

The Magazine of Memphis University School • Summer 2004

# MUS TODAY





MEMPHIS UNIVERSITY SCHOOL  
Founded 1893

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

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Claire K. Farmer



**From the Editor**

I recently received the following note from **Bill Evans '61**:

*Dear Debbie:*

*My family was honored to have my wife, Eileen, mentioned in the Alumni News Section of the latest issue of MUS Today. Scott [May] is right in that over half the Class of 1961 attended the funeral; some even came from out of town. This is Exhibit "A" in what is good about MUS. In addition to receiving an excellent education, each graduate*

*is privileged and fortunate to gain lifelong friends. Many thanks to Scott and to my classmates for their thoughtfulness.*

*Best regards,  
Bill Evans*

I was grateful to receive Bill's note so I could pass along his thanks to the Class of '61. However, I especially was struck by his comment, "This is Exhibit 'A' in what is good about MUS." When I think about what is good about MUS, a lengthy list comes to mind: challenging academics and students who rise to the challenge; outstanding, engaging teachers; a beautiful, college-like campus; fun and funny student activities; a comprehensive athletic program and outstanding athletic facilities; an atmosphere of trust and honor; a plethora of extracurricular activities. But Bill was right; Exhibit "A" has to be lasting friendships. Alumni from every decade frequently tell me that their best friends today are the guys they went to MUS with, even more so than their college buddies.

I often ask myself what exactly is it about MUS that makes it so good? Putting together this issue of *MUS Today* gave me a good perspective: the **Class of 2004**, their accomplishments and their distinguished list of college choices; **Will Deupree '91** and his devotion to public education; faculty award-winners **Lin Askew, Jerry Peters, and Jim Russell**; and our oldest living alumnus, **Charles Crump '30**. Bottom line, it's the people associated with this school that make it so good.

Bill, thanks for the reminder. Your friends at MUS send most sincere condolences for your loss.

**Debbie B. Lazarov**

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**ON THE COVER**

Will Deupree '91 visits with students at Snowden School. Read all about his passion for education and why he's back in school at PIPE. Story starts on page 3. Photography by Jack Kenner.

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# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear *MUS Today*,

While I was very appreciative and extremely proud of the color photo of the victorious "C" League Champions, La Famiglia, moments after clinching the title in the latest *MUS Today*, I was a bit disappointed when I read the accompanying text which stated that this was La Famiglia's first title. In 1997, after years of blood, sweat, and effort, La Famiglia reached the pinnacle of the "C" League when William Tayloe '92 banked in a last-second shot from the top of the key against those heavily-favored, cheap-shot artists known as the Green Machine. Although William has since moved on to another team (with less talent and no championship titles), his shot will forever live in La Famiglia lore. For you and your research assistant's reference, I suggest you check the archive room of *MUS Today* for the Fall of 1997 edition where I am sure you will find evidence of La Famiglia's "C" League Championship. You will also find evidence of La Famiglia's accomplishments in the *Memphis Magazine* article around the same time when La Famiglia was featured as the poster boys of the League. In 1999, we fell six points short of winning the title again.

There is no doubt in my mind that the source of this misinformation is the Commissioner Judd Peters '81. From day one of La Famiglia's existence, the Commissioner has done everything in his power to stymie LaFamiglia's progress and besmirch our reputation throughout the League and the community. It was a dark day for the Commissioner when he saw La Famiglia's photo in the *Memphis Magazine* article.

On behalf of my teammates and in my capacity as General Manager of La Famiglia, I respectfully request that you print a quarter-page correction in the next edition of *MUS Today* along with an apology signed by the Commissioner. We would prefer the correction to be on the inside front cover in bold face type and every time our team name is used, it should be italicized and underlined.

I trust that you will expedite our request and see that it goes through the proper channels in order to be fulfilled. Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter. *Viva La Famiglia!*

Chuck Hamlett '92  
General Manager  
La Famiglia



Four members of the La Famiglia team celebrate their win: Matt Wilson, Preston Miller, Mitch Stem, and Chuck Hamlet. La Famiglia won their league title in 2003, but can they claim more?

Dear Chuck,

I can't tell you how horrified I was to hear of this mistake. I take great pride in our reporting accuracy, and this has truly dampened my spirits. However, I did check the Fall of 1997 issue of *MUS Today* and found no reference to La Famiglia's victory. In fact, there was no article about the ABL at all in that issue. Therefore, I will need more proof before I print a quarter-page correction on the inside front cover in bold face type with LaFamiglia's name italicized and underlined every time it is used.

I have forwarded your letter to the Commissioner's deputy as the Commissioner is still vacationing in an undisclosed location, but we think it is in the Caribbean.

Best Wishes,  
Debbie Lazarov  
Editor

Dear Chuck,

First of all, I am the Deputy Commissioner — not the Commissioner as you state in your complaint. As you may know, the Commissioner is on an island and not due back in the States until mid-July. However, I did speak with him regarding this matter. The League will issue no apologies, publicly or privately. The Commissioner does not make mistakes. If the staff of *MUS Today* wants to apologize, that's their business. The Commissioner says that La Famiglia should feel privileged that they're still in the League. In fact, when he returns he's planning to backhand all of you.



Sincerely,  
Judd Peters '81  
Deputy Commissioner  
Alumni Basketball League

# A Passion for Education Helps Pipe Dream Become Reality

By David Wayne Brown

*Absence diminishes commonplace passions and increases great ones, as the wind extinguishes candles and kindles fire.* — Duc De La Rochefoucauld

No one really knows what force in human endeavors turns a spark or two into a fire that won't go out. For **Will Deupree '91**, a slight breeze — call it mild interest in his later formative years — grew slowly, imperceptibly into a full-blown wind of undying enthusiasm about children's education. The kind of enthusiasm that ultimately kindles a passionate conviction about a vital community issue and even affects public policy.

As a result, the cause of better schooling for the children of Memphis will never be the same.

Deupree, a managing director at Morgan Keegan, is the first to admit that while he took no direct leadership roles at MUS, the values he learned there would help catapult many of his future successes.

"To be honest, I struggled through MUS," Deupree recalls. "I had a hard time maintaining focus in part due to mild dyslexia. I was socially active, but I didn't assume any leadership roles or engage in extra-curricular activities. My priorities were girls and working part-time."

But he had a supportive family and an education that provided a strong foundation for the future. And he enjoyed work.

The work gave him a certain ethic which quickly was revealed in his political science studies at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. There he became a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity, where he was elected to several SAE leadership roles. He was putting in 60-plus hours a week of school and work besides his outside activities. He found jobs with NBC Bank and then Morgan Keegan's Knoxville branch.

When he returned home to Memphis, he was ready to work as hard as ever. But also he wanted to do something for the greater community.

"Of course, I didn't know how to do that," he says. "The ceiling was tough to break through. But with the help of **Henry Turley '59** and Linda Bailey at Goals For Memphis, I was given the opportunity to join the inaugural Leadership Academy class."

There Deupree's inner fire took hold.

He began reading news stories about the Memphis City Schools and about public education in general. He clipped articles about test scores and student achievements. His eyes began to open. What he saw was that "the problems we face as a society — crime, poor wages, race relations, gangs, poor health care, and more — had a common denominator of a failing public education system in socially and economically blighted areas."



Second-grade students at Snowden School gather around Will Deupree for a closer look at the pictures as the story unfolds.

But don't misunderstand his point. Most of what Deupree knew about public education came from negative news coverage or Hollywood movies portraying public schools as jungles of gangs, graffiti, lazy teachers, and misfits. He had never had an opportunity to have those views dispelled or informed. He had no idea of the true bottom line causes or the potential answers. And

he certainly didn't perceive that there was a way to work on the problem.

Until he met one day with banker Chip Dudley and public activist Nancy Bogatin (mother of **Mark Bogatin '71**).

"They introduced me to the work of PIPE or Partners In Public Education. Suddenly, I had an outlet to fuel my developed passions."

PIPE is the community's public education fund committed to improving education in Memphis. Deupree joined the PIPE board in 1998. He soon used his business acumen to understand the role the not-for-profit was playing.

The organization saw its main role as supporting the Memphis City Schools superintendent in identifying special needs within the system, to help search for innovative ideas to improve education, and to raise private donations to support those initiatives. "The thought process was this: we could experiment with private dollars more easily and with less public scrutiny than could the schools with public dollars," Deupree says. "If we



Hands went up when Deupree and Superintendent Carol Johnson asked the class what they enjoyed doing at school and what they would change.

could demonstrate success, it would be easier to find public dollars to continue successful programs. We were the ‘Venture Capitalist of Public Education.’”

Deupree says the city was blessed with a reform-minded superintendent in Gerri House in those days, but PIPE was cursed by a lack of successful measures of accountability. Even so, the successes were impressive in those early years, including providing scholarships to send Memphis principals to Harvard University for summer training; helping pay for the Teaching and Learning Academy where teachers receive continuing education; putting libraries in every first-, second-, and third-grade classroom; and helping bring various experimental educational programs to town.

In the process of raising more than \$12 millions for various “venture capital” initiatives, Deupree says PIPE now understands, “We became a support arm, a fundraiser — and yes, at times an apologist — for the school system.”

In the summer of 2001, after serving on the board for four years, including a stint as PIPE treasurer, Deupree was asked to become board chairman.

“I was a little reluctant. I was serving on four boards and was trying to lead a fundraising effort for an organization that was just a few months old, Mpace Memphis. I felt over-committed and was in the process of trying to downsize my activities. I also was concerned about PIPE’s ability to continue being successful in the future as a new superintendent had canceled several initiatives we had been funding.”

Deupree did his homework, interviewing several board members and others in the community. He found out that PIPE was viewed by

many as a ship drifting without a rudder. And as the potential new captain, “I had a sinking feeling.”

Despite his reservations, Deupree finally agreed to assume the leadership role. In part, his decision was based on the fact that PIPE had built a strong organization and “had a great staff that did the heavy lifting.” Three weeks later came a phone call.

“The executive director was announcing her retirement, and other staff members were leaving to pursue other opportunities. We quickly were becoming a one-person staff, and I knew I was about to be sorely tested,” he remembers.

After speaking with some key board members, Deupree decided to turn the problem into a new opportunity by directing a dramatic transformation of the organization. In the process, his own passion for public education became a mission. “Knowing the potential changed my entire perspective,” he says.

Deupree took the helm and began the transformation, step by step. An interim executive director was hired. A lengthy analysis of the school system and state and federal legislation was begun. He carefully listened to individual board members and donors. All the information brought him to a certain conclusion. The Memphis schools faced a grim situation that he likened to a popular movie at the time, “The Perfect Storm.”

“I felt that if PIPE was to remain a major player in changing education, we needed to position ourselves in some key areas before the storm hit.”

The introspection helped PIPE emerge from the period with a new, clearer vision and mission and with a better structure for support of the school system while maintaining its independence. PIPE also began to focus on four key areas: leadership development, school governance,

parental involvement, and advocacy for children's education.

To increase the talent pool for principals where more than 46 percent are eligible for retirement in the next three years, PIPE, with the Hyde Family Foundations, Federal Express, and others, recently helped bring New Leaders for New Schools to Memphis to find and train new school leaders. "Any great organization, whether the Memphis Grizzlies or Federal Express, must have a strong bench of great talent to take leadership positions, and this is extremely important to the success of our school system. All schools need strong principals to excel, and with 46 percent eligible to retire, leadership development is critical to the future success." Before that, PIPE took a major leadership role in helping attract an extremely dynamic new superintendent, Dr. Carol Johnson, to Memphis. "Carol has the wonderful combination of business leadership skills and educational experience to manage the turnaround in our public education system."

To help parents know more about their schools and how to effect change, PIPE conducted focus groups with more than 80 parents and is studying production of school "report cards" that will fill the parent knowledge gap. Giving parents a role in the important partnership between schools and families is the goal. "Over the past six years, I have not met a parent who does not want his or her child to have the very best education possible, and we are trying to give them the tools and information to help make better schools available through active and educated parent involvement."

To make policy-making at the city schools efficient and effective, PIPE is studying the best practices for governance around the country.

"We need nothing less than a school board that would rival the boards of FedEx, First Tennessee, and Auto-Zone running the education of the future generations of Memphis," Deupree says emphatically.

"School boards are the only elected body of government that is not chosen by its true constituents, the children." To speak up for children with no voice, PIPE is looking at ways to be a strong watchdog that demands excellence and, as Deupree puts it, "barks when the schools are heading in the wrong direction."

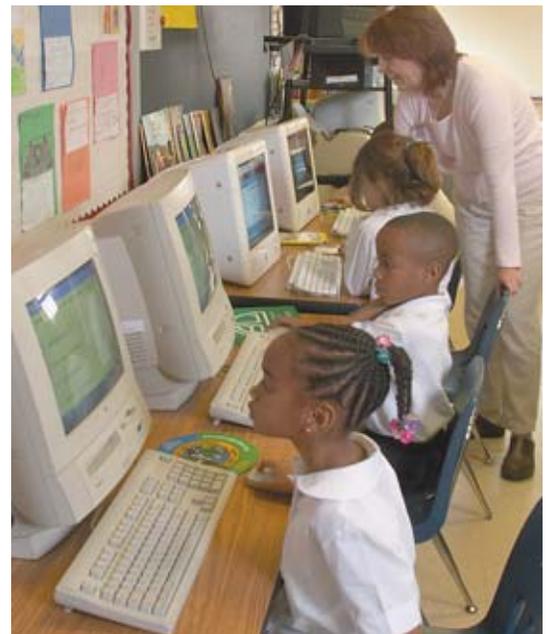
When PIPE realized there may be areas to operate the Memphis school system's annual budget more effectively, it championed and secured funding for an outside audit. PIPE conducted a search for a highly successful consulting firm with extensive experience in government and school systems from around the country. MGT of America, a national management research and consulting firm, spent six months in the Memphis City School System reviewing internal and external expenses of the district to review the current structure

against industry best practices. The thick MGT report contains over 150 recommendations and continues to be analyzed. Several recommendations have been put in place, saving the district over 20 million dollars, which can be redirected back into the classrooms.

Deupree says these are only the first steps in many that lie ahead for PIPE. He also helped stabilize the staff, which included offering a permanent position as executive director to Ethele Hilliard, who was instrumental in shaping the transformation.

"As an alumnus of MUS who has seen both the private and public schools, I can truly say that we have a unique and wonderful institution that not only teaches the MUS boys a great curriculum but instills in them a value system, a work ethic, and a sense of community involvement that cannot come from books and tests. MUS, through the dedicated work of parents, faculty, administration, and the board, provides students the tools and the opportunities to reach their highest potential, which is what we all want for our own children. Working with PIPE has been an extremely rewarding experience, and I am blessed to have Morgan Keegan's full financial support and commitment to this work. My commitment is strengthened by the great education I received at MUS and my belief that all children, despite family or socioeconomic realities, should be entitled to the best education we can provide them. Our community is dependent on the future generation, and it is our responsibility to provide our city's children the best opportunities available."

Melissa Garrone instructs this class of 24 second-graders at Snowden. She has been teaching for twelve years.



# Q&A with Will Deupree

## Q. After six years working with PIPE and the Memphis City School System, what are the biggest challenges our district faces?

Memphis is the nineteenth largest district in the country with over 118,000 students in 185 schools with 16,000 employees and an annual budget of over \$750 million dollars. More than 70 percent of the students qualify for free and reduced lunch due to the low income families. We face many of the same critical socioeconomic issues that affect all school systems in large urban areas. However the biggest issue in my eyes is the vast number of children who are unprepared to learn at acceptable levels when they begin school. Our national school system is set up to handle students who come prepared to learn and with the basics mastered and is not set up to juggle the large discrepancy between those students who have great early childhood development and those who have never seen a book or heard the alphabet. A great education truly begins in the home with a solid foundation created by the parents. Countless studies have found that the years between birth and age seven are when childhood learning is the greatest; therefore, the biggest challenge for teachers is to take students who are far behind and bring them up to standards.

## Q. What do you believe it will take to make the systemic improvements?

I believe the key factor is finding the quality leadership in great principals who can tap into the passion and dedication of great teachers. I have personally seen schools in the worst socioeconomic areas of town flourish simply because of a great principal who has recruited and developed great teachers who believe every child can learn at his or her highest capacity and who challenge the students passionately day in and day out. The improvements are not only with elementary schools but also with middle and high schools as well. I personally believe we have the right leadership at the top with Dr. Carol Johnson, and our biggest challenge will be to help find the talented pool of leaders to take control of some of our schools as principals. I am optimistic about the New Leaders for New Schools program which was brought to Memphis by generous supporters and MUS constituents such as the Hyde Family and generous corporate sponsors in FedEx.

New Leaders for New Schools is a highly successful principal training program which has been recruited to Memphis and is kicking off with an inaugural class of nine principal candidates. Hopefully they will ramp up quickly and begin to train twenty plus principal candidates per year. The requirements to become a candidate are very strenuous, and less than five percent who apply are accepted into the multi-year program. The benefit with New Leaders for New Schools is that they look both inside the schools as well as outside to find great candidates. Many individuals who lead successful lives are now able to move into meaningful second careers that will provide a great impact on so many children's lives.

## Q. We have read recently about the massive Shelby County debt and the need for school system consolidation between the city and county. Where does PIPE stand on this issue?

First, the county debt has mushroomed over the past ten years to over 1.4 billion dollars, which is more than the entire debt for the State of Tennessee. This is primarily the result of the building of new schools

in the county and a state-mandated rule that requires matching dollars for city school buildings. The rule has been very helpful in creating great new schools in Memphis and air conditioning all schools, but it has also led to abuses in the building process in the city school system. State funding requirements demand a formula which says four dollars must be spent in the city for every dollar spent in the county. The formula is based on the number of students in each district. With all of the new development in the recent flight to the county, we have simply relocated the students from one good school building to another at the cost of our taxpayers. The solution is either a single district or single-source funding. I personally believe one unified district will take the eyes off of the feuding and focus it on the problems at hand.

## Q. This would be a hotly-debated issue. How could it ever occur?

Actually, all that is needed would be for the City School District to surrender its charter and the county would be forced to take it. The State Constitution is very clear on this subject; it is the county's responsibility to educate the children. We do not even need a referendum or vote from city or county commissioners.

## Q. How does the general funding of the schools work?

The funding for the school system currently comes from the following sources:

- 42.4 percent from the State
- 31 percent from the County
- 13 percent from Local Sales Tax
- 11.1 percent from the City of Memphis
- Rest from Federal Government

Seventy-one percent of the budget is expended for instruction and instructional support, 13.5 percent is expended on facilities, and less than 3 percent goes to administration. The average expense per child in the school comes to approximately \$7,865.

## Q. What about No Child Left Behind on the Federal level?

This is a political issue at the heart of the education world. It is primarily about the balance between the need for adequate performance measurements to direct resources and ensure the quality of education and the understanding that every child learns differently. We live in a society that through court system rulings has demanded that schools give equal opportunity and education to all students regardless of the child's ability. The problem is how to formulate a test that challenges all students to use their natural talents and gifts. Since the tests must be standardized to measure all students, they are developed and formulated to certain measurable standards. This leads to teachers focusing on teaching to the tests and robs our children of broader educational experiences.

Without having measurable ways to record performance and improvement, no business or other organization would ever succeed; however, by testing every child in the same way, we ensure future generations will have more narrowed educational backgrounds and lose some creativity. Imagine if we required all businesses to be measured and judged by the same set of standards despite the vast differences in size or industry. We live in a perfect Catch-22. I am hopeful this new legislation, while not perfect by any means, will shed new light and focus on the areas of education which are most often neglected, but not at the costs of the programs that currently work so well.

## Q. We have read a lot about the 104 schools on probation. What is going to happen to them?

We have 104 schools which are identified as not making enough annual progress with some group of children; the government calls these

Target Schools rather than schools on probation. The Target Schools are given notice, time, and money to correct the problems, and hopefully most schools with the right direction will correct the problems and move off these lists. However, the schools who fail to make progress and continue down the wrong road are eventually deemed as Failing Schools, and drastic measures will be required. Memphis has identified 22 Failing Schools, and Superintendent Carol Johnson has just released her plan. She has designated five schools as in need of a Fresh Start. In those schools every principal, teacher, administrator, counselor, and nurse will be fired this summer, and a new principal will be responsible for hiring an entire new staff. These schools are given special concessions which allow some performance-based pay structures and other tools to help them succeed. Four schools will be reconstituted and receive new principals but the entire staff will not be automatically replaced, and thirteen schools will go through a reconstitution but will retain the current leadership.

These are dramatic steps, and we applaud the superintendent for her bold moves. Many of the schools on the list are feeder schools into area high schools, and once the problems can be addressed, we will hopefully see improvements in the high schools as well. I have been in one of the schools that will go through a Fresh Start, and it is long overdue.

**Q. What are your views on the Memphis City School Board?**

First, let me say the majority of the current elected school board members are very passionate about the children of Memphis and the Memphis City School System. Unfortunately, we need a lot more than passion to turn the district around. When I look at what is needed for our district, I look at the second-largest employer in the city with an annual budget of over \$750 million dollars. This is not an organization that needs passion; this is an organization that needs CEO leadership on the board. We researched the most effective boards in the country and found that appointed boards operate much more effectively than elected boards in all aspects. I am extremely supportive for a change in our governance that would lead to an appointed board that would be similar in structure to the Airport Authority Board. We need a board that can think big, move from visions into action, and knows how to hire great leaders and give them the support needed to succeed. We do not need the self-serving egos who are constantly looking for a fight or a cause to battle. We need qualified people running our schools who any public or private corporation in Memphis would be honored to have on its board and whose shareholders would hold in the highest regard. Until the laws are changed or we are faced with a state takeover, I would encourage anyone reading this article to consider finding the right candidates to run and encouraging them with your time and your dollars. There is no greater responsibility to our community's future success than to educate our children.



