The cover is the foundation of what we're doing,” he says, launching into a mini-sales pitch. “We have 2 million loyal, paying, print subscribers, which is more than any other news publication in the U.S. We have a cover that ricochets around social media and around the world so that it actually has more impact now than it did a few decades ago. More people [see it] on their phones than in their homes. Well before people have the magazine in their homes, it's on Facebook and Twitter. Our digital audience has tripled, to 60 million – 40 percent of those are [ages] 18-34.”

As an example of the print springboard, he describes how the Emmy-winning *A Year in Space* began with the December 29, 2014/January 5, 2015, double issue about astronaut Scott Kelly, who would soon begin his 12-month mission on the International Space Station to determine the effects of space travel on the body. From that foundation, Time producers created a 12-part digital series (time.com/space) and two one-hour episodes for PBS.

The September 18 “Women



Edward and Ali Felsenthal with their children, from left, Louise, Sophie, and Eric

Who Are Changing the World” issue featured 46 profiles – Oprah Winfrey, Hillary Clinton, Nikki Haley, Serena Williams, and Selena Gomez (first person to reach 100 million followers on Instagram) among them. The project also included a book – “I can get you a discount,” he jokes – and video stories (time.com/firsts).

“I loved sharing those videos with my 9-year old and 7-year-old daughters,” Felsenthal says. “I've been so lucky in the family department, with my parents [Gloria and Eddie Felsenthal] and brothers [**Marty '87** and **David '88**], and an amazing wife and kids, who inspire me every day and don't let me get away with anything!” Felsenthal and his wife, Ali, have three children, Sophie (9), Louise (7), and Eric (17 months).

FRIENDS WITH THE WRITE STUFF

When **Sid Evans '87** and Felsenthal were kids, they were sharing carpool rides to Presbyterian Day School. About 15 years ago, discovering their mutual journalistic paths, Sid and Edward struck up a friendship, and more recently,

they have been Time Inc. and Meredith colleagues. As editor-in-chief of *Southern Living* and *Coastal Living*, Evans says he was grateful for Felsenthal's strategic direction in growing a digital audience, including establishing a round-the-clock news feed and bolstering social media presence and video content.

"Edward's a digital genius," Evans says. "He knows how to do great journalism but do it in a way that is entertaining, and shareable, and engaging. That's a pretty good trick. The ability to do that doesn't always translate from print to digital. You have to learn those skills, learn how to speak to those audiences."

Felsenthal has spent time in Birmingham, AL, home to Evans and *Southern Living*. When Evans gets to New York City, the two might slip out for barbecue at Blue Smoke. "And it's like we're right back at home," Evans says.

(For more on Evans, see "True South" in the Summer 2014 issue of *MUS Today*.)

Another hometown association shows up in the acknowledgments of *Fitter Faster: The Smart Way to Get in Shape in Just Minutes a Day* (AMACOM, 2017), where **Robert Davis '82** thanks "my close friend Edward Felsenthal, whose editorial guidance unquestionably made this a better book." (See review of Davis's book in "Covers" in the Summer 2017 issue of *MUS Today*.)

Davis, former *Owl's Hoot* editor-in-chief and current president and CEO of the health-media company Everwell, has acknowledged Felsenthal's assistance on all three of his books. "I can't imagine writing a book without his input. He's a fantastic editor."

He remembers assigning an *Owl's Hoot* story to the fledgling writer. "I believe it was on politics," Davis says, "the 1980 election."

Returning the favor, he has written for Felsenthal over the years, including a health column at the *Wall Street Journal*. Edward, Ali, and the kids recently appeared in a video series Davis produced for The Newborn Channel, broadcast in health care facilities, on creating a safe home for babies.

Davis praises his friend's agile mind, which helps him master unfamiliar subjects quickly, and his ability to get to the heart of a story. "He is able to look at issues and think through not only know how to explain them clearly but also how to make them meaningful to readers," Davis says. "He also has a fantastic management style. I have never encountered anyone who didn't love working for Edward."

A more extensive tribute can be found in Davis's personal archives. "When I graduated from MUS, Edward produced a funny 'This Is Your Life' tribute on cassette tape," he says. "Aiming to outdo him, I produced a 30-minute video

Marcom Takes Care of International Business



John Marcom

John Marcom '75 and **Edward Felsenthal '84** met just a couple years ago. As president of international for Meredith (formerly Time Inc.), Marcom oversees business outside North America, including *Time* and *Fortune*. When he had a meeting with then-Time Group

Digital Director Felsenthal, they discovered their MUS connection.

"We started talking, Memphis came up, and we worked out the whole thing," Marcom says. "There you are – it's funny."

They had other experiences in common: Both went to Princeton and worked as reporters for the *Wall Street Journal*, and both read *Time* in their youth – Marcom asked his grandparents for a gift subscription.

"It took a comprehensive look at the world every week," he says. "I always had this idle fantasy that it would be fun to work at a place like that."

His career had an international flavor from the start. After Princeton, he started working for the Asian edition of the *WSJ* in Seoul while on a Henry Luce Foundation scholarship, moving on to Tokyo, New York, and London. He earned an MBA from INSEAD – "The Business School for the World" – in 1992. He oversaw Time Inc.'s Asian business in the '90s and served as Yahoo's senior vice president for international in the early 2000s, helping to increase that company's international business tenfold. He also founded the marketing and digital platform company Media BBQ in 2007 and rejoined Time Inc. in late 2015.

Marcom calls the San Francisco Bay Area home, but he is often on a plane traveling to meet with publishers, advertisers, and readers around the world.

"*Time* has surprising resonance around the world. The farther you are from New York City, the more important it is perceived to be," he says. "Henry Luce, the founder, was a farsighted guy. After World War II he started distribution and subscription sales for the magazine around the world. Brand recognition has come back with the internet, which creates different opportunities. ... But there is still a very dedicated following of people who want it in print."

— Liz Copeland

on his life (using the resources of CNN, where I worked at the time) when he graduated from college. Among others, Coach [Jerry] Peters, Mr. [Norman] Thompson, and Mrs. [Marilyn] Reinhardt appeared in the video. It included predictions of what Edward would be doing in 25 years. His grandmother came closest when she said, 'I expect great things from him.' The eagerly awaited sequel is still in the works."

FROM HARBRACE HANDBOOK TO TIME

Among the congratulatory notes Felsenthal received when he was named editor-in-chief was one from Headmaster Emeritus Ellis Haguewood. In the *Time* conference room, surrounded by his sophomore literature teacher and framed images of momentous magazine covers, Felsenthal accesses his response to Haguewood on his phone.

"I'm forever indebted to you and Lin Askew and Norman Thompson and Terry Shelton for encouraging me as a writer and ultimately as a journalist. I took a modern literature class at Princeton, and the teaching assistant – a man with 3-inch nails

and 30-inch hair who spilled wine on my essay as he was grading it – wrote at the top: 'You write like a windy after-dinner speaker at a diplomatist convention.' I believe this was not a compliment. I might well at that moment have moved toward another career, perhaps diplomacy, if not for the writing discipline and confidence that I gained at MUS."

Looking up from the screen, Felsenthal describes the rigor of English teachers Shelton – "He beat out of you, with *Harbrace Handbook* numerals, every potential bad structural, grammatical, or cliché element that might creep into your writing" – and Thompson, with his *Word Wealth* exercises. "They were both tough but in infectious, fun environments. Your level of fun depended on how many citations of *Harbrace Handbook* violations you got."

He tells Askew that he revealed in his classroom conversations about literature – *Great Gatsby*, *Huckleberry Finn*, *Othello*.

"It was the first time I ever experienced a dialogue [about literature], and it was exciting.

I appreciate the rigor and the memorization of rules – all of that is totally fundamental, and I wouldn't be here without it – but there's something about bringing literature to life. It also helps you prepare for college, which was almost entirely that way."

"Didn't you write on Faulkner's *Spotted Horses*?" the teacher asks.

"I did write on *Spotted Horses*," his student answers.

That paper can still be found at the Memphis home of Gloria and Eddie Felsenthal, along with their son's 10th-grade textbook, essays, notes, and his 128K Macintosh from college.

"I'm a saver," Felsenthal says.

He started saving *Time* magazines in 1974. Some might say he's still at it.

From left, Time Senior Engineer David Kofahl, Editor-in-Chief Edward Felsenthal, Senior Producer Tara Johnson, Associate Art Director Chelsea Kardokus, Assistant Managing Editor Ben Goldberger, and writer Eliana Dockterman outline the 2017 Person of the Year package in their second home, a secret conference room called "the bunker."



Photo by Kara Milstein for Time

THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF'S FIRST EDITOR'S LETTER

This letter appeared in the October 02, 2017 issue of TIME.

Hanging above my desk is a letter from the editors of TIME to my grandfather. An immigrant who fled Nazi Germany in the 1930s, he, like so many others of his era, was introduced to America through the pages of this magazine. Now and then, he returned the favor by introducing TIME's editors to some of his own ideas – in this case with a dispatch (in rhyme!) pointing out that they had erred in using the word *who* instead of *whom* on a recent cover.

TIME acknowledged in response that, grammatically speaking, it was “skating on very thin ice” but noted, citing H.L. Mencken, Noah Webster and *Do's, Don'ts and Maybes of English Usage*, that traditions change.

Change happens to be a tradition at TIME. This publication has gone from black-and-white to color; from a lightly sketched cover to its famous red border; from print to radio to film (winning an Oscar along the way) to the web. It moved from New York City to Cleveland and back. It supported, through the thinnest of veils, Dwight Eisenhower for President and then 20 years later, in its first editorial, urged Richard Nixon to resign.

Over the past four years, led by my friend and predecessor Nancy Gibbs, TIME has changed more than at any other time in its history. Like so much of the world we cover, our business is in rapid transformation – and we are transforming with it. TIME's news operation now stretches not only around the world but around the clock, as journalists from Hong Kong to Washington to London deliver every hour what we had for the previous nine decades delivered mostly once a week. Ten million people watched our live coverage on election night, thanks to a video team that has earned Emmy nominations two years in a row. What began as a print magazine mailed to 9,000 subscribers in 1923 reaches an audience of 100 million across all our platforms today.

And yet there are essential constants, beginning with the passion and commitment of our journalists. They fly airplanes through eclipses, drive trucks into hurricanes, don hazmat suits to track deadly viruses and board boats in dangerous waters to tell the stories of refugees. Equally enduring is our commitment to fairness and accuracy. There are, as there should be, many policies and agendas; exploring them is our mission. But there is only one set of facts.

One of TIME's traditions is an editor's letter, in which new occupants of this job – there have been 18 all together – introduce themselves and their priorities to readers. I am a student of history, a believer that “the past is still real and present,” as Peter Taylor put it in his Pulitzer-winning novel *A Summons to Memphis*, set in my hometown. After earning degrees in law and in diplomacy, I ultimately decided there was no better place to work – no environment that values debate and ideas more fully – than a newsroom.

Halfway through my 15 years at the *Wall Street Journal*, I left its Washington bureau to launch a series of sections and sites. I have always loved being part of the search for new ways to tell stories and reach readers. This is what drew me to TIME, an institution that began with a small entrepreneurial team of journalists who “fitted easily into three taxis,” according to a company history, and has informed, challenged and – so important in this world – amused readers ever since.

If you haven't yet, I urge you to explore some of the multimedia journalism my colleagues have been doing at time.com/firsts, time.com/findinghome and time.com/eclipse. You can expect more of this kind of work from us in the coming months and years, even as our weekly magazine continues to prove more relevant than ever with stories like this week's cover on Democratic disarray by Philip Elliott and Elizabeth Dias' look at Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi's inaction amid allegations of ethnic cleansing in Myanmar.

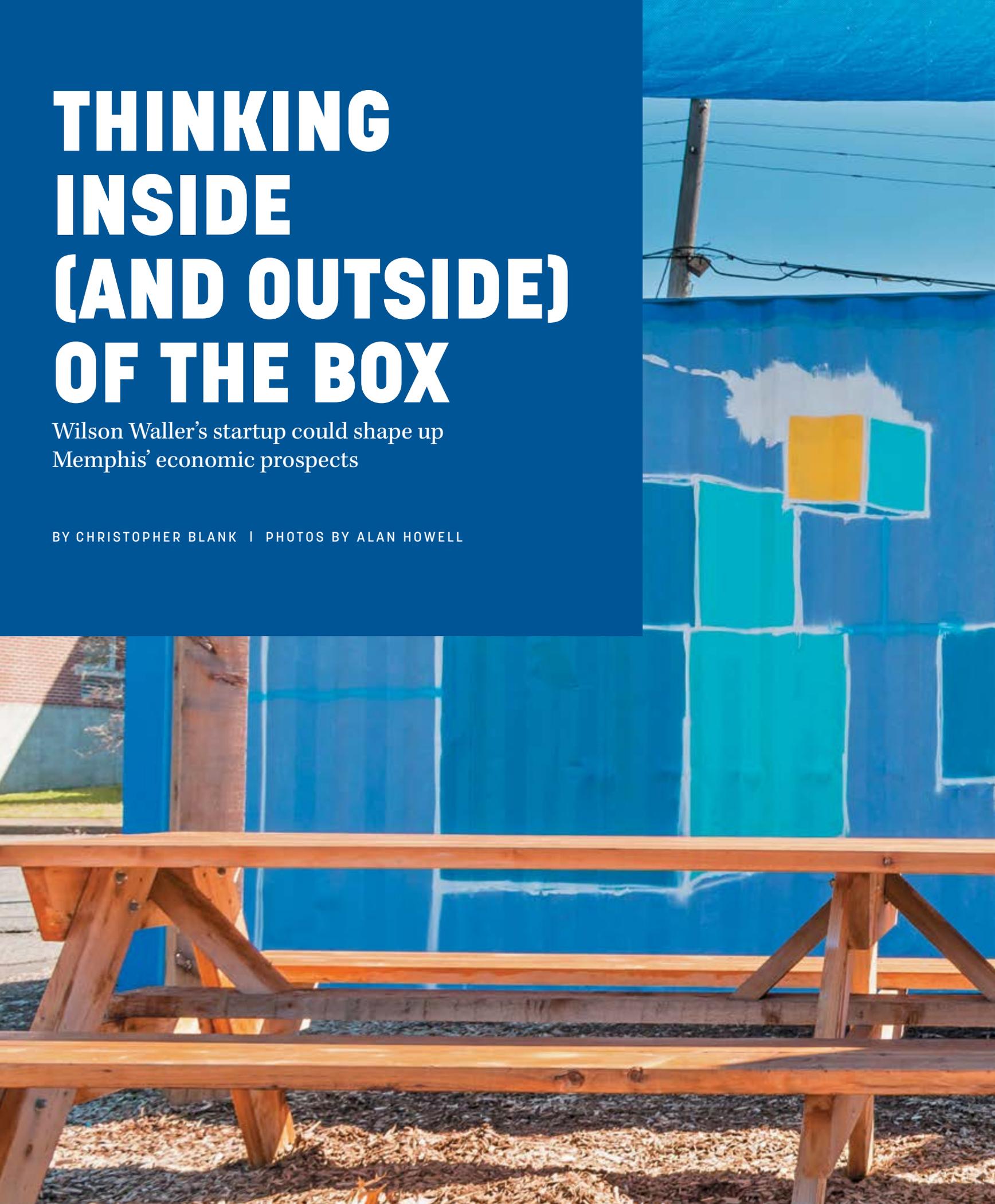
All of us at TIME take seriously our roles as storytellers and our obligation to ensure that this institution thrives into its second century. We also take seriously our commitment to you. I hope that, like my grandfather and so many readers like him through the decades, you'll continue to let us know how we're doing.

