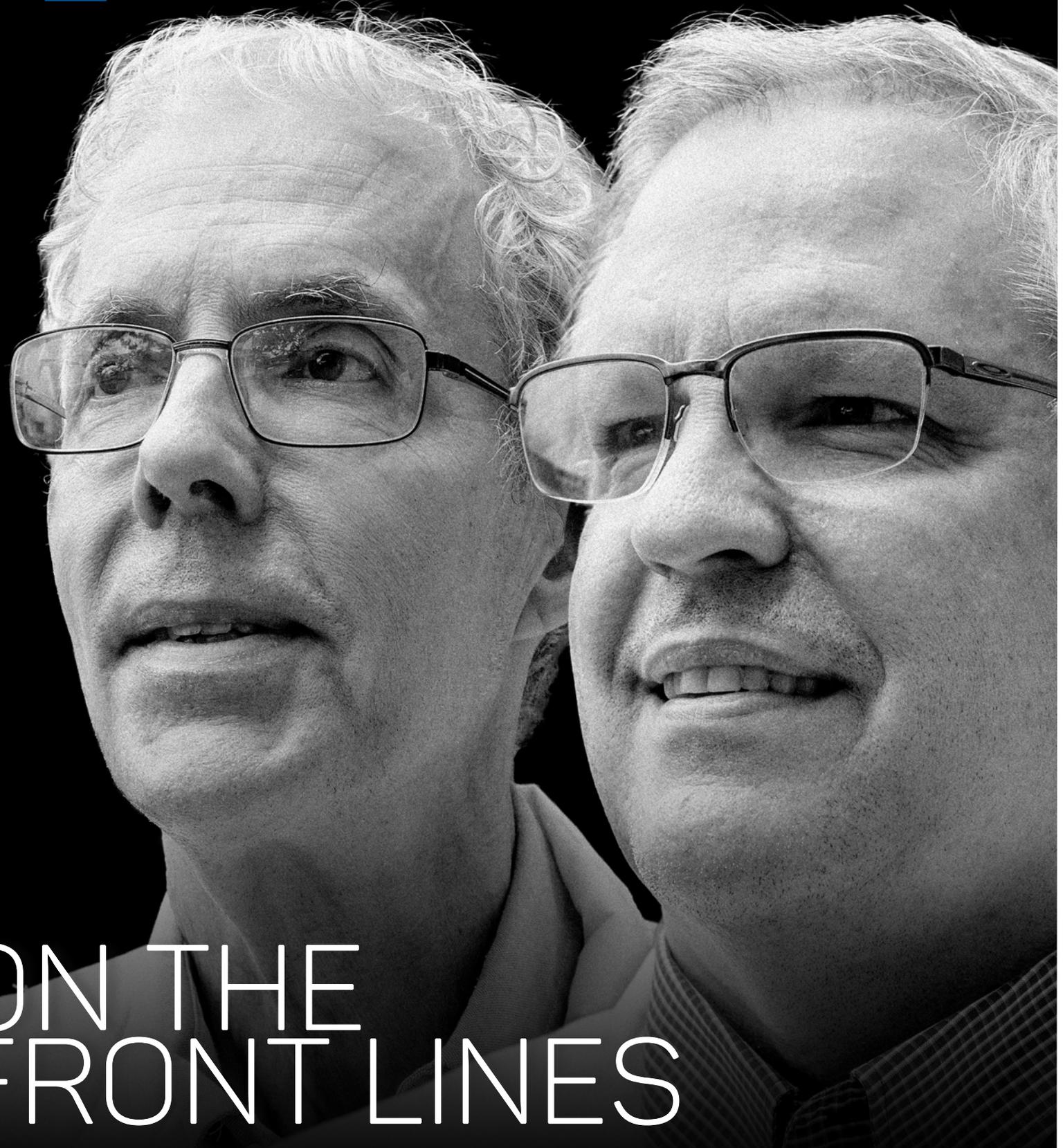


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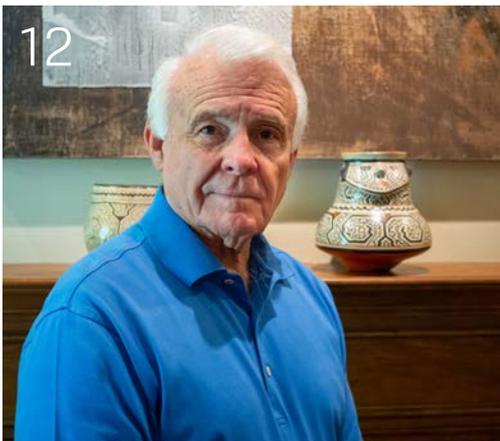
THRELKELDS BATTLE COVID MENACE



Akbar Latif shakes Headmaster Pete Sanders' hand after receiving his diploma from Board of Trustees Chair Jim Burnett '83. Stokes Stadium was the setting for Commencement, as the Class of 2021 walked across the stage and toward their futures. The graduation section begins on page 17.



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ON THE COVER



With a combined 70 years in medicine, Dr. Mike Threlkeld '75 and Dr. Steve Threlkeld '82 and their partner, Dr. Imad Omer, of Threlkeld Infectious Disease had never encountered a foe like COVID-19. They look back on a year filled with dark days, tragic losses, difficult lessons, and hard-fought triumphs as they worked to help their patients heal from the pandemic that swept the globe. See page 5. Photo by Brandon Dill

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ON THE BACK COVER

Students created owl portraits in Grant Burke's Printmaking class and then traded heads, bodies, and feet in exquisite-corpse fashion to create mixed-up owls.

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Founded 1893

MISSION STATEMENT

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

In Gratitude for Guiding Lights

With degrees in history and educational administration, and 36 years in academe, I thought I was prepared for most anything I would face in leadership at MUS. COVID-19 taught me otherwise.

Reflecting on my gratitude to the faculty, staff, and administration for pushing through the last 18 months, I was reminded of the vast and deep resource that is MUS. The alumni, parents (past and present), and other friends of the school served as sources of counsel throughout those challenging months.

The camaraderie of the faculty and staff imbued a strong sense of unity as we navigated COVID together. Though not at 6191 Park Avenue daily, members of the Board of Trustees were present in spirit, and frequently by phone, with support and encouragement. My high cell phone usage rate last summer was a result of many calls to two trustees in particular: **Wiley Robnison '75** and **Glenn Crosby '77**. As the two physicians on the board, they served as fonts of knowledge for all matters medical. I should add that both Glenn and Wiley are members of the standing Risk Management Committee, so we have long relied upon them to address school challenges seen and unforeseen. In the case of the worldwide health crisis that came to Memphis last March, we also sought the counsel of four local infectious disease physicians. Unsurprisingly, they are all members of the MUS community.

The Threlkeld brothers, **Mike '75** and **Steve '82**, of Threlkeld Infectious Disease in Memphis, are a timely choice for the cover story in this issue of *MUS Today*. Along with their partner, MUS parent Dr. Imad Omer, they have provided much guidance for the school and for the greater Memphis community during the pandemic. In addition, we had the counsel of infectious disease physician and MUS alumni

parent **David George '75** and registered nurse Cindy Cole, also the parent of alumni. With the invaluable advice of these accomplished professionals, the school had a remarkably strong medical advisory team. And, considering the demand for their services, the time they allotted to MUS spoke of their commitment to our school.

The COVID-19 pandemic presented daunting challenges for schools nationwide, and MUS was not an exception. But in our case, we have these extraordinarily talented medical advisors. It was with their guidance that we were able to transition from remote learning to safe in-person classes last year. As I write this, we are preparing for a 2021-22 school year with everyone on campus from Convocation Day through to Commencement and final exams. In no small part, our success in keeping campus open has been thanks to the collective knowledge of our medical team.

I hope you will find the journey of Drs. Threlkeld and Omer throughout the pandemic compelling; the story begins on page 5. You can also read about two staff members who have been instrumental in keeping us up and running during the year-plus of COVID-19 – Contact Tracing Coordinator **Dave Ferebee** and Director of Technology **John Simi**, on pages 32-33.

Our gratitude to all these experts is great and will never be forgotten.

Veritas Honorque



PETER D. SANDERS

HEADMASTER

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STARING DOWN COVID-19



***The Threlkeld brothers
and a brotherly colleague
battle a menacing pandemic***

by Jane Schneider



You could call infectious disease doctors **Mike Threlkeld '75, Steve Threlkeld '82,** and Imad Omer medical detectives. They strive to unravel the mysteries surrounding the unpredictable, sometimes ambiguous nature of infections and work to help their patients heal.

Among the greatest mysteries they have encountered has been the treatment of patients with COVID-19, the novel global disease that hit Memphis in March 2020. Despite the

doctors' experience and expertise – and that of medical experts around the world – this foe presented an enormous challenge, especially in the beginning.

“We couldn't do much for COVID patients,” says Steve, remembering those early months. “We were using critical-care strategies to avoid complications of the illness, and we weren't good at it. It was a helpless feeling watching things happen. There was a limit as to what you could do to shut down the virus.”

“We saw many people die,” Imad says. “I felt very powerless.”

So began month after month of study and investigation to determine what would work for their patients.

Collectively, this trio has more than 70 years of experience in medicine. Mike opened the office, Threlkeld Infectious Disease, in 1989, later joined by his brother Steve in 1997 and Imad in 2002.

“We consider Imad a third brother,” says Steve.

In addition to seeing patients at their practice, Mike is the hospital epidemiologist for Baptist Memorial Hospital and medical



Dr. Steve Threlkeld '82, left, Dr. Imad Omer, and Dr. Mike Threlkeld '75 consult in the hallway of Threlkeld Infectious Disease in Memphis. Says Steve, "We consider Imad a third brother."

"We saw many people die. I felt very powerless."

- Imad Omer

director for Baptist Memphis Employee Health; Steve is the medical director for infectious disease with Baptist Memorial Healthcare and a media spokesperson for Baptist; and all three physicians serve as assistant professors at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center.

They served as invaluable consultants to MUS as the administration considered if and how to open the campus for the 2020-21 school year. Along with several other medical professionals, Headmaster **Pete Sanders** says, they helped provide a "pathway to opening" that allowed students to learn on campus throughout the year.

Tackling a new disease

Infectious disease doctors are typically consulted when a patient with an infection goes beyond the expertise of an internist or primary care physician. Generally, Drs. Threlkeld and Omer care for patients who have contracted an infection while undergoing a heart transplant or stem cell transplant or experienced complications from cancer, pneumonia, or the flu, among other diseases.

The doctors cut their academic teeth studying HIV, the avian flu, and other infections. But the year 2020 brought this entirely new infectious disease to the world stage. The deadly coronavirus strain that surfaced first in Wuhan, China, and gradually spread around the globe would become the most dire health crisis to sweep the planet since the Spanish flu pandemic of 1918. While scientists long had been aware of the potential for a pandemic, watching it bring New York City to its knees was sobering.

"It was a bit of a frightening time watching the calamity in New York with people dying and not having enough PPE [personal protective equipment],"

Steve says. "Memphis was lucky to have a large bed base – that helped. We also had enough warning so we could prepare for it."

Hospitals in Memphis had created contingency plans in the event of a major flu outbreak, and they adapted those plans in preparation for COVID-19, which began sending its victims to the hospital here in March of 2020.

Steve treated the first COVID patient, a Baptist hospital employee, that month. The three doctors quickly found themselves on the hospital's front lines where the challenges to care for COVID patients became staggering as they scrambled to treat critically ill patients with an array of symptoms: shortness of breath, cough, nausea, body aches, and fatigue, among others. Since this coronavirus was a new disease, no effective treatment initially existed.

"There was no standard of care," Imad says. "No one knew how to treat the virus – we were still trying to figure it out."

Because it was so highly contagious, "We had to jury-rig the rooms to care for patients. The COVID rooms had huge blower fans to make negative pressure, which made the rooms very loud," Imad says. Negative pressure exhausts air from the room to keep the virus from spreading beyond contaminated areas.

Baptist's COVID capacity quickly jumped, from 10 rooms to 50 with the conversion of an entire wing of the hospital.

Inside the rooms, the constant drone from the fans made talking on the phone and video calls difficult, further adding to the isolation patients endured, as they were alone on the ward with no visits from family and often tethered to oxygen machines or ventilators. Doctors and nurses entered COVID rooms fully clad in PPE gear: N95 masks, goggles,

face shields, gowns, latex gloves, and booties. They appeared otherworldly.