**Q. What about charter schools and vouchers?**

These are two very political topics and cause lots of disagreement from different sectors in our community. Charter schools and vouchers are great for the students that are benefited by them, and most often those are the students who need them the most. However, neither charter schools nor vouchers programs can scale up to a size that would solve every problem or catch every child; therefore, they are not a permanent solution. Charter schools and vouchers are most beneficial where they can act as experimental testing areas for new and different ways of teaching without the bureaucracy. If new ideas work in the heart of our district and the school systems recognize that the competition is winning some big battles, then you hope the districts will adopt the same techniques effectively for all the children. We must be able to demonstrate effectively that all children can learn at high potential and reshape our schools to teach at such levels.

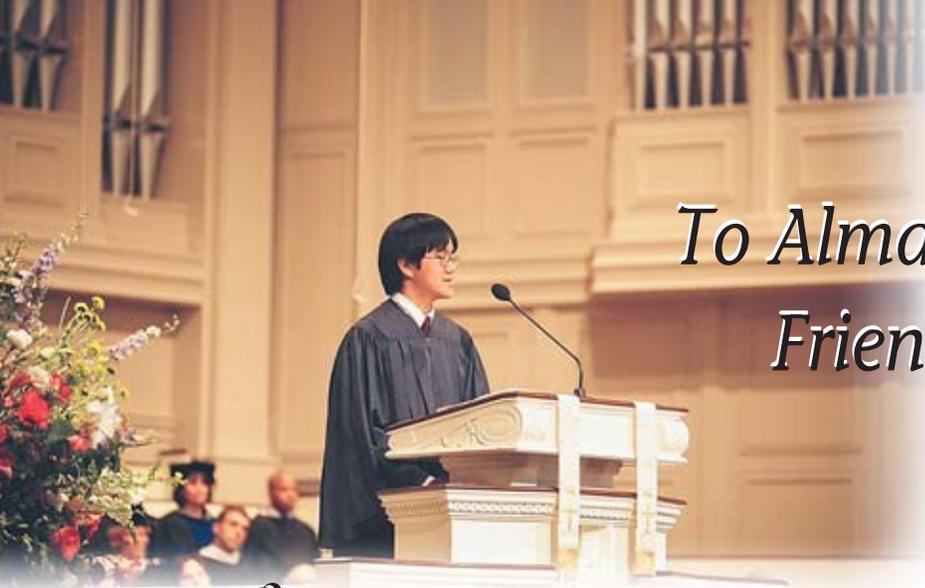
**Q. Any final thoughts?**

Our schools have some problems as I have addressed above, but they also have tons of success stories of children who are moving on to the very best colleges in the country. We have teachers who are as dedicated and passionate as any in the country and who make differences in the lives of our children every day. No child has ever chosen the life they are born into or the education they will be exposed to. It is our responsibility as a community to ensure that we provide the best possible education for each and every student even if it means taking on some of the roles as parents and as educators. The success of our community and our country depends on the future education of our children.

**Q. One last question, how can *MUS Today* readers help?**

From a financial support angle, PIPE is implementing several projects as we speak, and we are looking to raise additional dollars to support School Report Cards, New Leaders for New Schools, and a variety of other programs. We can always use engaged board members, volunteers for the schools, people to execute projects, and most of all new school board members. Anyone interested in supporting the efforts to vastly improve our schools, please visit [www.pipememphis.org](http://www.pipememphis.org), call Ethele Hilliard, CEO of PIPE, at (901) 682-8100, or feel free to call me at Morgan Keegan, (901) 529-3791.

*David Wayne Brown is board of directors' vice chairman of PIPE; president/CEO of Conway Brown, Inc., an advertising and communications marketing firm; and former editor of The Commercial Appeal.* 



# To Alma Mater, Friend, and Leader... University.

*O*n May 16, Student Council Chaplain **Todd Jean-Pierre** asked his 82 classmates to “Honor MUS for embracing us as boys and teaching us to be capable young men.” Salutatorian **Adam Kaplan** then welcomed graduates, parents, relatives, and friends to the Class of 2004’s graduation at Second Presbyterian Church. He told the audience that “it is our [the senior class’s] character that sets us apart,” thus setting the stage for the commencement exercises of the Class of 2004.

In his valedictory address, Valedictorian **Austin Chu** (pictured above) pointed to the leadership exhibited by members of the class, the fact that they were the last class to have had classes in the old Upper School with its grand arches, and that the Honor Code survived its tests this year and will live on even stronger than before.

Headmaster Ellis Haguewood added, “To whom much is given, much is expected.” And the Class of 2004 did not let us down.

The 83 graduates of the Class of 2004 were accepted at 97 different colleges and universities in 28 states and the District of Columbia and will be attending 44 schools in 24 states and the District of Columbia in the fall. Over half the class, 57 percent, received merit scholarships totaling \$3 million, demonstrating their outstanding academic achievements. The National Merit Scholarship Corporation recognized 25 percent of the class: seven National Merit finalists; 11 Letters of Commendation; and one National Achievement Scholar (minority students recognized for their academic performance). Twenty percent of the class scored 1400 or higher on the SAT I, and 30 percent received a score of 30 or higher on the ACT.

While MUS will miss the Class of 2004’s significant leadership in the Student Council, the Honor Council, the Government Club, the Civic Service Organization, student publications, the theater, *Beg To Differ*, and countless athletic teams, Haguewood reminded the graduates that MUS is grateful for what they have given to the school and what the class should take from MUS into their lives ahead. “As we bid you farewell, you will always be part of us that remain at MUS, and we hope we will always be a part of you.”

According to Chu, “We will scatter to the four winds across the nation. Yet even as we roam leaving our marks as the writing end of a compass, we will forever be connected to the point of that compass, our base, our home.”

And in Chu’s parting words:

“Dear MUS, How kind the fate that brought us to these halls...

May we hope that we have left you as changed for the better as you have left us, shaped from boys into men.

From the Class of 2004,  
Vale — Farewell...

To Alma Mater, Friend,  
and Leader, University.”



# GRADUATION AWARDS & HONORS

## Faculty Cup for General Excellence **Andrew Stuart Hooser**

The Faculty Cup for General Excellence is the highest honor given to a member of the graduating class. The recipient of the Faculty Cup has demonstrated qualities of leadership and strength of character which have earned for him the highest respect of his peers and his teachers. He must have given generously of his time, his talent, and his energy in service in a way that reflects his devotion to the school and his dedication to the ideals for which it stands.

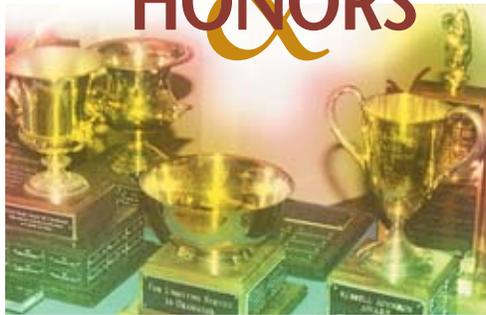
## Ross McCain Lynn Award **Brandon Kelsey Arrindell** **Jonathan Elliot Embry** **Adam Jay Kaplan** **Cash Lee McCracken**

The Ross McCain Lynn Award is given in memory of the school's first headmaster. This award recognizes distinction in the areas of school citizenship, leadership, service, and character.

## Scott Miller Rembert Senior Service Award

## **William Thomas Billings** **Austin Taylor Rainey**

This award, established by family and friends, is made in memory of Scott M. Rembert, Class of 1970. It goes to those seniors who have shown the most unselfish service to the school. Their names will be inscribed on the Scott Miller Rembert Senior Service Award plaque, which will hang permanently in the school. In addition, the winners will be presented with an engraved medal.



## Danforth Award

## **Paul Gabriel Moinester**

The "I Dare You" Leadership Award is presented nationally by the American Youth Foundation. The award includes a copy of the book *I Dare You* by William H. Danforth, a philanthropist who challenged young people to aspire to their highest potential, to attain constructive lives of service and leadership, and to commit themselves to excellence. The award is presented in recognition of excellence of character and well-balanced personal development as well as leadership potential.

## Mark Cooper Powell Memorial Award

## **Dean Seif Atyia**

The Mark Cooper Powell Memorial Award is given in memory of Mark Cooper Powell, Class of 1980, by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Edward L. Powell, to the graduate who through persistence and courage during his career at Memphis University School has shown the greatest development of character and scholarship.

## William D. Jemison III Award for Excellence in Dramatics **Dean Seif Atyia**

## Brescia Award for Unselfish Service in Dramatics **Kevin Gerard Hollinger**

## Art Award

## **Noah Spencer Wells**

The Art Award is given to that senior who, in the opinion of the art instructors at MUS, has demonstrated talent in studio art, displayed personal interest in art and independence in art classes, and exhibited a potential for continued interest and work in art.

## English Award

## **Lyle Edward Muller II**

The English Department awards recognition to the outstanding scholar who exemplifies effective writing, keen appreciation of language and literature, and singular achievement in his English courses

## History Award

## **Sean Phillip Curran**

The Department of History and Social Studies recognizes the graduate who has demonstrated exceptional ability and appreciation of the courses offered by the department and whose academic record is in accord with the highest standards of excellence.

Clay Smythe descends the stairs to present the Ross Lynn Award to Elliot Embry who was on crutches.



Andrew Hooser (left) accepts the Faculty Cup from Norman Thompson; Austin Rainey and Tom Billings (above) share the Senior Service Award.



# GRADUATION AWARDS & HONORS...CONTINUED

## Foreign Language Awards

*French:* **Anthony Gerald Jean-Pierre**

*Latin:* **Austin Chu**

*Spanish:* **Brandon Kelsey Arrindell**

## Christa Green Warner

### Mathematics Award

**Austin Chu**

This award in mathematics is represented appropriately by a Mobius strip, an unending surface that symbolizes Christa Warner's unending devotion to her students and love of mathematics. The award is given by Jonathan and Stephen Weinberg in memory of their teacher Christa Warner. It is presented to that young man who not only understands and successfully applies the concepts of mathematics and computer science but has also displayed an unusual spirit of cooperation throughout his high school mathematics career.

## Margaret Owen Catmur

### Science Award

**Austin Chu**

The science award, established in loving memory of Margaret Owen Catmur by her husband, Eric Alan Catmur, is presented to that student who, in the opinion of the Science Department faculty, has done the most outstanding work in the field of science at Memphis University School. The student's name is inscribed on a permanent plaque, which will remain at the school.



## Religion Award

**James Leslie Hoyle**

The Department of Religion presents this award to the graduating senior who has demonstrated academic excellence while exhibiting the moral characteristics of the Judeo-Christian ethic, a personal dedication to justice, mercy, and humility among his classmates and with the subject studied.

## Leigh W. MacQueen Dean's Cup for Academic Excellence

**Sean Phillip Curran**

Named in 1998 in honor of the first academic dean of MUS, Leigh Windsor MacQueen, this award was originally donated by Mr. and Mrs. MacQueen in 1967. The award is given to that member of the senior class who, in the opinion of the faculty committee, has demonstrated to an outstanding degree a marked depth of intellectual maturity and curiosity and who, in the minds of the examining committee, has indicated sound intellectual attainment.



## Salutatorian Award

**Adam Jay Kaplan**

To that senior with the second highest academic average over eight semesters of work at Memphis University School.

## Valedictorian Award

**Austin Chu**

To that senior with the highest average over eight semesters of work at Memphis University School.

## Award for Distinguished

### Community Service

**Jonathan Elliot Embry**

The Award for Distinguished Community Service goes to the graduate who has made service to others in the Memphis community a very high priority in his life. The recipient of this award has given his time, his talent, and his energy in a way that demonstrates the school's commitment to community citizenship.

Clockwise from top left: Salutatorian Adam Kaplan addresses the class; Nancy Gates gets a big smile from Austin Chu as he receives his fourth award; at the reception, Lee Hoyle is congratulated by John Harkins; Sean Curran accepts the prestigious Dean's Cup; Philip Blackett '03 (center) attended graduation to see friends, two of which picked up awards — Todd Jean-Pierre, the French Award, and Kevin Hollinger, the Brescia Award.



Nancy Gates and her son, Alex



## Class of 2004 Honors Coach Peters

The Class of 2004 recognized MUS history and social studies instructor and basketball coach Jerry Peters for excellence in teaching. Coach Jerry Peters

received the John M. Nail Outstanding Teaching Award, which is given each year by the graduating class to an exemplary faculty

member who teaches in the Upper School. The award is named in honor of John Nail, a former English and history teacher at MUS in the late 1950s.



Ruth and Jerry Peters

His students estab-

lished the fund for their teacher, who "instilled in them an enduring love of learning." Peters received a \$5,000 check as well as a school medal and an engraved plaque.

**Winfield Clifford**, senior class president, presented the award to Peters in a special Chapel ceremony. "I have the deepest respect for Coach Peters," said Clifford. "He has the ability to spike interest in his students and keep a sense of humor at all times."

A teacher at MUS since 1960, Peters has distinguished himself both in and out of the classroom. As varsity basketball coach since 1964, he has netted over 800 career victories as varsity basketball coach, which is a state record for wins at a single school. In the classroom he has taught a variety of government and history classes and currently teaches AP Comparative Government and Recent U.S. History.

Philip Reed, Joseph Robinson, Will Owens, and Rich Bollinger



Below: Stewart and Trow Gillespie '65; Paul Moinester and John McGregor



College Counselor Emily Baer saying farewell to a graduate; Bubba Burr and Cotter Norris; Peter Jones and Chris Covellis; Kyle Slatery, Edward Taylor, and Stephen Weston; Clyde Patton '86, John Collier, and his mother, Meg; Timothy Chen with his grandmother



## Senior Class Leaves Legacy

Although the Class of 2004's class gift is still a work in progress, it promises to reward students and alumni alike for many years to come. After some students noticed that schools similar to MUS had distinctive class rings, the seniors decided that they wanted to create something comparable of lasting value. Thus, as their parting gift to the school, the Class of 2004 will redesign the class

ring to create a lasting symbol that is in line with the tradition and ideals of MUS. Once produced, alumni and future members of the junior class will be able to purchase the rings as another way of displaying MUS pride.





Proof positive that being first alphabetically has its advantages, Dean Atyia and Brandon Arrindell lead the class as they exit graduation services. Atyia is bound for Middlebury College; Arrindell is off to Harvard.

# CLASS OF 2004 HAS LEFT THE BUILDING

## And their College Choices are...

Brandon Arrindell ..... Harvard University (S)  
 Dean Atyia ..... Middlebury College  
 Tyler Beard ..... Baylor University (S)  
 Tom Billings ..... Vanderbilt University  
 Rich Bollinger ..... Southern Methodist University  
 Brent Boswell ..... Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
 Trey Bowden ..... University of Memphis  
 William Brandon ..... Rhodes College  
 Sam Buckner ..... Texas Christian University  
 Timothy Chen ..... Vanderbilt University (S)  
 Austin Chu ..... Massachusetts Institute of Technology (S)  
 Winfield Clifford ..... University of Tennessee (S)  
 Chris Cole ..... Auburn University  
 John Collier ..... University of Mississippi  
 Gordon Conaway ..... University of Georgia  
 Jonathan Cooper ..... University of Arizona  
 Chris Covellis ..... Auburn University  
 Sean Curran ..... Brown University, Program in Liberal Medical Education  
 Spencer Dailey ..... University of Arkansas (S)  
 Andrew Dillon ..... University of Tennessee (S)  
 Chad Donahue ..... University of Massachusetts (S)  
 Elliot Embry ..... University of Mississippi  
 Scott Ferguson ..... University of Mississippi (S)  
 Tyler Fisher ..... Tulane University (S)  
 Justin Foreman ..... Rhodes College (S)  
 Christian Freeman ..... Vanderbilt University  
 Matt Ganier ..... University of Mississippi  
 Alex Gates ..... Rhodes College (S)  
 Stuart Gillespie ..... Vanderbilt University

Jason Goldstein ..... George Washington University  
 Gatlin Hardin ..... U.S. Naval Academy (S)  
 Mikell Hazlehurst ..... University of Tennessee (S)  
 Evan Herrera ..... Colgate University  
 Andrew Hoff ..... University of Tennessee (S)  
 Kevin Hollinger ..... University of Kentucky (S)  
 Andrew Hooser ..... Georgia Tech  
 Lee Hoyle ..... University of Richmond (S)  
 Ben Jaqua ..... Rhodes College (S)  
 Todd Jean-Pierre ..... Princeton University  
 Peter Jones ..... Boston University  
 Harris Jordan ..... University of Tennessee (S)  
 Adam Kaplan ..... Harvard University  
 Ben Kastan ..... Washington University  
 Stephen Kriger ..... University of Indiana (S)  
 Jack Louie ..... Boston University (S)  
 Hays Mabry ..... Southern Methodist University  
 Sunny Majumdar ..... Vanderbilt University (S)  
 Barton Mallory ..... Rhodes College (S)  
 Andrew McCarty ..... University of Mississippi  
 Cash McCracken ..... Brown University  
 John Conrad McCrary ..... Tennessee Tech (S)  
 John McGreger ..... Lambuth University (S)  
 Paul Moinester ..... Washington University  
 Anthony Montedonico ..... University of Tennessee (S)  
 Marcus Moss ..... University of Kansas  
 Lyle Muller ..... Brown University  
 Cotter Norris ..... University of Mississippi  
 Eddie Owen ..... Berklee College of Music  
 Will Owens ..... Washington & Lee University  
 Palmer Phillips ..... Southern Methodist University  
 Tyler Pierce ..... Florida Southern College (S)  
 Doug Pleiman ..... Virginia Tech  
 Will Presley ..... Belmont University (S)  
 Austin Rainey ..... Clemson University  
 Philip Reed ..... Baylor University (S)  
 Joseph Robinson ..... Southern Methodist University  
 Morgan Rose ..... University of Tennessee  
 Matt Rutherford ..... University of Mississippi (S)  
 Brian Shoptaw ..... Virginia Tech  
 Kyle Slatery ..... Colorado College  
 Brad Spicer ..... University of Kentucky  
 Will Stubblefield ..... Colorado State University  
 Pierce Sullivan ..... Mississippi State University  
 Scott Tashie ..... University of Denver (S)  
 Edward Taylor ..... University of Virginia  
 Neil Taylor ..... University of Alabama  
 Clayton Thomas ..... University of Arkansas (S)  
 Nicholas Vincent ..... Mississippi State University (S)  
 Kyle Vogel ..... University of Mississippi  
 Scott Warren ..... University of Mississippi (S)  
 Noah Wells ..... Appalachian State University  
 Stephen Weston ..... University of Tennessee (S)  
 Blake Wiedman ..... University of Mississippi  
 (S) denotes scholarship

# SPORTS REPORT: STATE CHAMPS



## Wrestling Champion Sets One for the Record Books

With a mere 30 seconds remaining in his high school wrestling career, MUS senior **Andrew Hooser** was trailing by two points in the Individual State Wrestling Tournament. As the number two seed in the 275-pound weight class, there was a good chance he could beat Brentwood Academy's Nick Forte, the number one seed. Hooser needed a take-down—worth two points in a wrestling match—but as much as he attacked his opponent, he just could not get close enough. Forte, obviously trying to deflect Hooser's attempts, avoided contact and received a penalty for stalling. The match, now with only a one-point difference, was within Hooser's grasp. With only a few seconds left, Hooser got the necessary two-point takedown to win the match and, in doing so, etched his name in the MUS history books as the first state champion wrestler in the school's history.

**Wrestling**, see page 14



## Soccer's Hunted Squad Takes The Title

Last year, they were happy just to be there. Sure, winning the state title would have been great, but just getting to that championship game for the first time since 1996 was unexpected and remarkable enough for the 2003 varsity soccer team.

In 2004 though, just getting there was not enough. Once at state, winning was the only goal, and the Owls accomplished that dream with a 2-0 victory over University School of Nashville (USN) to bring home the state soccer championship.

The team entered this season knowing they would again be very good, but they would not have one advantage from last year: being underestimated. After their 2003 loss in the final match, the hunted squad knew they would have to perform at their very best to make a return trip to state.

During the early season, the offensive punch of the team became evident as

**Soccer**, see page 14

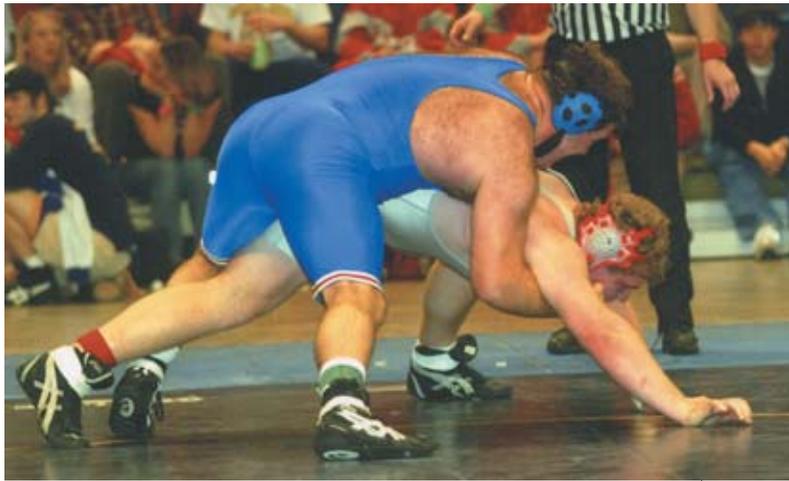


## Tennis Dominates Tennessee Once Again

The 2004 varsity tennis team found themselves in an unusual position heading into this season. For the first time since 1998, **Coach Bill Taylor** and the team would not enter the year as the defending state champion. Instead of being discouraged that their reign had ended, the Owls used the runner-up finish as motivation, and the results followed as MUS completed an undefeated season ending with their 12th state championship. "Losing the state title last year was devastating, and we promised ourselves that it would not happen again," said junior **Bo Ladyman**. "This year we trained and prepared harder than we ever have to reclaim the state championship."