Edward Felsenthal, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
@efelsenthal

THINKING INSIDE (AND OUTSIDE) OF THE BOX

Wilson Waller's startup could shape up
Memphis' economic prospects

BY CHRISTOPHER BLANK | PHOTOS BY ALAN HOWELL



Wilson Waller '10 contemplates future possibilities for his Building Box, a new tech training space for youth.



If this were the first sentence in a sci-fi thriller, it would quickly direct the reader's attention to a strange shipping container parked between an elementary

school and a city park in South Memphis.

Some residents might assume that the giant steel box, with its Grizzlies-blue exterior, was a makeshift maintenance shed full of leaf blowers and lawnmowers. Others would wonder about the gas generator thrumming nearby and occasional drone sightings on the weekends.

A glimpse inside, through a single door, only enhances the mystery.

Like a weird laboratory in a Stanley Kubrick film, the interior pulsates with an ever-shifting rainbow of LED colors. The walls, sheathed in whiteboard, are covered with impenetrable equations and alphanumeric codes written with dry-erase markers.

Computers line one wall of the narrow room. A closer look at the monitors reveals this to be some high-tech operation involving robots, 3-D models, and esoteric lines of code.

Even stranger things: The programmers, engineers, hackers are not your typical cabal of FBI-CIA-NASA genius military contractors.

They are elementary schoolchildren.

"Let's take this conversation outside," says an adult overseer to a nosy reporter whose questions are distracting the kids from their labors.

Wilson Waller '10 isn't trying to protect these secrets. In fact, he's more than ready to get the truth out.

THE ULTIMATE PLUG-AND-PLAY CLASSROOM

"Okay, so everybody already knows about shipping containers," Waller says on a stroll through Chandler Park in the Soulsville area. He's referring to the fact that every few years, someone designs a clever new use for the 40-foot-long metal

boxes that get swapped around via ships, trains, and trucks.

"In a sense, we're keeping the import-export idea," he says. "We're importing 21st century tools and in-demand skill sets to underserved neighborhoods. And then, ideally, we're exporting value to our local economy."

Waller calls his shipping-container concept the Building Box.

Each day, Cummings Elementary troops a dozen students per session – around 50 per day, from Grades 3-8 – down to this immersive makerspace, where they get varying levels of instruction in computer skills, with an emphasis on coding.

"If America wants to compete internationally in the future, we have to start preparing our workers for it," Waller says. "In other countries, kids are exposed to these tools at a young age. It's why so many tech and engineering jobs are outsourced to India. Over here, a lot of people get to college without ever having written a line of computer code."

The Building Box in the Soulsville area is Waller's prototype. It debuted last summer at the Memphis Grizzlies' RiverPlay Pop-Up Park Downtown. He's spent the past school year at Cummings researching student outcomes and better understanding how to integrate the Building Box offerings into the school district's STEM curriculum.

Soon, he hopes to manufacture these portable tech incubators for both public and private clients. Building Boxes can be installed outside schools, community centers, in public parks, neighborhoods, and even in remote areas of the world.

The next generation of boxes will be solar-powered and connected to the Internet via satellite, he says. Plus, the boxes intended for public school use will include lesson plans and learning modules. The hardware inside is easily updated.

Waller says Building Boxes could

level the playing field for many young people – or even entire communities – who have traditionally lacked access to equipment and mentorship needed for proficiency.

Building Box classrooms worldwide could be linked together via video, so students could share ideas, experiment with concepts, and simply encourage the type of creativity that corporations seek in future employees.

"So much of it is an attitude thing," Waller says. "Once a kid sees that it's easy and learnable, you see the lights turning on. They start building some really creative things."

FROM RURAL INDIA TO DOWNTOWN MEMPHIS

Waller is not, surprisingly, the image of a lifelong, diehard computer geek.

While a student at MUS and at the University of Tennessee, his volunteer work for students with disabilities and underprivileged kids helped him realize that whatever career he chose, it had to have some social value.

"I knew I wanted to work in a field where I could help people and see an immediate impact," he said.

His economics major led him to study-abroad programs in London and then all over India, where he initially wanted to start a clean-tech business through solar panels. He quickly learned why India was well ahead of the United States in preparing students for tech careers. An educational focus in sciences, math, technology, and engineering (the STEM essentials) has long been considered invaluable to the country's economy. While visiting a remote village in the Himalayas, Waller's host father asked him about computer coding – an odd request in a place without electricity. The American visitor nonetheless saw a need to help this village connect.

He and some engineering friends created an experimental workspace using



Waller observes CodeCrew instructor Damian McKinley guide Cummings Elementary students through programming exercises. Wilson has spent the school year studying Cummings' student outcomes and figuring out how to integrate his offerings into the technology curriculum. Students from grades three through eight have been training in the prototype makerspace since it debuted.

a shipping container and an assortment of tech components cobbled together from electronic markets in New Delhi. The village now had an entry point – a portal – to the rest of the world.

“What is cool about the YouTube and DIY culture is that it has changed the way we access knowledge,” Waller said. “The mystery is gone. There is this whole underground tech economy in India where people are building things and innovating based on videos they watch. My background isn’t in engineering or

architecture. It’s economics. But a lot can be built in an open-sourced world.”

After returning to the States, Waller acquired grant money from Start Co. and the Memphis Grizzlies Foundation, two of his biggest backers so far.

His third major proponent is a Memphis nonprofit called CodeCrew, dedicated to training inner city youth for tech careers. It has provided paid instructors and teaching assistants to help develop a curriculum for use in the Building Boxes.

One day last fall, CodeCrew teacher Damian McKinley, a recent LeMoyné-Owen computer science graduate, was running students through some programming exercises.

“A lot of students here have never considered computer science as an option for their future,” McKinley says. “Most of them are surprised when I tell them they could get a job creating video games.”

Programming classes are rarely marketed as fun for the average person. But McKinley isn’t just propping kids in front of monochromatic screens and making them plug in numbers.

The learning process includes using design programs that create 3-D objects, which can be brought into the real world using a 3-D printer.

On weekends, students program maneuvers for aerial drones and test them in the park.

The University of Memphis loaned Waller several pricey LEGO Mindstorms kits, full of components that can be assembled into working robots and programmed to do various tasks.

McKinley says that one child quickly outpaced the teacher’s expertise. “He kept asking me, ‘What if I do *this*?’ and I just got to the point where I had to tell him, ‘Just try it!’”

A sixth-grader named Davion was recently tinkering with a popular architectural design program called SketchUp. He wasn’t sure where this knowledge would lead him, but he was already fantasizing about improving a favorite video game.

“I want to make the ultimate racing app,” he declared. “Where you can race all kinds of different cars but with a lot more details.”

CodeCrew executive director and co-founder Meka Egwuekwe says the purpose-built learning environment has advantages over a traditional classroom, cost-effectiveness ranking highly on that list.



Waller hopes his Building Box will level the playing field for young people – or even entire communities – who have traditionally lacked access to coding instruction and programming equipment. “We’re importing 21st century tools and in-demand skill sets to underserved neighborhoods,” he says.

Most importantly, there’s the cachet of being in the space itself, a kind of TARDIS – for the uninitiated, that’s the Doctor Who time machine – for young engineers.

“It really helps kids stay engaged,” Egwuekwe says. “It’s a hip and cool space, and the ratio of adults to kids is very effective.”

Because of the limited space, class size can never exceed more than a dozen or so students, making it a highly manageable task for one instructor plus a teaching assistant.

Waller and Egwuekwe have similar goals: creating an economic launch pad for a historically underserved population.

“Coding is really the literacy of the 21st century,” Egwuekwe says. “Memphis is behind other cities in terms of the industry as a whole. But one of the unique ways our city might eventually stand out is for having diversity in tech. Our largest demographic is the least represented at companies from Google to Apple to Microsoft. If you were to frame what Memphis could contribute to the next tech boom, it might be to bring more African-Americans, Latinos, and women to the table. That ship has not yet sailed.”

Building Boxes, strategically placed at schools around Memphis, and then beyond, could help diversify a community’s economic portfolio.

“Their creative juices are flowing,” Egwuekwe says. “This is something these students can do. They just need access.”

Waller’s next step is to raise up to \$1 million in capital to construct several more Building Boxes with different features. He plans to put a slightly larger model, made of two shipping containers, in Shelby Farms or Audubon Park, which could serve as a meeting place and internet hub for community groups, nonprofits, and start-up companies. Between three and five boxes could be operational by this fall.

The for-profit side of his business model is the manufacture and rental of the boxes. Waller would lease them as a turnkey operation to schools and other organizations. The educational programs provided – the software inside of the box, so to speak – could be a nonprofit venture, carried out by groups such as CodeCrew.

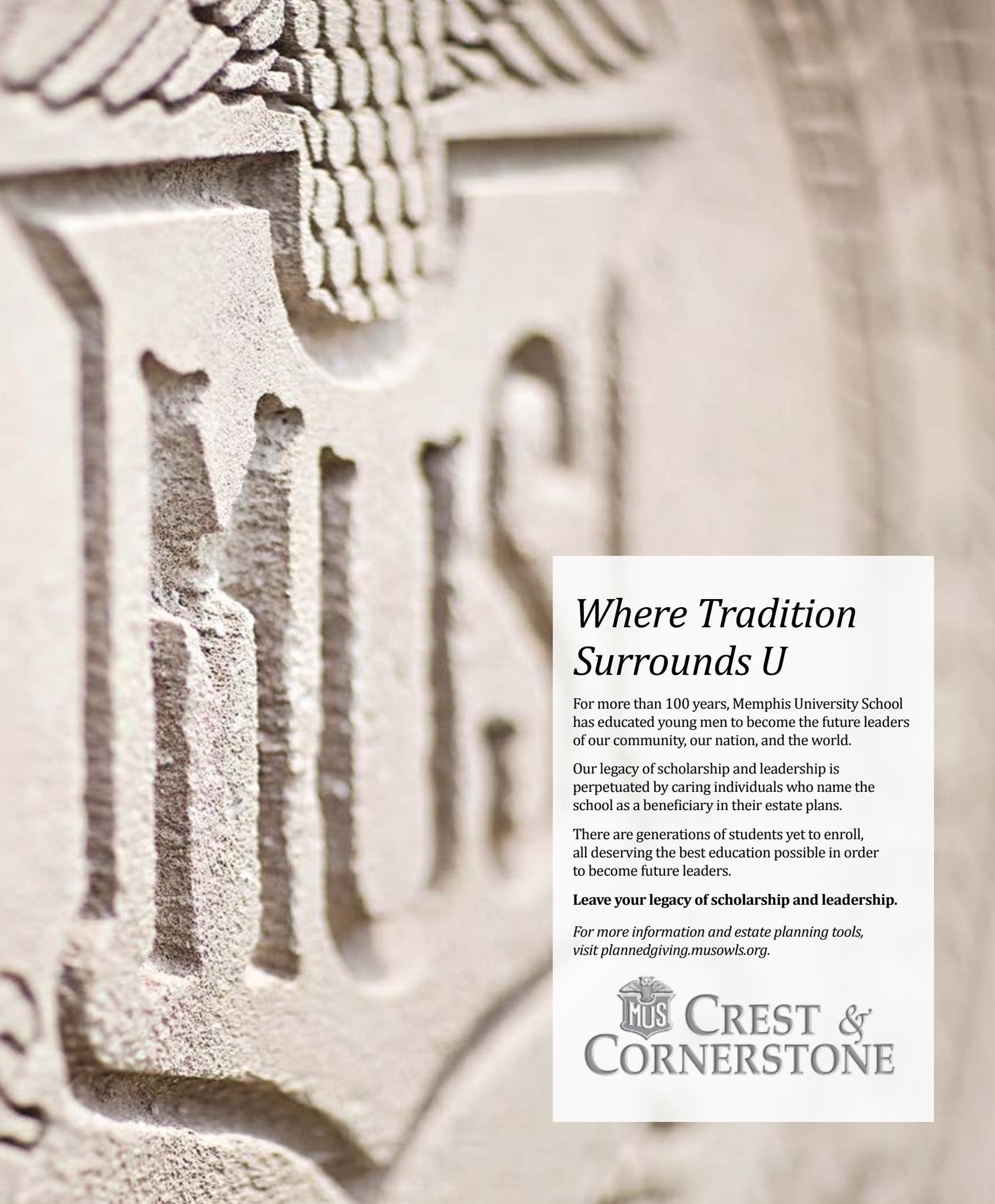
Waller calls this a crucial time for Memphis to establish a better educational pipeline to the tech shift on the horizon.

“We already have a few business powerhouses in this city, and a booming medical industry,” Waller says. “For years, we’ve had to bring in outside workers to fill the jobs. My hope is to see more companies moving here because we’ve got the talent, and we’re ready to do the work.”

For more information, visit BuildingBox.org.

Geek Out This Summer

MUS Summer Camp techie offerings include coding and programming, robotics, video game design, music recording, and videography. Check out these and other academic, sports, and leadership options at musowls.org/summer.



Where Tradition Surrounds U

For more than 100 years, Memphis University School has educated young men to become the future leaders of our community, our nation, and the world.

Our legacy of scholarship and leadership is perpetuated by caring individuals who name the school as a beneficiary in their estate plans.

There are generations of students yet to enroll, all deserving the best education possible in order to become future leaders.

Leave your legacy of scholarship and leadership.

For more information and estate planning tools, visit plannedgiving.musowls.org.

 **CREST &
CORNERSTONE**

Into AFRICA

BY ALLAN GOLD '60

Little Rock podiatrist Allan Gold '60 believed his trip to South Africa in 2017 might be, as he described, “a bit of a swan song.” Health issues related to a stroke in 2015 had diminished his vision and stamina, but he and his wife, Laura, were eager to visit Africa – their fourth safari – to share the drama and beauty of the land with their granddaughter, Miri. So they took the chance and had a wonderful trip, prompting Gold to change his mind about future travel: “Beginning to be able to stop dwelling on the odds of dying, we are continuing to enjoy life.” Gold and his wife plan to visit Puglia (the bootheel of Italy) with friends this summer and will travel to Iceland with family in the fall for a 10-day “soft adventure” trip. After that, he says, “The rest of the year is open.”