Once rounds were completed, the doctors left the contaminated rooms, fully disrobing and disinfecting before moving on to the next patient. It was time-consuming and exhausting.

During 2020 the doctors typically arrived at the hospital at 7 a.m. and often didn't leave until midnight or 1 a.m., collapsing once they arrived home, only to do it again the next day. In spite of the punishing regimen, one shared by many in the hospital's medical staff, "It was striking how dedicated people were: doing extra hours, staying late, putting themselves on the line," Mike says.

An additional stressor was the virulent nature of the virus, Imad says. "With COVID, there was always concern that you'd get the virus yourself, particularly early on when we were running out of materials that kept us safe." One critical piece of PPE, the N95 mask, was in short supply for a time, so masks had to be sterilized and worn several days in a row instead of being discarded after a single use.

Some specialists elected to eliminate one-on-one visits with COVID patients altogether, opting instead to practice telemedicine, which meant the infectious disease doctors and pulmonologists were often some of the only physicians regularly attending to patients, in addition to the nursing staff.

By late March 2020, Imad had contracted the virus, and with his bout came a constellation of symptoms that would become familiar: fever, shortness of breath, crushing fatigue, a loss of taste, a loss of appetite. His illness lasted two weeks, and he dropped 16 pounds. Like many others, he recuperated in isolation at home, away from his wife, Saadia, and children **Fawwaz '21, Ihsan '24, and Aadil '26.**

Patterns did begin to emerge during the pandemic. Most at risk were the elderly, people of color, those with compromised immune systems, and individuals with underlying health conditions such as kidney disease, obesity, diabetes, and lung problems.

Of course, many people who contracted this coronavirus experienced no symptoms or only mild illness, "It was the frail and high-risk patients who were filling up the COVID rooms and needing ICU care," Mike says.

As the city's infection rate grew, Steve fielded media questions as Baptist Hospital's medical spokesman, a role he has long played as an infectious disease specialist. He gave countless interviews to local news outlets, keeping the public abreast on the latest COVID information and reiterating the importance of mask-wearing, social distancing, and hand-washing as ways to keep the virus from spreading.

The peak of the pandemic finally arrived in Memphis in January 2021. By then, nearly half of the doctors' patients were battling COVID.

knowledge. This happened in such a condensed timeframe. To get a vaccine out in a year's time? That was totally unprecedented," Steve adds. "We'd never hoped for two vaccines with 95% efficacy. That was beyond a reasonable expectation."

Of great benefit was the federal government's collaborative partnership with pharmaceutical companies and the industry. The government's financial support and ability to fast-track the approval of drugs helped to hasten vaccine production. The development of messenger RNA or mRNA – the engineering of a synthetic antibody that, when injected into the bloodstream, produces a viral protein that activates the immune system – was groundbreaking. Traditionally, viral vaccines have used an inactivated or weakened version of a virus found in DNA; mRNA needs only the

“To get a vaccine out in a year's time? Totally unprecedented.”
- Steve Threlkeld

Racing for a cure

While the physicians labored in hospitals during 2020, scientists and researchers worked feverishly to learn more about the virus in the lab. The detective work required to understand COVID's complexities yielded thousands of papers that flooded journals and news outlets during the course of the year, all in a furious attempt to share vital information that might save lives. Many skipped the peer-review process, an unusual step for scientific studies, because of the urgent nature of the pandemic.

"It was all trial and error," Mike says. "It's not the way we like to do science, but it was important to get the information out fast. ... What drugs worked and what steps we could take to treat patients were all learned during the course of the illness."

"Science is usually a slow-cranking engine. You learn something, you write about it, then add and subtract that

genetic code for the protein of interest. These proteins stimulate the patient's immune system to produce antibodies thus mounting a response against the virus without posing a risk of infection. The work was also done in record time.

"As terrifying as it's been, it's been fascinating to watch the progress that's been made. The RNA vaccine will change lives," Mike says, "We will now have new vaccines possible for cancer."

The Threlkelds played an important role in the creation of the Baptist Infectious Disease Infusion Center at Baptist Memorial Hospital - Memphis, which took place in November 2020. There, high-risk individuals newly infected with COVID-19 received a new preventative drug: a monoclonal antibody treatment. The aim? To keep COVID-positive patients from becoming sicker with more serious symptoms. This is done by stimulating the patient's immune

system to ward off possible infection. Baptist created the free-standing infusion center, with negative-pressure rooms for administering the IV antibody treatment, making the hospital among the first in the nation to administer the drug. It was another important step in the discovery process of learning about COVID.

“Memphis was one of the first cities in the country to offer the monoclonal antibody bamlanivimab, which received government authorization [for emergency use by the Food and Drug Administration] in early November 2020,” Steve says. (The synthetic antibody was created by Eli Lilly and Company.)

Patients eligible to receive the drug must be infected with the virus for fewer than 10 days and considered high-risk with specific underlying conditions such as chronic kidney disease, hypertension, and obesity.

According to Eli Lilly, bamlanivimab targets the spike protein on the virus. The antibody is designed to block viral attachment and entry into human cells. Thus, the treatment, “puts the virus out of business,” Steve notes.

Approximately 4,000 doses have been administered to COVID patients in Memphis since November, says Steve, “and we’ve had a low rate of admissions to the hospital,” which indicates the effectiveness of the drug.

Practicing medicine together

The Threlkelds may be the only pair of siblings practicing infectious disease medicine together as clinicians in the United States, according to the Open Forum Infectious Disease podcast, which featured an interview with the brothers. Their partnership is hugely beneficial, since they often collaborate on cases, sharing knowledge and using each other as a sounding board as they treat patients. Luckily, they had their father and grandfather as role models, since the two physicians also practiced medicine together.

“Our grandfather was one of the first tenants to occupy the Peabody Hotel back in the 1920s,” Steve says. “My grandfather was a primary care physician, and our dad would soon be in practice with him.” They also had several uncles who were doctors.

Throughout their childhood,



How mRNA Vaccines Work

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, messenger RNA vaccines, also called mRNA vaccines, “are a new type of vaccine to protect against infectious diseases. To trigger an immune response, many vaccines put a weakened or inactivated germ into our bodies. Not mRNA vaccines. Instead, they teach our cells how to make a protein – or even just a piece of a protein – that triggers an immune response inside our bodies. That immune response, which produces antibodies, is what protects us from getting infected if the real virus enters our bodies.

“They cannot give someone COVID-19.

- mRNA vaccines do not use the live virus that causes COVID-19.

“They do not affect or interact with our DNA in any way.

- mRNA never enters the nucleus of the cell, which is where our DNA (genetic material) is kept.
- The cell breaks down and gets rid of the mRNA soon after it is finished using the instructions.”

For more information, visit tinyurl.com/CDCVAXFACTS

**“We’ll definitely see other viruses
... that we can’t even anticipate.”
– Mike Threlkeld**

the brothers learned plenty about practicing medicine at their father’s elbow, fielding calls in his office on Saturday mornings and observing firsthand how he cared for patients.

While their father was their first teacher, the brothers built on that foundation during their years at Memphis University School.

“MUS was one of the hardest schools I ever went to, and it had the



From left, Imad Omer, Steve Threlkeld, and Mike Threlkeld speak with Stephanie Yarbrow in the Infectious Disease Infusion Center at Baptist Memorial Hospital.

most talented group that I studied with. The teachers were nothing short of exceptional,” Steve says. He and his wife, Ginger, watched their son, **Colin**, graduate from MUS in 2016, and their daughter, Blair, from Hutchison School in 2018. “With such an extraordinary faculty, MUS has always had the talent to further your studies and interests. The prep you got was really amazing.”

Mike agrees, “I didn’t feel that college was ever more challenging than high school.” He and his wife, Susan, have daughters Elizabeth and Katherine who also graduated from Hutchison School, in 2002 and 2006 respectively.

The physicians went on to earn honor-laden degrees in medical schools, along with post-graduate work and fellowships.

Applying hard-won lessons

Despite the doctors’ exceptional schooling and decades of experience, the year of the pandemic brought lessons of its own as the medical community learned how to best combat COVID-19 – lessons that will be of value for years to come.

“As people travel more, they’re going to places they might not have gone to in the past, and they’re coming in contact with something and then have the chance to pass that bug along,” Mike says. “We’ll definitely see other viruses and new things come out that we can’t even anticipate. We’re long overdue for another influenza outbreak like the Spanish flu.”

Though 2021 is looking more promising thanks to the prevalence of vaccines, Imad thinks as people become vaccinated and rules around social gatherings and masking relax, “We may see more of an uptick in cases. And the more illness we see, the more opportunities we will have for variations and mutations to occur. There may even be something else out there that will rear its head.”

Although COVID-19 vaccines are widely accessible to those 12 and older, some people remain reluctant to receive them. All three doctors agree: The best thing you can do for your health is to get the shots. Says Steve, “You’re at greater risk when driving your car than you are receiving the vaccine.”

As we approach the year-and-half mark of the pandemic, there is hope. Now that vaccines can be produced synthetically, medicine begins a new chapter of discovery. The future potential of mRNA holds much promise for the creation of drugs that can be specifically tailored to fight different infectious diseases. Although the coronavirus pandemic will remain seared in our collective minds, this medical milestone will ultimately provide a much longer and more positive impact. ■

The three physicians of Threlkeld Infectious Disease have impressive educational resumes.

Dr. **Mike Threlkeld ’75** graduated with highest honors from the University of Tennessee Health Science Center and undertook post-graduate training in internal medicine at The Johns Hopkins Hospital, followed by a fellowship in infectious disease at the University of Alabama – Birmingham (UAB).

Dr. **Steve Threlkeld ’82** graduated magna cum laude from Rhodes College and attended medical school at the University of Alabama School of Medicine in Birmingham, from which he graduated with numerous awards for outstanding achievement. In addition to an internal medicine residency at UAB, he undertook post-graduate training at Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts General Hospital.

Dr. **Imad Omer** graduated magna cum laude from the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville and continued his medical training at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. He did his post graduate internship in internal medicine at UAB and continued with a fellowship in infectious disease, winning numerous awards for excellence in teaching.



From left, Imad Omer, Steve Threlkeld, and Mike Threlkeld

Young Debuts His First Book of Poetry

Tamaz Young '21 welcomed family, friends, and fans to a reading and the signing of his book of poetry, *Unrequited Expressions* (FriesenPress, 2021), in an event sponsored by the English Department held in the Dining Hall April 18.

Young, who has been writing poetry since he was 15, accomplished the unusual feat of publishing his first book his senior year. "The main idea showcases what it is like to be black in America," reads the text on the back of the book. His powerful "I'm A (Black) Man" concludes,

Any other man

Like a brother man

We're supposed to love one another man

Isn't that God's plan

Isn't that why He sent the Son of Man

To die for you and me and others man

He didn't choose to save a specific color man

He values all of us forever man

And that's why I'm proud to be a black man

Young's poems also reflect the musings of a young person trying to understand his world as he examines love, faith, truth, loss, morality, and family. In his poem "Music is Therapeutic," he writes about how music unites us all, and it is with us from the womb.

From the first rhythm you hear

Resting your head on your mother's heartbeat

The sound waves enter your ear

As the pulse lulls your body to sleep

English Department Chair **Elizabeth Crosby** opened the April program, saying Young and his brother, **Tylyn Young '21**, joined the MUS family when they were in seventh grade, "both boys endearing

themselves right away to their teachers and new friends." (Tylyn had a "signing" earlier in the year, when he pledged his intention to play football for Alcorn State.)

Crosby said Young brought "focus, insight, and energy to every AP English class discussion. ... Tamaz always brings the same maturity and sensitivity to difficult conversations among students in the Justice League club."

She then shared observations from fellow English teachers that paint a picture of the sensitive and analytical nature mirrored in his poetry.

Anne McWaters remembered an encouraging email Tamaz sent to her when he was in seventh grade. "I was a nervous new MUS teacher hoping that I was providing the encouragement these boys needed, and he was the one who encouraged me! It was such an indication of his kind spirit. ... He quickly emerged as a leader."

Michelle Crews said she knew Tamaz to be "not only a diligent and careful student but also one of the nicest young

men walking these halls. As an eighth grader, he was always prepared and curious. I've watched him grow as a scholar, poet, and writer, and I can't wait to see what he does with his gifts in the future."