Seniors **Alex Gates** and **Hays Mabry** anchored the team and had outstanding years as two of the best singles players in the state. In fact, Gates was the regional singles champion and Mabry was the

**Tennis**, see page 15



### Wrestling, from page 13

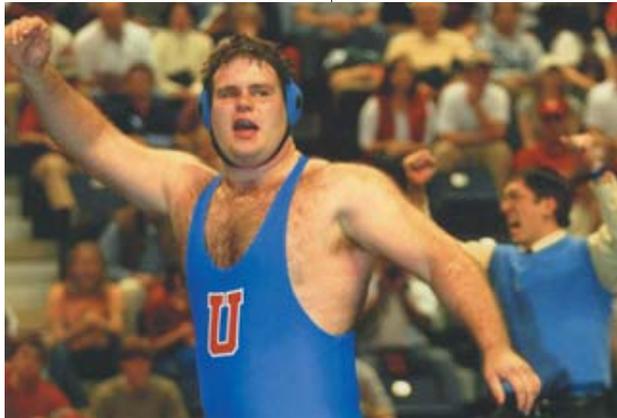
The young man, who freely admitted that he only went out for wrestling because **Coach Tommy Harrison** talked him into it, was now a state champion. "I was watching the match from above, and it was hard to tell who won. I saw **Coach [Shaun] Gehres** jump up and **Coach [Burton] Milnor** trying to pull him back down onto the bench because he thought it was a tie," said Harrison. Once everyone realized Hooser had won the match, the celebration began. "We were thrilled," said Harrison. "It could not have happened better that Andrew was the winner. He is a person of high character and gives MUS a great representative in the true sense of a champion."

A great representative... The true sense of a champion... Those words describe Hooser perfectly. In his years at MUS, Hooser has distinguished himself as both a leader and a servant. Captain of the wrestling and football teams, president of the Honor Council, recipient of the Alexander W. Wellford Award, volunteer for Habitat for Humanity and Special Olympics, a member of the track team, a Student Ambassador, and, most recently, the recipient of the highest honor given to a member of the graduating class, the Faculty Cup for General Excellence—these are only a few of the impressive entries from Hooser's transcript. Additionally, he was one of 11 high school students honored as an outstanding scholar athlete by the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame and was awarded a \$500 scholarship.

For all his accomplishments, Hooser has never lost his modesty or his work ethic. "In athletics, we know that anytime Andrew steps onto the field or mat we get his best. He is a leader by example," Harrison said. "He is just a person that everyone can respect because of the way he conducts himself."

The Monday after the wrestling tournament, Harrison showed a 30-second video of Hooser's victory in Chapel and, after announcing that he was the first state champion in the school's history, said, "That's a standing 'O' in my book." Needless to say, the student body and faculty wholeheartedly agreed.

A stunned crowd watches as a last-second takedown and a come-from-behind win allows **Andrew Hooser** to become the first in MUS history to capture a state wrestling title. **Coach Shaun Gehres** (in the background) bolts to his feet as the referee calls it.



### Soccer, from page 13

the Owls put up many goals. Forwards **Cody Curtis**, **Doug Pleiman**, and **Brian Evans** became potent goalscorers as MUS tallied an amazing 84 goals, averaging more than four per game. Evans, a sophomore, led the team in scoring. Adding depth at the forward position were sophomores **Corbin Linebarrier** and **Daniel Lansky**, two excellent young players.

The midfield position was also strong for the Owls. Seniors **Winfield Clifford**, **Clayton Thomas**, **Scott Warren**, and **Blake Wiedman** provided leadership all season for this talented group, while juniors **Kyle Rosenburg** and **Brad Rentrop** and sophomores **Beau Creson** and **David Shochat** rounded out the skilled, hard-working backbone of the team. They not only contributed a scoring threat, but they also played excellent defense to keep most teams frustrated.

It was after a surprising 2-1 loss to ECS that the Owls rounded into playoff form as the defense, a staple of **Coach Vincent Beck's** teams, became very stingy. Senior sweeper **Paul Moinester** led juniors **Kane Alber**, **Ryan Freebing**, and **Aaron Struminger**, and sophomores **Logan Welch** and **Paul Zettler**. Junior **Ben Tacker** and sophomore **Chad Hazlehurst** adroitly handled the keeper duties as they allowed only 16 goals in 20 games.

After the ECS loss, MUS lost only one more time in their final nine games as they played their best soccer heading into the postseason, ending one of the most challenging regular-seasons in recent history.

At state, the Owls would not be denied as they drew on last year's experiences. After a series of upsets in the eight-team tournament, the Owls faced USN once again. The game was 1-0 until Wiedman put the match away with a goal that sealed the championship.

This state title was the Owls' first since 1982 and since soccer became a TSSAA sport.

Because of their outstanding season, Coach Beck was named *The Commercial Appeal's* Best of the Preps Soccer Coach of the Year, and his players believe it is for more than just his winning strategies. Team captain Winfield Clifford told *The Commercial Appeal*, "I've never had a coach like him. He cares about the players, not just drilling something into our heads monotonously. You can see through him how to win. He has the desire to allow us to motivate the players...he is the motivation."

Coaches Beck, **Loyal Murphy '86**, **Jose Hernandez**, and **Todd Erickson** lose six seniors but return a majority of their squad. They now look forward to defending their title and remaining the hunted in 2005.



Sophomore **Brian Evans** adds another victim to the list of opponents who have fallen to his foot skills.



Left: Senior Winfield Clifford executes his signature move, a feint to his right followed by pulling the ball back to his left. Right: Junior Kane Alber with his blistering speed is a handful for any team.

The Owls won all fifteen of their regular-season team matches and were rarely challenged. They swept the regional tournament with singles (Gates), doubles (Guyton/Ladyman), and team victories. Then, at state, MUS beat University School of Nashville, 5-0, Baylor, 4-0, and then MBA for the title.

## Tennis, from page 13

runner-up. Senior **Justin Foreman** added depth to the team, and **Austin Rainey**, the team's senior manager, was one of the most significant members of the squad.

Underclassmen also played essential roles in the excellent season. Juniors **Alex Guyton** and **Bo Ladyman** led a group of talented juniors on the team. Guyton and Ladyman accomplished everything they could as once again they won the state doubles title to accompany the team title. They were regional doubles champions and established themselves as the best doubles team in the state and one of the best in the country. Also outstanding singles players, the two were rarely challenged and provided a quality of play and character to the team.

Freshmen **William Lang** and **Jordan Smith** also were integral components that comprised this powerhouse squad. Despite being so young, both players seemed to thrive under the intense pressure of big matches. As doubles partners, they were the regional runners-up, but perhaps their most important contribution was closing out Montgomery Bell Academy (MBA) in the state title match by winning, 8-3, in a doubles match to secure the team title, 4 matches to 2.

Other underclassmen were essential to the squad as well. Juniors **Ben Bleustein**, **Michael McCulloch**, **Scott McLeod**, **Worth Morgan**, and **Jacob Weinstein**, sophomores **Spencer Heflin**, **Zach Glover**, and **Mike Montesi**, and eighth-grader **Alex Addington** all provided excellent depth to the squad and made big contributions as each played well during the undefeated regular season.

In recognition of his coaching efforts, Coach Taylor was named *The Commercial Appeal's* Best of the Preps Tennis Coach of the Year for the seventh time. "Throughout the season Coach Taylor proved to be the glue that held the team together. He was the team leader and our inspiration for winning. I've loved playing for him, and it was a thrill to win MUS and Coach Taylor this 12th state championship," said Ladyman.

The four seniors have seen MUS become the dominant team in Tennessee and have won three state titles. Though they will be missed, so much talent remains as the Owls look to 2005 in a more familiar role: as defending state champion.



Jordan Smith leaps for joy as he realizes his doubles match victory has secured the team state title.

Bo Ladyman takes aim at the ball in the final match that gave him and Alex Guyton the doubles championship.

The tennis team's state championship handed Coach Bill Taylor (left) his seventh Best of the Preps Coach of the Year Award. Team members displaying their trophy are Worth Morgan, William Lang, Alex Guyton, Hays Mabry, Bo Ladyman, Alex Gates, Michael McCulloch, Jordan Smith, Scott McLeod, Jacob Weinstein, and Assistant Coach Ali Hamadeh.



# And He's Off

By Caitlin Goodrich

Davant Latham, Jr. '80 has always had "a horse problem." As a student at Presbyterian Day School, he preferred to ride his pony to school from his home on the corner of Walnut Grove Road and Goodlett Street. As he says, "It all went downhill from there." Today, Latham drives a car to get from place to place, but his love of all things equine has remained, although he has since graduated from ponies to larger breeds. He now serves as the director of bloodstock services at Darby Dan Farm in Lexington, Kentucky, one of the most distinguished thoroughbred farms in America.

Latham's calling was clear to him from the beginning. But at MUS his involvement in sports – he played soccer and ran track – and organizations such as the Honor Council, the yearbook, and the newspaper, forced him to put his fondness for horses on the back burner. He attended the University of Virginia following graduation, and rather than joining the soccer team as his father wanted him to do, he went out for polo. Latham was instantly hooked. He spent his summers in Kentucky, working with people in the polo business and trying to get his hands on "anything horsey" – thoroughbreds in particular. He subscribed to *The Blood-horse*, a weekly magazine for thoroughbred enthusiasts, and often skipped his first class on the mornings it arrived to scour its pages. After graduation Latham took to the road, or rather, to the track. He traveled to tracks in New Zealand and Australia



Latham inspecting yearlings at one of the sales

where he worked in breeding sheds and performed odd jobs – anything to learn the ropes. "I was probably the only guy with a college degree working with a pitchfork," he says.

After trying "the real world" on for size, Latham returned to Kentucky where he worked as the general manager of Vinery, then the largest stallion station in the world, standing 34 stallions. Upon the sale of the Vinery,



Champion sprinter Aldebaran is now at stud at Darby Dan Farm. To breed a mare to Aldebaran will cost the mare owner \$50,000. Aldebaran will breed 120 mares in 2004.

Latham became an independent bloodstock and equine insurance agent before merging his bloodstock business with Darby Dan Farm in October of 2002. As a bloodstock agent, Latham serves his clients by buying horses at public auction, handling private transactions, acquiring stallion seasons and shares, mating mares, and managing thoroughbred investments. His primary responsibility at Darby Dan is soliciting mares for their stallions. "Essentially, I'm a matchmaker," he says. As the eight Darby Dan stallions will breed approximately 600 mares between February and July, that translates to quite a bit of matchmaking!

But Latham's job is not your typical nine-to-five. In fact, for him there is no typical day.

His schedule depends entirely on the season. During the off-season, he starts his morning with a copy of *The Thoroughbred Daily News*, a publication that covers horse racing around the world. After an early meeting with the Darby Dan staff, he gets on the phone to solicit mares for stallions or to negotiate between other farms and private clients. But, like the horses he loves, Latham cannot sit still for long. Luckily, his job requires that he travel to most of the major horse races and auctions around the country; he is a frequent visitor at Churchill Downs, Keeneland, the Belmont Park, the Del Mar Thoroughbred Club, and the Saratoga Race Track. During the spring racing season, Latham rises early and heads to the track where he visits trainers and observes horses in their early-morning workouts. Both a spectator and a businessman, he attends races in the afternoon, always on the lookout for horses to buy. "I'm not necessarily looking at the winner," Latham says. "I'm interested in a horse that is improving or shows the potential to improve."

But buying a horse is tricky business. "It's a gamble – a game of odds," Latham says. "There are so many chances to be proven wrong because there are plenty of well-made horses that can't outrun a fat man. Often, you just have to go with your instinct. Buying yearlings is like trying to pick out NBA players when they're in seventh grade."

When purchasing a horse, Latham first considers its athletic ability. He looks for a big walk, watches how fluidly the horse swings through its shoulder, how effortlessly it covers the ground, how it uses its hind end. He examines its joints, looks for limb correctness, and tries to determine how well a particular horse will stand up to the tremendous pressure of a rigorous training regimen. A horse's body, Latham believes, is the best indicator of its talent. Second, Latham takes into account a horse's pedigree – dominant bloodlines that continue to be dominant. The best-case scenario, he says, is to find a horse whose physical type is what pedigree would lead one to expect. But a good runner can come from anywhere, and even the lower level horses can succeed. In the end, it is a matter of presence, the horse's ability to catch your eye, the air that says, "I am it" and implies class or quality, Latham explains. "Some horses just fill up a room. Those are the horses you want. You can tell when a horse wants to win."

Latham describes a great thoroughbred as "the most beautiful, courageous animal on earth." But oftentimes, this courage can be a horse's downfall. He calls this the "tragic twist" of the horse business. "A great horse will run his heart out no matter what. He won't quit. It's a game of the highest highs and the lowest lows. But it's this range of experience that makes it great; it makes you appreciate the highs." And there are always surprises.

Take, for example, Funny Cide, the 2003 Derby and Preakness winner. "We thought he was average, but he proved that you can't measure determination and drive. He was so brave. His winning was one of those highs. It's hard not to be moved by these horses."

It is clear that Latham loves horse racing, loves the game. Although he is not much of a gambler, many of the most memorable moments of his career have taken place at the races, the Kentucky Derby in particular, the highlight of the racing year. "It's always a phenomenal day," he says. Recently, Latham had the opportunity to march with an owner and his horse (the eventual winner of the stakes race) from the backside of the track and around its first turn to the saddling paddock on Derby day. He describes the feeling of walking toward the grandstand filled with thousands of people as "amazing, simply electrifying." And Latham's Derby experience becomes all the more enjoyable when he runs into old friends from MUS like Coach Bobby Alston, Jeff Harris '81, and Kirby Dobbs, sister of John '85 and Edward '89 Dobbs.

Latham has also had the pleasure of getting several MUS alums involved as investors in Canard Investments, a venture that stemmed from his success managing similar

projects for private individuals. The group raised \$1,000,000 to acquire thoroughbreds to breed for the commercial market. Canard made its first purchase of four broodmares at the 2003 Kenneland November Breeding Stock Sale with the intent of selling their foals at optimum value as yearlings at the Select Yearling Sales in Saratoga and Keeneland in 2005, 2006, and 2007.

Latham credits much of his success in the horse business to his education at MUS. "I received a great education," he says. "I doubt that I would have ended up at UVA if it hadn't been for MUS. And if I hadn't been there, I wouldn't be in this business at all." Latham believes that the strong background in English MUS provided has been invaluable to him. "People like Mr. Thorne, Mr. Boelte, Mr. Thompson, and Mr. Haguewood – the MUS teachers – emphasized the importance of clear communication in writing and in speech. I was taught to express what I observed in an intelligible and charismatic manner, a skill that has been essential to me throughout my career."

Latham also remembers teachers taking an interest in their students' development as a whole person. "They wanted us to be well-rounded individuals," he says. "You grow up and people tell you you can be whoever you want to be, but in most cases, there comes a point when skepticism sets in, and you settle for something less than what you initially wanted. But MUS gave us the confidence and the foundation from which to pursue our dreams."

One of Latham's biggest regrets is that MUS's reunion weekend always falls during the biggest Yearling Sale of the year, so he is never able to attend. But he is kept up-to-date on all the latest MUS news through his nephew Clayton Capstick '05 who appears to be following in his uncle's



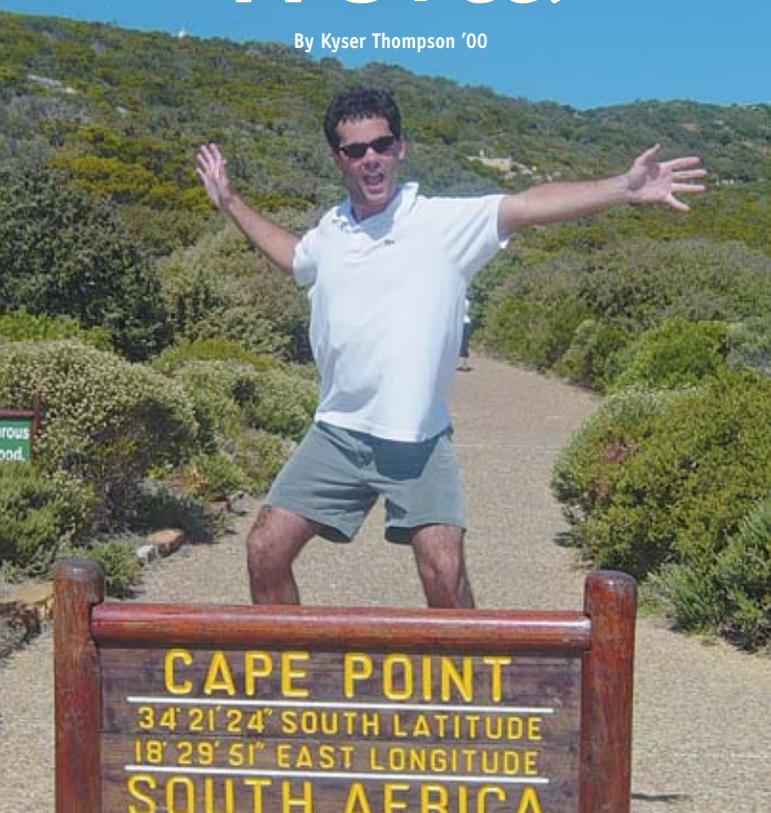
Davant Latham lives with his wife, Shannon (Cowles), a Hutchison graduate, their eleven-year-old daughter, Dunn, and their twenty-month old son, Davant III, in Midway, Kentucky.

footsteps. Capstick hopes one day to become an equine veterinarian and has stayed with Latham and his family during the summer, assisting in the foaling process and getting hands-on horse experience. Latham knows that he is lucky to be doing what he loves to do. "I saw a spectacular filly the other day," he says. "Even now, a good horse excites me every time. Really, I'm living my dream." That, Latham believes, is the key to happiness. "You have to do what you want to do. Go for your goal," he advises. "Don't settle for less than that. There's nothing more exciting than doing what you love."

Catlin Goodrich, a former public relations intern at MUS, recently graduated from Rhodes College with a degree in English. She is now a writer for Justine Magazine, a new national teen magazine based in Memphis.

# Opening My Eyes to the World

By Kyser Thompson '00



*"The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes but in having new eyes."*

When I open my brown leather journal from last spring, these words stare me in the face. Every afternoon for an entire semester I read those words and wrote in that journal to capture my discoveries.

Two years ago I impulsively applied for Semester at Sea, knowing that I wanted to study abroad, but not realizing the depth of the program for which I was registering. I was hesitant up until the final confirmation deadline in November – I knew one person and had little first-hand knowledge of the program – but I took a chance and decided to send in the final papers.

And in January of last year, I embarked on a voyage that took me to nine countries in 107 days. Semester at Sea is a global studies program sponsored by the University of Pittsburgh that takes students from colleges across the United States and abroad around the world.

The S.S. Universe Explorer is the floating campus that has all the necessary components of a college campus – classrooms, theater, computer lab, student union, and cafeteria. While sailing to the various ports around the world, classes are held on the ship, and students live in a college atmosphere – only in the middle of the ocean at times.

On my particular voyage, we departed Nassau, Bahamas, on January 21, 2003, and returned to Seattle, Washington, on May 6, 2003, stopping at 12 ports in 10 countries on the journey. I was one of 634 students, representing every state and eight countries.

**Kyser Thompson is gripped by enthusiasm at Cape Point, the divider between the Atlantic and Indian Oceans. While biking for the day in Kyoto, Japan, Thompson and friends stop to reflect at the Golden Pavilion.**

The voyage's details could fill an entire book, so for *MUS Today* I compiled various pieces of writing from my journal to share my eye-opening experience.

## **Nassau, Bahamas:**

Meeting people...meeting more people...meeting people. This was the pre-cursor to the voyage. With my parents, I flew to Nassau to meet my future peers and my new college for the next 100 days. I kept asking myself, "What will these people be like?" I did not worry about the life that lay ahead, but with whom I was going to spend that life. I kept hearing from my few sources that the "people on the ship will make the experience." I wanted to be with people who would help in giving me "new eyes" to the world.

## **Cuba: Day 7 - Journal**

My eyes are opening. I saw poverty, control, power, fear.

Havana was amazing, to say the least. The city had beautiful Spanish architecture, delicious mojitos, and exquisite art. We lived the Cuban life – smoking Cohiba cigars, dressed in guayaberas and green military hats.

Fidel Castro invited the shipboard community to his conference center, speaking directly to our group for four hours in a powerful tone along with a stoic manner, seemingly trying to open our eyes to the country that he has dominated for 44 years.