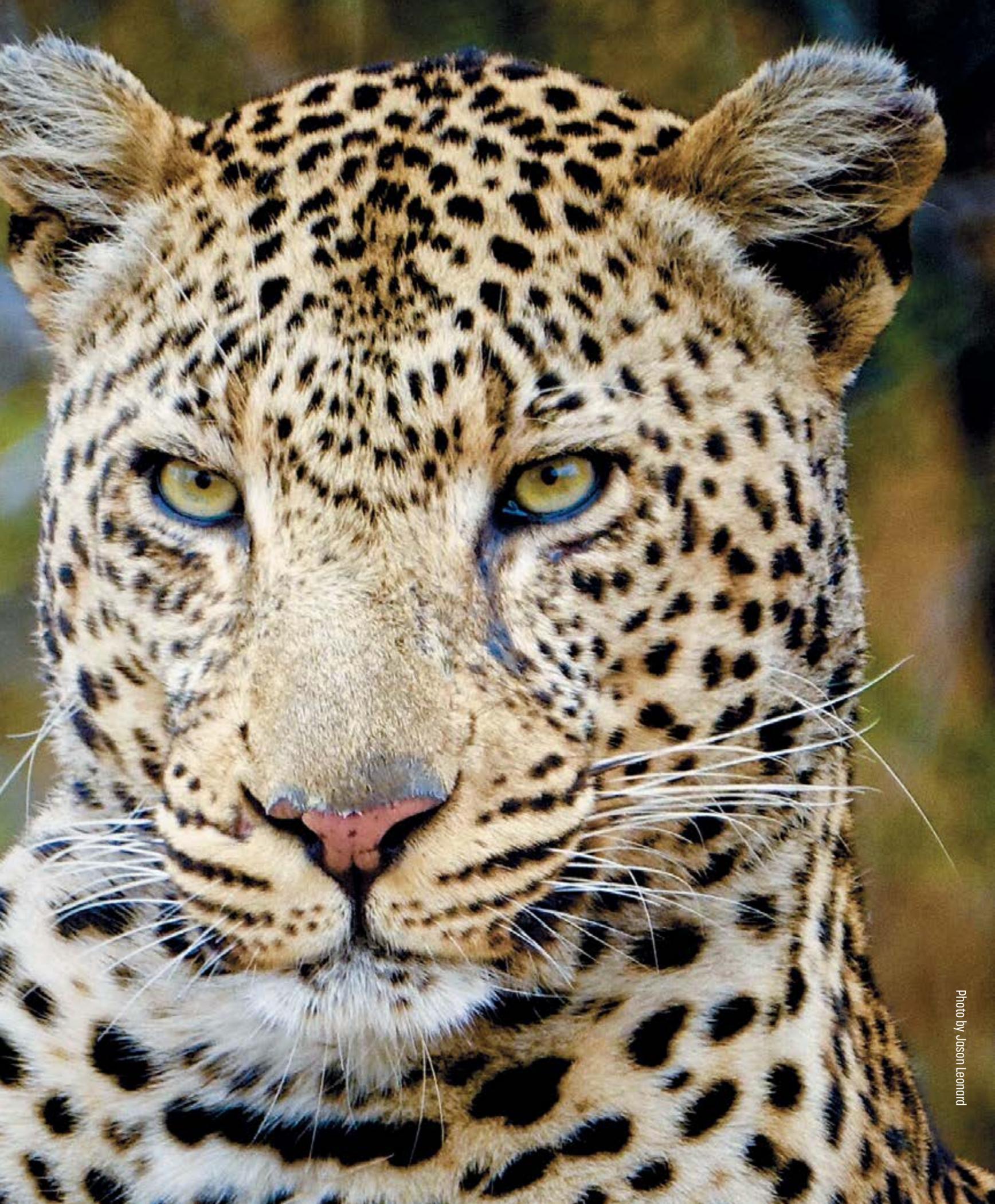


Photo by Jason Leonard

I have been fortunate to be able to travel, see, and photograph some of the beauty of our earth. I like nature, and this world, and people, and wildlife, and sharing these experiences with others who are interested is a very important joy and a gratifying part of my good fortune. My wife, Laura, and I have been married for 45 years, and it's a gift that she has been enthusiastic about experiencing travel with me.

In July 2017 we ventured to South Africa with our then-13-year-old granddaughter, Miri; her father, Jason; and Jason's mother, June, for a safari experience created and guided by Trevor Carnaby (beataboutthebush.co.za). Trevor is our friend, who also guided our memorable 2009 trip to South Africa. We met at



From left, Allan Gold, June Leonard, Laura Gold, granddaughter Miri Leonard, and Jason Leonard

the end of June in Atlanta for the 15-plus hour flight to Johannesburg. After a night of rest there, we began our journey, which would include visits to three camps in game reserves in Greater Kruger National Park (7,500 square miles of protected reserve) and a mid-trip overnight stay in Johannesburg before returning home to Little Rock in mid-July.

We stayed three nights in each of the superb camps, going on morning and late afternoon/evening game drives each day. Our summer is winter in South Africa, so wind chill temps – before sunrise while tracking active wildlife and after sunset when we were spotlighting nocturnal species – were about freezing. Midday it warmed into the high 60s. Late each afternoon we stopped to stretch and enjoy sundowners: coffee, a “bush mix” that is similar to hot chocolate, or the local liqueur, amarula. Amarula is made from the fruit of the local marula, also known as the elephant or marriage tree.

Each camp was unique. The first, Geiger's Camp, has only four guest cabins, and we were the only guests on the property. The camp first hosted travelers in the 1930s. The food and service were superb. Sunrise and sunset views over the infinity pool – gorgeous. Warthogs wandered about the property regularly. Each morning we'd be awakened at 5:45 to have coffee while watching the sun rise over the distant ridge across the valley, then we'd bundle under blankets with hot-water bottles and set out on our game drive. We'd return around 10:30 in time for breakfast or lunch, and a short nap for me. About 2:30 or 3 p.m. we'd depart again in more comfortable temperatures for our afternoon drive. By sunset we'd be bundled in all our layers and wrapped in blankets to ward off the cold wind, returning to camp after dark for dinner and welcome sleep. Repeat daily.

We took a small plane flight to our second camp, Leopard Hills, an aptly named luxurious facility – nyalas and antelope wandering on the grass and

deck outside our room, a spitting cobra slithering across the driveway. Superb dining was often served on a veranda overlooking the vast valley, where giraffes or rhinos frequently came out of the bush for a drink from the lake below. We also enjoyed some special dinners hosted in a boma, which is traditional outdoor dining that usually involves folklore tales as well as African song and dance.

On each of six game drives, we had close-up encounters with beautiful leopards – some hunting, some sleeping and guarding their kill nearby. On my previous safaris leopards have been rare, but here the leopard experiences were abundant – a thrilling experience for me.

After an overnight in Joburg, we were hosted at the Kwandwe Great Fish River Lodge in the mountainous southeastern part of the country, again luxurious with top-notch food and accommodations. You cannot walk back to your room alone at night as wildlife roams everywhere. After cocktails, dinner, and amarula, someone has to walk you back to your room because you are really just bait. The twice-daily game drives here presented lifelong memories of close-up encounters with African wildlife in its home element. Each day continued to be exhausting.

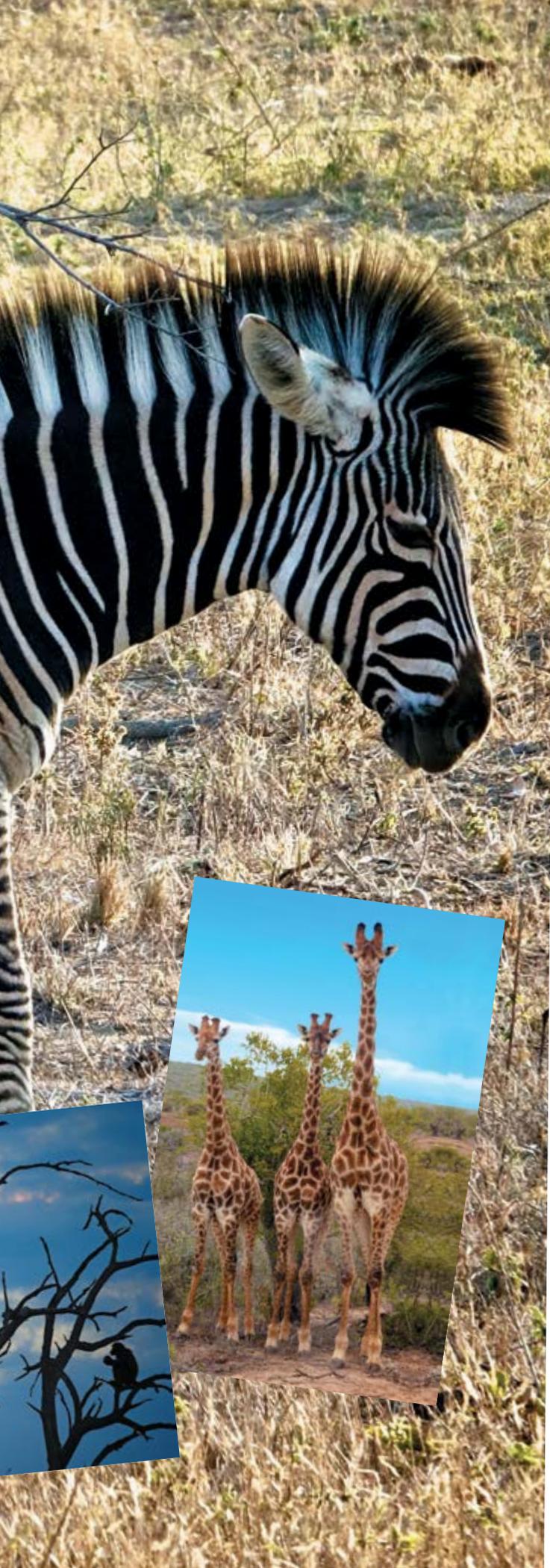
The wildlife viewing was spectacular – the best of my four safari trips to Africa. We were closer to elephants, rhinos, buffalo, leopards, cheetahs, lions, leopards, giraffes, and every kind of antelope. From open safari vehicles we experienced these beautiful creatures often within 3 feet or less. Once they determined that we were not a threat, they essentially ignored us. In their fight-or-flight mode, had one of us stood up or dropped anything from the vehicle, they might have attacked. Hearing a leopard breathe and grunt a couple of feet below where you are seated is difficult to describe; you have to swallow and breathe very quietly. It was an awesome experience.

Another extraordinary experience was tracking then following a mating

*A spiral-horned kudu antelope at
Kwandwe Private Game Reserve
Photo by Jason Leonard*







leopard pair for an hour. With the female in estrus, they stay together and mate every three to five minutes around the clock for one to three days until fertilization occurs and hormones notify the female that she's no longer interested in romance.

Elephants, rhinos, buffalo, and other animals also came within feet of us. Each drive Trevor was joined by a ranger who drove and a local tracker who perched at the front of our vehicle. We would follow tracks until encountering the animals traveling, grazing, hunting, or resting. Leopards or lions were regularly hidden in the tall grass beneath a tree where they had stored a kill nearby during the night, waiting for evening to begin eating then hunting again. Hyenas frequently sat close by, waiting for a chance to snatch the leopard's supper, and vultures kept watch from nearby trees, waiting their turn.

One cloudy, rainy morning, on our drive after breakfast, we watched a lovely tower of giraffes (Laura's favorite) just a few feet from our vehicle. (*Girahffe*, Trevor insisted, is the correct pronunciation). We watched several rhinos

pass near us, mostly pairs of an adult with a youngster.

Another time we saw two elephants pulling up thorny bushes and stripping the branches for bark, so we parked close to them. One came through the bush to feed just a few feet away. We couldn't start the engine to leave, fearing an aggressive response, so we sat for a while. Several times the big elephant came close, waved his head and trunk at us and flapped his ears to remind us who was boss, coming within 3 or 4 feet. Apparently satisfied that we understood, he turned his rear to us and tooted loudly in our direction. We cautiously started up and backed away, sheepishly. Fortunately, the big guy didn't take our move as aggressive.

Trevor's knowledge is mind-boggling and endless; our heads were constantly filled with information about what we were experiencing, including the stars and constellations in the expansive night sky of the Southern Hemisphere.

After 11 days we flew by small plane to Port Elizabeth, then back to Johannesburg, where we spent a couple of hours in a "day room" at the InterContinental O.R. Tambo Airport Hotel, to repack and brush our teeth before transferring to our long flight home.

It was a trip none of us will ever forget: beautiful dramatic moments vivid in our minds and memories; love, camaraderie, and shared experiences the most memorable of all.

Opposite spread, zebras at Leopard Hills Camp by Jason Leonard; inset photos, from left by Allan Gold: an African sunrise at Leopard Hills; baboons at Geiger's Camp; a tower of giraffes, Laura Gold's favorite wildlife to view

To see more photos from Gold's trip, visit: flic.kr/s/aHsm1rtJFP



GIVE GOOD

David Dunavant's company lives up to its name by putting people on the autism spectrum to work

BY ALEXANDRIA ALLMON

The rustling of boxes and peeling of stickers animated a small East Memphis factory last fall, as workers packaged toffee to the beat of the *SpongeBob SquarePants* musical's soundtrack. The dark chocolate toffee loaded with almonds, crafted by Dinstuhl's Fine Candies, was destined for sale online and at holiday pop-up events throughout Memphis.

The factory is in the Kaio Investment Management office of **David Dunavant '76**, who helps supervise the workers. Dunavant's company is GiveGood, a for-profit enterprise launched to employ young adults on the autism spectrum, including his 27-year-old son, Rob.

"I need a place and a purpose," says Rob Dunavant, who will graduate this summer with a degree in journalism from the University of Memphis. That message is printed on cards packaged with several of the company's products. "The opportunity to work for GiveGood means I am not among the 82 percent of unemployed autistic adults." (GiveGood recently created the hashtag #employ82 to raise awareness about this statistic.)

Rob, the older of Patricia and David Dunavant's two sons, was diagnosed with Asperger syndrome in 1994. The syndrome, which now falls under the general diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder (ASD), is characterized by difficulty with social interaction but higher cognitive functioning than others on the spectrum.

"There wasn't much information on the condition or a roadmap on how to help him, as there is today," David Dunavant says. "Watching Rob progress through different stages in his life and enter his 20s, I began to understand what other parents who had children of his age on the spectrum [experienced]."

He was compelled to start the company after noticing the high unemployment rate for people with

autism – a reality, he says, that does not reflect the value this population brings to the workforce.

"After all, these young people are bright, energetic, and with their unique focus, can actually make better employees."

Dunavant has long had an interest in community service. While at MUS he participated in the Civic Service Club, the March of Dimes, and a 24-hour relay for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.



David Dunavant's B Corp GiveGood, launched in August 2016, has given his son Rob and other young adults "a place and a purpose."

His experiences at MUS and Rhodes College, including taking Dr. **David Jackson's** Religion and Culture course his senior year of Upper School and working at Methodist Hospital as a pre-med student, inspired him.

Dunavant says Jackson's class helped him form his ethical views through the lens of his faith. "I began to understand how my faith would define how I would always look at the world," he says. "I can thank Dr. Jackson for that. It changed my life."

While at Rhodes he switched from the pre-med path. “I was too squeamish at medical procedures and issues. I happened to also be taking theology and philosophy courses and loved the discussion of ideas and thoughts,” says Dunavant, who graduated with a bachelor’s degree in religious studies.

and president of the board.

“B Corps are companies that are for profit but also have a clear mission that drives the company,” he explains. “We determined that if we could create a company [for people on the autism spectrum] with systems that are especially designed for their sensitivities

summer snack bars made of oats, nuts, and fruit will be available.

“My favorite product is the milk chocolate bar, because I love sweets,” Rob says.

Now GiveGood products are offered through a dozen local retail locations and a couple of national companies, according to Dunavant. In addition, the company has a retail website (givegoodco.com) as well as Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram accounts.