Chris Colbeck, who discussed books with Young and coached him in lacrosse, reflected, "Maz represents everything I thought, wished, and hoped an MUS student could be: an intellectually curious scholar, a fearless creative soul, a community leader, a dedicated athlete, and a loyal friend and teammate."

A Student Ambassador and poetry editor of *The MUSE*, Young received two senior awards that reflect his passions: The Russell Johnson Creative Writing Award and the Religion Award. At graduation he received the D. Eugene Thorn Award (see page 23), an honor presented to seniors who demonstrate dignity, integrity, humility, and sincerity. In the fall he will head to Rice University where he plans to study civil engineering.

He is already at work on his second book. ■



Tamaz Young, foreground, with his family, from left, Reverend Love and Pearl Love, Lori Love, Tylyn Young, and Kyndall Smith.

AMAZON DENTIST

Shipmon's faith
guides missions to Peru
over three decades

BY JOHN MCBRIDE '17

Everything in the jungles of Peru bites – that is, except the people. **Tommy Shipmon '62** figured this out quickly when he began sticking his fingers in the mouths of Peruvian patients nearly three decades ago.

"The Lord has really protected us going down there," Shipmon says. "I feel like we've done some good."

In the mid-'90s Shipmon, a now-retired dentist, began traveling to Peru's Amazon rainforest to provide dental care in Shipibo-Conibo villages along the Ucayali River. Every year has

brought an array of opportunity, excitement, and heartbreak.

"We've had some funny things, and we've had some sad things," he says about his experiences. He recalls hearing news of children whose teeth he had pulled later dying from snake bites or illness, but he also remembers happier news of his patients moving out of the tribe into Pucallpa, a nearby city of more than 300,000 people, and finding success there.

Shipmon began his missions to Peru when longtime friend and medical missionary Dr. Coyle Shea all but begged him, he says, to join the expedition to pull infected teeth for people who do not have access to regular dental care. Shipmon accepted, but he needed an assistant. He approached Calvin Ozier, an acquaintance from church (and grandparent of **John Cal Ozier '26**), to come with him. That acquaintance quickly grew into a friend as their experience with the tribe strengthened their bond. Shipmon also recruited John Collier Dobbs, Sr. (an MUS classmate through the ninth grade), who made multiple trips with him before his passing in 2014.

Genaro, a Shipibo native, lived in Pucallpa, Peru, but he loved to accompany groups to his home village in the jungle where his family still lives.



Photo by Sue Strydom for The Liquid Legacy



Tommy Shipmon has collected mementos from his many dental mission trips to Peru.

SEEING THE CULTURE IN A NEW LIGHT

“You literally are stepping back in time to see how these people lived for thousands of years,” Shipmon says. “To see this culture in a different light has been an education in and of itself. I remember that first night they cooked us fish, and it happened to be piranha.”

In the Amazon, piranha is a common meal because it is considered cleaner than bottom-feeders such as catfish, a more familiar Southern U.S. staple that also swims in South American rivers.

The only rations the group brought from home were instant oatmeal, peanut butter crackers, candy, bottled water, and Tang, so when the time came to rustle up some grub, they had to rely on the people and their experience. He recalls a local taking them by canoe every night to participate in a Shipibo

tradition: alligator hunting.

“It’s very, very good if it’s done right,” Shipmon says. The Shipibo people used every inch of the night’s haul. Nothing went to waste.

Day after day they roughed it in the jungle, treating patients and dodging mosquitos. Shipmon worked from sunrise until supper taking care of patients and pulling teeth. On average, he says he pulled 200-300 teeth in a single week, making extraordinary use of his limited cleaning supplies and resources: Dial soap, Clorox, water from the Ucayali, and Ozier over his shoulder with a flashlight. Despite the agonizing heat and difficult working conditions, Shipmon says he has made the journey dozens of times because of the opportunities he has been given, advantages





SOMETHING CALLS HIM BACK INTO THE JUNGLE

that many in the world have not received. He still meditates on this disparity.

“Why were we given the opportunities that we have? I don’t know the answer to that,” he says. “That’s just something that blows your mind when you start thinking about it.”

Each time Shipmon comes home from Peru, he contemplates whether he can handle another journey below the equator; yet every year something not easily explained calls him back into the jungle. The Amazon rainforest is no place for the faint of heart.

“The Peruvian jungle on a full moon and no lights, no sounds except the jungle sounds – you sit there, and you start thinking, am I really making a difference?” Shipmon says. “I was talking to [missionary] Tom [Hough] about it, and he said, ‘Look, if you help 50 people down here a week, that’s 50 people that would have never been helped.’”

Hough, a friend Shipmon describes as a modern-day Indiana Jones, was raised in the Peruvian rainforest by missionaries and has dedicated his life to the people there. One way Shipmon assists Hough’s mission efforts today is by serving as chairman of the board for The Liquid Legacy, a Memphis-based nonprofit ministry making an impact by providing safe water to Peruvian communities, healthcare to those who normally have no access, and community development so the people can take their future into their own hands.

In working with The Liquid Legacy, Shipmon remembers visiting an orphanage to provide clean water for cooking, drinking, and bathing. He recalls seeing a small room



meant to sleep a dozen children and the heartache that caused.

“The Peruvian ladies that run that place, they’re going to be at the head of the line when they go to Heaven,” he says. “It’s amazing, the love and what they do with these kids.”

The Liquid Legacy organizes mission trips to Peru throughout the year with medical doctors, dentists, and anyone who wants to lend a hand, regardless of their skillset. Teams often stay at Casa Shea, a compound that can house 25 missionaries after exhausting days, named after the same Dr. Shea who approached Shipmon all those years ago.

The work is hard. The jungle is unforgiving. But Shipmon believes it is worth the struggle.

“Once you go down there, these people are so appreciative. They’re always smiling. It will change how you look at life,” he says. “The Lord loves these people.”

And clearly, so does Tommy Shipmon. ■

Above, medical personnel traveled the Ucayali River for five days, holding clinics in villages with little access to medical care. Pictured on these two pages are scenes from Pucallpa, Peru, taken by Sue Strydom for The Liquid Legacy, a Memphis-based nonprofit ministry providing resources to Peruvian communities. Tommy Shipmon is chairman of the board.





BRINGING HOME THE LAUDS

Peng Presidential Scholar Semifinalist



Ryan Peng '21 was among 625 semifinalists across the country to advance to the final round of the U.S. Presidential Scholars competition. Peng was selected from nearly 6,500 Class of 2021 candidates.

Inclusion in the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program, now in its 57th year, is one of the highest honors bestowed upon graduating high school seniors. Scholars are selected on the basis of their accomplishments in many areas – academic and artistic success, accomplishment in career and technical fields, leadership, strong character, and involvement in school and in the community.

A National Merit Finalist, Peng has distinguished himself both in academic achievement and in service to the school. He was a member of the U-TV crew, helping to produce video programs that were broadcast to homerooms several times a week throughout the school year in lieu of the chapel gatherings that were prohibited during the pandemic. He also applied his technical expertise to the production of *A Chorus Line* in Thomas Amphitheater. In recognition of his outstanding service, he received the MUS James Brescia Award for Unselfish Service in Dramatics, along with fellow technical crew member **Cooper Grinspun '21**.

At Commencement Peng received the Ross McCain Lynn Award for distinction in school citizenship, leadership, service, and character. (See page 23.)

He plans to attend Brown University in the fall. ■



Ryan Peng, who ran the sound board for *A Chorus Line* in Thomas Amphitheater, consults with technicians in the control booth, aka Schaeffer Bookstore.



Six Musicians Named to All-State

The West Tennessee School Band and Orchestra Association named six Owls to its All-State Band and Orchestra.

Frederick Huang '23, Gabe Chen '24, and Evan Wu '24 were selected for the All-State 9-10 String Orchestra. **Jeffrey Liu '23, Dannie Dong '24, and Joel Lim '24** were named to the All-State 9-10 Band, and **Eshaan Patnaik '24** was an alternate. The selected students were invited to participate in the virtual All-State Clinic on April 10.

These musicians were also among a record 25 students selected for All-West Tennessee honor bands. ■

Back row, Frederick Huang, Jeffrey Liu, Gabe Chen, Dannie Dong; front, Eshaan Patnaik (alternate), Joel Lim, Evan Wu



A Job – and Graduation – Well Done

BY JOHN MCBRIDE '17

The sky truly was the limit for the
Class of 2021 Commencement

Class of 2021 accepted to



colleges and universities
in 38 states, the District of
Columbia, Canada, and the UK



Elijah Graham



Warren Johnston



Drew Burnett



Birthdays mark milestones in life, retirements mark the end of a job well done, and weddings mark the beginning of a lifelong journey.

A graduation, however, serves all these purposes. It is a milestone in a young man's life, the ending of a job well done, and the beginning of a journey more fantastic than many can imagine at the time.

A better night could not have been envisioned as the young men of the Class of 2021 processed onto Hull-Dobbs Field to begin the second consecutive Memphis University School graduation ceremony to be held outside to allow for social distancing. Led by the Memphis Pipe Band, Senior Class President **Nash Stewart** carrying the school banner, the trustees, and the faculty, the seniors stepped onto the field with smiles that could be seen even from the top row of Stokes Stadium.

Student Council Chaplain **Elijah Graham** opened the ceremony with the invocation, followed by Social Studies Instructor **Orlando McKay's** prayer and Student Council Chaplain **Henry Nickey's** scripture reading. Beg To Differ performed *Precious Lord* before Headmaster **Pete Sanders** came to the stage to deliver his message to the senior class.

Sanders appropriately spoke on remembrance, saying, "remember the instructors here at MUS who labored to prepare you for the journey ahead; remember your classmates, many of whom are already or will be longtime friends; remember the school motto, *Veritas Honorque* – Truth and Honor." He also implored the class to remember the love and sacrifice of their parents and how the MUS family navigated the last, difficult 13 months. Finally, he reminded them that in their struggles in the classroom, dorm room, and library, even though they may



Senior Class President Nash Stewart leads the Class of 2021 onto Hull-Dobbs Field.

feel lost, they are never alone, as God is always with them.

Todd Erickson, pastoral executive at Second Presbyterian Church and assistant varsity soccer coach, delivered the baccalaureate message as the clear blue sky began to fade and the stadium lights shone down on the field. Opening with an exciting memory from an MUS soccer game the previous week, he thought back to the blessing it is to be a part of the MUS family, and he in turn invoked the gift of God's blessing on the senior class.

"You are a smart and gifted group of young men," Erickson said. "But I promise you, you're going to make some boneheaded decisions in the months and years ahead, and God's keeping will be a mercy and a grace to you."

He continued, "The peace that God offers is so much more than the world's peace. It's not simply the absence of conflict. No, the peace that God offers is wholeness, completeness ... it is an inner peace that exists even in the midst of our conflicts. It is peace with God."

Salutatorian **Cullen Lonergan** reflected on transitions over the last six years, paraphrasing BBC writer and producer Steven Moffat and saying, "We all change. We're all different people

Music by the Memphis Pipe Band accompanies the procession.

53

Colleges of matriculation

92%

of AP exams resulted in score of 3, 4, or 5 (through 2020)

15

Recognized by National Merit Scholarship Corp.