## **Brazil: Day 21 - Journal**

The journey was a long and tiresome one, but we finally landed in Salvador, Brazil, on Wednesday at 1300, a few hours late.

The port call of five days took us in many directions, from the Amazon to Rio to Igassu Falls. And although we journeyed to different places, we all experienced a new world that we never knew existed – a world that brought us to a new understanding of what is out there for us to experience.

Who knew that Brazilians actually eat live maggots on the Amazon?

Who knew that the thong is the cultural norm in Rio?

Who knew that Niagra Falls looks like a child in the eyes of Igassu?

And who knew that we would all experience these places together, back on the ship, with each other's pictures and stories.

Igassu Falls proved to be the most beautiful waterfall in the world.

The Amazon travelers ate maggots and slept in hammocks.

And Rio – the sweet, tropical city of Rio de Janeiro. The streets flow with thongs and the restaurants smell of savory meats. Also, the most recognized statue in South America stood atop the city: Christ the Redeemer – a magnificent piece of art.

## South Africa: Day 37 – Journal

Before arriving to port, we expected so much out of this unseen continent of Africa. And the minute we arrived, we set our eyes on the most stunning port of our voyage.

But the most intriguing part of this city was not the port, but the townships that lay outside the city. My eyes were opened to poverty – millions of people living in shacks with no plumbing, no electricity, no parents; people eating nothing for their lunch while we have as much food as we want, three times a day; children growing up in some of the worst neighborhoods in the world. The entire experience was moving.

Most of our days were spent traveling in smaller groups to experience different sites. A group of sixty students traveled to the Kagga Kamma game reserve for the first two days, where we not only saw the wild game, but became the game at one point.

On our night game drive, we were getting a bit impatient with the lack of wildlife, so we decided to “become the game” by running shirtless through the African bush while the jeep up ahead spotlighted us. They truly believed they spotted some

great wild game of Africa; but, little did they know, they were only spotting Homo sapiens running through the bush like wild gorillas.

Other days were spent in the wine lands in Stellenbosch, looking out on the Cape of Good Hope, surfing in the Indian Ocean, eating Mozambique lobster, sailing around Table Bay, witnessing sunsets atop Table Mountain.

## India: Day 58 – Journal

India: the country that holds the impossible and the unimaginable. India is now the only country in which I have been in a traffic jam with a camel on my front bumper and a cow in my rear view mirror.

India is the country where I have become an amateur snake charmer. India is the only country where I see sewers run alongside the streets.

India is the home to the mesmerizing Taj Mahal. India is the country of litter. India is the country where I can ride an elephant up to a 500-year-old fortress. India is the country where I see children sleeping in the street.

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**Thompson in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, mimicking Christ the Redeemer, considered the most recognized piece of art in the Southern Hemisphere; (below) trying his hand at snake charming in Jaiper, India**



India was the place I only read about in textbooks. India is now the explanation, the never-ending emotion.

Referred to by most as the most intriguing of all ports, India proved to be amazing in every facet. The five days spent in India drained every ounce of energy that we had produced after the nine-day sail from Africa.

The country reached everyone not only physically and mentally, but also emotionally and spiritually. It was an assault on our senses.

Most spent 20-hour days for five continuous days, attempting to understand this country filled with the unimaginable. Some visited parts of Northern India, from Delhi to the Taj Mahal to the holy city of Varanasi and the Ganges River to the wondrous “pink” city of Jaipur. Others traveled the land in the South.

## Japan: Day 74 – Journal

We have finally landed in Asia – the port of Nagasaki. I expected to be met with apprehension by the Japanese people, but I experienced the opposite. Of all the ports of call, Japan was the most welcoming. No longer were we in the third world, and no longer did we have to fend off beggars.

My eyes were opened to a part of the world similar to America and a culture like none that I have seen. I saw the Atomic Bomb museum, a Bunraku (traditional Japanese puppet theater) performance, and a geisha show in the Gion district of Osaka.

## Journey’s End:

Upon arrival on American soil in May, I was tired. The last 111 days had been surreal, yet sensuous. My eyes had been opened to the world, and I felt as though I could not close them. And I have not been able to close them since.

A professor on the ship told me on Day 2 that “Reading is not enough if you want the full extent of knowledge. Experiencing what you read remains the only means of achieving a full understanding. Even if you drive 30 minutes from your home – you may experience a new world. Open your eyes to the world.”

*Kyser Thompson graduates from the University of Georgia in August of 2004 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in public relations from the Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication.* 

# The Beauty of Alaska

By Daniel McDonell '01



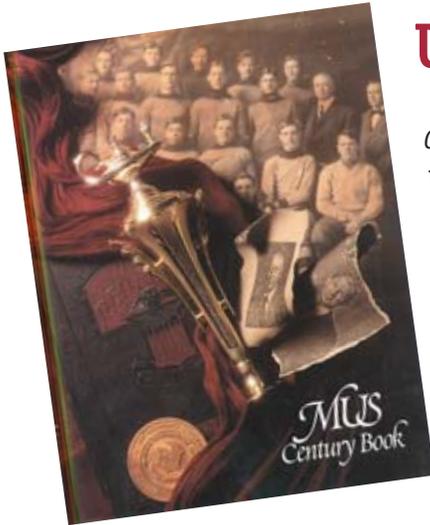
It was 6:00 a.m. From inside my large tent, an A-frame plywood structure topped with canvas, I heard heavy bumps against my door and the padding of footsteps. I peered out my front window, and the noisemaker was evident. About six inches from my face was the head of a three-year-old brown bear. This teenage hoodlum, along with his friends, was bent on finding entertainment and decided to investigate the tear strength of the canvas seams. With deep growls, the bears pulled and chewed on the canvas. For the next 20 minutes, I sat alone inside, hearing each stitch pop. It was just another morning in the town of King Salmon, Alaska.

I found myself headquartered last summer in this outback town of 400 on the Alaska Peninsula as part of the Environmental Field Schools program. My political science professor at Northwestern University for years has sent undergraduates to national parks around the country to learn first-hand about the national parks system and the history, culture, and natural sciences of the area. The students work as volunteers and receive school credit by working in the field, completing field notes and required reading and writing a final paper. For two and a half months, I worked for Katmai Na-

tional Park and Preserve with their Resource Management staff, who ensures the ecosystem in this 3.6 million-acre wilderness remains in pristine condition.

For the first month I worked with the fisheries biologists and sampled many of the lakes, rivers, and watersheds in the area, identifying the type and number of fish found. These watersheds are used by the world’s largest salmon run. Flying as far as 175 miles from base camp into the wilderness by float plane, two of us would be left for eight to nine days collecting samples. When weather permitted the plane to return, we’d go back to the headquarters at King Salmon for a couple of days to prepare for our next trip. Although many of the lakes were four to five square miles in area, by Alaskan standards this was too small to even be named on the maps. Information on some of the lakes was actually non-existent. In that case, we also took hundreds of depth readings and GPS readings that would define these never-before-mapped lakebeds, like that of inaccessible JoJo Lake, where landlocked salmon learned to live and spawn in the most incredibly clear water imaginable.

For six weeks my home became the Alagnak Wild River, a river 40 miles north of King Salmon, preserved as wilderness and administered by the park. The river boasts one of the greatest natural sports-fishing opportunities in the world with every type of salmon, grayling, and rainbow trout growing to 13 pounds. This abundant food source provides an excellent habitat for an array of wildlife, including hundreds of brown bears, moose, bald eagles, and elk, in a spruce



## Updated *MUS Century Book* Now on Sale

A new chapter in MUS history has been added to the second edition of the *MUS Century Book*. The update covers the past 10 years in the school's history since the book was first published in 1993. It is a history for which everyone associated with MUS can be proud. From historical data to humorous antics, this book is more than 200 pages filled with hundreds of photographs and offers a unique look at MUS and Memphis.

The *MUS Century Book* is on sale in the Development Office at a cost of \$30. Call 901-260-1350 to purchase the book.

### *MUS Century Book* The History of MUS, 1893-2002

By Dr. John Harkins, Chairman of the History Department

Cover photograph by internationally-noted photographer, True Redd '58



Dr. John Harkins, Author

**"In 1993, Dr. John Harkins wrote the *MUS Century Book* covering the school's 100 year history. Now ten years later, we are fortunate to have him continue his work by adding an updated chapter to the second edition."**

— Headmaster Ellis Hagewood

tundra setting. Park Service is developing a management plan to ensure this treasure remains pristine and filled with its naturally occurring wildlife. My job here was to visit lodges and survey the fishermen who paid more than \$1,000 per day for the experience.

Although data collection was my primary function, leaving the analysis to others, the experience of living in a totally different world was truly one of the best hands-on learning opportunities I could have received on what it takes to love, care for, preserve, and maintain our wilderness areas. I had previous experience hiking and living in wilderness areas, but here I learned to sleep with 20 hours of sunlight and watched sunsets that lasted hours. I faced and met the challenge of staying warm in sleet and 50 m.p.h. winds in August. I learned how to cook salmon a different way every night. I learned the art of loud noisemaking, so as not to be eaten by a bear. I became skilled at running and maintaining an outboard jet motorboat and at removing leeches. I discovered that *real* mosquitoes produce an audible crunch, not a splat, when swatted. And that even if there are only two vehicles on just 12 miles of road, they will eventually hit each other. I discovered how it feels to see eagles in the wild, just beyond arm's reach. I learned to identify all the plants, birds, fish, and other animals around me. I learned the difficulty of getting things done working for a government bureaucracy and the satisfaction of meeting like-minded adventure seekers from around the world. And I am more committed than ever to the need to maintain some wilderness ecosystems.

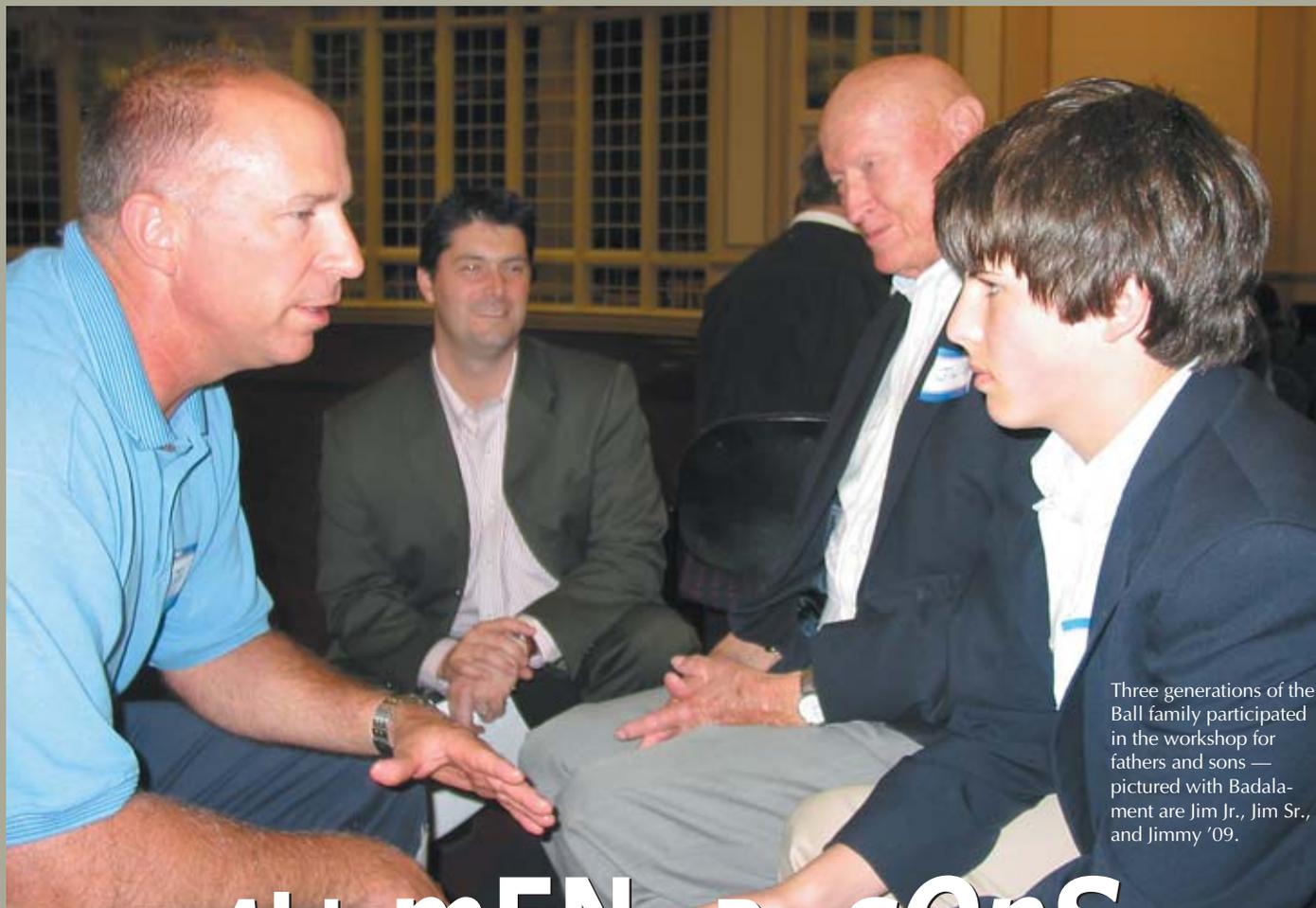
I admit I am hooked on Alaska. Even in this one park, I did not spend nearly enough time to see all there was to see. I needed more time at Brooks Falls, where you can see as many as 30 bears sit on the top of the waterfalls and wait for salmon to literally jump into their mouths. I needed more time to explore The Valley of Ten Thousand Smokes. In this area with 19 active volcanoes, ash is still piled 700 feet deep in some places from the 1912 eruption of

Mount Novarupta. It was 10 times the force of Mount St. Helens and dispersed ash to 46,000 square miles while it reportedly darkened the streets in London. The ash is decorated with red, orange, and brown pumice rocks so light they actually float. Everywhere you turn, the caldera and geology exposed by the landscape's scars in this area are breathtaking. And these are just a few of the places in the Katmai Park.

As I visit places like Alaska, I realize how little I have seen of the world. While I hope to build a career in the area of environmental resource management and policy, I will always make room for more travel and adventure. I also am convinced that others can and should experience the exuberance of an environmental adventure, whether in the wilderness of Alaska or closer to their own backyard.



*Dan McDonell, president of the MUS Class of '01, is a senior at Northwestern University majoring in geography and religion. He serves on a university committee which is developing a new degree program entitled Environmental Policy and Culture. He is past-president of the Delta Chi Fraternity and rush chairman for the current year. He plays the "hooker" position with the Northwestern University Rugby Club and was selected to play on the Chicago Rugby Union All-Star Team for 2004. Each year McDonell and other Outdoor Club students plan and lead the "P-Wild Adventure" — a week-long hiking/leadership experience in the wilderness for incoming freshmen. This summer he's working with the Wolf River Conservancy, here in his own backyard.*



Three generations of the Ball family participated in the workshop for fathers and sons — pictured with Badalament are Jim Jr., Jim Sr., and Jimmy '09.

# ALL mEN aRe sONs

Judy and King Rogers, parents of **King W. Rogers IV '98**, provided The King and Judy Rogers Endowment for Leadership Development in 2000 to fund annual leadership development programs for MUS students. The income from the fund provides the resources for a renowned speaker each year, and in April, MUS was fortunate to host John Badalament, Ed.M., in three presentations:

- A seminar for MUS fathers and alumni, *Keeping the Connection: The Impact that Fathers Have on Their Children*
  - A workshop for fathers and sons, *Breaking the Mold: Developing a Closer Father-Son Relationship*
  - A Chapel program for MUS students, *Dispelling the Myth of the "Real Man:" Leadership and Gender Stereotypes*
- Based on attendance at the seminar and workshop and on feedback from the students, their fathers, and alumni, the message delivered by John Badalament is a powerful one.

According to Headmaster Ellis Hagewood, "John Badalament's honest and credible presentation rings true at a deep level for fathers and their sons. Excellent attendance at his workshop here indicated to us that fathers really want an authentic connection with their sons and that sons want that same connection. Both are willing to

seek help in making it happen, and John's workshop provides effective and compelling tools for building or strengthening the emotional connection between boys and their dads."

Badalament offers his perspective on father-son relationships to *MUS Today*.

## A Gift Fathers Can Give To Their Children: Know and Be Known

By John Badalament, Ed.M.



I walked into my father's office to settle a score; he thought we were going out for lunch. For the 25 years prior to that day, nobody in our small family had found the courage to speak honestly and directly with my father. All that would change in just ten short minutes.

I told my father that we weren't actually going to lunch, that he should stay seated and not respond to anything

he was about to hear. He had been given plenty of time to speak over the years; this was my time. Barely able to breathe because of my pounding heart, I said “You’ve done a lot of great things for me as a dad.” After describing a few, such as how he supported my love of baseball and patiently taught me how to drive, I said, “*And*, I want you to know that growing up with you was also very difficult. You were irresponsible, alcoholic, and abusive.”

He opened his mouth to speak and for the first time in my life, I raised my hand and without a word, motioned for him to stay silent. I knew that if I allowed him to deny or minimize what I was saying, like most loyal sons, I would back down from speaking my truth. “Your behavior,” I continued, “has damaged my sense of self-worth. Today, I struggle with many of the same battles I imagine you also struggled with at my age. Most of all, I simply want you to hear what I’m saying. I hate you for what you’ve done, and you’re still my dad so I love you. But I am responsible for my own life, and I don’t want to continue blaming you... I’m going to go now. I don’t know if I’ll see you before I leave town... I don’t know.” Then I stood up and walked out.

Half an hour later, my father arrived at the hotel where I was staying. I heard the door knock and truthfully wondered if he would be standing there with a gun. Though he didn’t own a gun and wasn’t exactly the murdering kind, our relationship had entered into very strange and new territory; anything was possible.

The door opened and my father motioned for me to step outside with him. As if watching myself from above or on a movie screen, I followed and sat next to him on the steps. He began to weep and so did I. Blubbering, he managed to say, “I never meant to hurt you.”

That was as much of an apology as I would ever get from my father. He never went into the details of his life with me. He never asked for forgiveness. He never held himself fully accountable. Ultimately, none of that mattered. It wasn’t until a few years later that I realized the gravity of that day and what did matter.

On that day, at the age of 25, I began healing my relationship with myself and truly becoming an adult; I *began* the essential developmental task of sorting through my father’s legacy – figuring out what I should carry forward and what I should do differently, taking responsibility for my own life despite past problems, and accepting what my father had to offer while grieving what I would never get from him.

Instead of continuing to bear the burden of all my anger and hurt (and using that burden as an excuse for my own irresponsibility or immaturity), I began moving through it and ultimately toward forgiveness. A word I don’t use lightly, forgiveness has something to do with

facing what feels like the unfaceable and coming out the other side. It is a raw and vulnerable process.

As a white youth of European-American descent, I was taught that vulnerability got you nothing but trouble and thus learned to hate it. The currency of my suburban boyhood was as follows: being tough, “getting” the girls, and holding your own in sports competition. If you had no currency, you were at risk of verbal or physical reprisals. As a boy, my sole purpose in life was to avoid situations where I could be taken advantage of, be proved wrong, or look like a ‘whimp’ or a ‘pussy.’ Author and therapist Terry Real described a similar homophobic, anti-feminine environment in *How Do I Get Through To You*, “In the world of boys and men, you are either a winner or a loser, in control or controlled, man enough or a girl.”<sup>1</sup>

Doing the emotional work of sorting through a father’s legacy, whether he is present or absent, alive or not, necessitates facing the difficult feelings of love, pain, and loss. In short, it requires the very thing many of us—cutting across racial, ethnic, and class lines—are taught as boys and men to rid ourselves of: vulnerability.

By standing before my father (the “manliest” of men in my eyes) and telling him how I experienced our relationship, I essentially threw away everything I was taught as a boy. The great irony is that by making myself vulnerable, risking what little connection we had by speaking up, our relationship actually grew a bit stronger and a whole lot more realistic.

I feel fortunate to have had the opportunity to sit face-to-face with my father; many boys and men have fathers who have passed on or fathers they’ve never had the chance to meet. And yet, I believe that the process of coming to terms with oneself and one’s father can begin with an imagined confrontation, a conversation with an empty chair or a letter to a living, unknown, inaccessible, or deceased parent. This process of sorting through a legacy is about owning how *you* feel about that relationship, what *you* got and didn’t get, what *you* want to do differently, and, most important, how *you* plan to make those changes for the next generation.

For some men, coming to terms with their father may mean finding the courage to say (not just *show*) how much they appreciate and love him for all he’s done. As men, finding the language to speak about love can be as difficult as speaking about pain or fear. Showing love through action is important; but if there is no language to confirm that love, oftentimes the other person is left wondering. This is especially true for children.

As a new parent myself, I hope that my children will never have to walk into my office and fear my reaction when they speak their own truth about our relationship. Just as I did, they will have to sort through their father’s

legacy, but hopefully they will begin that process much earlier. And hopefully, at times, they will do that by talking with me.

Fathers are important to their children — boys and girls — across the lifecycle. The young men (ages 17-18) in a recent study of fathers and sons indicated that early adolescence, in particular, was a crucial turning point.<sup>2</sup> Well documented as a critical stage of identity development, the young men described how at age 13-14 their fathers became important in new ways; suddenly, their fathers took center stage in their lives. In an effort to forge this new, more adult relationship, these young men said they began to observe their fathers closely, watching their routines, their habits, how they related to women, how they handled success and failure, etc.