“It’s amazing that the response was so quick,” Dunavant says. “It proved my concept. If a company can sell a good product and promote a worthy mission, the public wants to help out.”

GiveGood currently has five employees who work seasonally, and Dunavant takes the strengths of each individual into account in assigning roles.

“Just like in any company, the talents of the young person can be assessed in several areas: sales, promotion, packaging, logistics, and technology, to name a few,” he says. “GiveGood believes that young adults on the spectrum have the skill sets to be important contributors to any business. All that is necessary is assessment, placement, and support. We just want to make sure our systems are specially designed for their needs.”

One talent all the employees possess is selling products at pop-up events, where they offer customers free samples of current treats, plus items they are testing out. This helps the company determine which products to introduce for sale. At the same time, the social interaction helps boost the employees’ confidence.

“My favorite memories of working with GiveGood so far would be all the pop-ups,” Rob says. “I enjoy selling products to customers.”

His dad has received many positive responses about the company.

“It’s random notes and comments from others around the country who understand what we are trying to accomplish,” Dunavant says. “I recently



GiveGood employees and interns, front row, from left, Alex Neeley, Alexandria Allmon, Jason Crawford, Alex East; back row, Alex Payne, Nicole Mansour, Rob Dunavant, David Dunavant (founder), Jordan Richardson, and Ellie Harrison

This led him to Yale Divinity School, where he earned a Master of Arts in religious studies and also studied organizational management at the university’s business school.

“Initially, I thought I might get my Ph.D. and teach, but I quickly saw that combining business with my faith perspective engaged me,” says Dunavant, founder and CEO of Kaio Investment Management. “That’s actually the earliest roots for GiveGood.”

“My father came up with the name ‘GiveGood’ because we give employment to adults on the autism spectrum,” Rob says. “We also do things for the greater good.”

The Benefit Corporation (B Corp) made its debut in August 2016 after intensive planning that included years of evaluation and discussions with both educational and therapeutic professionals. David Dunavant serves as CEO

and their strengths, we could build a company that could both be successful and address the huge unemployment figure.”

With the mission established, Dunavant explored food products to offer.

“[We] believed that a consumer goods platform could provide a diversity of roles for our target employees, as well as a business model that could engage the public,” he says. “One of the first enthusiastic supporters of our idea, Becky Dinstuhl of Dinstuhl’s Fine Candies, offered to make any chocolate products that we might need.”

GiveGood currently sells several kinds of snacks as well as T-shirts, hoodies, and ballcaps. Last holiday season, the first product sold was hand-crafted small-batch chocolate toffee. Later, the company added gourmet milk and dark chocolate bars, and this

had a note from a parent in Seattle who wrote: ‘I have a 21-year-old daughter, and I wish GiveGood had an office here. It would change our family’s lives. She can’t seem to find a job.’”

If Dunavant has his way, that wish will come true. As he works on creating new products, hiring more young adults on the autism spectrum, and increasing work hours for employees, he looks to expand the company beyond Memphis.

“This is a national issue – that 82 percent of ASD individuals are unemployed. We have the foundation to scale this concept and grow the brand throughout the country. But we must secure more funding.”

The company started with capital from family and friends. Now Dunavant seeks angel investors who can see the value in the concept and help GiveGood put more people to work.

“Without funding in the next six months, our vision will be more limited,” he says.

Throughout this endeavor, Dunavant says he continues to rely on his faith to shape his outlook on life.

“I always have thought that we are all in this together, whether rich or poor, male or female, blue state or red state, Caucasian, African-American, or other ethnicity,” he says. “We have one world, one community, and when the least of us hurt, it affects all.”

Memphis-based freelance writer Alexandria Allmon holds a degree in English from the University of Memphis.



Employees Dunavant and Allmon offer free product samples at a holiday event.

Selling Toffee and Breaking Autism Stereotypes

BY ALEXANDRIA ALLMON

As someone diagnosed with Asperger syndrome, a form of autism, I was uncertain if I could navigate complicated social scenes and learn my duties at any workplace. Then my father and I learned about GiveGood and its mission after finding the company’s toffee in Café Eclectic in Harbor Town. We set up an interview in January 2017, and the process was easier than I had expected.

Along with company founder **David Dunavant ’76**, I interviewed with Dr. Allison Weatherly, who leads social skills groups for people on the autism spectrum. I had been a member of her group in the past, so her familiarity put me at ease. In addition to asking questions about my interest in the company and what skills I could contribute, Mr. Dunavant and Dr. Weatherly also asked about my personal interests. This made me feel like I was part of the company well before Dr. Weatherly shook my hand and told me, “You’re hired.”

The office where we package our products is a safe and fun place to work. For each session, a different employee gets to pick his or her favorite music to play in the background. “Big Al” Neeley, 30, has introduced everyone to *Hamilton*, the *Rugrats Go Wild* movie soundtrack, and the new *SpongeBob SquarePants* musical. To support the employees, Director of Job Development Ellie Harrison [daughter of **Wade Harrison ’87**] makes sure we are focused and working well together.

At the start of each session, Ms. Harrison helps Mr. Dunavant assign duties for the day – putting products in boxes, taping them up, and writing messages thanking customers for their support – and they make sure we’re doing everything correctly. When we talk, they show interest and join in the conversation. When an employee has a birthday, we celebrate with cupcakes from Muddy’s Bake Shop (one of our vendors) and decorations drawn on the dry-erase board. Last summer Mr. Dunavant began enlisting college interns to work with us. I liked having them around because they were friendly and interested in us.

Going to events to sell GiveGood products revealed my sales and marketing skills. I was nervous at my first event (the Cooper-Young Community Farmers Market in May 2017), but once Mr. Dunavant explained how to offer free samples, I was able to perform well. Since then, I have worked the booths at a charity race, the Metal Museum, the Junior League’s Merry Marketplace, and The Gingerbread House at St. Agnes Academy. It takes stamina to stand for hours holding a tray and asking customers if they want a sample. It can be discouraging when people say no to samples or take one and leave. But when someone stays, hears about our company, and buys some of our products, I feel encouraged again. It’s great raising awareness of autism and breaking stereotypes about it.



English Teacher, Mentor, Friend – His Like Will Not Pass This Way Again

BY FLIP EIKNER '77, ACADEMIC DEAN

Editor's Note: Flip Eikner delivered this tribute to the Board of Trustees at the February 12 meeting.

I think we are all appropriately familiar with Mr. **Terry Shelton's** legendary contributions to MUS as an English teacher, co-creator of the *Owl English Handbook*, tireless tutor to his struggling students, and wielder of gushing red ink pens. I thought you might be interested to know a little something of him personally.

Terry Shelton was a man of integrity. His hero was [former Lower School Principal] **John Murry Springfield**. Like John Murry, Terry held tenaciously to the principle that a job worth doing should be done right. He considered his personal preferences and personal discomfort immaterial. For example, Terry hated dress codes. After school hours, no one changed into blue jeans and a casual untucked shirt faster than Terry. But he enforced the MUS dress code more diligently than many of his colleagues. It was his job.

Despite his reputation as an avid paper grader, he reviled grading essays. But no one shaped his daily grind around paper-grading with more dedication and discipline than Terry. It was his job.

Terry often suggested that, in an ideal world, any students who did not complete homework should immediately be sent home until it was done, because that was *their* job.

Terry hated anything that smacked of formal ceremony. But he flawlessly organized and presided over an annual MUS awards day ceremony because doing so was his job.

At social gatherings, he went out of his way to puncture the gassy balloon of ceremony. Whenever he was introduced as an English teacher, he immediately asked his new acquaintance to pass “some’a them there cheesy crackers” so that the conversation would not be shut down by anxiety about grammatical correctness.

Rejecting trite ceremonial formulas with passersby in the halls, he responded to “Howdy” with “Doody,” and to “What’s up?” with either “the ceiling” or “7.”

One of his favorite songs was “Surfin’ Bird (Bird Is the Word),” by the Trashmen, especially the part where the lyrics erupt into about 12 seconds of lip-jiggling, jowl-shaking gibberish. He loved the unceremonious nihilism of that non-lyrical lyric.

He wryly punctured the formal awkwardness of his own dying. He left behind a file folder of documents labeled “DEATH.” His email assigning me his medical power of attorney bluntly read: “I thought you might want a copy of your license to kill me.” (Obviously, he grew up in the shadow of Agent 007.) His written instructions urged his friends to donate his body to UT with this admonition: “Phone immediately. They won’t accept ripened cadavers.”

I should add that these written instructions were ludicrously explicit. Terry could be described as the most trusting of souls – trusting especially that any functionary could be depended upon to botch every simple task despite clear directions. One of his favorite short stories was “File and Forget,” in which James Thurber laments in fine epistolary style what should have been an easy matter of having his mail forwarded correctly – but wasn’t. Mr. Shelton’s admirers could do worse than to find and

enjoy this hilarious tale in his honor.

Terry was grateful for the generous recognition so graciously accorded him at his retirement and then again at the unveiling of his portrait that hangs in the Dining Hall. However, he felt that all this was more than he really deserved and stipulated explicitly that no ceremony memorialize him after his death. He never wanted to burden people with what he did not enjoy himself.

He was outwardly hard-minded but inwardly soft-hearted and capable of unanimous love. What did he love? He loved breakfast, strong black coffee, and – before he quit – cigarettes. He loved fish cooked on cedar planks, pasta carbonara (and, indeed, bacon in any form), anything with spinach, and burgers from Alex’s Tavern. His favorite dessert was baklava. He loved movies but hated movie theaters. He admired Grace Kelly, Vanessa Redgrave, and Nastassja Kinski, and he loved *Casablanca*. He loved furniture with clean straight lines, smooth surfaces, and right angles, and he loved Matisse’s cutouts. He loved Irish whiskey neat. He loved the poetry of William Butler Yeats and the poignant relationship between Benjy and Caddie in Faulkner’s *The Sound and the Fury*. He loved his parents. And he loved his friends and, because of them, their children, with whom he kept long vigil during hospital stays, and to whom he gave infinite gifts of what he himself had loved as a kid: building blocks, cigar boxes, coffee cans, rubber bands, magnifying glasses, flashlights, binoculars, feathers, toy buffalos, and, later, gift certificates for books.

He loved clear thinking. Had Terry lived in the 1780s he would have shamed



Creator of The Owl English Handbook, formidable wielder of the red pen, Terry Shelton was the perfect choice to portray The Most Interesting English Teacher in the World, as he did for the Annual Fund campaign in 2013-14.

the authors of the Constitution into reconsidering the founding premise of the United States – that is, “to form a more perfect union” – by either striking the word “more,” or adding the word “nearly” – the word “perfect” not admitting of varying degrees: either something is perfect, or it isn’t.

Terry loved to talk and to debate. I remember accompanying him to a party once at which I – plainly imperfect – fell asleep while he talked. When I woke up, he was still talking, even though he was the only one in the room who had not dozed.

He therefore developed a reputation as the Guest Who Would Not Leave. It has been said that his like will not pass this way again. Of course, we wish that he had not left, and we who loved him would give anything to have him back again.

Terry N. Shelton 1951-2018

Terry Newton Shelton was born March 9, 1951, and passed away February 2, 2018, at age 66. He earned a bachelor’s degree in English and comparative literature and a master’s degree in English from Memphis State University, graduating magna cum laude. He served in the U.S. Navy, and after teaching at the university level, joined the faculty of MUS in 1978. He retired in 2015. In his 38 years as an instructor in English, he taught a variety of classes, including AP English, Twentieth Century Literature, Junior English Review, seventh- and eighth-grade vocabulary, and eighth-grade English. Shelton held the A. Robert Boelte, Jr. Chair of Excellence in Teaching and received other awards during his tenure, including the Presidential Scholars Distinguished Teaching Award in 1997 and the MUS Distinguished Teaching Award in 2006. Along with Faculty Emeritus **Jim Russell**, Shelton created *The Owl English Handbook*, an essential reference for students and faculty since 1985. He was involved with numerous endeavors related to the craft of writing, including advising the Lower School newspaper, editing *MUS Today*, coaching entrants in the National Council of Teachers of English Writing Awards competition, and serving as a writing judge for the University of Memphis Wordsmith contest. With what some students undoubtedly considered a dismaying abundance of red ink, Shelton remained steadfast – throughout all his years at MUS – in his quest to teach the value of clear prose, the beauty of concise, direct expression.



Celebrating Shelton

These tributes were submitted via email and Facebook by alumni, parents, and friends upon the school's announcement of Faculty Emeritus Terry Shelton's death.

■ Terry Shelton was indeed a master, the first truly great teacher I ever had. Nearly 40 years later, I can still see and hear him in front of the classroom. He was brilliant, of course, but also – and in this he was one of a kind – simultaneously hilarious and slightly terrifying. It was riveting, and unforgettable, and incredibly effective. I owe him a great deal.

~ **Edward Felsenthal '84**

■ I take consolation in the fact that he had such a great career at MUS. He may have played the curmudgeon outwardly at times, but anyone who really knew him – especially the thousands of students he mentored and taught over the years – knew that he was as kindhearted and gentle a soul as one could meet. The world's grammar will now spiral ever downward without his watchful care.

~ **Bill Jamieson, Instructor in English, 1977-1980**

■ We were bummed when they made us take British Lit senior year. But it was a godsend, as Shelton turned me and countless others into good writers. "Don't just paraphrase, analyze!" Those words still ring true, and I still see them in his red ink. Thank you, Mr. Shelton. ~ **Jay Sansing '94**

■ I shared office space with Mr. Shelton when I worked at MUS in the early 2000s. He was so funny and sharp. I loved listening in on his conversations with students. His no-nonsense, clear communication style made him one of my favorite people at the school. ~ **Cathi Cooper, Associate Director of Public Relations, 2001-02**

■ One of the best. ~ **Bob Higley '84**

■ What a funny, precious, sweet man. I was privileged to work with him for nine years!

~ **Alice Franceschetti,**

Instructor in Science, 1984-1993

■ What a remarkable career and icon of the MUS family. [He taught] my late husband and both my boys (**Beau Creson '06** and **Alex Creson '15**).

~ **Shellie Ruoff Creson, wife of Larry Creson '83**

■ Loved him, his style of teaching, his wit, and his humor. Definitely left an impact on our son. He'll be missed.

~ **Shelly Mehra, mother of Rahul '17**

■ He was special. Honored and fortunate to have been his student twice. Rest well, Mr. Shelton.

~ **Brandon Arrindell '04**

■ Truly a larger-than-life figure in the MUS community. Those of us who had Mr. Shelton are sure to be sad he is no longer with us but grateful our paths crossed. ~ **Edward Simpson '85**

■ What a wonderful teacher and great man! Rest in peace, Mr. Shelton.

~ **Sally Foster Perry, mother of Alex Perry '10**

■ I remember walking into his tiny office in the late '80s, smelling the cigarette smoke, seeing the framed photograph of Susan Sarandon on the wall, and looking for help with a paper. Incurable, acerbic, honest, focused, attentive, he had no tolerance for excuses or laziness, especially intellectual laziness. When I returned to Memphis in 2006 to teach at St. Mary's and saw him at my 15th reunion, I told him I was a high school teacher and he sighed and said, "So, you're a failure too." Mencken's true disciple. I loved the man. ~ **Marshall Evans '89**



Roy E. Bell, Jr., 1927-2018

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emphis businessman **Roy E. Bell, Jr.**, chairman of the MUS Board of Trustees from 1981-83, died January 21, 2018. He was 90 years old.