50%

Scored 30 or higher on ACT

1374

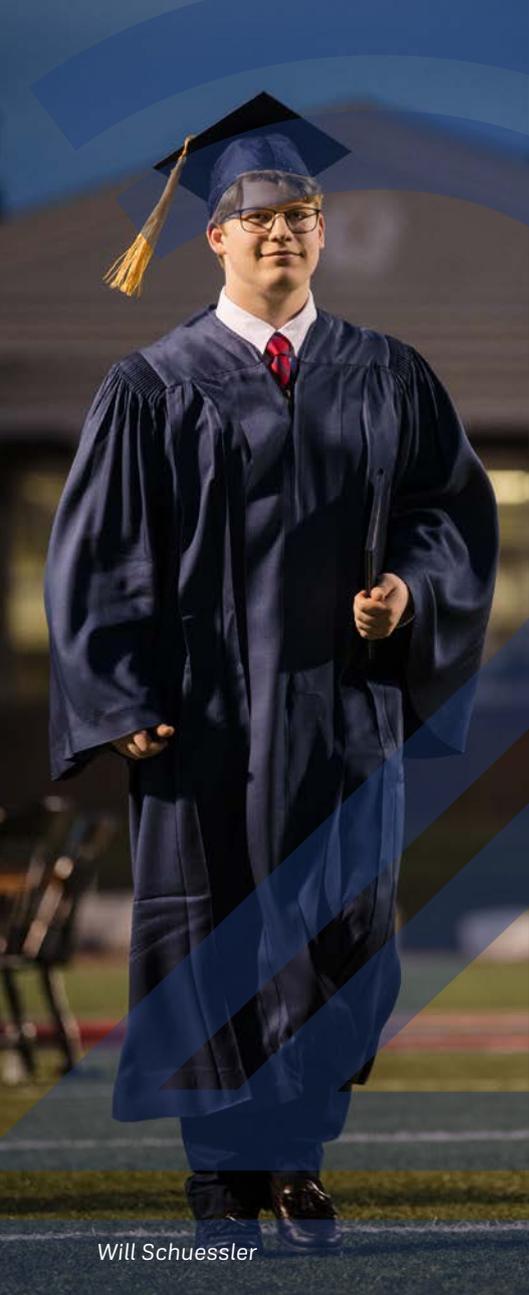
Average SAT

13

Athletes signed to play at the college level

15

Seniors helped stage *A Chorus Line* outdoors



Will Schuessler



Rhodes Heard



Tylyn Young

throughout our lives, and that's good, as long as you remember all the people that you used to be."

Beg To Differ returned to the field to sing *1927 Kansas City* followed by Valedictorian **Max Shackelford** and his farewell address to the good, the truth, and the beauty that MUS serves. He referred to a "mysterious magnetism" that drew him back to campus eight out of the 10 weekdays between his last day of class and his graduation.

Alumni, faculty, and students in the stadium likely could relate to Shackelford's characterization of the MUS pull, whether it is coming back to teach the next

generation of well-rounded young men of strong moral character or hearing that voice in the back of their head that fears the embarrassment of an incorrect participial phrase placement when writing a letter. The school has a way of sticking with its students, long after they are gone.

Following the valedictory, Assistant Headmaster **Barry Ray** announced names while Sanders and Board of Trustees Chair **Jim Burnett '83** granted 115 well-earned diplomas. Faculty members bestowed individual awards to students (see page 23) before Stewart presented the John M. Nail Outstanding Teacher Award to English Instructor **Michelle Crews** (see page 36).



From left, Braxton Hart, Peter Dailey, Vincent Perkins, DJ Brown, Jordan Helton



John Parker Hogan embraces Alex Coffman.



Wesley Butler, center, and classmates gather on Blankenship Field as they prepare to process into Stokes Stadium.

Sanders closed the Commencement by thanking the graduation committee composed of Lower School Principal **Loyal Murphy '86**, Ruth McCaughan Morrison Chair of Science **Analice Sowell**, and Classical and Modern Languages Chair **Ryan Sellers**. Honor Council President **Drew Burnett** delivered the benediction, praying that God would watch over them in the next chapter of their lives as they watch over one another.

At the end of the ceremony, Sanders counted to three before a flurry of caps flew into the air accompanied by a thunderous applause from the audience, but not as thunderous as what was to come. The

stadium lights went out, and suddenly the air was full of light and sound as a spectacular fireworks show lit up the campus.

It was the second year graduation was relocated from Second Presbyterian Church to Stokes Stadium because of the pandemic, but the members of the Class of 2021 did not seem to mind. For them it was one of those rare celebrations that marks the end of something wonderful and the beginning of something fantastic. ■

Athletics Awards

Seniors received the following awards April 26 during the Jake Rudolph All-Sports Banquet.

LEE MURRAY SPIRIT AWARD

Michael Gallagher
William Patteson

AL WRIGHT CHRISTIAN CHARACTER AWARD

Elijah Graham

PAUL T. GILLESPIE SCHOLAR-ATHLETE AWARD

Max Shackelford

JAMES R. HAYGOOD, III BEST ALL-AROUND ATHLETE AWARD

Edwin Shy



Michael Gallagher



Elijah Graham



William Patteson



Max Shackelford



Edwin Shy

Senior Awards

Seniors received the following special honors April 21 in recognition of their academic, artistic, extracurricular, and community service accomplishments:

WILLIAM D. JEMISON, III AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN DRAMATICS

Aidan Saunders

JAMES BRESCIA AWARD FOR UNSELFISH SERVICE IN DRAMATICS

Cooper Grinspun, Ryan Peng

CHORAL MUSIC AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE

Aidan Saunders

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE

Braxton Hart

ART AWARD

Matthew Phillips

TERRY N. SHELTON ENGLISH AWARD

Max Shackelford

RUSSELL JOHNSON CREATIVE WRITING AWARD

Tamaz Young

FRENCH AWARD

Leo Campbell

WAYNE E. DUFF LATIN AWARD

Fawwaz Omer
Max Shackelford

SPANISH AWARD

Dutch Hansen
Matthew Jones

H. JERRY PETERS HISTORY AWARD

Max Shackelford

MARGARET OWEN CATMUR SCIENCE AWARD

Wesley Butler

RELIGION AWARD

Tamaz Young

AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED COMMUNITY SERVICE

Paul Jones
Holden Pate

DEWITT M. SHY, JR. MOCK TRIAL AWARD

Harmon Colvett



Senior academic award recipients gather on the steps of Hyde Chapel after the award ceremony April 21. Front row, from left, Holden Pate, Paul Jones, Fawwaz Omer, Braxton Hart (center), Wesley Butler, Matthew Phillips, Ryan Peng, Cooper Grinspun; back row, Leo Campbell, Harmon Colvett, Dutch Hansen, Matthew Jones, Aidan Saunders, Max Shackelford, Tamaz Young

Commencement Awards and Honors

Honorees from the Class of 2021 received the following awards during Commencement May 16.

VALEDICTORIAN AWARD

Max Shackelford

This award is presented to the senior with the highest average over eight semesters of work at MUS.



Valedictorian Max Shackelford

SALUTATORIAN AWARD

Cullen Lonergan

This award is presented to the senior with the second highest average over eight semesters of work at MUS.



Salutatorian Cullen Lonergan

FACULTY CUP FOR GENERAL EXCELLENCE

Max Shackelford

This is the highest honor given to a member of the graduating class. With outstanding leadership and strength of character, the recipient of the Faculty Cup has earned the highest respect of his peers and teachers for the generous contributions of his time, talent, and energy to the school and its ideals.



Faculty Cup recipient Max Shackelford with Mr. Norman Thompson

ROSS MCCAIN LYNN AWARD

Drew Burnett, Hart Gowen, Matthew Jones, Akbar Latif, Ryan Peng, Harm Thomas

This award is given in memory of Ross McCain Lynn, the school's headmaster from 1955 to 1978. It recognizes distinction in the areas of school citizenship, leadership, service, and character.



Lynn Award recipients Ryan Peng, Harm Thomas, Drew Burnett, Hart Gowen, Akbar Latif, Matthew Jones

LEIGH W. MACQUEEN DEAN'S CUP FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Max Shackelford

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 a graduate who, based on his academic record and his performance on both a written and an oral examination, has demonstrated a high level of academic achievement along with a marked depth of intellectual maturity and curiosity and who, in the minds of the examining committee, has indicated sound intellectual attainment.



Dean's Cup recipient Max Shackelford with Mr. Flip Eikner '77

MARK COOPER POWELL MEMORIAL AWARD

Stephen Cates William Patteson Jacob Rickels

This award is given in memory of Mark Cooper Powell '80 by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Edward L. Powell. It is given to the graduates who, through persistence and courage during their careers at MUS, have shown the greatest development of character and scholarship.



Powell recipients Stephen Cates and William Patteson

D. EUGENE THORN AWARD

Elijah Graham, Braxton Hart, Colin McCown, Henry Nickey, Will Schuessler, Tamaz Young

This award is given in memory of D. Eugene Thorn, the school's headmaster from 1978 to 1992. It is presented to those members of the senior class who best demonstrate the dignity, integrity, humility, and sincerity that characterized Mr. Thorn's years as coach, teacher, and headmaster at MUS.



Thorn Award recipients Will Schuessler, Colin McCown, Braxton Hart, Tamaz Young, Elijah Graham, Henry Nickey

SCOTT MILLER REMBERT SENIOR SERVICE AWARD

Michael Gallagher Cooper Grinspun

This award, established by family and friends, is made in memory of Scott Miller Rembert '70. It goes to those seniors who have shown the most unselfish service to the school.



Rembert Service Award recipients Cooper Grinspun and Michael Gallagher with Mr. Lin Askew



Congratulations Class of 2021



Ohio Dominican University Elliot Allen	Southern Methodist University Ahmad Alsafwah	University of Memphis Omar Alyouef	University of Tennessee, Knoxville Joseph Barnes	University of Missouri, St. Louis Warren Barry	Southern Methodist University Jack Beard	The University of Alabama Banks Benitone	University of Missouri, Columbia Torrance Bostick
Texas Christian University Stephen Cates	University of Arkansas Alex Coffman	United States Merchant Marine Academy Jack Collins	University of Missouri, Columbia Harmon Colvett	University of South Carolina, Columbia Doug Curtis	University of Missouri, Columbia Peter Dailey	Lehigh University Luke Donovan	University of Mississippi Austin Dowdle
University of Mississippi Elijah Graham	University of Chicago Cooper Grinspun	University of Southern California Dutch Hansen	University of Mississippi William Harris	Washington University in St. Louis Braxton Hart	Mississippi State University Rhodes Heard	Tennessee State University Jordan Helton	Tulane University of Louisiana Zachary Herman
Kennesaw State University Ke'Juan Jones	Vanderbilt University Matthew Jones	University of Tennessee, Knoxville Paul Jones	The University of Edinburgh Akbar Latif	United States Naval Academy Roderic Lewis	United States Air Force Academy Caleb Littlejohn	Georgia Institute of Technology Cullen Lonergan	University of Tennessee, Knoxville Marcus Love
University of Mississippi Everett Miller	University of Mississippi Watts Miller	Rhodes College Jack Morin	Texas Christian University Gavin Murrey	University of Tennessee, Knoxville Jason Nguyen	University of Mississippi Charlie Nichols	The University of Alabama Henry Nickey	Fordham University Fawwaz Omer
University of Memphis Jacob Rickels	University of Mississippi Wade Roberts	University of Central Arkansas Darren Robinson	University of Mississippi Henry Robinson	University of Mississippi Jack Rogers	Baylor University Daniel Russell		
University of Mississippi Nash Stewart	University of Tennessee, Knoxville Carrigan Sulcer	University of Tennessee, Chattanooga Dempsey Terhune	Southwest Tennessee Community College Carlos Thomas	University of Mississippi Harm Thomas	University of Arkansas Cason Triplett		