They also paid close attention to how their fathers treated their relationship, essentially asking the questions, “Does he care about me?” and “Does he like who I am?” Though the young men in the study said they rarely initiated the conversations, almost all of them indicated a strong desire to talk with their fathers about feelings and real-life issues. These boys wanted three-dimensional, accessible fathers.

They wanted what I refer to as, *Fathers who can Know and Be Known*. All children need fathers—in some cases this may be a step-father, boyfriend, uncle, grandparent, or man in the community—who *know* their interests, what they are doing in school, who their friends are, what is important to them, what scares them, etc. They need fathers who ask questions, listen, and get involved. They also need fathers who can *Be Known*.

*Being Known* means letting down the walls and sharing your story. It means having the courage to show your flaws, fears, and joys.

This is not to say one should overburden a child with inappropriate revelations. Rather, it’s about giving your child the gift of knowing who you are and what you feel; *Being Known* requires vulnerability. As men, many of us carry around those fears from boyhood—that we will be

taken advantage of, attacked, or put down for showing our vulnerabilities. As adults we need to remember that vulnerability is what breeds intimacy in all of our relationships. *Being Known* helps children develop a healthy sense of self and feel safe.

As an educational consultant to independent schools and director of a PBS documentary film about fatherhood, *All Men Are Sons*, I speak to young people (and parents) throughout the country about their relationships with their fathers. At the end of each presentation, I ask them to write down two things they’ve always wanted to ask their fathers but never have. Consistently, the top two responses are: “What was his relationship like with his father?” and “What was his childhood like?” Though they may not ask, children want and need their fathers’ stories. I call it the elephant in the living room of child development: the missing stories of men’s lives, particularly men’s emotional lives.

If my father had told me the story of how he was sent away to military school and how his father repeatedly called him “stupid,” it might have made a difference. If he had the courage to tell me how hopeful he was when I was born or how scared he was when his relationship with my mother began to fall apart, it might have made a difference. If he had the courage to share himself, to let down the walls all along the way, I might not have repeated some of his mistakes. I might have learned more about connecting than disconnecting, more about love than fear. Instead of having to confront him in his office, maybe we would have gone out to lunch that day. 🦋



Badalament with Judy and King Rogers

John Badalament, Ed.M., is director of the acclaimed PBS documentary film *All Men Are Sons: Exploring the Legacy of Fatherhood*. A Harvard-trained counselor and human development specialist, he is a national lecturer, trainer, and educational consultant to independent schools, parent groups, mental health professionals, corrections departments, and universities. His work focuses most directly on development of the emotional lives of men and boys and their relationships with others.

For more information visit [www.allmenaresons.com](http://www.allmenaresons.com).

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<sup>1</sup> In *How Do I Get through to You: T. Real, How Do I Get through to You: Closing the Intimacy Gap between Men and Women* (New York: Scribner, 2002).

<sup>2</sup> Pelach-Galil, R. (2003), *The Re-Creation of the Father by his Adolescent Son*, A Dissertation to the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel.



Standing in front of the Declare Yourself bus, Miles Bryant, Ian Carruthers, William Lang, Daniel Brown, Neely Mallory, Zach Scott, and Jay Edwards declare themselves to be future voters.

For someone so young, **Oliver Luckett '92** has achieved enviable career success and become an industry leader in the convergence of new media, communication, and Internet technologies. Since his graduation from Vanderbilt University in 1996, Luckett co-founded Wonderland Labs where he designed a drag-and-drop Internet publishing and messaging solution for GE Capital Businesses; served as the chief Internet Protocol service architect at Qwest Communications, the largest fiber-optic network in the world; founded iBlast Networks, a nationwide data-casting network of more than 280 television stations; and worked as the senior vice president of the Digital Entertainment Network, where he merged technology and media through his knowledge of video on demand and the "click-and-buy E-commerce system" for on-line catalogs.

However, his early successes, while gratifying, left him frustrated with corporate America, and he decided to move out of the country and experience life abroad. During dinner one evening in Majorca, Spain, Luckett's friend Norman Lear—noted humanitarian and television producer responsible for such TV shows as *All in the Family*, *Good Times*, and *Sanford and Son*—told him about a project he had in mind to encourage youth voter participation and expose all Americans to an important piece of history.

On July 4, 1776, as the leaders of our young nation signed the Declaration of Independence, Philadelphia printer John Dunlap was commissioned to print 200 copies of the document for distribution in the colonies; as of 1989, only 24 copies of the Dunlap Broad sides were known to still be in existence. That is, until a man purchased an old picture at a flea market for \$4 and, upon inspection of a tear in the painting, found the twenty-fifth Dunlap copy inside the frame. Lear purchased the document from Sotheby's and began the Declaration of Independence Road Trip, a 50-city, cross-country tour featuring the document and a multimedia exhibit on the contemporary relevance of

## PROMOTING AMERICA'S BIRTH CERTIFICATE TO THE INTERNET GENERATION



our nation's "birth certificate." The culmination of the trip was Declare Yourself, a national, non-partisan college campus tour, meant to energize a new movement of young voters to participate in the 2004 presidential election.

Lear knew about Luckett's background and asked him to coordinate the media and technology partnerships Declare Yourself would need to be a successful venture with the nation's growing Internet generation. Luckett accepted the offer and successfully partnered Declare Yourself with technology companies such as Yahoo!, Friendster, and Google. Luckett hopes these partnerships will enable individuals to complete their voter registration on-line, thus increasing the number of young voters in this election.

On February 13, Luckett personally brought the Declare Yourself tour to MUS—the only high school in the country to receive such an honor. "I wanted to bring the tour here because MUS gave me incredible confidence," Luckett said. "This school and the people here always made me feel special." He says he still cherishes the memories of his time at MUS. The Declare Yourself tour and its participants advocated patriotism and exercising the right to vote regardless of political beliefs. During the Chapel presentation, four spoken word artists entertained and inspired students with a music and poetry performance. They urged students to view the Declaration as "the poem that started America."

On an average day, Luckett spends his time in Beverly Hills, working with celebrities to endorse the program or with high-powered technology companies to further the mission of Declare Yourself. One would imagine that his life is more fantasy than reality; however, when asked why he chose to become involved with Declare Yourself, Luckett responded with a definitively serious tone, "I wanted to give back to America," he said. "It is important because we are blessed to be Americans. This organization has made me realize how lucky I really am."



Austin Rainey and John McGregor inspect the 228-year-old Declaration of Independence.

## Jim Russell Wins Hale Award



Ben and Steve Hale were on hand to see Jim Russell receive his honor.

English Instructor Jim Russell's lasting impact on students attests to his fruitful career at MUS. "James Russell's ninth-grade English classroom constituted one of the most important formative experiences of my educational development," **George Dameron '71** says. "It was an exhilarating year for me—the first time since the fourth grade that I had felt so inspired about learning." Dameron's career as a professor of history at St. Michael's College in Colchester, Vermont, stemmed from his experience in Russell's class. "I came to love literature and reading in that course," he notes. "Now that I do this [reading critically] for a living, I feel I owe James Russell a major debt of gratitude."

Indeed, Russell was honored for his dedication and service to MUS as this year's recipient of the Jean Barbee Hale Award for Outstanding Service. The award is given annually to a member of the MUS faculty or staff who embodies the standards set by Mrs. Hale: loyalty, commitment, dedication, discretion, and consistency in the academic environment. Ben Hale, Mrs. Hale's husband, established the award in 1998 upon her retirement to honor her 24 years of service to MUS.

According to Headmaster Ellis Haguewood, "Jim Russell epitomizes the ideal independent-school educator: a master teacher, whom students and alumni revere and admire, and a dedicated member of the

faculty, always doing whatever he can to make MUS an excellent school. He has the full respect of his colleagues and his students, and he represents what is best about this school. He is a scholar and a gentleman, and all of us love him."

An instructor in the English department since 1965 and the department chairman since 1970, Russell has certainly served MUS well. While he has taught a variety of English courses over the years, Russell currently teaches eighth-grade English and a

Shakespeare course. Last spring after Leigh MacQueen's death, he took over MacQueen's Napoleon course for MUS in Europe and then returned to teach Brit Lit in summer school. Russell also co-wrote the *Owl English Handbook* and is chairman of the Graduation Committee. He received a B.A. from Tulane University and a M.A.T. from Vanderbilt University.



Peter Bowman is congratulated by fellow faculty members after receiving his award. Pictured above is one of his large oil paintings from the series entitled "Outside the Window."

## 25 Years of Memories

### Peter Bowman Receives Distinguished Service Award

When Peter Bowman began teaching art at MUS in 1979, it was, as he says, a choice of "pure economics;" the past 25 years, however, prove that Bowman's ties to MUS have deepened.

Bowman received a B.F.A. from the Memphis College of Art and then went on to earn an M.A.A. from Montana State University in 1971. After completing his master's degree, he taught art for two years in Concord, North Carolina (near Charlotte), before moving back to Memphis and teaching part-time at both Rhodes College (then Southwestern at Memphis) and the Memphis College of Art. He continued working for both institutions for approximately six years until a former student of his, who was then working as an art teacher at MUS, told him about an open position at the school. As he recently had gotten married and was tiring of the multiple part-time jobs, Bowman accepted and has been at MUS ever since.

"Slews of memories about kids" come back to Bowman when he thinks back on his tenure at MUS. However, a chance encounter with **Alexander Wellford, Sr. '30** in a Baskin Robbins shop ranks as his favorite memory. It was Bowman's final day of class after his first year of teaching, and he stopped at Baskin Robbins to get an ice cream cone as a way to celebrate. Wellford was in line as well, and the two



recognized one another from the dedication of the McCaughan Science Center, which had opened that year. The men ended up sitting and chatting about MUS for over an hour. "It meant a lot to me," remembers Bowman. "It was as good a thing that could have happened then. Back then it was a hard life as a first-year teacher."

Clearly, Bowman has adjusted to life as a teacher. At MUS he currently teaches seventh-grade art, Art I, and Art II, and in 2000 he led an MUS in Europe trip entitled

Summing up the last 25 years at MUS, Bowman cites his co-workers as a highlight of his job. "I work with terrific people who are long-time friends," Bowman says. "They sustain you."

## Double the Praise

### Askew Wins Distinguished Teaching Award and Earns Distinguished Service Award



Lin Askew (center) with his family, Charles '05, Sally, Will '97, and Will's fiancée, Shelley Flowers

"In the Footsteps of the Impressionists." On the trip Bowman taught students how to paint as they traveled throughout France studying major Impressionist sights and museums. The experience was so successful that he is thinking of leading another class exploring the Expressionism and Cubism movements within the next couple of years.

Today, Bowman's life is divided between his teaching career at MUS and his own painting, which he sells through David Lusk Gallery. Bowman points out that most artists teach at a college level allowing them to have a more flexible schedule, but he appreciates the daily activity he encounters at MUS. "It keeps you sharp all the time," he says. "It's a constant source of outside inspiration. You can't withdraw from society as painters are apt to do." Today several of Bowman's paintings can be seen hanging around campus, which serves as evidence of his prolific painting career.

When he's not painting or teaching, Bowman enjoys reading for fun. Right now a biography of Che Guevara is on his nightstand. "I try to avoid reading bestsellers," claims Bowman. "I'm trying to learn something." Bowman's wife, Beth, shares his love of reading.

It was Terry Shelton, a friend from graduate school at the University of Memphis, who first brought Lin Askew to MUS in 1979. Before that, Askew received both his B.A. and M.A. in English from the University of Memphis and worked as the public and professional education director at the American Cancer Society. He began teaching at MUS with two sections of eighth-grade English and two sections of tenth-grade English in addition to his duties coaching football. Over the years, however, Askew has taught a variety of English courses and coached a myriad of sports, including eighth-grade basketball, ninth-grade basketball, and varsity golf. After 25 years, he now divides his time between teaching (currently a Southern Renaissance literature class and an American literature course) and serving as the school's admissions director, a post he has held for the past eight years.

Askew fulfills dual responsibilities on campus, but his passion for teaching English is evident to all who meet him: this year Askew not only earned the Distinguished Service Award for 25 years of service to MUS, but also he received the 2003-04 Distinguished Teaching Award. The award, established and provided by the generous

support of John Murray Springfield, former teacher and Hull Lower School principal, recognizes a faculty member for his excellent command of and passion for the subject material, positive influence on MUS students, and interest in personal and professional development. Each year select members of the administration and the Board of Trustees choose a recipient who best embodies the criteria. Recipients of the Distinguished Teaching Award receive a medal and a monetary award.

Fond memories—tied to Askew's love for teaching and literature—characterize his tenure at MUS. He loves teaching and said that his favorite memories of MUS are "teaching specific books. I love to teach *Huckleberry Finn*, especially Jim's speech to Huck. I also love teaching *The Great Gatsby*. But perhaps my favorite memory is reading the final scene in *To Kill a Mockingbird* (where Scout stands on the porch) to my Lower School classes."

Askew not only engages students in the classroom, but he also has taught an MUS in Europe course and leads another one this summer. The first trip, in 2001, focused on the impact of World War I and visited Cambridge, London, Paris, and the battlefields of Northern France, including Verdun. This year's trip, co-taught with English instructor Barbara Crippen, focuses on the Irish Renaissance and visits Dublin, Paris, Sligo, and Galway, among many other locations. A self-proclaimed "study nerd," Askew says he loves doing the MUS in Europe trips because he enjoys teaching areas of literature he usually does not teach during the school year.

For Askew, many thoughts of MUS are family-related. Both of his sons, **Will '97** and **Charles '05**, attend(ed) MUS. Remembering Will's games with the baseball team, his performances with *Beg To Differ*, or his solo at graduation bring back fond memories. Charles' recent inductions into Cum Laude and National Honor Society are just a few additional significant moments. "It's great working and seeing your kids grow up at the same time," says Askew.

When he's not wearing his many hats at MUS or traipsing around Europe teaching students, Askew enjoys spending time with his wife, Sally, gardening, watching Carolina basketball, and reading.

# Honoring Charles Crump

By Gaye G. Swan

## MUS's Oldest Living Alumnus

*Is life worth living? Yes, so long  
As there is wrong to right.  
So long as faith with freedom reigns  
And loyal hope survives,  
And gracious charity remains  
To leaven lowly lives;  
While there is one untrodden tract  
For intellect or will,  
And men are free to think and act,  
Life is worth living still.*

— Alfred Austin (1835 - 1913)



Diana and Charles Crump;  
photo by Price Meritt/RSVP Magazine

Graciousness...faith...intellect...loyalty...the words of the poet come to life in the person of **Charles M. Crump '30**.

A life-long member of The Episcopal Church, he put his faith and his belief in the equality of mankind to the test as an early supporter of the civil rights movement. An attorney, he was admitted to the U.S. Supreme Court in 1946, was a Memphis Assistant City Attorney from 1947-1959, and continues to counsel non-profit organizations. As a graduate of the old school and one of the founding fathers of the new, MUS owes him a debt of gratitude for his role in re-opening our doors in 1955.

Now the school's oldest living alumnus, Crump's memories of MUS range from the humorous to the inspiring. One of his favorite stories was what became known as "The Great Bell Mystery." First, a little background information: at that time, all the students met in the study hall before classes began and when a class period was free. All the desks faced a raised platform on which sat the desk of Mr. O. L. Stone, mathematics instructor. Along the walls of the study hall were radiators, and doors to the lavatories were in one corner.

"In the fall of 1927, one of the students acquired a small cow bell from the Mid-South Fair," Crump related. "One afternoon, he tied the bell up into the radiator nearest the lavatory doors and ran a small string under the radiators along the back wall and up the right wall where it was just below the right-hand side of the desks on that side of the room. The next morning, when Mr. Stone began to call the roll, the bell began to ring, and all the students began to laugh. Obviously, Mr. Stone thought a student near that back left-hand corner was ringing a bell, when in fact a student on the right was reaching below his desk and pulling the string."

"This continued intermittently all day, and Mr. Stone became more and more frustrated, unable to figure out who was actually ringing the bell. Finally, at the end of the day, he said in his bulldog tone of voice, 'Boys, you have had a lot of fun today, BUT I WANT THAT BELL OUT OF HERE TONIGHT.'"

"Needless to say, the bell and the string were removed, and in the end, I believe, no one received any demerits. It went down in MUS history as a great event."

Crump's graduating class totaled 18, with six faculty members. But, in looking through the Red and Blue annual of his graduating year, you'll see that students then had almost as many opportunities for involvement as they do now. In fact, Crump served as editor of the yearbook, as well as on the staff of the monthly paper entitled *Topics*. He was a member of the Hamilton Literary Society (one of three debating clubs), the Honor Council, and the boxing, wrestling, and swim teams. He was also a member of the U Club, having earned his letter managing the basketball team.

"I really enjoyed basketball – loved to play," he said. "But I wasn't good! I tried out for the team. That's when Coach Wellford took me aside and said, 'You know, we really need a student manager.'"

Another teacher who stands out in Crump's memory is J. P. Snider. "Mr. Snider was the French teacher who came to MUS right out of the University of Virginia. He was not very much older than some of the students and was very sympathetic to them. He was a splendid teacher.

"And if a student could not wait until the noon recess for food and refreshment, there was always access to the Pie House through Mr. Snider's room," he continued. The Pie House was a long, low, shed-like building outside the main school facility, where lunches were served cafeteria-style. "A student could enter Mr. Snider's room from the study hall, ostensibly to consult with Mr. Snider," Crump continued. "From that point he could jump out the window to the ground about six feet below and make his way to the Pie House for a snack. He could then return through the window and back to the study hall with little danger of detection."

Students could earn a little more freedom for themselves with their academic achievements and not have to rely so much on sneaking out of windows. At the time, the school had two policies called "Fresh Air" and "Three Out of Four." If a student maintained a certain standard of grades for a week, he had the privilege of "fresh air," or going outside the building during the school day, but not leaving the grounds. "In this way, a student with a vacant class period could go outside to study or legally go to the Pie House," Crump explained.

"If a student attained 'fresh air' for three weeks out of four, then he had the privilege of leaving the school grounds during a vacant period or recess. He could also come in late in the morning, after roll call but before class began, or leave early in the afternoon after his last class."

Not only is Crump currently the oldest living MUS alumnus, he is also the oldest practicing attorney in Memphis. After MUS, he received his B.A. from Rhodes College (then Southwestern) before attending law school at the University of Virginia. He graduated in 1937 and the same year began practicing law in his uncle's firm, founded in 1865 by his grandfather, and is now the senior member of Apperson, Crump & Maxwell, PLC. He served

his country commendably during World War II as Air Combat Intelligence Officer with a dive-bombing squadron based on the aircraft carrier U.S.S. Shangri-La in attacks on Okinawa and the Japanese Home Islands. He married Diana Wallace in 1940; they have three sons. **Metcalfe '60** is a Memphis architect, with two sons of his own, Patrick and Stephan. **Philip '62** is a mediator in Santa Fe, New Mexico, and **Stephen '66** is a furniture designer here in Memphis.

Philip was instrumental in getting his father involved in a cause that grew very dear to his heart: civil rights. "Philip had a social conscience and participated in the march here in Memphis in support of the sanitation workers' strike," Crump said. "I became involved mostly through my church. A priest knew some of the clergy leaders of the Civil Rights Committee coordinating the strike, and he got a delegation together to meet with them, the Reverend Jim Lawson and the Reverend Ralph Jackson."

The men met in Jim Lawson's church office for three hours on a Saturday afternoon, March 20, two months into the strike and two weeks before Martin Luther King would be assassinated. "At the end of the meeting, I asked Jim Lawson, 'How can you afford to spend three hours of your time with folks who have no base of power?' He replied, 'You are the first white people who have asked to meet us.'"

Deeply impressed with Lawson's reply, Crump and the others in attendance realized the importance of having the different races just meet and talk together. Memphis Community Leadership Training was the result.

"We invited white leaders and prominent citizens to meet for weekly breakfasts with African-American leaders and youth activists. I believe only one person ever turned down an invitation. It gave us a chance to talk one-on-one and really get to know each other." The group also met for entire weekends, with very positive results. "I am a firm believer that prejudice is best overcome by personal contact," Crump remarked. In 1999, the National Conference for Community and Justice honored him with the Humanitarian Award for his role in the integration of the Memphis Rotary Club and the Chamber of Commerce, as well as in founding the Leadership Training group.

He has received many honors over the years for his support of civil rights, including honorary degrees from three Historic Black Colleges (all were formed after the Civil War by The Episcopal Church): Voorhees College, St. Augustine's College, and St. Paul's College. And the list of his services to The Episcopal Church would take up the rest of this magazine! He has served well and faithfully for many years, on every level. He has been a Lay Deputy to 16 Triennial General Conventions. As a member of the Church's House of Deputies, he served as Vice President (1967-70) and Parliamentarian (1961, 1964, 1967).

He has been a positive influence for MUS as well. Six years after Crump's own graduation, the doors of MUS closed. In 1951, due to the closing of his own son's school, Pentecost-Garrison Grammar School, Crump and other parents formed a committee. The committee soon met with Dr. Anthony Dick, Pastor of Second Presbyterian Church, with the result that Pentecost-Garrison merged into Second Presbyterian Day School.

Of course, as we all know, Dr. Dick had a larger plan in mind and, to that end, formed a committee of men representing the major religious denominations to explore the idea of creating an independent boys' preparatory school. When the original Board of the School was formed, Alex Wellford accepted the position of Chair, and Crump served as Vice-Chair. "Alex devoted himself fully to this position and was a key factor in the founding and the early success of the newly-formed Memphis University School.