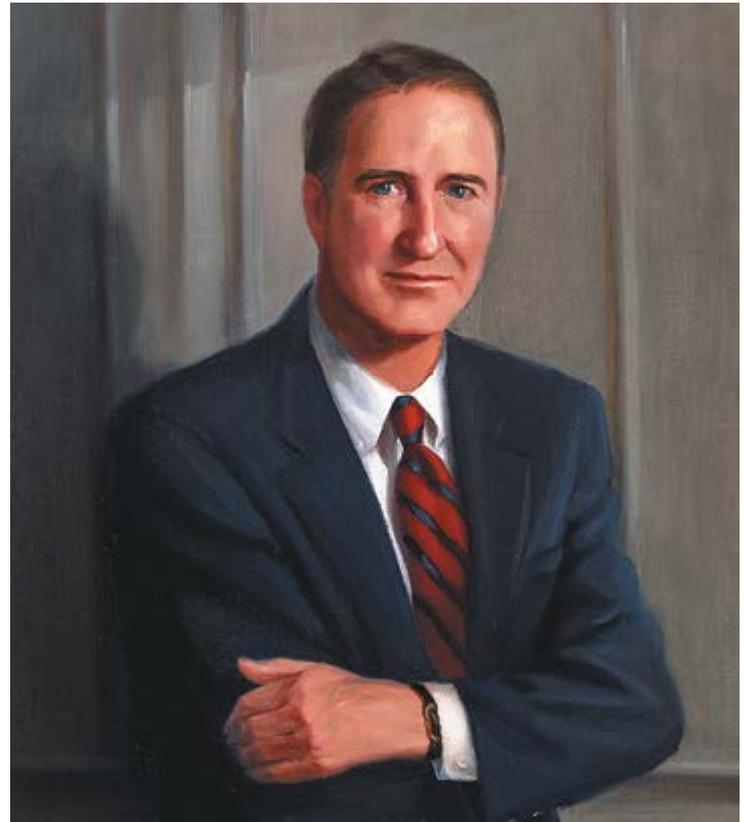
The third chairman of the board of the new MUS, Bell is honored along with other board chairmen with a portrait that hangs in the Loeb Conference Room. He served on the board from 1973-87 and his significant contributions to the school extended beyond his board tenure.

Described by Headmaster Emeritus **Ellis Haguewood** at his portrait unveiling as a “faithful steward of the legacy of academic excellence and leadership” at MUS, Bell was a skillful fundraiser who helped lead various development campaigns. In the 1970s he served on the Finance Committee as Advance Gifts Chairman of the \$1.2 million campaign to build the McCaughan Science Center. During his tenure as board chair, the Headmaster’s House on Massey was constructed, the new science building opened, the Hyde Library was updated, Clack Dining Hall was renovated, the school was successfully reaccredited, and Annual Fund giving reached \$100,000 for the first time.

After his term as board chair, he became general chairman of the MUS Campaign for Endowment, the first endowment campaign since 1954, which raised \$2 million. He and his wife, Janice Schauman Bell, were founding members of the Thorn Society. He was also a member of the Trustees Division, the first leadership group in developing the Doors to New Opportunities campaign. The Trustees Division raised nearly \$9 million from the board and honorary board in 1997-99 during the early stages of the campaign.

A native Memphian, Bell graduated from Central High School and the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. As his obituary stated, he received his MBA from Cornell University, and after service in the U.S. Navy Supply Corps during the Korean War, he returned to Memphis in 1955 to join his father in the family-owned manufacturing operations: Ace Pump Corporation and Bell-Memphis, Inc. He loved his work and continued working up until weeks before his death.

Bell was active in numerous community and civic activities. An Eagle Scout, he was a lifetime supporter of the Boy Scouts of America. And in addition to his service on the board at MUS, he served as chairman on the following boards: Boys and Girls Clubs



Roy E. Bell, Jr., Chairman of the Board of Trustees from 1981-83

of Greater Memphis, the Phoenix Club, and St. Mary’s Episcopal School. He was also a board member for the Church of the Holy Communion, Trezevant Manor, West Tennessee Episcopal Diocese Endowment Committee, Community Foundation of Greater Memphis, and President’s Island Industrial Association.

In addition to Jan, his wife of 63 years, Bell is survived by three children, Kathy Adams (**Ben Adams, Jr. ’74**), **Roy Bell III ’76** (Lou Henslee), and Margot Roberts (John); his sister Beverly Sloane; eight grandchildren, including **Ben Adams III ’01** and **Scott Adams ’02**; and four great-grandchildren.



BRINGING HOME THE LAUDS

Hart Makes All-State Band

In the All-West Tennessee Band auditions held in January in Jackson, TN, **Braxton Hart '21** earned 3rd chair trombone in the Blue Band for ninth and 10th graders, competing against hundreds of musicians from the western region of Tennessee. This ranking sends him to the ninth and 10th grade All-State Band as well. Hart rehearsed and performed with the All-State Band in Nashville during the state music convention in April.



Braxton Hart and Instructor in Music Stephanie Hancock at the All-State performance



Pictured from left, Coach Meredith McFarlin and the state champs - George Zhang, Kerry Zhao, Mark Hieatt, and Forest Rudd

Mathletes Win State Competition

Instructor in Math **Meredith McFarlin's** MATHCOUNTS team of eighth graders **George Zhang '22, Kerry Zhao '22, Mark Hieatt '22, and Forest Rudd '22** took first place honors in the state MATHCOUNTS competition in March. In individual honors, Zhang won first place and Zhao won third place, qualifying them to advance to nationals. They will join two

other qualifying students representing Tennessee in the national competition in Washington, DC, in May. Created in 1983, the MATHCOUNTS competition series has four levels of competition – school, chapter, state, and national – and is open to all sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade students. Approximately 140,000 students from across the United States participate annually in school MATHCOUNTS competitions.

Photos courtesy of Bitu Webb



Foil team, from left, Daniel Lim, Jonathan Huang, Eddie Feild, Landon Springfield, Johnathan Ray, Jacob Webb, Jason Wang, and Kyan Ramsey



Epee team, from left, Jason Wang, Sidney Selvidge, Johnathan Ray, Jacob Webb, Ethan Lam, Ammon Wood, and Harmon Colvett

Fencers Earn Fifth State Championship Title

The varsity fencing team swept the men's events in foil, epee, and saber to win the Tennessee State High School Fencing Championships in Nashville in March. This is their first overall state championship since 2015 and the fifth overall state championship in program history. Seventeen Tennessee schools and associations participated in the competition, which included both individual and team competition, and MUS won 14 of 24 individual medals.

Top scorers in foil were **Jason Wang '18**, **Jacob Webb '18**, and **Johnathan Ray '22** for a team total of 2,315. Top scorers in epee were Wang, Webb, and **Sidney Selvidge '19** for a team total of 2,230. Top scorers in saber were **Jonathan Huang '20**, **Akbar Latif '21**, and **Omar Alyousef '21** for a team total of 2,465. Coach Brad Kroeker was delighted with the fencers' performance in competition.

"Special recognition is due to **Jason Wang '18** for his double-silver performance, **Jacob Webb '18** for double medaling, and to eighth grader **Johnathan Ray '22** for scoring points in his first foil championship!" Kroeker said.



Saber team, from left Jonathan Huang, Omar Alyousef, Akbar Latif, Landon Springfield, and Evan Boswell



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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:

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Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. Murray
Mr. and Mrs. W. Seldon Murray III
Mr. and Mrs. Andreas Nonnenmacher
Mr. and Mrs. Gordon L. Northcutt
Ms. Heather Ottinger
Mr. and Mrs. John R. Pitts '76
Presbyterian Day School
Mr. and Mrs. Robert B. Preston '78
Mr. and Mrs. R. Alan Pritchard '80
Mrs. Meredith G. Pritchardt
Mr. and Mrs. William L. Quinlen III '64
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Raskin
Mr. Trammel M. Robinson '16
Mr. W. Fort Robinson '13
Dr. and Mrs. Wiley T. Robinson '75
St. Mary's Episcopal School Class of 1985
St. Mary's Episcopal School Class of 2012
Mr. and Mrs. Matthew J. Saenger '98
Mr. and Mrs. Philip G. Satre
Mr. and Mrs. Andrew F. Saunders III
Mr. and Mrs. Pat Saunders
Mrs. Peggy W. Seessel
Dr. and Mrs. Phillip Sherman, Jr.
Mr. C. Kyle Slatery '04
Mrs. Nancy Welsh Smith
Mr. and Mrs. Tracy S. Speake
Ms. Ashlyn Stevens
Mr. and Mrs. Gary D. Stevenson,
Mr. Paul R. Stevenson '14,
Mr. Jack Stevenson, and
Miss Lesley Stevenson
Mr. Paul R. Stevenson '14
Mr. and Mrs. John W. Straton, Jr.
Ms. Susan H. Sutton
Mr. and Mrs. James D. Tashie
Mr. and Mrs. J. Kimbrough Taylor '84
and Family
Mr. and Mrs. L. Clayton Templeton III
Mr. and Mrs. Michael H. Thompson
Mr. and Mrs. Norman S. Thompson
Mr. and Mrs. Brad E. Trammell
Ms. Gretchen Gassner Turley
The Tyrone Family
Vanguard Soap Employees
Ms. Patsy M. Wadlington

Mr. and Mrs. David S. Wallace, Jr.,
Mr. D. Swepston Wallace III '16
Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey N. Wallace
Mr. and Mrs. Alexander W. Wellford, Jr. '60
Dr. and Mrs. John R. Whittemore
Mr. and Mrs. Andrew C. Wilson,
Mr. A. Griffin Wilson '15
Ms. Caroline Gaines Wood
Mr. and Mrs. Kent Wunderlich '66
YPO Southern 7 and YPO Southern
7 Gold Chapters
Ms. Emily Zimmerman

BETTY M. ROBINSON
Mr. and Mrs. George T. Lewis III '73

MARY WILBOURN ROBINSON
Mr. and Mrs. Gray W. Bartlett '90

DOROTHY L. ROLL
Mrs. Claire K. Farmer

TERRY N. SHELTON
Mr. Brandon K. Arrindell '04
Mr. and Mrs. William L. Askew III
Class of '14 Honor Council
Mr. Perry D. Dement
Miss Mary Nell Easum
Mrs. Claire K. Farmer
Mr. and Mrs. Ellis L. Haguewood
Mr. Robert B. Higley '84
Mr. R. Jeffery Kelsey '85
Miss Kimberly F. McAmis
Ms. Louise Gore and
Mr. P. Parker Phillips '85
Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Quinn,
Mr. Conor B. Quinn '03,
Mr. Patrick D. Quinn '01
Mr. C. Barham Ray, Jr. '99
Mr. and Mrs. Andrew F. Saunders III
Mr. Frederick M. Scharff '13
Mr. and Mrs. Edward L. Simpson '85,
Mr. Edward L. Simpson, Jr. '13
Mr. and Mrs. Robert H. Smith
Mr. and Mrs. S. Clay Smythe '85
Mr. and Mrs. Norman S. Thompson, Jr.
Dr. Ann E. Williford and
Mr. W. Battle Williford '01
Mr. and Mrs. Kent Wunderlich '66

KATHERINE HINDS SMYTHE
Mr. and Mrs. William L. Askew III
Mr. and Mrs. Frederick A. DeBardeleben IV
Dr. and Mrs. Charles E. Frankum, Jr. '86
Mr. and Mrs. Donald M. Kilgore
Mr. and Mrs. Alexander W. Wellford, Jr. '60

GEORGE M. STRATTON, JR. '66
Ms. Ellen Cooper Klyce

D. EUGENE THORN
Mr. and Mrs. Cecil A. Godman III '78

WILLIAM NUGENT TREADWELL '68
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas H. Hutton, Jr. '68

J. NEIL UTKOV '77
Dr. Kristin S. Beizai and
Mr. J. Malcolm Aste, Jr. '77

THOMAS W. VANDERSLICE, SR.
Mr. and Mrs. James E. Bailey III
Mr. Perry D. Dement

DR. AND MRS. C. FERRELL VARNER, SR.
Dr. and Mrs. Albert A. Varner '65

CHRISTA G. WARNER
Mr. and Mrs. Frank M. White, Jr. '92

SUZANNE WARREN
Dr. Donna M. Dabov and
Dr. Gregory D. Dabov

JANICE CAROL SMITH WESTBROOK
Mr. and Mrs. Brandon L. Westbrook '92

In Honor Of _____

BOBBY A. ALSTON
Mrs. Deborah Dunklin Tipton

NICHOLAS D. ANTONELLI '13
Anonymous

ANDREW TATE BAILEY '18
Mr. and Mrs. James E. Bailey III

MATTHEW D. BAKKE
Mrs. Deborah Dunklin Tipton

C. JOHN BLACKWELL '23
Mr. and Mrs. Ceylon B. Blackwell, Jr.

PHILIPPE M. BLAIS '06
Anonymous

SAMUEL R. BUCKNER '04
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas R. Buckner

ANNE C. BURRUSS
Mr. and Mrs. Brentley H. Berry



C. BENJAMIN CHRISTOPHERSON '23
Mr. and Mrs. Eric Christopherson

CLASS OF 1958
Mr. and Mrs. John S. Evans '58

CLASS OF 2013
Mr. Frederick M. Scharff '13

ELIZABETH M. CROSBY
Mr. and Mrs. William L. Askew III

JACK H. CROSBY '17
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen D. Hickman '76

WALKER M. CROSBY '19
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen D. Hickman '76

ERIC G. DALLE '93
Mr. and Mrs. J. Alexander Crabb '93

SKIP DANIEL
Mr. and Mrs. Cecil A. Godman III '78

BENJAMIN W. FREEMAN '18
Dr. Kimberly W. Freeman and
Dr. John M. Freeman
Mr. and Mrs. Willis H. Willey III

NICHOLAS A. GALLER '23
Mr. and Mrs. Matthew A. Galler

ANDREW Y. GORDON '06
Mr. and Mrs. Charles M. Gordon

CHARLES M. GORDON, JR. '03
Mr. and Mrs. Charles M. Gordon

EDWARD A. GRINDER '22
Mr. and Mrs. Fred D. Grinder

P. MILLER GRISSINGER '18
Dr. and Mrs. Richard Colditz

ELLIS L. HAGUEWOOD
Dr. and Mrs. Landon B. Pendergrass

JOHN E. HARKINS
Mr. and Mrs. Jon K. Hampton '01

GRIFFIN T. HOOD '21
Ms. Rebecca S. Davies

MR. AND MRS. JOSEPH R. HYDE III '61
Mrs. Lynda Lipscomb Wexler

R. MCKNIGHT JOHNSTON III '21
Mrs. Mary M. Jennings

WARREN A. JOHNSTON '21
Mrs. Mary M. Jennings

JOSEPH H. KEELER '23
Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd L. Hearn

W. BRIGHAM KLYCE, JR. '66
Ms. Ellen Cooper Klyce

JONATHAN M. LARGE
Dr. Robert H. Winfrey, Jr.