<p>Macalester College</p>  <p>Evan Boswell</p>	<p>University of Tennessee, Knoxville</p>  <p>Cameron Bouley</p>	<p>The University of North Carolina at Charlotte</p>  <p>D.J. Brown</p>	<p>University of Arkansas</p>  <p>Holden Brown</p>	<p>Rhodes College</p>  <p>Ben Burkhart</p>	<p>University of Mississippi</p>  <p>Walker Burks</p>	<p>University of Mississippi</p>  <p>Drew Burnett</p>	<p>Colorado School of Mines</p>  <p>Wesley Butler</p>	<p>University of Oklahoma</p>  <p>Leo Campbell</p>
<p>The University of Alabama</p>  <p>Chip Eason</p>	<p>University of Tennessee, Knoxville</p>  <p>Mason Ezzell</p>	<p>The University of Alabama</p>  <p>Judson Fair</p>	<p>Randolph-Macon College</p>  <p>Cade Fick</p>	<p>University of Tennessee, Knoxville</p>  <p>Jack Fortenberry</p>	<p>University of Mississippi</p>  <p>Michael Gallagher</p>	<p>The University of Alabama in Huntsville</p>  <p>Miller Galloway</p>	<p>University of Mississippi</p>  <p>Christopher Goodwin</p>	<p>Duke University</p>  <p>Hart Gowen</p>
<p>University of Mississippi</p>  <p>John Parker Hogan</p>	<p>University of Denver</p>  <p>Griffin Hood</p>	<p>DePaul University</p>  <p>Christian Howard</p>	<p>University of Arkansas</p>  <p>George Howard</p>	<p>University of California, Santa Cruz</p>  <p>Joe Hudson</p>	<p>United States Naval Academy</p>  <p>Jack Jabbour</p>	<p>University of Arkansas</p>  <p>Will Jarratt</p>	<p>Clemson University</p>  <p>McKnight Johnston</p>	<p>Auburn University</p>  <p>Warren Johnston</p>
<p>University of Denver</p>  <p>Thomas Lusk</p>	<p>Southern Methodist University</p>  <p>Mac Magness</p>	<p>The University of Denver</p>  <p>Paul Marr</p>	<p>Rhodes College</p>  <p>Colin McCown</p>	<p>University of Arkansas</p>  <p>Hud McGehee</p>	<p>Hampden-Sydney College</p>  <p>Ayman McGowan</p>	<p>College of Charleston</p>  <p>Reid McGowan</p>	<p>University of Missouri, Columbia</p>  <p>Gavin McKay</p>	<p>The University of Texas at Austin</p>  <p>McLan Meeks</p>
<p>University of Arkansas</p>  <p>Mason Pahlow</p>	<p>University of Missouri, Columbia</p>  <p>Chris Parks</p>	<p>University of Tennessee, Knoxville</p>  <p>Holden Pate</p>	<p>University of Tennessee, Knoxville</p>  <p>William Patteson</p>	<p>The University of Alabama</p>  <p>Samy Paul</p>	<p>Brown University</p>  <p>Ryan Peng</p>	<p>Millikin University</p>  <p>Vincent Perkins</p>	<p>Texas Christian University</p>  <p>Matthew Phillips</p>	<p>University of Arkansas</p>  <p>Miller Pisahl</p>
<p>University of Tennessee, Knoxville</p>  <p>Carson Rutherford</p>	<p>University of Memphis</p>  <p>TR Santos</p>	<p>University of Memphis</p>  <p>Aidan Saunders</p>	<p>Fordham University</p>  <p>Will Schuessler</p>	<p>University of Tennessee, Knoxville</p>  <p>Sam Scott</p>	<p>Davidson College</p>  <p>Max Shackelford</p>	<p>University of Mississippi</p>  <p>Dan Shell</p>	<p>The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill</p>  <p>Edwin Shy</p>	<p>College of Charleston</p>  <p>Stefan Smith</p>
<p>University of Tennessee, Knoxville</p>  <p>Jon Van Hoozer</p>	<p>Texas Christian University</p>  <p>Wes Vanderslice</p>	<p>Auburn University</p>  <p>Will Watson</p>	<p>Sewanee: The University of the South</p>  <p>Max White</p>	<p>Sewanee: The University of the South</p>  <p>Weber Wilson</p>	<p>Auburn University</p>  <p>J.P. Wood</p>	<p>University of Tennessee, Knoxville</p>  <p>Michael Wylie</p>	<p>Rice University</p>  <p>Tamaz Young</p>	<p>Alcorn State University</p>  <p>Tylyn Young</p>

Legacies Take to the Terrace

The annual Legacy Luncheon was a breath of fresh air, as masks came off and seniors gathered on Alumni Terrace with their alumni fathers and grandfathers.



Warren Barry '21,
Warren Barry '74



Jack Beard '21,
Chris Beard '84



Banks Benitone '21,
Trevor Benitone '91



Jim Burnett '83,
Drew Burnett '21



Andy Cates '89,
Stephen Cates '21



Frank Colvett '88,
Harmon Colvett '21



Luke Donovan '21,
Tim Donovan '85



Jason Fair '89,
Judson Fair '21



Miller Galloway '21,
Stephen Galloway '82



George Howard '21,
Nathan Howard '92



Lon Magness '85,
Claude Crawford '58, and
Mac Magness '21



Ken McCown '77,
Colin McCown '21



Hud McGehee '21,
Norris McGehee '81



Reid McGowan '21,
Greg McGowan '86



Everett Miller '21,
Ted Miller '86



Gavin Murrey '21,
Gavin Murrey '86



Sam Nickey '89,
Henry Nickey '21



William Patteson '21 holds
the 1912 yearbook picturing
his great-grandfather,
J.S. Patteson, Jr.



John Russell '87,
Daniel Russell '21



Sam Scott '21,
Jody Scott '87



Dan Shell '21,
Dan Shell '90



Sellers Shy '90,
Edwin Shy '21



Stefan Smith '21,
Bryan Smith '91



Jon Van Hoozer '88,
Jon Van Hoozer '21



Will Watson '21,
Frank Watson '84

Nancy Arant Served with Grace and Precision

BY BONNIE BARNES, FACULTY EMERITA

There are many professionals at Memphis University School who quietly work their hearts out – people you may never get to know – and they make the school experience better. Librarian **Nancy Arant**, who retired in May, is one of those people.

Nancy and I met while I was a librarian at Hutchison School, and she was working at St. Agnes-St. Dominic. We got to know each other as we worked together in our consortium of Memphis independent school librarians. When I became director of the Hyde Library in 2006, I was thrilled she decided to join our staff. She easily took over many of the daily tasks. Since then, our work has been closely intertwined, and her ideas have enriched our offerings.

She helped start our library newsletter, she sponsored book clubs, and she assisted with the process of selecting, buying, and adding materials to the collection. When those books, ebooks, and audiobooks arrived, she cataloged them with precision.

Cataloging a book is one of the most intellectually challenging tasks in library work. You can have 40,000 books, but unless you use the right words for your student population, they may not be able to find what they need. You have to be something of a technologist, a linguist, and also a psychologist – it is important here to understand how teenage boys might think. Nancy did a wonderful job of making our book collection accessible.

She helped me in so many ways, keeping me on task at times, helping me think through decisions, filling in whenever needed, assisting students, preparing conference presentations, creating displays, and gracefully undertaking the daily tasks – staffing the Welcome Desk, shelving books, and serving food for special events.

Most of all, she has been willing to give of herself to our community, whether tracking down reference materials, helping with quiz bowl tournaments, or welcoming visitors at Parents Back to School Day.



David and Nancy Arant, pictured at the faculty retiree reception

Nancy graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in English from Davidson College, followed by a Master of Librarianship at Emory University; and she compiled nearly 25 years of library, computer-assisted instruction, and research experience before joining the Hyde Library staff. She served as president of the Memphis Area Independent School Library Information Consortium for 10 years. She and her husband, David, are the parents of **Morgan Arant '08**. In retirement, Nancy is looking forward to spending more time with her first grandchild, George Holliday Arant, born March 13.

The chair she received at the retirement chapel is inscribed with a quote from one of her favorite authors, Jane Austen: “I declare after all there is no enjoyment like reading.” Although the character who spoke the words in *Pride and Prejudice* – the devious Miss Caroline Bingley – did not really mean them, I feel sure that Jane Austen herself did believe them.

The following passage, originally written about Jane Austen by her brother Henry in 1818, reminds me of Nancy.

“Of personal attractions she possessed a considerable share. Her stature was that of true elegance. ... Her carriage and deportment were quiet, yet graceful. Her features were separately good. Their assemblage produced an unrivalled expression of that cheerfulness, sensibility, and benevolence, which were her real characteristics. ... She delivered herself with fluency and precision. Indeed, she was formed for elegant and rational society, excelling in conversation as much as in composition. ... No one could be often in her company without feeling a strong desire of obtaining her friendship. ... She was tranquil without reserve or stiffness; and communicative without intrusion or self-sufficiency.”

As the board resolution naming her faculty emerita read, “Mrs. Arant served the MUS community with professionalism, generosity, and warmth and will be greatly missed.”

MUS is a better place for having had Nancy here, and I hope she will have many happy times ahead. ■



A Salute to Friend and Leader Bonnie Barnes

BY FLIP EIKNER '77, ACADEMIC DEAN

The closing words of our *MUS Hymn* are “alma mater, friend and leader, University.” I can think of no more fitting a set of closing words for Mrs. Bonnie Barnes’ invaluable tenure at Memphis University School as our Director of the Hyde Library.

Mrs. Barnes has certainly been a leader in her field. She came to MUS in 1999, serving as a librarian until 2006 when she became director of the library and spearheaded its renovation. For her contributions to the school and the greater community, the Tennessee Association of Independent Schools presented her the 2018 Hubert Smothers Award.

Here at MUS, Mrs. Barnes’ leadership is appraised by one of her coworkers this way: “Bonnie has been simply the best ‘boss’ I have ever had. She is objective, fair, reasonable, approachable, and open to discussion. She is organized, and does her tasks completely and very well, but she is also good at delegating and appreciating the work we do. She has long been respected in the library community, city- and statewide.”

Mrs. Barnes has clearly been a friend, identified by one coworker as “thoughtful and caring, considerate and kind” – the sort of friend with whom one can joyfully share mutual interests in music, art, nature, reading, gardening, and bird watching (especially and appropriately, an owl family that nests in her trees every year). And she is the kind of friend who shares and offers support, and benefits in turn herself from support, through all the delights and trials of being a wife and mother – the elation of new arrivals, the fretful anxieties of things gone wrong, and the painful sadness of departures.

Napoleon Bonaparte challenges us this way: “Show me a family of readers, and I will show you the people who move the world.” As if they were her own family, Mrs. Barnes has been a devoted nurturer of students who may one day move

the world. As a perennial teacher of seventh-graders, she has fostered a flourishing family of readers – acting for all of us as an “alma mater” – that is, literally, a “nourishing mother.”

As a mother of two boys [**Dylan Baker '06** and **Evan Baker '10**], Mrs. Barnes knows how boys think and act, and her maternal insights have guided the library’s redesign to make it more comfortable and welcoming; she has well understood the literal importance of “nourishing,” by providing breakfast treats and hot chocolate to students on weary semester-exam mornings, and by tying discussions of summer-reading books to the consumption of savory pizza.

As one of her library colleagues puts it, “Bonnie is unfailingly kind and understanding in her dealings with everyone in the school community. She is tenacious in her desire to encourage our students to become lifelong learners through reading.” Alma mater, indeed. With the concern of an experienced parent combined with the wisdom of a lifelong educator, Mrs. Barnes understands the crucial importance of books, as encapsulated in Fran Liebowitz’s epigram: “Think before you speak. Read before you think.” This is why we all are at Memphis University School.

“University.” A university is a community (that is, a community of teachers and scholars); a large number associated into a universe; literally, a whole world turned into one. Books are the foundation of any university, of any scholarly community turned into one.



Bonnie Barnes, center, at the retiree reception with her sons, from left, Evan Baker and Dylan Baker

As F. Scott Fitzgerald reminds us, “That is part of the beauty of all literature. You discover that your longings are universal longings, that you’re not lonely and isolated from anyone. You belong.”

Mrs. Barnes has tried to make library resources easily available and enjoyable. Whether adding recent fiction or graphic novels, or making the collection more accessible digitally, or installing more digital research software, she has tried to give all her students an up-to-date, modern world in which they all belong – to bring them to Nick Hornby’s epiphany: “Books are, let’s face it, better than everything else. If we played Cultural Fantasy Boxing League, and made books go fifteen rounds in the ring against the best that any other art form had to offer, then books would win pretty much every time.”

Mrs. Bonnie Barnes has certainly been a winner pretty much every time. As a coworker concluded, “What else can I say, except she is a pretty neat person?”

Alma Mater, friend and leader, University – Mrs. Barnes, how kind the fate that brought you to our halls. We wish you the very best in your retirement, and we will miss you. ■



A Big Cheer for Mini Mrs. DeBar

BY CLAY SMYTHE '85, INSTRUCTOR IN RELIGION

Give me a D-e-b-A-r-d-E-l-E-b-E-n! What's that spell? Do we really have to say it? No? OK, just say, "DeBar! Mrs. DeBar," that's all, and that's a lot. The biggest name for the tiniest person, but one with the largest spirit, her glow filling any room she occupies like the welcomed arrival of Oz's Glinda, the Good Witch of the North. Except **Julia DeBardeleben** hails from the South ... from Byhalia. Hail, yeah!