In selecting that name, we had a number of graduates of the old MUS on the Board and considered we had from the beginning a loyal alumni association."

Although much has changed since those early days, the traditions of truth and honor were successfully passed down, thanks to the vigilance of Crump and others like him. "I'm pleased that the school is still recognized for its academic achievements and for its splendid athletic

program," Crump said. And we are pleased to recognize Charles M. Crump as our oldest living alumnus.

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



**The 1930 Basketball Team; Crump is in the sweater. "I really enjoyed basketball – loved to play. But I wasn't good! I tried out for the team. That's when Coach Wellford took me aside and said, 'You know, we really need a student manager.'"**

# TAPS

for Major Evin L. Perdue, 1923-2004

*MUS Faculty 1962-75*



Many MUS students and faculty from the 1960s and the early 1970s will be saddened to learn that Mr. Evin L. Perdue died on January 14, 2004, at the Franklin Park Retirement Residence in Memphis. Perdue taught mathematics at MUS from 1962-75 and chaired the Mathematics Department for many of those years. Probably of greatest interest to his former students and faculty friends would be a recap of Perdue's early pursuits and his contributions to MUS.

He was born in Texarkana, Texas, but grew up in Memphis where he starred in track at Central High School (1939-42). He began college on an athletic scholarship but entered the army soon thereafter. As a navigator in the Army Air Corps, he served in World War II and the U.N. "Policing Action" in Korea. He flew 35 bombing missions over Europe in WWII and numerous missions across the Pacific Ocean and in combat during the Korean conflict. Counting his active and reserve time, he served more than 14 years and attained the rank of major. Military service took

him to more than a dozen foreign countries on four continents. Between his military service and some business experiences, Perdue attained a working knowledge of Spanish and some degree of fluency in speaking German and Japanese.

Between the wars, Perdue completed his undergraduate work at Southwestern [Rhodes] College (1945-49) where he was a top student and starred on the track team. He ran track as part of a rehabilitation program for flack wounds he had received flying over Europe. As a runner, he became the Tennessee State Intercollegiate Champion in the quarter-mile and half-mile distances and set several long-standing school records in track. He served as president of the lettermen's club, vice president of the student body, sports editor of the campus newspaper, and a contributor to the school's literary magazine. Perdue later wrote poetry; some of his poems were published in local newspapers and at least one in the *New York Times*.

While at Southwestern, he met, wooed, and married a beautiful coed named Patricia McBride. She had been assigned to write an article about him for the school paper, and their relationship took off from there. They reared their son and daughter, David and Donna, who have had distinguished careers, (David as a career Marine officer and Donna as a research scientist and patent attorney). The Perdues were married for 53 years and died within seven months of each other. After his wife died, Perdue showed little desire to continue living.

Evin Perdue came to MUS in the early 1960s, after having trained for and decided against a career in international business. Perdue, **Bill Hatchett**, and **Gene Thorn**, who were all G.I. Bill World War II veterans, were at the heart of helping to shape the fledgling revival of Memphis University School. Perdue made numerous and important contributions to MUS in the 1960s and '70s. He taught more than a dozen different mathematics courses, in addition to courses in electronics and computer

Perdue in 1948 with his future wife, Patricia



science. In fact, he introduced MUS to the computer age, ordering and mastering the school's first bulky, primitive machine and offering the school's first computer courses. Computerization ultimately ended the clumsy, manual methods of arranging the students' schedules every summer, which had been one of Perdue's ongoing collateral assignments for many years. Upon leaving MUS in 1975, Perdue taught briefly at Memphis Catholic High School (where he had taught briefly before coming to MUS) and rounded out his career teaching sailors for Tennessee's State Technical Institute on the Navy Base at Millington. Speaking to a former colleague a few years ago, Perdue seemed to have had largely fond recollections of his years at MUS.

Evin Perdue's interest and proficiency in electronics led him to sponsor the school's Amateur Radio Club. Whenever he could break free, he would head for the aging mobile home, which housed the MUS "ham radio shack." There, as at his home radio, he could and would communicate with people worldwide. On one occasion, although scheduled to attend an MUS Chapel assembly, Perdue played hooky and manned the radio instead. So doing, he inadvertently broadcast his conversation to the whole school through the Chapel's speaker system. Students and colleagues reflected a great deal more amusement at this mishap than did **Headmaster Ross Lynn**. Perdue's radio hobby, however, was more than just fun. It not only helped him make friends all over the world, it gave him the opportunity to offer humanitarian aid to various aliens residing in Memphis. He provided them with a "phone patch" so they could communicate with their distant loved ones.

Besides his electronics interests, Perdue also served as faculty adviser to the Archaeology Club, the Geology Club, the Stamp Club, and the Environmental Club. In April of 1970, at his instigation, a host of students participated in the first "Earth Day," picking up bush-



In 1975, Perdue installed a new antenna for the Amateur Radio Club. Students transmitted Morse code to other ham operators in such areas as Japan, the South Pole, and Australia.



The 1968 yearbook shows John Springfield and Evin Perdue taking a spin around campus.

els of debris from the streets alongside the MUS campus. By contrast to many aspects of his community citizenship, Perdue apparently resented, and certainly resisted Colonel Lynn's requirement that each faculty member personally deliver a Chapel program once a year. Instead of delivering the standard patriotic or religious lecture, each year Perdue arranged for the city's foremost martial artist, Kang Rhee, to bring some of his karate instructors and students to MUS to exhibit the sport's fine points, and, of course, dramatically smash bundles of boards and cement blocks. Perdue also took karate lessons from Rhee but never claimed any significant proficiency in the discipline.

In some respects, Perdue's home life rivaled that at MUS for uniqueness and excitement. Nat Ellis, an interesting and intense young math teacher recently returned from the Peace Corps, lived in the Perdue family's garage apartment for several years. Perdue also rented the upstairs of his commodious house [on Kenilworth abutting Overton Park] to a young biology teacher who was also an amateur herpetologist. The young man's collection of animals included rattlesnakes, a cobra, an electric eel, small alligators, a hedgehog, a potto, various rodents, millipedes, tarantulas, and a boa constrictor. The boa lived in the upstairs bathroom, because he was too large to fit in a cage.

In addition, the Perdues kept dogs, cats, and ducks. Any time there was a dangerous specimen missing from the upstairs menagerie, there was a good deal of anxiety and a quick roundup and tallying of non-predators.

Although he opted out of reserve military service after 14 years, Perdue remained a staunch, perhaps fierce patriot. One of his frequent leisure activities was listening to and phoning in to radio talk shows to verbally bash those whom he considered to be decadent, anti-American slackers. He was vehemently opposed to the cultural revolution of the late '60s and early '70s and the longhaired nonconformists who typified it. To his great discomfort, much of that lifestyle was showcased right across the street from his home. The concerts at Overton Park's Shell included Memphis' most unvarnished "hippiedom," featuring sex, drugs, and hard rock music. Perdue frequently and not reluctantly called the police when he observed blatant violations of the law or when the "music" was so loud or raunchy that it "disturbed the peace."

Perdue was certainly one of the most colorful of the many interesting MUS teachers of his era, and not just because he seemed a mass of contradictions. Like Walt Whitman, Evin Perdue contained multitudes. First, he was more than just intelligent, his I.Q. measured *bona fide* genius, and he had

uproarious tales of his MENSA chapter's meetings to prove it. Although he had been a non-conformist during his own student years, he became one of the more indignant and rigorous disciplinarians on the MUS campus. He flaunted his personal frugality in many ways, including boasting of thrift shop bargains, but he lived in an impressive home in an upscale neighborhood and carpooled several midtown kids to MUS in his vintage, baby blue Cadillac, sporting huge 1950's era fins. Moreover, despite (or maybe because of) the fact of his earlier aviation, he developed a phobia about flying. He absolutely refused to board commercial airplanes, but he continued to enjoy the enor-

mously more dangerous sport of air gliding. A person of genuine warmth and a giving nature, Perdue often came off as a thorough curmudgeon, if not a true contrarian, or even a misanthrope. On many issues he seemed willing to argue either side, just for the heck of it. Yet, he rarely reflected philosophical inconsistencies, and he remained a seeker after truth. According to Donna Perdue, "Throughout his life, Evin never stopped learning. He was an avid reader to the very end and tried to keep up on the latest advances in science and technology. He would question scientists [including his daughter and son-in-law] about their work" and ask them to explain the latest theories.

By a modest tally of the information hastily gathered for inclusion here, Evin Perdue was, by profession, a teacher, scholar, mathematician, mentor, navigator, and warrior. By avocation and temperament, he was also a technophile, amateur scientist, amateur linguist, athlete, philatelist, patriot, genius, martial arts enthusiast, and poet. Obviously, the list could go on. Yet, for all those who really knew him, the totality of the man was considerably more than the sum of these parts. With his passing, MUS has lost another former teacher with a Renaissance breadth of interests and attainments.

Major Perdue, MUS salutes you. Farewell and God speed!

John E. Harkins,  
MUS School Historian



*"It takes a noble person to plant a tree that will one day provide shade for those whom he may never meet."*

— D. Elton Trueblood

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

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

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

## MEMORIALS

\*Includes gifts received February 1 – April 30, 2004

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Karen and Alex Wellford '60
- EDWARD ROBINSON DEWEY  
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- NICHOLAS H. SKEFOS '06  
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We also teach them to give something back.**

At MUS, each student is given an excellent education and the opportunity to realize his potential. Support through the Annual Fund ensures that MUS will continue to attract and keep distinguished faculty and have all the important resources that make MUS a leader in college-preparatory education.



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Oscar Atkinson '96, Stewart Hammond '87, Jonny Ballinger '87, Headmaster Ellis Haguewood, and Scotty Scott '83 were among those who gathered for an MUS reunion in Atlanta in 2002.



## Remember When

By Jonny Ballinger '87

# A Sort of Homecoming

The idea of “home” can mean different things to different people: our hometown, the house where we grew up, our old neighborhood, familiar places around town that bring back specific memories, our friends and family, or the place we live today. In a nutshell, “home” probably can be defined as your comfort zone.

Many of you reading this may have left Memphis after graduation from MUS with no intention of ever moving back... bigger and better opportunities awaited you elsewhere, right? Others never left town at all. I left Memphis for college in Texas, a grad school internship in France, and a five-year work stint in Atlanta. Yet each time I returned to Memphis, I realized just how much I missed being “home.”

Those of us who now call Memphis home probably view the city very differently than the way it looked when we graduated from MUS. Granted, Memphis has changed quite a bit since I graduated in 1987: Cordova, Collierville, and Northern Mississippi have all exploded with new development; downtown Memphis is actually a fun place to spend an evening, whether at a Redbirds game at AutoZone Park, on Beale Street, or in the South Main District; and who knew we'd ever have an NBA team? For those of you who haven't been back to see the new and improved MUS, the campus now has the appearance of a boarding school you'd find in the Northeast. Take a walk around the new Campus Center and you'll find state-of-the-art everything.

Yet, despite the improved atmosphere, it's easy to reminisce about the “old” campus with nostalgia... the lounge, with its perpetually sticky floor and funky smell, dingy lighting and Rock 103 blaring all day, has been replaced by a much smaller room – reserved for seniors only – with leather sofas, a PlayStation video game, and a big screen TV. Clack Dining Hall, once home to the lovely Nell Lenti and her exuberant staff with effervescent personalities, has evolved into a modern cafeteria with actual meal options. Come to think of it, whenever Mrs. Lenti came out of her “cage” and wasn't yelling at one of us, she actually prepared some pretty decent meals... who can forget her macaroni and cheese or Wednesday's lasagna, salad with thousand island dressing, garlic bread, and pineapple upside-down cake?

More than likely, each of you has certain memories of your days at 6191 Park Avenue, but here are some of my “old school” recollections... listening to Glenn Miller in Mr. Hatchett's classroom, complete

with historical artifacts brought to life by his amazing – yet eccentric – teaching ability... a smiling Mrs. Caldwell rolling down the halls and bull-doing through the doors on her

Lil' Rascal scooter... Mrs. Halliday or Mrs. Moore always greeting you from the window of the bookstore... the rubber-floored, dungeon-like building that somehow passed for a Lower School gym where Dandy Don Walker held court... collecting bugs for Mrs. Franceschetti's biology class... eighth-grade Latin with Mrs. Higgs, whose love for the toga and the forgotten language helped all of us remember “bo, bis, bit, bimus, bitis, bunt”... using the Bunsen burners to wreak havoc in Dr. Harris' lab... referring to the two-lane former stretch of Ridgeway Road as “the landing strip”... Mr. Thorn's 15 snappy rah's... homecoming dances in the Clack... Val-O-Grams... having to endure those infamous “20-Minute Workout” and Jane Fonda videos with Coach Cady during football spring training... using floppy discs and learning about Apple computers in Mr. Brown's computer class – and thinking it was a waste of our time... physics class with Ms. Cannon – she never really liked any of us... wondering why Mr. Bowman always ran his finger along the wall as he walked down a hallway... being petrified if you were called to Mr. Springfield's office, even though we all made fun of his green Dodge Dart... the former weight room under the Upper School gym – did anyone really ever know what “benefit” the neck machine bolted to the wall was designed to serve?

Many aspects of the “old” campus may be long gone, but the school is still as lively as ever – and remains a comfort zone for students and faculty alike. We may not have realized it back then, but we were all privileged to be able to play a part in the school's history – and to have been taught by some of the finest educators in their field. No matter how humorous or bizarre our memories may be, it's safe to say that we all gained a great deal from our time at MUS. In the end, we ultimately graduated with a collection of experiences that can be easily resurrected by flipping through an old yearbook, listening to a song that was popular during our teens, or by going home...back to where it all began... 6191 Park Avenue.

*Jonny Ballinger is a management consultant with Young & Perl, PLC – a labor and employment law firm based in Memphis. In addition to serving as his class representative, Ballinger serves on the boards of Hands on Memphis and the Southside Boys & Girls Club of Memphis.*

# Alumni News

## Marriages

**Robert Higginbotham '90** to Amy Bates on May 1, 2004

**Copley Broer '96** to Suzanne Watkins on March 13, 2004

**Spence Hope '97** to Kristin Ray on March 27, 2004

**Michael Thompson '97** to Leslie Ann Cameron on March 27, 2004



## Births

Kim and **Flip Eikner '77**, a daughter, Nora James Evelyn Eikner, born February 16, 2004

Melanie and **Vint Lawson '77**, twins, William Vinton Lawson IV and Emily Ann, born July 24, 2003

Patricia and **Pearce Hammond '86**, a daughter, Margaret Mercer, born January 29, 2004

Amber and **Michael Skouteris '88**, a son, Constantine Michael, born March 24, 2004

Jenny and **Billy Frank '89**, a son, Samuel Mason, born March 21, 2004

Sara and **Patrick Burnett '90**, a daughter, Sara Katherine, born January 8, 2004

Amy and **Shea Flinn '91**, a son, George Shea Flinn IV, born April 2, 2004



Ashley and Jennifer, twin daughters of Bill Townsend '78, don their MUS bibs for mealtime.

During wedding celebrations for Suzanne and Copley Broer, Coach Jerry Peters found himself reunited with five out of six of his senior basketball players from the 1995-96 team: Bryan Johnson, Michael Faber, Brian Ricketts, Copley Broer, and Joe Abrahams. Lee Akins was missing in action at this reunion but made it to the wedding. The 1995-96 team, led by the six seniors, posted one of the best records in MUS history, 28-5.

## '64

**Bill Quinlen**

Class Representative  
[Bill.quinlen@hansomamerica.com](mailto:Bill.quinlen@hansomamerica.com)

Your reunion committee, that would be Bill, is working tirelessly to organize a great reunion weekend. The final plans will depend upon interest from the class. E-mail Bill if you have any suggestions. In the meantime, mark your calendar for October 8 and 9.

## '68

**Bill Ferguson**

Class Representative  
[bill@anfa.com](mailto:bill@anfa.com)

**Wis Laughlin** is an attorney with Rossie, Luckett, Parker & Ridder, specializing in tax, estate, and business planning. What many people do not know is that he is also an artist. He has done wood carvings for many years, but over the last five years he has sold them professionally and won several awards. He is past president of the Memphis Association of Craft Artists. He has also been invited by the

Arkansas Art Commission to participate in the Arkansas Living Treasure show which selects the best crafts person in the state of Arkansas.

The Memphis Area Association of Realtors Commercial Council has announced the recipients of the third annual Pinnacle Awards recognizing the highest producing commercial real estate brokers in the Memphis area. **Carey Whitehead '68** and **Kelly Truitt '81** were honored at a gala on April 1, 2004.

## '69

**John Keesee**

Class Representative  
[jkeesee@woodlandschool.org](mailto:jkeesee@woodlandschool.org)

It's been 35 years since the Class of '69 left the hallowed halls of MUS. Mark your calendars for October 8 and 9. It will be a weekend of fellowship and fun. Watch for details to come.

## '70

**Hunter Humphreys**

Class Representative  
[hhumphrey@glankler.com](mailto:hhumphrey@glankler.com)

**Hunter Humphreys** has been named as a leading attorney in the area of real estate and secured lending by the 2004 Chamber USA America's Leading Lawyers for Business.

**Shep Tate** of Tate, Lazarini & Beall has been listed as one of the top lawyers in Tennessee by Business Tennessee Magazine.

## '72

**Denby Brandon**

Class Representative  
[denbybrandon@brandonorg.com](mailto:denbybrandon@brandonorg.com)

**Hank Jones** is active in open source software and outsourcing (and other, older forms of information technology lawyering and consulting). He met his goal last year of being in his first gig in a "getting-paid" band before age 50. He lives in Austin, Texas.

# Busy Attorney Found Balance through Bonsai

By Cathi Jones

As co-chairman of the 50-lawyer tax department at Dewey Ballantine LLP, Felix Laughlin '61 lives the life of a busy tax attorney, advising corporations and international organizations on tax matters and handling tax cases before the Internal Revenue Service and U.S. Federal Courts. Since 1975, Laughlin has served as a partner at Dewey Ballantine, a highly regarded international law firm, which has garnered success in high-profile transactions and landmark litigation for almost 100 years.

Ever since his days at MUS, Laughlin looked toward the legal profession and knew that someday he'd be arguing his own cases before the courts. In his stepfather, Harry Laughlin, who practiced as an attorney and served as a judge in Memphis, he found a mentor and role model.

After graduating from MUS with an enormity of accolades and accomplishments to his credit, this former football, basketball, and track team member whom the student body called "Moon" and "Most Talented Boy in the Senior Class" set off for the University of Tennessee. Laughlin took part in a joint degree program at UT, whereby after three years of studying in the accounting program, he was able to begin studying law. While attending law school, Laughlin earned the privileged position of editor of the Tennessee Law Review, an honor sought by many, only given to the hardest workers with the best grades, and looked upon by future employers as a distinct achievement. In 1967, he graduated with a B.A. in accounting and his J.D., both with honors.

Upon graduation, Laughlin entered into a four-year program with the IRS Chief Counsel's Office in Washington, D.C. From 1967 through 1971, Laughlin served in several senior positions in the National Office of the IRS, where he had policy and technical responsibility for corporate transactions and tax accounting issues. He also studied at Georgetown University Law Center at night during his tenure with the IRS, earning his LL.M. (Master in Law with an emphasis on tax) in 1971. Then in 1972, he began his long-spanning career with Dewey Ballantine in their office in New York.

While living in a claustrophobic apartment on the East Side, this busy lawyer was encouraged by his young wife, Betty Gayle Young, to find some balance in his life. He had been studying, practicing, and living the law night and day for years. It was time to find a hobby, a release for daily stresses a young lawyer encounters at a high-powered law firm. She suggested he find balance by way of bonsai, and she bought her husband his first bonsai trees.

"We kept them in the refrigerator," says Laughlin, "because we didn't have anywhere else to put them into winter dormancy." All that winter, instead of finding a gallon of milk or a stick of butter when they opened the fridge, Laughlin and his wife found tiny trees. The bonsai were experiencing their own autumn in there, and the Laughlins saw new colors every time they opened the door. "We dined out quite frequently that winter," Laughlin says with a laugh.

Laughlin and his wife didn't stay in that cramped apartment in New York with the bonsai in the fridge for too long because Dewey Ballantine sent them back to Washington, D.C., where Laughlin opened a new office for the firm in 1974. A year later, he became a partner with the firm and continued to take on challenging tax cases. He has served as an advocate on behalf of Dewey Ballantine's corporate clients in large-case tax disputes with the IRS and has been the lead tax controversy advisor for a number of major U.S. corporations, including Mobil, Archer Daniels Midland, and Fannie Mae.

As Laughlin's law career continued to flourish, so did his interest in bonsai. The hobby became a sanctuary away from the controversy of tax court. For Laughlin, the bonsai in his apartment in New York were only the beginning. He began studying, collecting, and practicing this art form.

According to the website of the World Bonsai Friendship Federation, bonsai represent peace and beauty: "From bonsai we receive peace of mind, health, and a life's pursuit. We can also learn generosity, patience, and even philosophy about life." (Saburo Kato from "The Candle of Peace," *Bonsai of the World*, Book I).

Laughlin has embraced the philosophy of the bonsai and believes that a love of bonsai can expand to include all of nature. He currently serves as chairman of the World Bonsai Friendship Federation (WBFF)

and as president of the National Bonsai Foundation. Every four years WBFF sponsors a world convention, and Laughlin is anxiously preparing for the arrival of the convention in Washington, D.C., in 2005. The convention serves to bring avid bonsai collectors and enthusiasts together to study and appreciate the beauty and philosophy of the bonsai.