MARTIN W. LIFER III '79
Mrs. Gerlene S. Lifer

J. TAYLOR MAYS '12
Mr. and Mrs. William T. Mays, Jr.

WILLIAM T. MAYS III '08
Mr. and Mrs. William T. Mays, Jr.

J. LAWRENCE MCRAE '70
Ms. Debra McRae

JAMES B. MITCHUM '14
Dr. and Mrs. James R. Mitchum

JAMES M. MORROW, JR. '18
Mr. John H. Morrow

REECE A. NEEDHAM '22
Mr. and Mrs. William Miller

R. EVERARD MEADE NICHOL III '19
Dr. and Mrs. David R. Dantzker

RICHARD L. OUYANG '15
Spark Directed Fund

CHANDLER ROBERTS
St. Mary's Episcopal School Class of 2012

COLLINS B. ROBINSON '20
Mr. and Mrs. Rick Collins

R. MCCADDEN ROBINSON '18
Mr. and Mrs. Rick Collins

GLENN E. ROGERS, JR.
Mrs. Deborah Dunklin Tipton

H. CLAY SHELTON IV '97
Mr. and Mrs. Henry C. Shelton III

WILLIAM W. SHELTON '99
Mr. and Mrs. Henry C. Shelton III

JACKSON S. SOLBERG '17
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald T. Solberg

R. TATE SOLBERG '14
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald T. Solberg

WYATT M. SOLBERG '23
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald A. Solberg
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald T. Solberg

FRANK B. STONE IV '10
Mr. and Mrs. Frank B. Stone III

CARRIGAN C. SULCER '21
Dr. and Mrs. Richard Colditz

MARY ANNE WINFREY TOMLINSON
Dr. Robert H. Winfrey, Jr.

JOSEPH S. TYLER
Mrs. Deborah Dunklin Tipton

WILLIAM U. WEISS, JR. '19
Ms. Letitia M. Wilcox

H. GRAHAM WEST '20
Mr. W. Tommy West, Jr.

WILLIAM T. WEST III '18
Mr. W. Tommy West, Jr.

MELISA WILLIAMS
Dr. Robert H. Winfrey, Jr.

GRANT L. YOUNG '19
Ms. Nancy C. Cofield

Extra! Extra!

CLASS NEWS

'60

A surprised **John Bondurant** opened his mail to find a gold card from the American Contract Bridge League signaling his attainment of the status of Life Master. In an effort to raise much greater funds from tournament fees than from dues, the ACBL had doubled the required points for Life Master, but it turned out that John was grandfathered in, having won points in high school when he and **Alex Wellford** played in tournaments several nights a week.

Met Crump's architecture firm was awarded the design contract for St. Jude Children Research Hospital's latest project, a \$412 million advanced research center, described by St. Jude president and CEO Dr. James Downing as a "building like no other building in the world." (See aerial view rendering at right.) It is Crump's third

major project for St. Jude. Since 1988, The Crump Firm Architects has also left its imprint on MUS, designing the Sue H. Hyde Sports and Physical Education Center, the Upper School, the Campus Center, two tennis centers, the track and Stokes Stadium, athletic fields, and multiple renovations throughout the campus. To find out more about the St. Jude project visit crumpfirm.com and click on News.



Allan Gold reports that although retired, he still goes to the office daily to help the last doctor on his podiatry staff prepare for a solo practice. Allan and his wife, Laura, leave in June for

Puglia, in the bootheel of Italy, and he is taking his son and "bonus son" to Iceland in September. Presumably, spectacular pictures will return with them. See story on Gold's 2017 safari on page 20.

Around 57 years ago **George Owen** correctly spelled "gazet-ter," earning the crown as Mid-South Spelling Bee champion. Google lists 191 synonyms for the rarely heard word. George recalls going over endless lists of words with his parents beforehand. He was the only classmate who consistently had 100s on [foreign language instructor] **David Morelock's** French quizzes.

In February, Tina and **Ferrell Varner** hosted an art show of his work, displaying what he called "47 Years of Intermittent Painting." The show of his works included oils, acrylics, watercolors, and several pencil drawings, now depleted by a number of sales.

'61

Scott May reports: **Jim Barton** and Carol have been spending quality time at their winter home in Naples, FL.

Hammond Cole, John Bell, and **Henry Morgan** were hard after the whitetail deer in Mississippi. Henry's granddaughter from Fairhope, AL, hunted with Henry before Christmas and took a great 8-point that was aged to be 8 years old. Also head "duck chaser," Henry took yours truly on two great hunts.

Dee Gibson suffered several strokes last fall; please keep him in your prayers.

Pitt Hyde celebrated his 75th birthday at a wonderful party at Shelby Farms; he and Barbara are strong supporters of the park.

Brandon Jones and wife live in Austin, TX; we were all happy they were not endangered by the “Package Bomber.”

Turkey season is now upon us. **Bert Palmer** and I are practicing our calling in anticipation of luring long beards into range.

'68

The Class of 1968 celebrates its 50th reunion at Homecoming September 28-29. These updates are courtesy of Class Rep **Terry Wilson's** "Stay in Touch" outreach efforts.

From **Clyde Billings**: For the past 35 years I've been inside

counsel and then corporate secretary at First Tennessee Bank's parent company. Jane and I have two children. We are empty nesters with two dogs – a yellow lab and a Boston who rules the house. I am still working but have long “retired” from soccer; one of my knees is too old.

I remember well Col. **Lynn** and Mr. **Springfield, Hatchett** (the one-page essays), **MacQueen** (the color-coded history maps we had to prepare), **Perdue** (math classes and his Econoline van), **Bland** (TN history), Coaches **Peters** and **Patterson**, Mrs. **Higgs** (Latin), and Miss **Shelton** (Spanish). I remember cross country practice, which occasionally involved being



A holiday gathering of Owls: From left, **John Collier '04, Sam Wilson '01, Skipper Seabold '01, Bruce Hopkins '68, Bond Hopkins '01, and Will Vestal '01**

dropped off by Coach Peters in Collierville with instructions to run back to MUS. I remember a bunch of us taking wet towels over to the Hutchison campus to put out a brush fire.

I remember on Fridays we wore a coat and tie and had a guest speaker in chapel, and after every speaker, Col. Lynn would say, “Thank you. That was very interesting and informative.”

'60

In February *Wine Spectator* magazine reported, “**Archie McLaren**, a charismatic, tireless wine lover known for founding the Central Coast Wine Classic and hosting radio and TV segments on wine, died Feb. 20 from complications due to bone cancer. He was 75.” bit.ly/MUSMcLaren

President of the Honor Council and a basketball and tennis player at MUS, McLaren came back to teach English and math and coach tennis for two years (1966-68) before eventually winding up in California for good. San Luis Obispo's *The Tribune* described him thusly: “Wine evangelist. Southern son. Anti-segregationist. Archie McLaren was many things to many people; his legacy on the Central Coast is unlikely to be forgotten...”

Photo by Paul Wellman



Terry, I remember our early years together at PDS and visiting you at your parents' home on Audubon – the model railroad your dad had set up in your attic and us loaning each other Hardy Boys books. That would have been about 57 years ago. Time flies.

From **Henry Cannon**: All is well. After MUS, I left for San Antonio to attend Trinity University. Bought a dog, moved back to Memphis, and got a job. After that I married my current wife, Christy. My dog ran away. Now still working in the real estate business. Christy and I have three sons, all now working in Memphis. **Nelson '96**, the oldest, has three children and works with me. **Tyler '99**, my middle child, has three and a half children and is an orthopedic surgeon specializing in hand and upper extremities. **Bland Webster '02**, my youngest, is an AP history teacher at CBHS and basketball coach at Grace-St. Luke's.

From **Mike Coop**: Fifty years in a few lines. From my time at MUS until the early '90s, I spent much of my life trying not to grow up. Starting at Bombay Bicycle Club in 1974 and later at the Half Shell in East Memphis, I was a bartender of some repute off and on until the late '90s. There were several stints at college after my original two years at Millsaps. This may be a class record: I finally earned a BA from Memphis State in '94. Did anyone else need 26 years? With an M.S. in accounting in '97 and a CPA certificate, I began a belated professional career.



Tommy Peters '73 reminded students in December that Memphis "has the best live music in the country, bar none," and proved it by bringing his Beale Street club's renowned house band, the BB King All Stars, to perform for students – an annual tradition. From left, **Judd Peters '81**, **Tommy Peters**, and **Jerry Peters '20**

One constant in my life for 40 years has been my connection to a farm in Robinsonville, MS. A small group of us hunt a lease inside the levee that is adjacent to land owned by Jeff Michael (Central '68). It is a unique place. As we have aged we don't hunt as hard as we once did, or so deep in the wood. Making a gumbo at the hunting house often has more appeal than dragging a deer to the truck. The changing of the seasons is magical. Hearing snow geese crossing the river at night is sweet music.

For nearly 25 years I have attended St. John's UMC in Midtown. I have not found God, but I have found home. Each Friday John Kilzer's recovery ministry, The Way, provides the best hour of music that Memphis has to offer. Steve Selvidge, Steve Potts, Sam Shoup, Joe Restivo, Jim Spake, Tom Lonardo, Paul Taylor, and Tony Thomas are but a few of Memphis' finest who play on a regular basis.

For the past several months **Terry Wilson** has been a volunteer there helping serve hot meals.

Jane Demos and I have been together since 2003. Scott Morris married us at Robinsonville. She has just retired from the VA Hospital where she worked as a primary care physician for many years. Each day I am reminded how lucky I am that I at last found the love of my life.

'73

Larry Hayward continues to love his work in the ministry and is in his 14th year as pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church in Alexandria, VA. His congregation is made of people of varied political persuasions who continue to work and live together in their community, even in these fractious times. He has five adult children and served in churches from Texas to Iowa before landing in Virginia.

'74

Mark Ruleman and **Walker Sims** serve on the Board of Directors for Theatre Memphis.

'75

George Clarke is on the Board of Trustees for Sewanee: The University of the South representing the Episcopal Diocese of West Tennessee. He continues to work as an account executive for Regions Insurance Group in Memphis and is an active member of St. Mary's Episcopal Cathedral, serving on the vestry and as chair of the finance committee. In 2015 he received the Silver Beaver Award from the Boy Scouts of America for his long tenure of volunteer work at the troop, council, and regional levels.

'78

Eric Hunter reports: We're 5 for 5: Our fifth child, Liza, graduated from the Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising in Los Angeles, CA, with a B.S. in business and a major in fashion design. She landed a great job with a stylist who's working for several Grammy winners. Our other four are as follows: Rebecca, 26, graduated with a B.S. in business and a master's in business finance from Tulane; she's a business analyst for Calpine Corp in Houston, TX. Josh, 29, is married; he graduated with a B.S. in business management from Auburn and is a music business manager for Hill Entertainment Group in Nashville.



Four generations of Rainers: from left, former Board member **Jim Rainer III**, **Jim Rainer IV '77**, holding **James Connell Rainer VI**, and **Jimbo Rainer '05**

Sam, 31, is married; he graduated from Belmont and Auburn with a B.S. in business and is a regional sales professional for Archrock in Midland, TX. Wilson, 33, is married with two boys; he graduated magna cum laude from Vanderbilt with a B.A. in History and got his J.D. from the University of Alabama

School of Law. He is now general counsel for the Alabama Medical Board. My wife, Liz, and I are proud parents and certainly credit a great deal of our children's outstanding achievements to the education as well as the "care, feeding, and admonition" I received from MUS and she received from the

coed Montgomery Academy. I was proud to support the Jake Rudolph Plaza and Annual Fund and continue to work in the shopping center development business. Liz is focusing on her horses in dressage at the Grand Prix level. We celebrate our 36th wedding anniversary in June. We have two grandchildren and are hoping for a sack of them. We are empty nesters, as the pundits say, but I'm wondering what to do with myself? There is no one to play with anymore!

sic] characters I've met along the way." bit.ly/RobertRentParty

Marty Lifer is senior pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Starkville, MS.

'80

Staplcofn announced the addition of **Hopie Brooks** to its marketing team. He began on February 1 as the director of export sales for the cooperative and is based out of its headquarters in Greenwood, MS.

'79

Memphis Rent Party is the new book by Grammy- and Emmy-award winning documentarian **Robert Gordon**. As he was quoted in *The Commercial Appeal*: "This book is a love letter to Memphis and all those [mu-

'82

Bill Proctor, president and COO of nexAir, was profiled in the *Memphis Business Journal* this winter. During his tenure the company has increased revenues by more than 400 percent.



'81

Boyd Wade made it to the 20,000-foot level at Mount Aconcagua in Argentina over Christmas with his daughter, Larson Wade. She actually summited at 22,834 feet.

'83

The Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis appointed Commercial Bank and Trust Vice Chairman and CEO **Mott Ford** to its Community Depository Institutions Advisory Council.

'85



Owls basketball legend **Jim Barton** is now officially an Ivy League legend, as well. Named to the Legends of Ivy League Basketball's second annual 16-member class, the Dartmouth great was celebrated at the Ivy League tournaments in March.

'86

Andy McArtor reports: **Cliff Goldmacher** has moved the location of his recording studio to East Nashville after 25 years in New York City. He has been quite successful in the song-writing industry, most recently co-writing *Lullaby Girl* with Lisa Loeb. Catch her 9/28/17 live performance of this song on TBS's *Conan* via YouTube at bit.ly/GoldmacherSong. Good stuff! (Does anyone remember

Cliff's MUS Talent Show rendition of *Flight of the Bumblebee* ... antenna and all? That's when I knew he was going places.)

'87

Damon Bell is on the board of directors for Leadership Memphis.

In case you have not yet heard, **Jonny Ballinger** and **Bo Brooksbank** have stepped down as class representatives and have handed the reins over to **Kyle King**, **Bill White**, and **Jeff Blumberg**. The new reps speak for the entire class when they say thanks to Jonny and Bo for the hard work and effort they put toward keeping the Class of 1987 informed and involved. Feel free to contact any of the new reps (see email list on page 50) if you have information to share with the class, or just send it in yourself to ann.laughlin@musowls.org.

Geoff Butler just marked his 20th year with the Poudre Fire Authority in Ft. Collins, CO, where he is battalion chief. His wife, Jane, and son, Peter (14), and daughter, Madeleine (12) missed him desperately when he returned to Memphis for our reunion last fall, but are secretly looking forward to the next one.

Claire and **David Gold** celebrated their fourth wedding anniversary on April 12; they live near Overton Park. David stays busy practicing law and instructing high performance driving on race tracks with the Porsche Club. They have a 15-month-old Havanese/Toy Poodle mix named Bella.

Chris Joe is in Dallas where the law firm he founded in 2010 is still going strong, focusing on patent infringement and intellectual property litigation. Chris gets to sue Google, Microsoft, Apple, Yahoo!, and AT&T on a daily basis. For those of you who ever get to Dallas for work or pleasure, let Chris know if you need a tour guide. Reservations at Chez Joe must be made at least one month in advance.

Howard Sklar is living in New York with his wife and five bambinos. He works for JP Morgan Chase in the compliance department and recently received a community service award from his synagogue.

The Mempho Music Festival founded by **Diego Winegardner** returns for its second year October 6-7. The inaugural event last fall at Shelby Farms Park saw over 10,000 people attend and featured Grammy-winning artists Cage The Elephant and Jason Isbell. Diego is super-excited about the even bigger name artists to be announced in mid-May and anticipates attendance of 20,000 this year.