Twenty-one years ago in the fall of 2000, Mrs. DeBar brought her famous, often-mispronounced and consistently misspelled last name from the PDS kindergarten to the newly renovated Hull Lower School office. Working for then-Principal **Rick Broer**, Mrs. DeBar, seemingly, perpetually infused with light and life, would inherit the now-familiar broad edifice of the imposing front desk within the freshly renovated offices and new southern front entrance. Buttressing the Springfield Foyer, Mrs. DeBar began what would become her two-decade run as the unquestionable highlight of every parent's, student's, and faculty member's first Lower School experience, from when they entered the building to when they exited for the day. Students ultimately departed her Hobbit shire as they would eventually

matriculate westward from where codes and creeds, grammar and friends are introduced, on to new adventures in the Upper School.

Seated on the fulcrum between a storied history of Lower School and the fresh future of advancing Upper Schoolers, Mrs. DeBar witnessed a parade of adolescent boys navigating the existential crisis of their teenage wasteland. Sometimes a needed advocate, always a trusted respite, Mrs. DeBar faithfully, consistently set the tone. Guarding the makeup test gateway like a cherubim dutifully maintaining her post but with a reassuring smile, she would call your name, maybe ask a personal question, and distribute the required materials. For the office phone illiterate, she would provide directions for those unfamiliar with a keypad and headset, "push 9, wait for the tone." Sometimes she would even listen in and advise boys to honor their father and mother, given what she heard as an ungrateful spirit. That simple exchange could often make the difference between a terrible day and a tolerable day. That's the power of the DeBar Elixir.

In school tradition students don't want to visit the principal's office. It's not known to be a happy place. Principal's office visits manifest images of confrontation, exposure, anxiety, and dread. Sometimes those manifestations are warranted in the life of a student.

However, The DeBar provided a glimmer of hope, a lighthouse, a therapist, a mother, a guidepost, in short – pardon the pun – a friend for students, faculty, and alumni.

Married 38 years this August, the biological mother of three MUS graduates [**Alex '03, Phillip '06, and Miles '07**], patron saint of numerous other graduates, coming to aid in student crises both known and unknown, Mrs. DeBar executed her duties here with grace,



Julia DeBardeleben with her son Phillip DeBardeleben, daughter-in-law Kassitee DeBardeleben, and grandchildren Skip and Campbell

discretion, humility, humor, and mercy.

I'm convinced our habitual intercom problems stem from the projection of Mrs. DeBar's robust, high-pitched voice running electrical magnetic interference over the resultant stripped wires. When excited, her distinctive decibel was capable of industrial paint removal, no doubt honed from years cheering along the Marshall Academy sidelines. But, you know, our Byhalia mighty-might is a natural cheerleader, getting behind her boys, her homies, from their earliest days in our Lower School program, over there where the son rises first, from her mother-hen perch within that preliminary Owls coop, the foundation of the greater MUS family of escalating matriculation products.

Mrs. DeBar: the chief personal cornerstone of most who run the gauntlet here. Her life and light no doubt will live in the hearts of men for decades to come as they mature eventually and come to their senses, as they fashion their homes, their families in reflection, emulation, and gratitude upon the grace, hospitality, and hope extended to them when they were but boys. Her boys. Her homies. ■

A Message from Mrs. DeBar

*I start each morning with
a simple prayer:*

*"Make me a better person
than I was yesterday.*

*Let me make a difference
for at least one boy."*

*Guys, from me to you, remember this:
Let your light shine before others that
they may see your good deeds and
glorify your Father in Heaven.*

*I love you. I'm going to miss you.
I will never forget you.*



Celebrating a Quarter-Century at MUS

Four members of the faculty and staff were named honorary alumni for their 25 years of dedicated service.

Elizabeth Crosby

Since her arrival in 1995, **Elizabeth Crosby**'s involvement in the life of MUS has been nothing short of remarkable.

"Passionate about her subject, tireless in helping her students, unselfish in her service to the school, Elizabeth embodies a committed professional," says **Lin Askew**, the Sue Hightower Hyde Chair of English. "She is the best MUS offers: a dedicated teacher, a responsible chairperson, a devoted friend."



Elizabeth Crosby

Crosby has taught English at every grade level, including courses in AP Language and Composition, American Literature, and Seventh Grade English, plus senior electives. She was named department chair in 2013.

Beyond the classroom, her activities reflect her wide-ranging interests:

- MUS in Europe director (named in 2021); developed and taught for eight summers an MUS in Europe course on the literature of WWI
- Founder of the Justice League in 2017 and faculty advisor
- Founder and chair of the Owls Read program

- Chair of the school DEI Committee and champion for the Strategic Plan's Inclusivity goal
- Mock Trial Team advisor since 1995
- Serves on the Academic Council, the Admissions Committee, and the College Scholarship Committee

Her greatest hallmark, however, is the care she extends to her students with an empathy surely honed through her experience with her son, **Andrew Crosby '14**, who walked these same halls.

"Ms. Crosby is extremely helpful and goes above and beyond to prepare her students for college," says **McRae Dickinson '22**. "Even throughout the summer, she worked with me to improve my college essays, revising drafts multiple times until we both felt that they would give me the best chance at acceptance. She is a very skilled teacher and truly cares about her students."

Reece Needham '22 says Crosby is one of his most influential teachers. "She not only builds her students' confidence as writers but also encourages them to pursue new and challenging ideas. She has empowered me to be brave in my work and to break the notion that I 'simply could not write.' She showed me a love for writing that I never knew I had."

Josiah Crutchfield '18 describes how Crosby found ways to engage him when his interest in school was waning junior year. "She developed my interest in Black history and issues Black people face by giving me books to read. With the Justice League, she held a space for discussions to be held ... and we also participated in a memorialization of [lynching victim] Ell Persons and saw [*Just Mercy* author] Bryan Stevenson speak," Crutchfield says.

"Few teachers truly found a way to connect with me like Ms. Crosby did. She helped me realize what matters to me in life."

Claire Farmer

Claire Farmer may be the school's No. 1 cheerleader. With her longtime experience – beginning as Lower School administrative assistant in 1995 and now as director of the Annual Fund – she possesses vast knowledge of the school and of class after class of boys. More important, she has a heart for both.

"The gifts of Claire's time and talent have been huge assets to the Development Office," says Director of Alumni and Parent Programs **Ann Laughlin**.

"Whether it's an early morning class rep breakfast or a late night parent or alumni Phonathon, she is here to support and encourage the volunteers. She realizes the significance of keeping alumni connected to the school and is always a team player when it comes to events we offer to support that involvement."

As director of Alumni and Parent Programs from 2000-06, Farmer organized or assisted with activities that fostered family and alumni participation, from Homecoming weekend to the alumni tent at Memphis Botanic Garden's Live at the Garden. In addition, she helped implement the Parents' Association's Safe Home Program to address the problem of teenage drinking and drug use.

"She inspires people to get involved," Director of Advancement **Perry Dement**



Claire Farmer



once said, “and is our No. 1 friend-raiser.”

In 2010 she became director of the Annual Fund, working to raise money for operations and special purchases, from air conditioners, to phone systems, to band instruments, to science data-acquisition systems. That same year she was honored with the Jean Barbee Hale Award for Outstanding Service.

Farmer was a strong supporter of the Faculty Portrait Series, sponsored by the Alumni Executive Board. “The school has changed so much, many of our alumni don’t recognize it anymore,” she said. “Seeing portraits of their beloved teachers in the Dining Hall reminds them of their experience here.”

A high school cheerleader who earned a bachelor’s degree from University of Tennessee, Farmer was the sponsor for the MUS cheerleaders from 1999 to 2007, earning her the 2007 Lee Murray Spirit Award (named for the late **Carter Lee Murray ’94**). She led cheerleading clinics, assisted with countless basketball and football games, and organized many away-game bus trips. She has been a welcoming presence in the basketball box office since 1996.

With her long tenure at MUS and her affinity for connecting with people, she has become a clearinghouse for information about students, their families, and alumni – including sons **Ken Farmer ’03**, and **Matt Farmer ’06**, and daughter, Kristen Farmer, a 1999 Hutchison grad and – naturally – an MUS cheerleader.

Marilyn Reinhardt

Instructor in Latin **Trey Suddarth** says he delights in meeting alumni who had Miss **Marilyn Green** as a Latin teacher. The encounters typically go like this: “He relates his sheer terror at trying to remember his verb conjugations and noun declensions for her,” Suddarth says. “What makes this even better is when the same alum relishes the idea of his own son attempting the same for Mrs. **Marilyn Reinhardt**.”

After earning a bachelor’s degree from Vanderbilt followed by a master’s in Latin, she came to MUS in 1973 (when she was Miss Green) and taught Latin for eight years, leading several trips abroad. When she returned in 2004, Reinhardt had worked on the university level and served as the state chair of the Tennessee Junior Classical League. In 1980 she was co-chair of the National Junior Classical League Convention at the University of Tennessee, and she was named Tennessee Classical Association Teacher of the Year. She had remained connected to MUS by tutoring students.

During her second tenure at 6191 Park Avenue, she taught Latin I and II – even teaching her son, **John Reinhardt ’07**, for a semester – and led teams on at least 10 trips to National Junior Classical League conventions. She also organized and led six Spring Break trips to Italy to explore the heart of Roman culture. When she received a Hale Fellowship in



Marilyn Reinhardt

2010, Reinhardt took a summer trip to Rome and Campania to plan for future Spring Break immersions by creating personalized maps and handouts that would enhance the student experience.

William Merriman ’15 remembers his ninth-grade trip to Rome, Naples, and the Amalfi Coast with Reinhardt. “The experience broadened my conception of the world and ignited a passion for classical learning, Italian history and culture, and architecture,” he said in 2018. “I [later] traveled to Milan and Florence with my dad to see an Inter Milan soccer game and visit other historic sites for an unforgettable father-son trip, and I served as translator, tour-guide, and know-it-all ... I blame it completely on Latin.”

Classical and Modern Languages Chair **Ryan Sellers** says under Reinhardt’s leadership over 100 MUS students have had the opportunity to enrich their classroom learning through travel. “Exploring the streets of Pompeii and visiting the monuments and museums in Rome is an invaluable educational experience for any high school Latin student,” he says.

As a teacher who has studied her subject extensively, taught Latin I to Latin IV, and traveled frequently to Roman sites, “Marilyn brings a wealth of knowledge and experience,” Sellers adds. ■

For an article on
25-year honoree
Elliott Dent,
see page 40.





Hale Award Honors Two Pandemic Champions

BY JOHN MCBRIDE '17

It seems fitting that an unusual year would be capped off with a twist – two Hale Award recipients instead of the usual single honoree. Headmaster **Pete Sanders** presented the award to Contact Tracing Coordinator **Dave Ferebee** and Director of Technology **John Simi** at a faculty luncheon in May in recognition of their outstanding service during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dave Ferebee: Mitigating the Spread

Contact tracing, daily student health screenings, and regular reports to the Health Department do not sound like the makings of a dream job, but these tasks were essential in the 2020-21 school year, especially when uncertainty and fear were high. Not just anyone could take on these responsibilities, but Dave Ferebee's dedication to detail and will to keep the

students and faculty safe made him the perfect person for the multifaceted job.

Throughout the summer he worked closely with the administration and staff to help design a health system that allowed MUS to open at first in a hybrid model, with one group of students online and one group on campus at any given day, and after Fall Break with a fully open campus. After consulting with medical professionals close to MUS,



John Simi, left, and Dave Ferebee received the Jean Barbee Hale Award for Outstanding Service. It is the first time since the award was founded in 1998 that the award had two recipients in the same year.



it was clear that constant testing was not feasible. Rather, a rigorous contact-tracing regimen to identify positive cases and those who had been close to them would mitigate the spread of the virus.

Ferebee became somewhat of a detective, interviewing students who tested positive to determine their close contacts and maintaining a complex spreadsheet to keep track of it all. He diplomatically spoke with families to inform them of the quarantine period and when a student could return to campus. “Dave has a good manner with students and parents and is able to ... convey crucial information to the MUS community,” Sanders said in presenting the award.

Early in the school year, when the Shelby County Health Department conducted inspections of the campus, Ferebee highlighted the school’s protocols, including contact tracing, social distancing, and ventilation.

By mid-September, Sanders was able to report, “We were pleased to receive a rating of 100% compliance with COVID-19 guidelines during a Shelby County Health Department inspection last week.”

The first semester also saw daily student health screenings by parents, with status reports submitted online. Students who did not have a daily report submitted lined up at the Upper School and Lower School offices for a quick health check, and Ferebee was there to assist.