Laughlin's current hometown also houses the National Bonsai

& Penjing Museum, which he and the rest of the Washington, D.C., bonsai community are excited to share with the world in 2005.

Laughlin's dual roles as partner in a prestigious law firm and bonsai enthusiast help him keep the scale of his own life well-balanced. You never know what activities any given day might include for Felix Laughlin, but whether he is tackling tax issues or tending to a tiny tree, you know that he's happy.

*Cathi Jones, former Assistant Director of Public Relations at MUS, is a freelance writer for MUS Today. She lives in Nashville with her husband, Bradley, where she works as a plan administrator for BPS&M of Wells Fargo.*



This signed photograph shows Felix Laughlin taking a lesson from bonsai master John Naka in the mid-1970s.

'73

**Montgomery Martin**Class Representative  
mmartin@montgomerymartin.com

**Ed Atkinson** finally moved into his new country house after six years of construction. Margaret is happy. Ed is nowhere to be found.

**Reb Haizlip** has been busy with his architectural practice. He just opened the ninth largest children's museum in the country in Columbia, South Carolina, with many new museums on the way across the country. He has recovered from the loss of his office due to the July 22 storm with newly-renovated offices on Central Avenue. Life is grand.

**Buck Lewis** has recently been elected to the American Bar Association House of Delegates as a representative of Tennessee. Three at-large members are elected for the state of Tennessee, and the House of Delegates meets twice a year. Buck is also currently serving on the Tennessee Bar Association House of Delegates, representing the 9th Congressional District, where he is Chair of the Operations Committee.

**Beasley Wellford** is slowly recovering from a tough injury on the golf course. As the story goes, while standing on the seventh green, he was describing a very bad rain storm that he had lived through. In order to accurately depict the scene, he tossed his golf ball into the air to simulate "golf ball" size hail emanating from the sky. But, unfortunately, when looking up to catch the ball, he was blinded by the sun and the ball landed squarely on the bridge of his nose, knocking him to the ground, smashing his glasses, cutting his nose, and injuring his sinus cavity (not to mention his pride). It was clearly a TKO—"Titlest Knock Out." We are grateful for his speedy recovery.

'74

**Mark Ruleman**Class Representative  
Mark.ruleman@raymondjames.com

**John Dillon** and **Mark Ruleman** are hard at work planning a 30th reunion that you won't want to miss. Mark your calendar for October 8 and 9.

**James Hall** is a cardiologist in Union City, Tennessee. He is still active in his old ham radio hobby. He is also an emergency coordinator for Obion County. He and his wife, June, have three children, Patrick, James, and Caitlin.

Former Republican Shelby County commissioner **Buck Wellford** recently joined Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell and Berkowitz as a shareholder in the firm's Memphis office.

'75

**Lee Marshall**Class Representative  
Lee.marshall@jordancompany.com

**Chip Pursell** is currently working in the Baptist/Vanderbilt OR and attending nursing school (graduating in 2004). He plans to attend Vanderbilt's MSN program and is hoping to be an orthopedic nurse practitioner. He has two sons, 19 and 17 (one attending BGA in Nashville).

'76

**Cage Carruthers**Class Representative  
Cage.carruthers@wachoviasec.com

**Jordan Arterburn** has moved to a suburb of Tampa, Florida, to take a job with Florida Lift Systems as major account manager after 19 years with the same company in Knoxville, Tennessee. He decided it was time for a change of weather and scenery after so long! His 12-year old son, Andrew, went swimming in the pool on January 1 just so he could tell his friends back in Tennessee. Crazy kid knew the water temperature was 63 degrees, but he did it anyway. His daughter, Haley, just turned 16 and is adjusting to a new high school and learning how to drive amongst the snowbirds. Come visit—the fishing is good, the golfing is year round, and the weather is great!

**John Phillips** qualified for the 2004 Leaders Conference sponsored by New England Financial for his work as an associate of Strategic Financial Partners.

'79

**Fleet Abston**Class Representative  
fabston@turlwave.com

The Class of '79 will be holding their 25th Reunion on October 8 and 9. Watch your mail for more details as they become available.

'80

**George Skouteris**Class Representative  
skouterislaw@aol.com

Sam Graham and his sons, Nelson and Garrott, attended the practice rounds for The Masters at Augusta National this spring along with **David Caldwell '79**, who provided the three coveted passes for the Grahams.



David Caldwell with Nelson, Garrott, and Sam Graham in front of the famous clubhouse



Garrott and Nelson with Ernie Els in the background after teeing off on Hole #6

'81

**Rob Hussey**Class Representative  
rhussey@nhmemphis.com

**Kelly Truitt**, executive vice president of CB Richard Ellis, was recognized recently as one of the top revenue producers in CBRE's worldwide network.

'83

**Porter Feild**  
Class Representative  
[pfeild@bpjlaw.com](mailto:pfeild@bpjlaw.com)

**Steve Carpenter** is an Anglican priest in Memphis, where he serves as headmaster for New Hope Christian Academy, a high-quality Christian elementary school for inner-city children

'84

**Bob McEwan**  
Class Representative  
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Watch as details unfold for the 20th Reunion Weekend for the Class of '84. The date is set for October 8 and 9.

**Troy Benitone** is senior pastor for Pawnee United Methodist Church in Pawnee, Illinois. He and his wife, Beth, have four children, Heather, Joshua, Caleb, and Megan.

**Rick '84** and **Mark Fogelman '88** are very pleased with Fogelman Properties' recent acquisition of the Alexan Wolf River Apartments. They see a rebound in the apartment market over the next three to five years.

'85

**Dede Malmo**  
Class Representative  
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**Don Wiener**  
Class Agent  
[Don\\_wiener@es.adp.com](mailto:Don_wiener@es.adp.com)

**Jim Barton** is one of more than 100 athletes who have been inducted into Dartmouth's Wearers of the Green. Jim is the all-time leading scorer in Dartmouth's men's basketball history.

'86

**Gavin Murrey**  
Class Representative  
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**Andy McCarroll**  
Class Agent  
[amccarroll@11pt.com](mailto:amccarroll@11pt.com)

**Dylan Black** is an attorney with Bradley Arant in Birmingham, Alabama, with a general civil litigation practice. He spends his free time with his family, wife,

## Ongoing Alumni Events

**Austin Davis '73**, **Eb LeMaster '86**, and **Hart Weatherford '93** hosted a cocktail reception for MUS alumni living in the Nashville area on Wednesday, March 3, 2004, at Belle Meade Country Club. Approximately 50 alumni, guests, MUS faculty, and administration were in attendance.



Above: Jim Russell (English Department Chairman), Hart Weatherford '93, Kevin Roddey '90; left: Wearen Hughes '70, his wife, Bitsy, Buddy Best '71, Tom Jones '71; below: Jake Lawhead '95 (Annual Fund Director), Wade Stooksberry '94, and his wife, Carrie

### Mark Your Calendar: Homecoming 2004

- Oct. 8: Golf Scramble, Barbecue Dinner, Football Game;
  - Oct. 9: Reunion Parties for Classes '64, '69, '74, '79, '84, '89, '94, '99
- For more information, contact  
Claire Farmer: [claire.farmer@musowls.org](mailto:claire.farmer@musowls.org); 901-260-1356



Austin Davis '73, his wife, Catherine, Eb LeMaster '86, his wife Adrian, Headmaster Ellis Haguewood, his wife, Peggy, Hart Weatherford '93, and Paige and Kevin Roddey '90

Mindy, and children, Sebastian and Eliza, and training for long-distance bicycle rides. Before law school, he was a teacher and coach for three years at the Randolph School in Huntsville, Alabama. He was privileged as a coach to bring his tennis team to play MUS, where Coach Taylor's team showed his team what a first-class tennis program looked like.

**Michael Pickens** is the vice president for AccountPros Executive Search, an executive search firm in Chicago. He and his family will be moving to Michigan this year so that he can open an office for the firm and they can be closer to his wife Jen's family. Michael will still be responsible for the Chicago office, so he will be in Chicago regularly.

**Andy Wright** has been named senior vice president in the Commercial Lending division of First Tennessee Bank.

'87

**Jonny Ballinger**  
Class Representative  
[jballinger@yplaw.com](mailto:jballinger@yplaw.com)

**Joel Pope** has lived in California for several years and currently works in Los Angeles as a personal trainer...Joel isn't one to name-drop, but he did mention that he's trained Happy Gilmore and works with other celebrities.

**Diego Winegardner** lives in New York with his wife, Cynthia, and their two sons, Nicolas Dylan and Ashton Buck.

'88

**Gary Wunderlich**  
Class Representative  
[gwunder@wundernet.com](mailto:gwunder@wundernet.com)

**Jon Van Hoozer**

Class Agent  
[jvanhoozer@finfedmem.com](mailto:jvanhoozer@finfedmem.com)

**Jason Peters** led the Lausanne Lynx hoops team to another successful season with 26 wins. Highlights of the season included capturing the Small School Championship at the Carbondale Invitational Holiday Tournament in Carbondale, Illinois, and also winning the Tennessee Small School State Invitational Tournament. Coach Peters was again assisted by **Jon Van Hoozer** and **Jon Peters '85**.

**Fred Schaeffer** has qualified for the 2004 Leaders Conference sponsored by New England Financial. Fred works for Strategic Financial Partners.

'89

**Jason Fair**  
Class Representative  
[jfair@stanfordeagle.com](mailto:jfair@stanfordeagle.com)

**Patrick Hopper**

Class Agent  
[Patrick.hopper@fedex.com](mailto:Patrick.hopper@fedex.com)

The Class of 1989 is headed to the Stax Museum to celebrate their 15th reunion. Mark your calendar for October 8 and 9. See you then!

**Andy Cates**, president of Soulsville, was honored by Partners for Livable Communities with the Bridge Builders Award for a partnership in helping to revitalize a Memphis neighborhood through music education. Soulsville was honored specifically for having used arts and culture as a bridge for community and economic development.

**Mark Cox** recently combined his legal expertise with his entrepreneurial spirit and started Cox and Company Motor Cars. Mark is selling luxury cars in the Nashville area.

**Jason Fair** has joined Stanford Financial Group as a vice president and financial advisor. Jason and a team of five other partners left UBS PaineWebber to join Stanford to help develop Stanford into a regional broker/dealer with a significant Memphis presence. Jason and his wife, Meredith, reside in Memphis with their two-year-old son, Judson, and a second child on the way.

**Josh Hardison** is doing very well as a real estate attorney in Memphis. He's not married and says he is having a lot of fun with the Memphis nightlife!

**Will Hughes** is working for an advertising design firm in Nashville called Locomotion Creative. Don't worry, Will's not doing the design work. He's handling all of the business operations.

**Todd Photopoulos** has been elected to serve as executive vice-president of Phoenix Club for 2004-05.

**Skipper Scott** is living in Phoenix with his wife, Laurian. They get back to Memphis a few times a year. Most recently, he returned to the area for the

Rebels spring football game. I guess he didn't realize Eli wasn't there anymore. By the time you are reading this, there should be a little Scott on the scene.

**Scott Sherman** moved back to Memphis last fall and started working with ADP selling business solutions in the Mid-South. Scott bought a house in east Memphis and sits next to **Paul Barcroft** at work. Watch out!

'91

**Brett Grinder**  
Class Representative  
[bgrinder@grindertaber.com](mailto:bgrinder@grindertaber.com)

**Darrell Cobbins**

Class Agent  
[dcobbins@commercialtennessee.com](mailto:dcobbins@commercialtennessee.com)

It's official! **Trevor Benitone** has been promoted to Major.

**Lee Dickinson** recently joined the Nashville offices of Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz. He practices law in the areas of franchising and distribution, licensing, intellectual property, and general corporate matters. **Peter Jaques** is living in Oakland, California, as a professional musician. **Chris Schultz** is making it big. His Oxford, Mississippi, company, Easy Laundry, was featured in the first edition of *Business First* with a full-page spread.

'93

**Gil Uhlhorn**  
Class Representative  
[guhlhorn@glankler.com](mailto:guhlhorn@glankler.com)

**Thomas Quinlen**

Class Agent  
[quinletc@yahoo.com](mailto:quinletc@yahoo.com)

**Howie Gober** hooked up with **Brian Edwards '94** and **Jake Lawhead '95** in April when the University Club of Memphis held a *Gong Show* for its members. The three of them, along with another friend, kept the crowd on its feet with smooth tunes from their band, *Free Tea & Peanuts*.

**Ben Hutton** is moving to Athens, Alabama. He will be working in Birmingham for the law firm of Bradley Arant Rose & White.

'94

**Kirby May**  
Class Representative  
[kirbymay@hotmail.com](mailto:kirbymay@hotmail.com)

**Jason Whitmore**

Class Agent  
[jason\\_whitmore@hotmail.com](mailto:jason_whitmore@hotmail.com)

The MUS Class of 1994 is currently planning its 10th Reunion. The reunion will be the weekend of October 8-9, 2004. A reunion committee has been formed that includes **Kirby May, Duncan Galbreath, Jeffrey Block, Riley Jones, Ned Laughlin, Hamilton Eggers, Hunt Taylor, Jason Whitmore, and David Winker**. There will be a joint event with Hutchison's Class of 1994, most likely downtown on Beale or close by. We will be confirming the details and sending out information in the coming months. Thus, make sure MUS has your current mailing address, phone numbers, and, most important, e-mail address. If you're interested in helping plan the events, contact Kirby May. See you October 8 and 9.

**Ben Clanton** umpired the two baseball games at Autozone Park when the Memphis Redbirds played the St. Louis Cardinals. He is an umpire in the International League, a Triple A league one step below the Major Leagues.

**Duncan Galbreath** was elected to serve as chairman of the 2004 Phoenix Club Greeting Card Campaign.

'95

**Jeff Murray**  
Class Representative  
[jeffmurrayjr@yahoo.com](mailto:jeffmurrayjr@yahoo.com)

**Chip Brown** was elected to serve as chairman of the 2004 Harbortown 5k Run for Phoenix Club.

**Trey Carr** and his wife, Anne, have recently graduated from medical school and will start their respective residencies this summer at the UVA Health Systems Hospital in Charlottesville. They are planning to close on a house in Charlottesville soon.

**Jeremy Daugherty** is a mechanical engineer at Ring Container Technologies in Oakland, Tennessee.

**Matt Evans** has recently moved to Baton Rouge, Louisiana, to be president of Armstrong United Van Lines.

**Jeff Murray** is working in Washington, D.C., this summer with Senator Jeff Sessions of Alabama and the Senate Judiciary Committee and with Congressman Spencer Bachus of Alabama and the House Committee on the Judiciary.

'96

**Robert Dow**  
Class Representative  
[mail@robertdow.com](mailto:mail@robertdow.com)

**Kennon Vaughan**

Class Agent  
[Kav3122@hotmail.com](mailto:Kav3122@hotmail.com)

**Tom Burnett** is in his second year of a Ph.D. program in the history of science, focusing on nineteenth-century Germany, at the University of California at Berkeley. In addition to his studies, he is a teaching assistant in the history and philosophy departments and plans on participating this summer in a 585-mile bicycle ride from San Francisco to Los Angeles to raise funds for AIDS research.

**Kyle Farlow** finished an M.S. in electrical engineering from Duke University in 2002 and is now living in Seattle, Washington, working for Microsoft in the Windows OS division. When he is not writing code, he is snowboarding in the nearby mountains or drinking coffee.

**Elliott Ives'** band, *Free Sol*, won the 2003 Mid-South Grammy Showcase and was immediately signed by *Memphis Records*. Their debut record, *11:11*, came out in May.

**Rob Ratton** is completing his second year of law school at the University of Iowa and will be working in the Federal Public Defender's Office in Montgomery, Alabama, this summer.

**Matt Rose** is in his fourth year of the combined M.D./Ph.D. training program at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas, studying neurodevelopment. In addition to his studies, Matt is enjoying the art and culture of Houston and has recently taken up Salsa dancing.

**Rusty Shappley** will graduate from Columbia University in New York in May. He will receive his medical degree and is accepted to Harvard for a five-year residency in urology. Upon graduation he plans to practice in Memphis with his father, Vance Shappley.

**Michael Wagg** recently joined Morgan Stanley as an associate on their international equity, buy-side program trading desk in Manhattan.

**Britton Williston** graduated from Columbia Law School in May 2003 and is now working in Boston as an associate with Rope & Gray LLP.

'98

**Don Drinkard**  
Class Representative  
[ddrinkard@cbre.com](mailto:ddrinkard@cbre.com)

**Erick Clifford**

Class Agent  
[Erick\\_clifford@rhoco.com](mailto:Erick_clifford@rhoco.com)

**Stefan Banks** is doing the Army thing nowadays. He is stationed at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, and is currently going through the Special Forces Qualifications Course. Upon completion (if all goes to plan!) he will be qualified as Special Forces medic.

'99

**Chip Campbell**  
Class Representative  
[Campbell03@hotmail.com](mailto:Campbell03@hotmail.com)

**Norfleet Thompson**

Class Agent  
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**Ryan Aycock** is working on his master's degree in biomaterials at the University of Florida where he did his undergraduate work. Right now he works at the Particle Engineering Research Center where they are hoping to claim the title as the world leader in nanotoxicology. After he finishes his M.S. (hopefully to be completed spring 2005), he will try to go to medical school.

**Ben Bailey** has started every lacrosse game in which he has played during his three-year career at the Naval Academy. He is their sixth-leading scorer. He has been touted as Navy's most versatile offensive player with the ability to be a member of the midfield or attack team. Who says we can't play lacrosse down South? See the next issue of *MUS Today* for an update on Ben's lacrosse career.

**Austin Bryan** is living in Washington, D.C., and working as a legislative correspondent for Senator Lamar Alexander.

Before **Jay Schoenberger '00** graduated from Vanderbilt University this past spring, he wanted to leave his mark. "It's pretty easy to follow the requirements put forth in school," said Schoenberger, "but I wanted to do something not required by any class or club. I wanted to do something concrete, something tangible, to positively affect the world."

What Schoenberger set out to do was to organize a campus-wide fast to fight hunger in Haiti, a nation that has been struggling with extreme civil unrest over the past year. He planned to ask everyone on the Vanderbilt campus to give up meals for one day and to donate the money they would have spent on food to help fight hunger in Haiti.

He and his friend, fellow fast-organizer J.B. Reed, didn't ask their classmates to give up food for an entire day without first doing their research. They wanted to work with an organization with a grassroots mission of establishing sustainable agriculture. They chose the Lambi Fund of Haiti, whose mission is to fight hunger not through charity or food aid but through providing farmers with the funding, tools, and training they need to increase food production. "People come to the Lambi Fund for help. It takes initiative on the part of the farmers to receive the aid," Schoenberger said.

Once the organization was chosen, Schoenberger and Reed set February 25 as Fast for Hunger day and approached campus organizations and individuals alike, encouraging them to join their worthy cause. The two asked every sorority and fraternity on campus to give up one weekly chapter meal, which can cost upwards of \$500. Schoenberger and Reed worked on publicity and logistics, all the while reiterating their simple message to the Vanderbilt community. "We were just asking everyone to use a little less and give a little more."

According to the student newspaper, the *Vanderbilt Hustler*, the fast found great momentum on campus. On Fast for Hunger day, donation receptacles were placed in close proximity to all the places one would normally go in search of food, including the dining hall and campus convenience stores. Schoenberger also set up and

## Fighting Hunger in Haiti



Jay Schoenberger and J.B. Reed

...to help the people of  
Haiti help themselves...

manned an information center to help students find out more about their cause.

"Ideally, we were asking students to fast for the entire day," said Schoenberger, and that's exactly what he and Reed did. Schoenberger said that he didn't find the fast to be particularly challenging, especially since he allowed himself water that day. "I've done it before, on Yom Kippur—and then you're not even allowed water." If their fellow students weren't willing to go quite that far for the cause, their donations were still whole-heartedly accepted.

"We got a surprisingly good response," Schoenberger said when asked how the campus responded to the fast. Fifteen out of the 22 organizations they approached joined the cause, with almost every sorority and fraternity agreeing to forego their chapter meals. In total, Fast for Hunger drew in \$5,619 in donations and met Schoenberger's two-

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fold goal—to help the people of Haiti help themselves *and* to raise awareness on his campus about the issues of global hunger.

Schoenberger, who graduated in May with a double major in Human Organizational Development and Spanish, remained consistently active in community service throughout his four years at Vandy. As a participant in the Big Brothers/Big Sisters program, he spent three years mentoring his little brother. Schoenberger was also active in the Room at the Inn program, an initiative that not only provides a night of food and comfort for a homeless person but also offers guidance toward finding a way off the streets. He also honed his leadership skills by serving as president of Hillel, the Jewish student organization on campus. After meeting his personal goal to make an indelible mark on Vanderbilt University, Jay Schoenberger is ready for new challenges in his career and his life. This fall, he'll take on New York City, where he will serve as a marketing associate with American Express.

Since graduating from Notre Dame, **Elliot Pope** is working toward a master's degree of accountancy at the University of Mississippi. Upon completion, he will be employed by Ernst & Young and has been selected to spend one year in their National Accounting Research Group in New York City, beginning in July. Elliot and classmate **Josh Winters** were on hand when **Wes Shelton** (pictured below) graduated as a lieutenant from West Point Academy on May 29, 2004. Wes is headed to Ft. Sill, Oklahoma, for Field Artillery Officer Basic Course and in January will be stationed in Ft. Stewart, Georgia, awaiting deployment to Iraq.