'89

From **Christopher Hughey**: I moved back from Europe for the third (and final? TBD) time in 2005 and settled in Boston before relocating to Charlotte in 2013. After over 20 years of working in the tech sector for others, I started my own company. Fast Layne Solutions is a medical practice management software and billing services

firm celebrating its first anniversary this August. We are donating 5 percent of profits to everyone's favorite Memphis charity, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. I have three boys, Henry (3), Harrison (6), and Nigel (22). Henry and Harrison seem destined to be "lif-ers" at Charlotte Latin School, which is convenient since their mom teaches fourth grade there! It's a wonderful school and the closest thing Charlotte has to an MUS. Meanwhile, Nigel, a classical violinist and budding music producer, will be starting his final year at the Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts in England this fall. I hope everyone from the Class of 1989 is well! I was sorry to hear about Terry Shelton's passing. He had a razor-sharp wit and a keen mind.

'90



From left, Captain Markus Gudmundsson, Vice Admiral Mike Shoemaker, and Captain **William M. Gotten, Jr.**, who assumed command of Strike Fighter Wing U.S. Pacific Fleet in a Change of Command ceremony in December at NAS Lemoore in Lemoore, CA. As Commander, he becomes the Commodore of the Pacific Fleet. His father,

William Gotten '60, said, "The Change of Command ceremony is a proud Navy tradition. William continues to have an outstanding Navy career."

'91

Trevor Benitone recently spoke to seniors about alumni involvement and the ways they can support the community after they graduate. Benitone retired from the U.S. Air Force as a Lieutenant Colonel in 2015 and is now working with fellow alumnus **Jay Keegan '88** as vice president of business development at Adams Keegan.

Braxton Brady has been leading a well-attended "Strategic Dads" luncheon series at PDS. **Carter Campbell** was seen in attendance as well as many other MUS alumni across the '80s, '90s, and beyond.

Following his appointment to the State Board of Education by Gov. Bill Haslam, **Darrell Cobbins** was unanimously approved by the senate education subcommittee with rousing affirmation by state Sen. **Brian Kelsey '96**.

Brett Grinder has joined the board of Ballet Memphis. We are all hoping this will up his dance game.

Josh Lawhead now holds the class position of "father with youngest kid" after the birth of his daughter. Congrats to Josh and Ellie.

Tal Vickers can be seen back in Memphis about once a month, and during a recent visit, **Ellis Haddad, Trey Watkins,**

and **Bryan Smith** cornered him for dinner.

David Waddell recently hosted a large group of members from The Entrepreneurs' Organization Nashville in Memphis. As a business partner member of EO Nashville, **Trevor Benitone** also attended the event. It was a great way for David to show Nashville business owners all that Memphis has to offer and expand business efforts in the Nashville community.

'92

Sanjeev Memula is running for Tennessee House of Representatives, District 95.

Major Wright has been named head football coach for Central High School.

'93



Restaurateur **Jonathan Magallanes**, pictured here with Upper School Principal Barry Ray, spoke to students in chapel about his family business, Las Tortugas Deli Mexicana, and his belief in pursuing joy in your career. Encouraging students to find their passion, he talked about the satisfaction of working for yourself and what it takes to become successful. "Your effort is a choice – the surest way to differentiate yourself from your peers. The ultimate goal should be to become the best."

MARRIAGES

Jason Dowdy '98 to Whitney Harmon on December 16, 2017

Chad Hazlehurst '06 to Erica Lewis on March 10, 2018

Jay Martin '06 to Caroline Robinson on April 7, 2018

Hayden Pendergrass '06 to Kelley Shirley on October 28, 2017

Landon Finney '11 to Erin Joseph on March 24, 2018

Jordan Keesee '11 to Emily Bethea on July 8, 2017

BIRTHS

Ellie and **Josh Lawhead '91**, a daughter, Clara Drew, born December 22, 2017

Kristin and **Dean DeCandia '93**, a son, John Dean, born April 3, 2018

Christina and **Kip Gordon '01**, a son, Stewart Douglas, born January 15, 2018

Ann and **Battle Williford '01**, a daughter, Sophie, born December 15, 2017

Jami and **Adam Lazarov '02**, a daughter, Audrey Maddox, born March 12, 2018

Abby and **Henry Talbot '03**, a daughter, Winn, born November 28, 2017

Katherine and **Phillip Flinn '05**, a son, Price Carlyle, born October 18, 2017

Faye and **Jimbo Rainer '05**, a son, James Connell VI, born December 19, 2017

Joy and **Matt Johnson '06**, a son, River, July 2017

Whitney and **John Klinke III '06**, a son, James Charley, born February 26, 2018

Lydia and **Robert Counce '09**, a son, Mark Ellis, born January 18, 2018

Emily and **Andrew Maroda '09**, a son, Silas James, born January 19, 2018

Heather and **Matthew Preston '09**, a daughter, Lottie June, born February 8, 2018



Matthew Rose, head coach and founder of Dynamo Multisport in Atlanta, was back in town in February to host a clinic at the University of Memphis for tri-athletes, master swimmers, and fitness fans on how to plan out season training.

'94

After a jam-packed 2017 in San Francisco art directing a *Transformers* movie prequel, **Richard Bloom** is now home

in Los Feliz in Los Angeles. He's currently art directing the first season of the television series *Homecoming*, based on the podcast of the same name. Look for it later this year on Amazon starring Julia Roberts. Should be a good one. *Bumblebee* [the *Transformer* movie] comes out in December. Your kids may like it.

After nine years, **Brad Cohen** is leaving the Justice Department and taking a senior counsel position at Fifth Third Bank. He and his wife, Sarah, and their son, Sidney, will be leaving DC and moving to Cincinnati this spring.

Hunt Taylor was recently promoted to managing representative for Transamerica Life Insurance Agency in Memphis. He also serves as the investment specialist for the Mid-South region.



Pravi Thakkar has a pig named Bacon that has more of an internet presence than most of us.

'96

Cameron Mann has joined Methodist Healthcare Foundation as director of development.

Rob Ratton, of counsel for Fisher Phillips, made the *Memphis Business Journal's* annual "40 Under Forty" list celebrating the best and brightest in Memphis.

'97



Fletcher Maynard, team leader/campus minister for Bridges International in Chapel Hill, NC, caught a rainy LAX Owls game in Durham, NC, this spring with his wife, Mary, and daughters, Bliss and Mims.

'98

Jason Dowdy is a marketing manager with Grace Medical in Memphis.

Matt Saenger and his wife, Melissa, MUS accounting administrator, were featured on the March cover of *RSVP Magazine* at the Memphis Mid-Winter Gala. Photo by Don Perry, courtesy of *RSVP Magazine*



'99

Will Thompson '95 reports: **David Willson** coached Emory & Henry to its first ODAC basketball championship this winter. He inherited a doormat program that had gone 4-21 the year before he arrived in 2013. Tony Bennett isn't the only coach building programs in Virginia.

'00

Ben Trusty is a senior project architect with Randall-Paulson Architects in Roswell, GA, focusing on industrial, distribution, and cold storage facility design.

'01

Baylor sociologist and researcher **Paul McClure** has published



Elliott Ives '96, still playing with *The Tennessee Kids*, rocked out alongside Justin Timberlake at this year's Super Bowl. He received a nice mention in a *Variety* article by Chris Willman in February for his work on JT's new album: "A not-too-secret weapon here ... is guitarist Elliott Ives, who provides more slinky rhythmic lines than anybody since Nile Rodgers."

a thought-provoking study, “Tinkering with Technology and Religion in the Digital Age,” in the *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*.
bit.ly/McClureReligion

'02

Jeremy Dowdy is vice president of digital strategy at Wunderman in the Memphis office.

'04

Austin Chu is a software engineer at Yext, a digital knowledge management company, where he has worked for the last 7.5 years.

'05

Clint Cowan and his family have relocated to Dallas where he is an associate in the law firm of Lynn Pinker Cox & Hurst.

'06

Shea Conaway held his fourth annual squash tournament in Nashville in March. The Tennessee Squash Open draws players to Vanderbilt University’s campus from across the state and around the country. More at NashvilleSquash.org.

Matt Johnson received an MBA from Gonzaga University and

has been promoted to senior energy analyst at ENGIE. He and his wife, Joy, are currently living in Spokane, WA, and recently had their first son, River.

Taylor Maury has joined First Tennessee Bank as senior correspondent banking relationship manager.

Alex Rainer has moved to Austin, TX, and remains with Signpost.

'07

West Askew is founder and CEO of a San Francisco-based company called Nat, Inc., an artificial intelligence powered concierge for weekend experiences in nature. www.nat.ai/

Preston Battle IV has put his law practice on hold to serve as a law clerk for the Honorable Thomas L. Parker, United States District Court judge for Tennessee’s Western District. He plans to return to Baker Donelson in the fall where he will assist clients in complex business litigation matters

Mountain Brook, AL, Deputy Fire Marshall **Adam Bomar** is co-owner of his own business, Complete Fire Investigations, which investigates fires for insurance companies. His mom reports: “While admittedly he is the most-expensively educated firefighter on the planet (his dad’s assessment), we are extremely proud of his accomplishments. MUS played a big



Photo by Philip Murphy/Health+Fitness Magazine

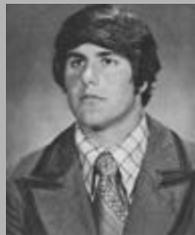
'07

Miles Tamboli, Agri-STEM coordinator at Bolton High School and director of farm operations at Girls Inc., was recently named to the *Memphis Flyer's* annual 20 < 30 list.

IN MEMORY



Archie Campbell McLaren '60
February 20, 2018



Edward Atkinson III '73
February 22, 2018



Bruce Allan Bullwinkel '66
January 16, 2018



Henry Elliott Newton '87
March 13, 2018



James Herbert Humphreys, Jr. '66
January 16, 2018



Jackson James Roberts '14
January 12, 2018

part in preparing him to pursue his goals.” Adam married Rachel Ellen Vickrey of Memphis in August 2013; they are the proud parents of a daughter, Emersyn Reece Bomar, born May 18, 2016.

McCauley Williams and **Justin Brooks** have a new mobile brew venture, the Tap Box; find them on Facebook to use them for your next party.

'08

Kent Francis is an associate attorney at Lewis Thomason in Memphis.

Kyle Wherry now lives in Jackson, MS, where he works for Duvall Decker Architects. He is engaged to marry Garland Kruse (Hutchison '11) in November.

'10

Michael Lewandowski married Anne Johnstone of Birmingham last year. Both are Auburn University alums and architects. They live and work at firms in Birmingham.

Gabe Ruby is a loan officer with Community Mortgage.

'11

Chase Schoelkopf is working toward his DVM at the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine.

Scotter Taylor is excited to be selected by ChooseATL as one of 12 influencers representing the

city of Atlanta. He will help showcase innovative things happening in the city.



'12

Spencer Gruber is business services coordinator for Bridge Capital Thrift & Loan in Memphis.

'13

A story on the efforts of **Nourse Fox** and his teammates to revitalize Navy men's basketball was featured in the *Capital Gazette* in February. bit.ly/NourseFox

John Lewandowski recently graduated from Belmont University.

Wil Rainer is working for Resource Management Service in Birmingham, AL.

Sylvester Tate II, a program manager at Microsoft, talked about his career goals and black history in a Facebook vignette for the company. bit.ly/SylvesterTate

Jesse Wilcox is a junior account executive in Memphis with inferno, a full-service advertising, public relations, design, and digital marketing firm.

'14

Sam Ostrow is an Honors College ambassador at the University of Alabama.

'16

Nathan Dinh is at the University of Richmond majoring in biochemistry and molecular biology and minoring in law and the liberal arts and in integrated sciences. He recently submitted his first research paper for publication about gold nanoparticle applications in ceramic glazes. He was accepted to study at Maastricht University in the Netherlands this fall.

Dylan Echlin is currently at the University of Alabama majoring in aerospace engineering and mechanics with minors in mechanical engineering and mathematics.

Matt Flaherty is at Birmingham-Southern College majoring in economics with a minor in math. He was recently inducted into Kappa Mu Epsilon, the math honor society.

Matt Fuess is at Washington University in St. Louis majoring in chemical engineering and minoring in art. He is also currently tutoring other students in general chemistry and advanced calculus.

Tim Hart's redshirt season paid off, according to this article in *The Commercial Appeal*: bit.ly/TigersTimHart. He and the Tigers faced off against Iowa State in the AutoZone Liberty Bowl in December.

Austin Hord is at Boston College, where he is majoring in communications and minoring in marketing. He writes for *The Heights*, BC's newspaper. He has also been playing guitar at open-mic nights on campus.

'17



Jack Crosby made the golf team at Furman University. His father, **Glenn Crosby '77**, reports: "He walked on, playing exceedingly well to do so, and is redshirted this year. He will be competing next year!"

Jalon Love ranked 35th out of 240 students in his first semester at the U.S. Air Force Academy Preparatory School. He was also elected by his peers to be a flight commander. "MUS has really prepared me for the

academy, from academics to leadership positions," Love said. "I'm very grateful to have had the opportunity to attend such a fine institution." Below, Love is pictured with fellow Cadet Candidate Natalie Nicks and Lt. Col. Jenifer Russel during Parents Weekend last fall.



Joey Rodriguez is a student at George Washington University and serves as a finance assistant at RANDPAC.



'17

Mississippi State University freshman **Goodman Rudolph** shot consecutive 1-under 70s in the final two rounds of the USA Individual to finish tied for second in his collegiate debut at Magnolia Grove Falls Golf Course in Mobile, AL. "This week was certainly a big confidence boost and something I can build on for the future," Rudolph said.

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

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'59	John Lawo	johnlawo@bellsouth.net	'97	Trey Jones	trey.jones@ldcom.com
'60	Metcalf Crump	metcrump@crumpfirm.com	'97	Michael Thompson	mthompsonjr@gmail.com
'60	Alex Wellford	awellford@farris-law.com	'98	Erick Clifford	eclifford@leadcp.com
'61	Scott May	sfmay@bellsouth.net	'98	Don Drinkard	Don.Drinkard@cbrememphis.com
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WELCOME HOMECOMING 2018

September 28-29

Homecoming and Reunion Activities

Friday, September 28

- TBD Alumni Golf Scramble
- 9:30 a.m. Homecoming Pep Rally in Hyde Chapel
School tours to follow if there is interest
- 4 p.m. Golden Owls Reception
For any alumnus who is celebrating or has celebrated
his 50th MUS reunion
Headmaster's House, 2015 Massey Road
- 5-7 p.m. Homecoming Dinner in the MUS Dining Hall
Reunion classes (years ending in 3 or 8) and
their families will be guests of the school
- 7 p.m. MUS vs. St. Benedict at Auburndale

Saturday, September 29

Class of 1968 Luncheon
Class Parties



Mark your calendar. More details to come.



Alumni Holiday Brunch

College-age alumni from the Classes of 2013-17 attended a holiday brunch on campus in December and enjoyed catching up with faculty and friends.