He arrived at MUS in 1999 and has served a total of 19 years, variously as athletic trainer, PE Department chair, and coordinator of athletic equipment purchasing and travel. He graduated from The Ohio State University in 1992 with a bachelor’s in exercise science and a minor in human nutrition and earned a master’s in exercise and sports science from The University of Memphis. Before coming to MUS, he was an athletic trainer at HealthSouth

Rehabilitation Center and worked with college and professional sports teams.

As evidenced by a year on campus, his experience was vital during the pandemic. “We do owe you a great debt,” Sanders said, “and maybe this award is a down payment on that.”

John Simi: Going Virtual

One day in February 2020, Sanders saw John Simi in the hallway and asked about the possibility of moving instruction online in case this new virus in China made its way to the United States. By the next day, Simi had created a plan for remote learning and had emailed his proposal to Sanders and Academic Dean **Flip Eikner ’77**. It was just a few weeks before the country was suddenly shut down and instruction was forced online for the remainder of the semester. Simi had spent hours researching available data and combing school technology listservs to come up with the framework that would form the basis for remote learning in the months ahead.

Throughout spring 2020, Simi and his team worked tirelessly, often clocking 16-hour days, to make sure the faculty could teach and the students could learn effectively in the challenging circumstances. In March 2020 the IT Department saw a 100% increase in help tickets compared to March 2019, yet they provided essential help and troubleshooting in a timely manner.

Their efforts did not end when classes did. The task for the summer was determining how to safely open in the fall. There was a strong likelihood that at least a portion of the school year would be in hybrid mode, so Simi and the tech team – composed of Technology Assistant Directors **Arthur Rosario** and **Jonathan Saunders**, Technology Instructor **Raina Burditt**, and Tech Support Specialist **Michael Escue** – held

38 different summer classes for 68 faculty members, providing a total of 409 hours of faculty development. Other efforts included creating instructional videos for students, beefing up the laptop reserves, and increasing the internet range outside the buildings. The IT Department also acquired a dozen Meeting Owl 360-degree cameras that could be used to broadcast classroom sessions to students at home.

Simi brought vast experience to his role. He graduated from Memphis State in 1985 with a bachelor’s in secondary education and earned his master’s in educational leadership from University of Memphis in 1998. Formerly a classroom teacher, he began his IT career in 1993 as a technology trainer for Shelby County Schools and helped start the Bartlett City Schools technology system. He joined the MUS staff as director of instructional technology in 2015 and became director of technology in 2017.

In presenting the award, Sanders said, “John was invaluable to the school before the pandemic, but I can honestly say I don’t know how we would have gotten through this past year without his expertise, efficiency, and can-do attitude.”

Simi responded, “I am grateful and humbled by this honor, but I accept it on behalf of this whole department. It is our job to support what you all do every day in the classroom.” ■

*The Jean Barbee Hale Award for Outstanding Service was established in 1998 by Ben Hale to honor his wife Jean Hale for her 24 years of service and dedication to Memphis University School. The Hales sent three sons to MUS, **Scott ’78, Dennis ’80, and Steve ’84.***



Stalls Combines Head for Numbers and Heart for Students

To hear why **Phillip Stalls** is a worthy recipient of the 2021 Distinguished Teaching Award, look no further than his fellow Mathematics Department co-chair, **Darin Clift**.

“There are two characteristics that make Mr. Stalls such a great teacher: his vision and the fact that he’s a natural born leader,” Clift says. “On a macro level, he can spot future trends in mathematics education and then direct the Math Department to meet those future trends. On a micro level, he can pinpoint a student’s deficiency in math and guide him to success beyond what he thought possible.”

Brothers **Jake Meskin ’17** and **Daniel Meskin ’20** both speak about Stalls’ thoughtful nature and willingness to provide support. “Mr. Stalls cares a lot about his students and always puts everything else aside when they go to him for help,” says Daniel, now at the University of Michigan.

Jake, a real estate analyst with Barings in New York, adds, “I went to Mr. Stalls for help with all of my math classes whether he was the teacher of the class or not, and I am forever grateful for his guidance.”

Fred Schaeffer ’22 says Stalls encourages his students to be the best they can be in and out of the classroom. “Mr. Stalls genuinely wants the best for all of his students and is a true role model for all young men at MUS. I think of him as a man who follows the fruits of the spirit as Paul outlined in Galatians and a man that cares about others more than himself. He encourages his students and others around him every day with his quick-witted jokes and positive attitude.”

Jack Fernandez ’20 recalls the entertaining anecdotes that kept him engaged during class. “One story that stands out was one about how he used his math background to develop

algorithms for trading [commodities],” says Fernandez, who studies at University of St Andrews in Scotland.

Before Stalls’ senior year in college, he was recruited by a San Francisco investor to use statistical analysis to create a formula for trading commodities – a formula that greatly benefited his client.

Preston White ’15, who plays Minor League Baseball for the San Francisco Giants, describes his teacher’s dedication. “Mr. Stalls’ teaching impacted me not only at MUS, but also in college when he took time out of his busy schedule to help me with a business analytics class. What sets Mr. Stalls apart is his genuine love for teaching and investment in the lifelong success of his students.”

the Jackson Roberts Fellowship Selection Committee, and as an After School Academic Program monitor.

Stalls earned a bachelor’s in mathematics at The University of the South and a master’s in statistics at Florida State University. After graduating he served as math department chair at Bartlett High School for three years where he also coached the baseball and quiz bowl teams. In 2006 he became the first president from an independent school of the Memphis-area affiliate of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) and served for eight years in that position. Along with teaching at the secondary level, Stalls has served as an adjunct mathematics professor for over 20 years

“Mr. Stalls genuinely wants the best for all of his students and is a true role model. ... He encourages his students and others around him every day with his quick-witted jokes and positive attitude.”

– Fred Schaeffer ’22

Stalls came to Memphis University School in 2011 from Lausanne Collegiate School, where he was Math Department chair for nine years. Since then, he has taught a full range of courses, from Algebra 1 to Advanced Placement Calculus, and he created the MUS Honors Calculus curriculum. In 2018 he was named co-chair of the department along with Clift.

Outside the classroom he has helped coach the quiz bowl and the robotics teams, and he has assisted with math tournaments. He also has served on the Graduation Awards Committee,

teaching courses ranging from College Algebra to Statistics to Calculus at Florida State University, Southwest Tennessee Community College, and Union University.

One of his lesser-known roles was as the public address announcer and broadcaster for Christian Brothers University men’s and women’s basketball games and host of CBU’s Hall of Fame ceremony for over a decade.

In presenting the award at the faculty luncheon in May, Headmaster **Pete Sanders** cited Stalls’ work as a lay leader at Germantown Baptist



Phillip Stalls is the 2021 Distinguished Teaching Award honoree.

Church, where he currently serves as chairman of the deacons.

Clift sums up his view of his colleague: “The man has taken charge of baseball teams and quiz bowl teams and math teacher organizations and educational programs and deacon bodies and on and on and on. He gives of himself willingly wherever he is needed; MUS and the greater Memphis community is a better place because Phillip works to make it that way.”

Stalls says he is “deeply humbled,

honored, and grateful” to receive the Distinguished Teaching Award. “In my 10 years at MUS, I have come to work each day thankful for the opportunity to be here. The community that has taken me in and made me one of their own has become like family, and I cannot imagine teaching anywhere else,” he says. “I am especially thankful for my colleagues in the Math Department. These men and women inspire me to be a better person and teacher, and I will forever be thankful for their encouragement and support. ■

The Distinguished Teaching Award endowment fund was established in 1990 through a generous bequest by John Murry Springfield. Springfield joined the Memphis University School faculty in 1958 and served as an instructor in English and mathematics until 1971. From 1971 until his death in August 1989, Springfield served as principal of the Hull Lower School. The monetary award is given annually to an MUS faculty member who demonstrates excellence in both the classroom and extracurricular activities.



Seniors Honor Crews with Nail Award

Orchestrating Special Awards Night. Playing piano concerts. Relaunching the Lower School newspaper. Officiating the Spelling Bee. Advising the Mock Trial team. Performing in *Julius Caesar*. Lending a hand with Lower School CSO. Instructor in English **Michelle Crews** shares her talents in many arenas. But it is her warm and welcoming nature that was likely behind her selection by the Class of 2021 for the John M. Nail Outstanding Teaching Award.

“Like many MUS teachers, Mrs. Crews is passionate about her subject, but she truly creates an enjoyable class environment and makes MUS feel like home,” says **Elijah Graham ’21**. “As an insecure seventh grader, I was so blessed to have a teacher who molded me into a proud Owl ready to take on high school.”

Warren Johnston ’21 says Crews was one of his favorite teachers. “Anybody who knows her would agree that it is always a joy to see her. Her contagious smile and positive attitude can brighten anyone’s day. Not only is she a great teacher, but she is also an amazing person.”

Class of 2021 President **Nash Stewart** presented the award at Commencement.

“I loved that class even before they gave me the award!” Crews says. “After years of watching colleagues, for whom I have so much respect, win the Nail Award, I was incredibly honored to have won the award this year. The Deupree family [who helped establish the fund] is very generous, and I feel so humbled to have been given this honor.”

Crews, who earned a bachelor’s degree in English from the University of Mississippi and a master’s in English from the University of Memphis, came to MUS in 2012. She had previously taught at Briarcrest Christian School.

Although she has specialized in teaching eighth-grade English, she also has taught Music Appreciation and American Literature and a senior elective on Jane Austen. This fall she will teach British literature, and she is taking on another new role: basketball cheerleading sponsor.

English Department Chair **Elizabeth Crosby** summarizes what makes Crews an exceptional teacher: “Michelle’s passion for the great storytellers, such as Austen and Dickens, combined with the talent required to teach clear and precise writing is academic magic. She always demonstrates both patience for the boys where they are at the moment in her classroom and absolute belief in the men they are becoming. Her students trust that devotion to their



Michelle Crews and Class of 2021 President Nash Stewart

development and want to live and work into her high expectations of them.”

Michelle and her husband, **Johnny Crews ’84**, can often be seen cheering on the Owls at games on campus. They are the parents of two alumni, **Tripp ’13** and **George ’17**. The family members surprised her at Commencement to congratulate her on receiving the Nail Award. ■



At Commencement, from left, John and Kaki Crews, Johnny Crews, George Crews, Michelle Crews, Tripp and Ashley Crews

The John M. Nail Outstanding Teaching Award was established in 1988 in memory of John M. Nail by his former students. Mr. Nail taught English and history at MUS in the late 1950’s, instilling in his students an enduring “love of learning.” Nominations for the John M. Nail Outstanding Teaching Award are made each year by a Selection Committee of student leaders from the Senior Class, and the recipient of the Outstanding Teaching Award is determined by a majority vote of the Senior Class.



College Counseling Director Appointments

We welcomed **Jenny Byers** as director of College Counseling and Student Programming in July. She is serving alongside **Zach Hansen**, whose revised title is director of College Counseling and Strategic Initiatives, reflecting expanded responsibilities. In addition to Byers' counseling role, she will give oversight to the development of student programming to enhance learning and strengthen students' college applications.

Byers served as director of College Counseling at Harpeth Hall School in Nashville beginning in 2006, following four years as director of College Counseling at Brentwood Academy. During her time at Harpeth Hall, Byers served on the Leadership Team and Academic Council, coordinated PSAT, AP, and SAT school-day testing, and oversaw NCAA initial eligibility and the administration of several student grant programs and the College Counseling Fund. Prior to her college counseling career, she worked as associate director of Undergraduate Admission at Washington University in St. Louis.



She holds a Master of Arts in Human Resource Management and a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Business from Washington University in St. Louis.

Byers is the founder and director of the annual Girls' School College Counselor Conference (2007-present) and the facilitator for the National Coalition of Girls' Schools Headways for College Counselors professional development program. She served as program chair for the Association of College Counselors in Independent Schools from 2011-14 and received the organization's Marty Elkins Award for Excellence in College Counseling in 2014. She and Hansen married in 2019.



Deitrich New College Counselor



Jake Deitrich brings college admissions experience to his role as assistant director of College Counseling. He previously served as assistant director of Admissions at Syracuse University

and head English teacher at Avalon English in Seoul, South Korea. Deitrich earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Hobart and William Smith Colleges where he was a student government representative. He also served on the student staff of the Alumni Office and Admissions Office, conducting tours and coordinating events. He received a Master of Science in Public Communications from Syracuse University.