**'00** **Jeff Morgan**  
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**Stuart Hutton** graduated in May from the University of Tennessee with a B.S. in business administration. He will be working this summer in Atlanta for PricewaterhouseCoopers. After that, he plans to head back to UT for a masters degree in accounting.

**'01** **Daniel McDonell**  
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**Harrison Ford**  
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**Robbie Caldwell** was recently selected as committee co-chair for Vanderbilt Concerts for the year 2004-05. The committee is responsible for booking concert acts at Vanderbilt University throughout the year. Robbie is currently a junior at Vanderbilt majoring in economics with a minor in Spanish. **Chance Carlisle** was elected to serve as vice president of the Yale College Council. The council is the representa-

tive student government charged with nominating students for the University's standing committee, advocating student issues, and planning campus-wide activities. He will be responsible for setting the council's agenda and coordinating meetings with Yale's top policy makers.

**'03** **Jamie Drinan**  
Class Representative

**Randall Holcomb**  
Class Agent

**Dara Chan** was announced as a recipient of the Phillips Classical Prize at the University of Michigan for his exceptional translation of a passage of Vergil.

## Developing Tomorrow's Technology Today

Since entering the University of Oklahoma's five-year accelerated B.S. Computer Engineering and M.S. Electrical Engineering program in 2000, **Michael Hollinger '00** has been making a name for himself in the technology sector. For the past three summers, Hollinger has worked for IBM, spending two summers in Houston and one in Rochester, Minnesota. He was recently accepted into IBM's Extreme Blue Program, which is IBM's prestigious internship program for business innovation. In the Extreme Blue Program this summer, Hollinger will work in IBM's Pervasive Computing Lab in Austin, Texas, developing a product demonstration of new web browser technologies. Hollinger plans to join IBM as a full-time employee after completing his M.S. degree in 2005.


 The logo for IBM's Extreme Blue program, featuring the words "extremeblue" in a stylized font with a blue and green swoosh graphic.

Back in Oklahoma, Hollinger is active in OU's campus community. He is the president of Eta Kappa Nu, the national electrical and computer engineering honor society; an officer in IEEE, the electrical engineering technical society; and a member of Tau Beta Pi, the general engineering honor society. In addition, Hollinger was chosen to help design the new engineering facility at OU and is working with other student leaders to develop a student code of ethics, for which he is using the MUS Honor Code as a model.



## In Harmony with Jason Colgate

Fulfilling his interests in science and music, **Jason Colgate '98** has successfully balanced careers in two disparate fields. While he works by day as a territory manager for Boston Scientific, he plays cello by night with the Boston Philharmonic Orchestra, New England's most prestigious orchestra.

Colgate moved to Boston in the summer of 2002 after graduating from Vanderbilt University, where he studied business and music. Several factors influenced his decision to move to the Northeast—being closer to his sister Laura, who was studying violin performance at the New England Conservatory; experiencing another region of the country; and joining Boston Scientific, which is the largest less-invasive medical device company in the world. At Boston Scientific, Colgate has thrived. He was named the top sales representative and sales manager two years in a row and has been promoted to a territory manager, where he manages the company's devices in hospitals. These successes have led to Colgate receiving several sales awards, including the Product Focus Competition and the 2003 Territory Manager of the Year Award.

Although Colgate was enjoying his work with Boston Scientific, he realized that it had been over a year since he had played with a musical ensemble—the longest absence since he began playing the cello at age three. So, “after adjusting to Boston, with its harsh weather, rapid pace, different attitudes, and young, exciting atmosphere,” says Colgate, “my sister and I decided to audition for the best skilled and most prestigious orchestra in New England, and we made it!”

Colgate and Laura performed with the Boston Philharmonic for the 2003-2004 season, Jason in the cello section and Laura in the violin. The season is the orchestra's twenty-fifth anniversary under the conductor Benjamin Zander, and to celebrate the orchestra has played works only by Gustav Mahler, on whom Zander is an expert. A highlight of the season was on February 29, 2004, when the orchestra performed at Carnegie Hall in New York City, and 25 of Colgate's family and friends came from Tennessee, Florida, and the New England area for the performance.



Boston Philharmonic Orchestra during rehearsal

Jason Colgate, Conductor Benjamin Zander, and Laura Colgate backstage after a performance

In addition to his work with Boston Scientific and the Boston Philharmonic, Colgate is the Vanderbilt Alumni Recruiting Chair for Boston, a position to which he was elected by the alumni club and the University. In his spare time he enjoys skiing and snowboarding in Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine and attending Red Sox games. Also he, Laura, and his girlfriend, Suzannah, are members of the Boston Sailing Club.

## Sullivant's Success No Accident

An enduring memory from the last days of the Clack Dining Hall is of throngs of students rocking to the sounds of Accidental Merse following a football or basketball victory. The popular band was an MUS fixture—performing at dances, Fall Fest, and the Talent Show—until its members graduated in 2001 and scattered to various colleges.

At least one former member of the beloved group is continuing the musical odyssey. **Hank Sullivant '01** is the bassist and background vocalist for The Whigs, an Athens, Georgia-based band receiving a heady amount of attention these days.

Sullivant and two other University of Georgia students formed the band in early 2002 when Sullivant was a freshman. Since then, The Whigs' star has steadily risen as they have played with a list of well-known bands and received glowing reviews in Atlanta and Athens newspapers. One critic describes the band as having “the lackadaisical grace of Pavement, the subtle swagger of the Strokes, and the confidence of Wilco.” Another writes, “On stage, the three appear ten years older. Mid-song they are sophisticated, forceful, sensitive, precise, and meticulous.”

They regularly play shows in Athens and Atlanta clubs, many of which are sold-out. Their sound is appealing to a variety of audiences, which probably contributed to their winning an Atlanta “battle of the bands” contest last August, eliminating 128 others in the process. The

prize was a Labor Day Weekend cruise on the Rock Boat with Tonic, Sister Hazel, Cowboy Mouth, and others. This led to a December opening for Maroon 5, the Barenaked Ladies, and Sarah McLachlan at Star94's Jingle Jam concert in Atlanta. Jessica Simpson was the show's hostess.

Sullivant admits these bands aren't exactly his favorites but is grateful for the exposure. "I think it's funny how the bands we've been fortunate to hook up with are bands I've never been crazy about at all," he says, "which makes it kind of interesting."

Until he met guitarist Parker Gispert and drummer Julian Dorio, alumni of Atlanta's Westminster School, Sullivant was afraid there might not be musical life after Accidental Mersh.

"When I first got to Georgia, it was weird not being in a band. Accidental Mersh's last show was at the New Daisy the night before I left for school, and it was easily our biggest one ever. That was a huge high, and then I got to Georgia and only had vague hopes of finding a band again," he says.

Mersch fans will remember that Sullivant played guitar in high school. However, he was so eager to play music again that he readily switched to bass when Gispert and Dorio asked him to join them.

"Switching from guitar to bass really wasn't that painful," he says, "because I was so excited to play anything. Bass is harder than it seems—it requires more taste than skill to be good."

Sullivant picks up the guitar again during the band's signature song "Half the World Away" (Gispert switches to keyboard) and plays, in the words of a reviewer, "a jaw-dropping guitar solo, impressive without being showy, ... noisy and melodic at the same time."

One thing that the Whigs do not yet have is a CD. Although they have written about 40 songs, they don't feel they are ready to record. "We want to do it right, and that's going to take some more work and a lot of money,"

Sullivant explains. "We do have a website—www.whigs.net—and it has two songs on it."

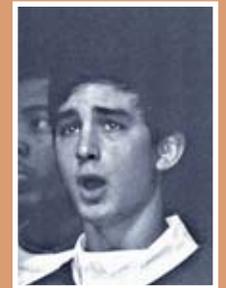
For now, the Whigs will continue to juggle school and music. (Sullivant is an English major, who cites **Dr. Jeffrey Gross** and **Mr. Flip Eikner '77** as inspiration.) They will soon expand their music horizons to Birmingham, Nashville, Tampa, and maybe even Memphis. And they will dream big dreams.

"I have plenty of unrealistic hopes, like anyone in a band, that we will explode and conquer the world and be bigger than the Gin Blossoms," says Sullivant. "But for now, I'll be content to get by [this past semester] and be bigger than Outkast by August."

## Singing His Way Around the World

It appears that **John (formerly JK) Minervini '03** has made quite a splash at Harvard, where he has just completed his freshman year. Minervini is a member of the Harvard Krokodiloes, Harvard University's oldest and most prestigious *a cappella* singing group. After attending open auditions, four rounds of callbacks, and a secret initiation in October, Minervini has performed with the group on *Hardball* with Chris Matthews and the *CBS Early Show*, in Bermuda over Spring Break, and in various Harvard events in New York City and the San Francisco area.

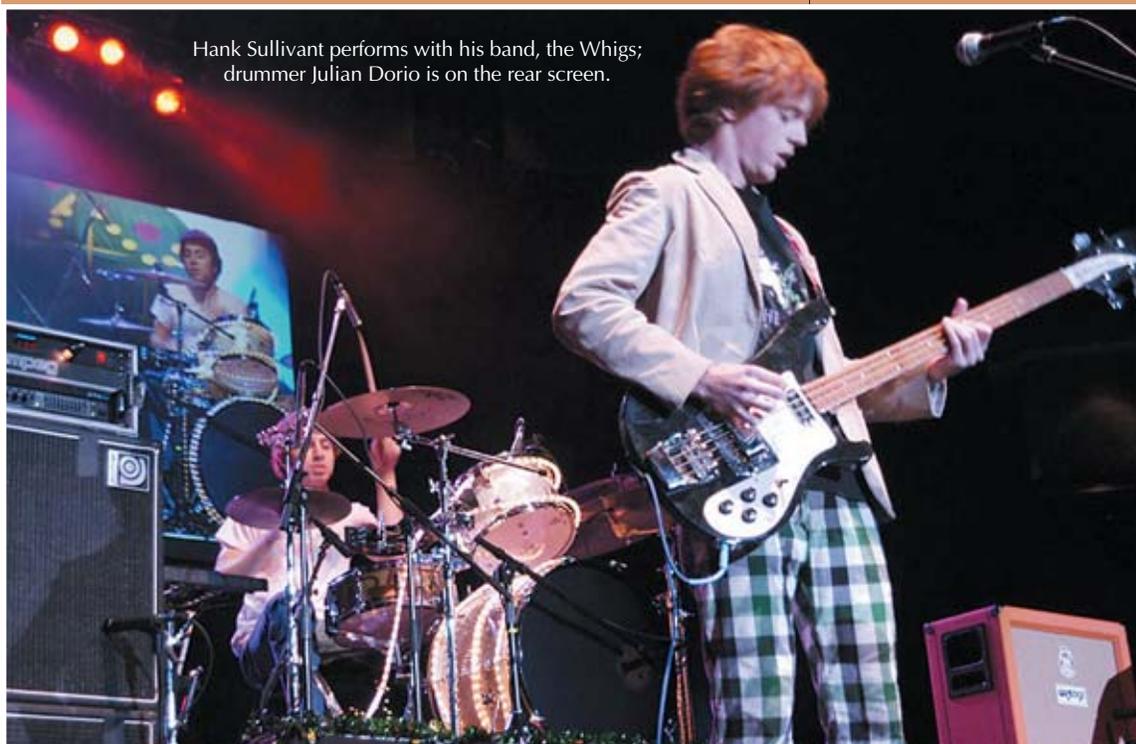
While these are all exciting appearances, perhaps some of Minervini's most exciting bookings have been for notable individuals; the Kroks, as they are commonly called, have performed at the Harvard Institute of Politics for Wesley Clark, Howard Dean, and Carol Mosley-Braun; for



Sandra Bullock at the Hasty Pudding Woman of the Year event; and for presidential candidate John Kerry at his birthday party last fall. This summer the Kroks are embarking on their annual 11-week, six-continent tour, which includes stops in such exotic locations as Tokyo, Bali, Istanbul, Victoria Falls, and Easter Island.

"The camaraderie is unbelievable," said Minervini. "It has been a blast, an opportunity afforded me by attending Harvard, a college afforded me by attending MUS."

Hank Sullivant performs with his band, the Whigs; drummer Julian Dorio is on the rear screen.



# Oklahoma!

## You're O.K.!



Laurey (Sasha Castroverde) feigns bemusement as Curly (Eric Wilson) regales Aunt Eller (Megan Watt) with details of "The Surrey with the Fringe on Top."

The "infinite expanses" of the MUS stage resounded with gunshots, handclaps, stompin' feet, wallopin' punches, and the harmony of sweet prairie singin' as MUST C Theater presented *Oklahoma!* during the first weekend in April.

Premiering in 1943, Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Oklahoma!* tilled new ground in musical theater. Shunning the European operetta style, the songs (and even the dances) in *Oklahoma!* pioneered a new frontier, hybridizing comedy and drama and cultivating artistic unity by harnessing the music to advancement of character and story.

Though the bloom on this historic rose had long since gone to seed, a 1999 London production, directed by Trevor Nunn and choreographed by Susan Stroman, once again brought the musical to a "brand new state," reconstituting interest in what had become an established though somewhat musty classic. MUS's production was among no fewer than three that ran in and around Memphis during the past spring.

As in Nunn's London production, MUS's troupe adopted a low-key, grittily realistic acting style in the mode of Eugene O'Neill dramas, but punctuated the developing storyline with generous helpings of knees-up dancing, character-driven humor, and at least three rousing fight scenes, one a face-smashing

knockabout between two women.

*Oklahoma!* depicts the budding romance between a vainglorious cowboy named Curly (played by **Eric Wilson**) and a pig-headed farmgirl named Laurey (Sasha Castroverde), under the encouraging supervision of Laurey's feisty Aunt Eller (Megan Watt). Conflict germinates as Laurey and Curly squabble, provoking her reluctant acceptance of an invitation to the box social from Aunt Eller's surly but amorous farmhand, Jud Fry (**Danny Travis**).

Meanwhile, the naively lusty Ado Annie (Carly Crawford) jist "Cain't Say No" to the itinerant peddler-man, the shifty Ali Hakim (**Walter Klyce**), or to her swooning rodeo swain, Will Parker (**Mike Schaeffer**), even though her shotgun-totin' Paw (**Preston Battle**) stubbornly prefers the financially more solvent peddler.

These two romantic triangles played out under the direction of **Flip Eikner '77** and across a majestic fruited plain designed by **Andy Saunders**. **John Hiltonsmith** tuned the music, **Debbie Jacobs** fashioned costumes, and **Kimberly Baker** choreographed the hoofing, including the twelve-minute dream ballet (spotlighting **Mishi Castroverde**) at the end of the first act.



Laurey's friends encourage her to live life out of her dreams: (back row, L to R) Morgan Beckford, Alice Buchanan, Katie Gregory, Mari Earle, Evie Lyras, Molly Quinn, Louise Smythe; (front row) Tierney Bamrick, Sasha Castroverde, Ansley Fones, Shana Margolin.



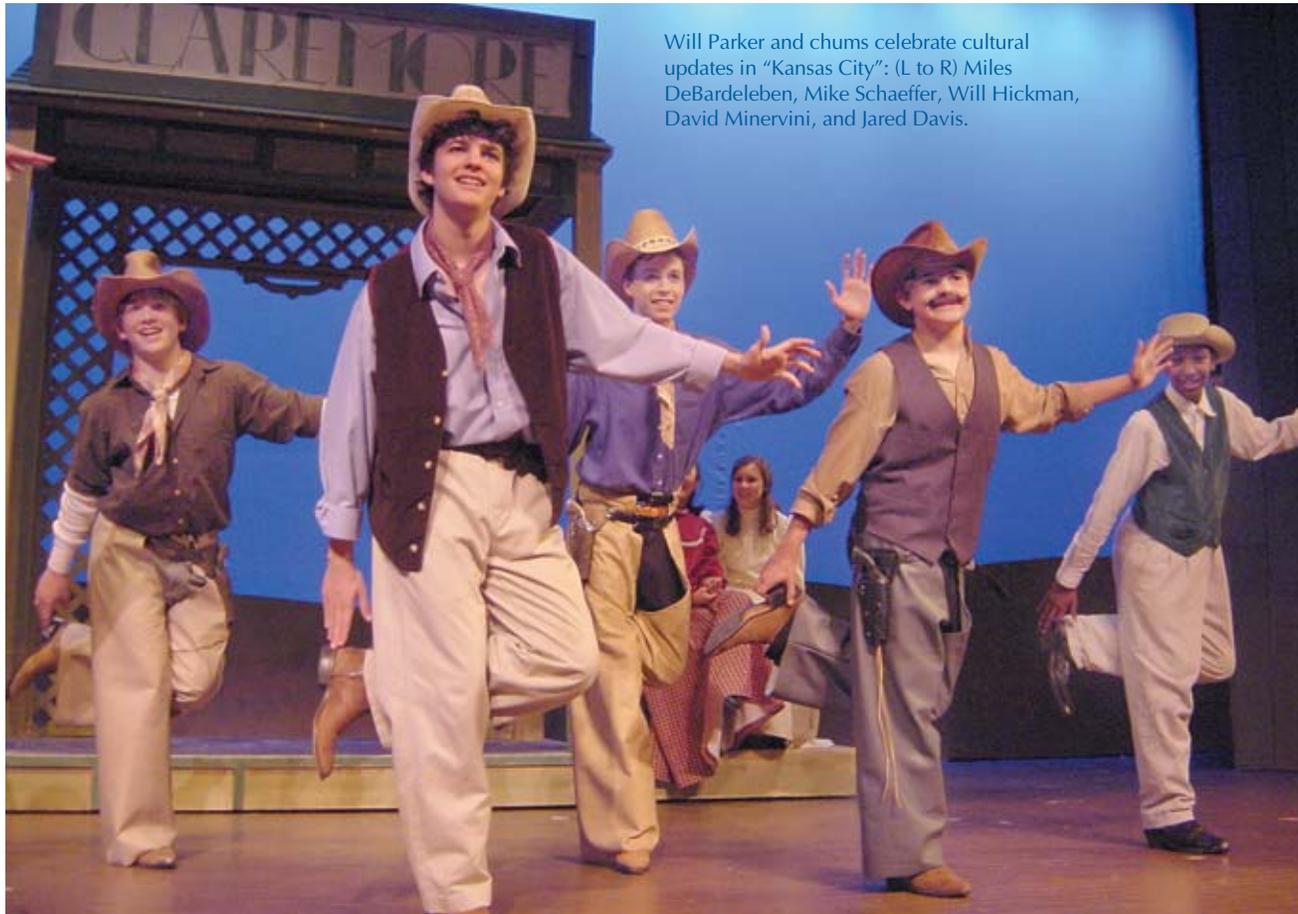
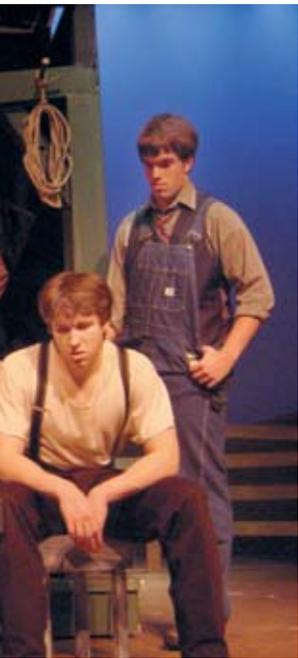
Curly (Eric Wilson) and Jud (Danny Travis) pretend nonchalance when Aunt Eller (Megan Watt) and friends (Frank Jemison, Ed Porter, Chris Freeman) investigate the sound of gunfire in the smokehouse.



The rumbustious trail mix of sodbusters, cowpokes, and hardy frontierswomen featured **Dean Atyia, Will Hickman, Kristof Tigyi, Louise Smythe, David Minervini, Alex Chinn, Ed Porter, Elise Masur, Frank Jemison, Jared Davis, Miles DeBardeleben, Robert Duffley, Xander Batey, Chris Freeman, Brandon Arrindell, Alice Buchanan, An-Hae Chilton, Ansley Fones, Caitlin Bamrick, Evie Lyras, Jennie Weaver, Jennifer Hiltonsmith, Gracie Lee, Katie Gregory, Mari Earle, Molly Quinn, Morgan Beckford, Morgan Gibson, Rachel Weeks, Shana Margolin, and Tierney Bamrick.**

Members of the backstage and lighting crews included **Kevin Hollinger, Evan Herrera, Austin Chu, Roger Chu, Hunter Swain, Jonathan Barnes, John McGreger, Austin Beckford, Jayshal Patel, Russ Hinson, Mary Claire Smythe, Lee Hoyle, Heather Nadolny, and Rachel Hogue.**

Andrew Carnes (Preston Battle) “proposes” a shotgun engagement between his daughter, Ado Annie (Carly Crawford), and the peddler (Walter Klyce).



Will Parker and chums celebrate cultural updates in “Kansas City”: (L to R) Miles DeBardeleben, Mike Schaeffer, Will Hickman, David Minervini, and Jared Davis.



## 2004 Soccer Team Brings Home State Trophy



Congratulations go to the soccer team for winning the state championship, with Coach Vincent Beck picking up honors as *The Commercial Appeal's* Best of the Preps Soccer Coach of the Year. Well done! But this was not the only sport to claim state titles. See page 13 for all the highlights.

### MUS TODAY

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