Class of 2014 alumni Sam Fowlkes, Tal Keel, Nick Schwartz, and Witt Hawkins



Cal Edge '14, Pierce Jones '15, Science Department Chair Analice Sowell, and Billy Dunavant '16



Class of 2014 alumni Reed Harrison, James Prather, and Salman Haque



Jawad Almaatouk '16 and Mac McArtor '16



Walker Sims '14, Instructor in English Norman Thompson, Baker Ball '15, and Headmaster Pete Sanders

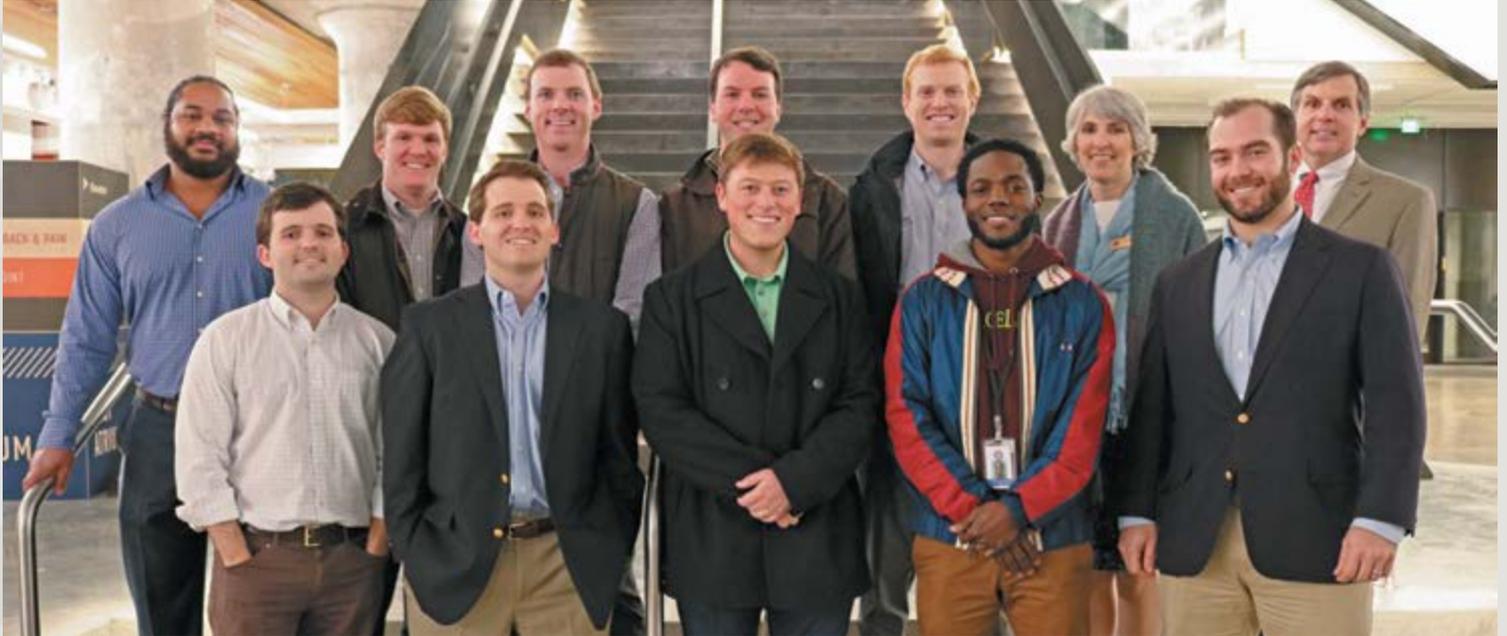


Class of 2016 alumni Chandler Clayton, Hudson Anthony, and Reece O'Keefe



Emerging Leaders Visit Crosstown

The redeveloped Crosstown Concourse project - a collaborative effort involving numerous Owl alumni - opened in August 2017. Alumni from the Emerging Leaders division enjoyed a tour of the building with Headmaster Pete Sanders and his wife, Tracey, in February.



Front row: from left, Edward Francis '12, Kent Francis '08, Paul Stephens '10, Stephond Allmond '10, Garrott McClintock '06;
back row: Jazz Singh '12, Will Carter '09, William Ware '07, Hunter Adams '06, Jay Martin '06, Tracey Sanders, and Headmaster Pete Sanders

Atlanta Alumni Gathering

Atlanta-area alumni gathered at the Piedmont Driving Club in March to meet Headmaster Pete Sanders and his wife and reconnect with former classmates.



Cam McCaa '79, Instructor in Science Bill Taylor, and Andy Meyer '81



Scooter Taylor '11 and Lower School Principal Clay Smythe '85



Wes Spiro '05 and Kip Caffey '73



Andrew Wilensky '12 and Joe Morrison '12



David Bowlin '97 and Austin Bryan '99

THE LAST WORD

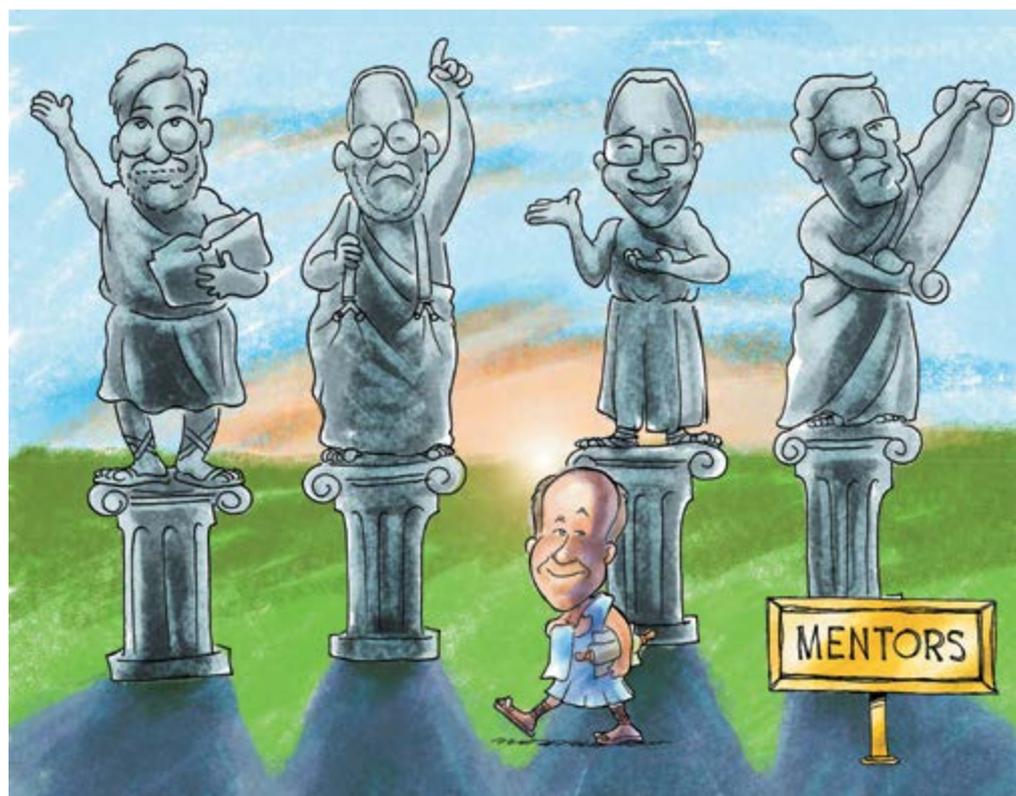


Illustration by Greg Cravens

Ode to Mentorship

by Norman Thompson

The passing of legendary teacher and respected colleague **Terry Shelton** sent me once again down the byways of memory. I remember that in a roast of Terry during a basketball homecoming skit in 2007 I said, “Shakespeare has Cassius say of Julius Caesar, ‘Why, man, he doth bestride the narrow world like a Colossus,’ but his words apply equally well to the pedagogic Colossus that we are gathered to honor today. Striding the hallways of the Lower School, Mr. Shelton is Gulliver among recalcitrant Lilliputians.” While the context was meant to be humorous, my remarks extolling Terry were utterly sincere. Mr. Shelton was instrumental in shaping the lives of innumerable young men, and not their academic lives only. No, he was a mentor to them as well, manifesting the life lessons of honesty, perseverance, and attention to

detail. These virtues, as well as his withering wit, set the standard for his colleagues as well as for his students.

Teaching is about knowledge; mentoring is about experience. A mentor *may* impart knowledge, but his real function is to be an exemplar, someone who inspires us, shows us *why* the pursuit of the true and the beautiful is necessary to a life of fulfillment. Mentors are the ballast that keep our ships steady in the gales of uncertainty and inexperience.

Looking back on my mentors at MUS, I see the inspiring figures of **Jim Russell** and **Ellis Haguwood**, in an office with whom I was fortunate to be placed as a new hire, as yet ignorant of the unique culture flourishing at 6191 Park Avenue. These giants in the lore of MUS never imposed their methods of instruction on me or criticized my own. Always willing to dispense advice and encouragement and share classroom

materials, they “taught” me by simply being themselves and allowing me to witness what I wanted to become.

Perhaps my most memorable mentor was the storied **William Hatchett**. I have written about Bill Hatchett before in sources available to anyone who cares to learn more of this iconic member of the MUS pantheon of memorable personalities, so I shan’t tread much of the same ground again. As I said at the dedication of Bill’s portrait that hangs in the Dining Hall, “A good teacher casts a long shadow. Bill Hatchett cast a shadow spanning decades and generations. He enriched the lives of countless young men, imbuing them with a thirst for knowledge that only a lifetime of inquiry can slake. As a teacher he lived the examined life, the life of the mind, and he inspired others to quest for the sacred grail of enlightenment.

“But it was not as a teacher only that

Bill Hatchett excelled. His life was a monument to scholarship. His colleagues through the years became wiser and more learned from having known him, more ardent to acquire and impart knowledge.”

The last paragraph of this quotation is largely my concept of a mentor. But it is not inclusive, for a mentor does not merely point out the path to a virtuous life, he also creates vivid mental pictures that arise like a spectral guidon bearer in a far-off time and place to amuse and advise us. I remember an incident during my first year or two at MUS. From Room 7 (my classroom was Room 8) I heard a stentorian exclamation followed by a window-rattling slamming of a door. Admonishing my class to remain calm and continue working, assuring them that the disturbance was probably not an earthquake, I left my classroom and opened the door to Room 7 and peeked in. A classroom full of shocked and chastened students, looking for all the world, as P.G. Wodehouse might say, like a roomful of French aristocrats waiting for the tumbrel. Skittering down to the faculty lounge, dreading to find a colleague suffering an emotional breakdown, I entered the lounge to the sight of a serene, cigarette-smoking, portly man, thumbs tucked behind garish suspenders (he called them “braces”), staring placidly out the window into the middle distance. To my timid query, “Are you all right, Mr. Hatchett?” he returned a puzzled gaze. Comprehension came at last to his bespectacled eyes, and he said, “Oh, *that*. Pal, every once in a while you have to put them in their place. They’ll be quiet and attentive for the rest of the semester. Besides, I needed a cigarette.”

As the years rolled by, Bill became the embodiment of the Henry David Thoreau quotation “Simplify, simplify,” exhibited on his walnut desk plate. This gravitation toward simplicity was the order of the day when history teacher **Mike Deaderick** and I were among those invited to a backyard cookout in the heat of the Memphis summer to fete the eminent Harvard historian David Herbert Donald, winner of two Pulitzer Prizes and the author of 30 seminal books. Dr. Donald was in Memphis to examine Bill’s collection of Thomas Wolfe materials, the third largest collection, it

was said, in existence. Donald’s research eventuated in his highly regarded *Look Homeward: A Life of Thomas Wolfe*. We sat in sweltering heat, eating hot dogs and hamburgers. Dr. Donald enjoyed the very middle-class simplicity of the fading afternoon. This distinguished scholar was the picture of gentility and humility, perhaps because he was born in Goodman, MS, and educated first at Millsaps College. I have always felt privileged to have spent a long afternoon in the company of this epitome of scholar and teacher, a privilege that I owe to the thoughtful invitation extended to me by Bill Hatchett.

Bill’s mentorship showed me that wit is a razor-sharp sword with which to vanquish one’s intellectual foes. For example, in a 1984 letter to *The Commercial Appeal* Bill wrote the following:

“The Walnut Grove lady in the television interview who said that street parking should be allowed there because hers was not a ‘working class neighborhood’ and because she ‘entertains a lot’... and presumably believes such a ban would be all right where we lesser people live. Well, golly, doesn’t she realize that we ‘working class’ people ‘entertain’ too? I mean, heck, sometimes we bring Granny all the way up here from Tupelo (if she isn’t having one of her spells). And once in a while even Cousin Farg and his new wife and new baby come plumb over from Osceola (he’s been laid off at the septic tank plant), and we might have as many as six folks here altogether at an outdoor weenie roast (not even counting that darling little child). Why, shucks, lady, are we supposed to hang our dirty old pickups in the trees?”

In an earlier letter to the *CA* Bill excoriated MasterCard for instituting an annual charge and then soon nearly doubling the charge. He wrote,

“As a scholar of the Old West, I am happy to see that Jesse and Frank [James] are still alive and well, but also sad to note that now, instead of taking it away from the banks, they are taking it away from the people and giving it *to* the banks – a level to which even those two estimable gentlemen never sank in all their lives. I am returning my card herewith, neatly severed. You may do with it as you please.”

When it comes to snarkiness, Jonathan Swift could have taken Bill Hatchett’s correspondence course.

Many anecdotes involving Bill are now integral to MUS legend and lore, and we as teachers may learn something from all of them. Perhaps chief among these is the chapel in which a well-known local musician presented a program of ultra-avant-garde music consisting primarily of atonal beeps, pauses, and the irritating sound of dripping liquids. After the presenter (unwisely) asked for questions from the audience, Bill rose and in a five-minute extemporaneous rejection of the “music” just inflicted on the captive audience remarked that he had recently watched a television special featuring the music of Glenn Miller. Bill said that, as the camera moved in close to the crowd, many of those dancing to the big band music had tears in their eyes – tears for the days that are no more, tears for the remembrance of things long past, tears for the loss of innocence. He concluded with a question that Juvenal would have admired. He wondered what the reaction would be were people to hear “40 years from now” the “music” that we had been subjected to. Then he asked the rhetorical question that has become part and parcel of MUS folklore: “Will they weep?”

I am reminded of my mentors every day, but of one in particular, for in 2002 the faculty and staff voted to dedicate Classroom 103 in the Upper School to William Hatchett’s memory. The room houses Bill’s files containing all things literary. The plaque outside the classroom contains a quotation from one of Bill’s favorite poets, Geoffrey Chaucer, a quotation from the *Prologue* to *The Canterbury Tales* that sums up his life in a way that I think that he would approve:

“And gladly wolde he lerne, and gladly teche.”

Chaucer’s words succinctly sum up for me the requisites of both the good teacher and the inspiring mentor.

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

It takes *Time* Editor-in-Chief **Edward Felsenthal '84** about an hour by road, rail, and river to commute to Lower Manhattan from his Montclair, NJ, home. "The ferry ride is too brief - five minutes," he says. "I wish the whole trip were by boat, especially in the summer, looking out on the Statue of Liberty." He took this photo from the ferry on a clear April day. Read what Felsenthal has been up to since taking on his new role last September, beginning on page 6.





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*The lights come on for an evening soccer game this spring at Webb Field.
Photo by Alan Howell*