Loden Named Science Chair

Headmaster **Pete Sanders** has announced that **Analice Sowell** is stepping down as Science Department chair, and **Lee Loden** is taking on the role. Sowell, the Ruth



McCaughan Morrison Chair of Science, has been a member of the faculty since 2007, teaching chemistry and materials science. She has led the department with distinction since 2013.

Loden, who came to MUS from Lausanne Collegiate School in 2011, teaches physics and robotics. He recently was named one of 10 grand prize winners of the Teacher Innovator Awards presented by the Emmy-winning show "The Henry Ford's Innovation Nation." (See related story, page 38.)

Stephond Allmond '10 Student Life Coordinator



Stephond Allmond '10 joined the staff as coordinator of student life this summer. He will work with students to advise them on programs and activities, serve as a mentor, and foster inclusion among all groups. He will also coach football and track. Allmond most recently worked with the homeless as a Salvation Army housing monitor. From 2017-19 he was a robotics teacher and fourth-grade science and social studies teacher at Cherokee Elementary. MUS Class of 2010 president, Allmond was a member of the Wilson Society and the Red and Blue Society, and he was selected the Pepsi Best of the Preps

Private School Athlete of the Year. He earned a degree in sociology with a minor in film and television from East Tennessee State University where he competed in track and field.

Cacioppo Assistant to the Headmaster



Michele Cacioppo joined the staff as the administrative assistant to the headmaster in June. Cacioppo served as an executive, administrative, and research assistant at Och-Ziff Capital Management in New York City from 2007-12. She previously served as a research and marketing assistant for IREO Management & India Equity Partners and Deniad & Co., both in New York City. While raising her children, she undertook part-time roles as an operations manager for KidsGoCo and Peacock Family Center in Bainbridge Island, WA. She earned a bachelor's

degree in biological anthropology and archaeology from Harvard University.



Loden Honored for Innovative Teaching

BY JOHN MCBRIDE '17

Memphis University School physics and robotics instructor **Lee Loden** was one of 10 grand prize winners of the Teacher Innovator Awards presented by the Emmy-winning show “The Henry Ford’s Innovation Nation.” “I really don’t set out to be innovative,” says Loden, the only recipient in Tennessee. “Any teacher will tell you that teaching can be very rewarding, but it can also be complete drudgery, and the difference between the two is figuring out a way to get the kids to buy in.” The challenge of getting kids to buy in was exacerbated in spring 2020 by the

pandemic, but Loden offset that challenge with a series of videos for remote learning titled *Physics at the Farmhouse*. In these videos he demonstrated physics concepts such as mechanical advantage and center of mass with practical examples from his home, including pulling a stubborn stump from the ground and making sure his tractor did not tip over on hills. One video for his robotics class even shows how he automated his hen house to open and close at certain times to keep foxes and raccoons away. “Lee really is our handyman in the department,” says Ruth McCaughan Morrison Chair of Science **Analice Sowell**,

who recommended Loden apply for the honor. “Many times, he has kids right there watching when he thinks of something to modify or is repairing something that we use in lab.” (Sowell recently stepped down as Science Department chair, and Loden has taken on the role.) In search of ways to provide new and relevant content to his physics students, Loden applied for the MUS Hale Fellowship for Faculty Development in 2017. He ended up receiving the fellowship and used it to learn the physics of sailing firsthand by earning American Sailing Association 101, 103, and 104 certifications that summer in Florida. What he found



Every year, when learning about mirrors and lenses, Lee Loden’s students carry the “Death Ray” outside and use the properties of a concave mirror to set materials on fire. Loden says, “It’s for research purposes, of course ... not just because it’s fun.”



Loden was one of 10 grand prize winners across the country in the Henry Ford Teacher Innovator Awards.

in his training, though, was not only the knowledge of how a sailboat could sail into the wind, but also new applications of simple machines to show his students. He shared his experience in a school assembly presentation that next fall.

Loden has taught at MUS for 10 years, bringing nearly 20 years of experience in engineering, manufacturing, and teaching.

The Henry Ford Teacher Innovator Awards recognizes 20 teachers – 10 first prize and 10 grand prize winners – across America who encourage students to pursue their passion through innovation. The grand prize winners received funds for use in the classroom, professional development tools, and a one-year subscription to The Henry Ford’s educational products. (The Henry Ford is a museum complex in Dearborn, MI.) Nominees submitted a short biography, a narrative video explaining what innovation means to them and how they use it in the classroom, a lesson plan, and a video of students explaining how they have benefitted from the teacher.

“Initially, before I even took [physics], I came in thinking that it was going to be an extremely hard subject,” said **Braxton Hart ’21**. “But what I found is that if you have a good teacher, it doesn’t matter what you’re covering; you’ll learn. And Mr. Loden is definitely one of those teachers.” ■

Towner Named Head Lacrosse Coach



Buck Towner ’07 took the reins of the varsity lacrosse team as acting head coach for the 2021 season, and he was named head coach in May. He replaced 24-year Head Coach Elliott Dent, who stepped down from the role in November (see story, page 40).

Towner, the school’s director of Admissions and Enrollment Management, was a team captain for the Owls and a two-time all-state selection as a midfielder. While earning a degree in economics at the University of Tennessee, he began his coaching career as a volunteer offensive assistant at Webb School of Knoxville. He served as an assistant coach at MUS for eight years, focusing on defense and contributing to five state championships. In 2018 he was named Tennessee Scholastic Lacrosse Association Assistant Coach of the Year. He is also known for his development of the sport in Memphis through the Buzzards Lacrosse Program for grades 1-6. Many Owl players have known him as a coach since they were 6 years old.

Towner joined the Admissions team in 2014 and four years later became director of Admissions and Enrollment Management.

Trenthem to Direct Library



Wendy Trenthem is the new director of the Joseph R. Hyde, Jr. Library Learning Center. Trenthem comes to MUS from Rhodes College, where she was an instructional technologist, working with faculty to select and use the best software for their pedagogy and assisting with online course design and remote teaching strategies during the pandemic. From 2012-19 she served as the information services librarian at Rhodes, working the main help desk to answer research and technology questions. In addition, she taught research and library skills and supervised 25 student help desk assistants.

Previously, she was a librarian at Maria Montessori School in Memphis for 10 years and Memphis College of Art for two years.

She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Art History from Rhodes, a Master of Library and Information Science from the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at University of Texas at Austin, and a Graduate Certificate in Instructional Design and Technology from University of Memphis. She has served on a number of steering committees at Rhodes, including the First-Year Seminar Steering Committee and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Quality Enhancement Plan.

Wadsworth Strength-Conditioning Coach



Chris Wadsworth joined the athletics staff as strength and conditioning head coach/program supervisor in April. Wadsworth earned a Bachelor of Science in Health and Human Performance: Exercise Science at University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, and he holds the following certifications: ACSM Certified Exercise Physiologist, USA Weightlifting Level 1, and CPR/AED. Most recently assistant strength and conditioning coach at McCallie School in Chattanooga, he also served as head trainer and coach at Onsite Fitness in that city, and strength and conditioning assistant coach

at PLAE in Atlanta. Previously, he undertook internships in the field at Florida State University, Clemson, and Baylor.



DENT DYNASTY

Lacrosse Alumni and Aficionados Celebrate Their Coach

Lacrosse at MUS has always had the feel of family, and that extended family – nearly 175 players, coaches, parents, and friends – gathered for a grand family reunion May 29 to celebrate 24-year Head Coach **Elliott Dent**, who stepped down from the role in November.

Players from throughout the years and around the country reconnected with their coach on the patio overlooking the Mississippi at Carlisle's Hyatt Centric Beale, before they filed inside for dinner and a tribute-filled video. City Councilman – and Owl assistant coach – **Chase Carlisle '03** presented Dent with a proclamation marking the third Saturday in May as Elliott Dent Day in Memphis.

Jason Lewin '98 introduced a 40-minute recorded tribute, saying, "I wanted to gather a bunch of videos together from past players and coaches to let you know what you meant to everybody else. ... From the bottom of my heart, thank you for everything you have done."

Headmaster Emeritus **Ellis Haguwood** kicked off the tributes with the oft-repeated tale of Dent's preppy attire – complete with bowtie and loafers with no socks – at his 1996 employment interview. "I said, 'This is going to be good,' and it has been very good ever since. Congratulations, Elliott, on an outstanding career as our head coach and all the recognition your teams have brought to MUS."

Dent took the podium to an ovation worthy of a lacrosse state championship. Showing his framed 25-year certificate granting him honorary Memphis University School alumnus status, Dent praised the school and the mentors who have influenced his life, including lacrosse coaches **David Gearhardt** and **Pat DiMento** and his fellow faculty members.

"It's been an unbelievable experience, and I love you guys," he said, addressing the assembled athletes and friends. "I love the times we had together. I love the memories."



Below, the Dent family at the celebration, Elliott and Stephanie with children, from left, Eliza, Elliott, and Isabel.

Dent offered his gratitude to those who took a chance on him, to those who have been along for the journey, and to those who put the evening together. Then he mused about the concept of time. "Anyone who knows me knows time has always been something that has been beyond my grasp," he said, as the audience – many of whom were familiar with his late-night practices – erupted in laughter. Noting how time can accentuate positive memories and erase negative ones, he said, "I am blessed to be a part of this, but I don't know if I

deserve all the credit that I am receiving from you guys."

Thomas Robinson '00 presented his coach with a framed jersey, saying, "Now that you're an MUS alum, we realized you never got the chance to wear an MUS jersey, so we got you one."

Kyle Slatery '04 presented "The Playbook of Elliott Dent," a scrapbook featuring memories from every year he coached at MUS, collected from his players.

"The introduction reads in part: To anyone outside the MUS Lacrosse program, your success is obvious. You took over a young lacrosse team and transformed it into a powerful program. For 24 years, your teams won more than their fair share, winning big as favorites, and storming back as underdogs. You brought the best out of your players, year after year, teaching people to love the game and sending them





Dent Built MUS Lacrosse Excellence

Memphis University School Head Lacrosse Coach **Elliott Dent** announced in November that he was stepping down from that role after 24 years, but he continues to serve on the faculty as a religion teacher.

“I am grateful to Coach Dent for helping build the MUS lacrosse program – and, indeed, lacrosse in the Mid-South – to what it is today,” Headmaster **Pete Sanders** said.

Dent said the opportunity to teach and coach attracted him to the school. “Connecting the classroom and the field for my student-athletes has been my calling. Lacrosse at MUS is not just a team; it is a community, and I am grateful to be part of it.”



The Class of 1999 showed up in force for the tribute, from left, Brad Rouse, William Gates, Ben Bailey, David Forsythe, Billy Kuntz, Mac McFarland, and Bill Mealor.



Muddy's Bake Shop provided bowtie cookies. At right, City Councilman Chase Carlisle, with Jason Lewin, presented the proclamation marking the third Sunday in May as Elliott Dent Day in Memphis.



“I have immensely enjoyed my 24 years as head coach. I thank all the past and present student-athletes, coaches, parents, and the entire MUS lacrosse community for making the program what it is today. Most important, I thank my wife and children for their sacrifices in allowing me to serve.”

Arriving from Hampden-Sydney College in 1996, Dent turned a fledgling varsity sport into a competitive interscholastic program. He quickly began compiling a remarkable 293-78 record with 13 state championships, and he coached 34 All-Americans. In addition, he played a major role in the development of the primarily East Coast sport in Tennessee.

Dent was named *The Commercial Appeal's* Lacrosse Coach of the Year eight times. He was TSLA Coach of the Year in 1999 and served as president of the TSLA from 1999-2004. In 2002 he was the coach for the West All-Star Team in the United States Lacrosse High School All-Star Games, and in 2019 he was assistant coach for the Under Armour All-America Highlight Division South Team. Under his leadership the MUS summer lacrosse camp has introduced many boys to the game. ■

out into the world to keep playing, coaching, and passing it on. Few coaches have achieved as much.”

Robinson praised Dent's wife, Stephanie, to an ovation that rivaled her husband's. “Not only did you loan us Elliott for so much time. Often, I'm sure you expected him home at 6 o'clock, 6:30, 7 o'clock, 7:30. You could always do ground balls no matter how dark it was. By your support of him and in extension your support of us, you're as much a part of the team as anybody. We really appreciate ... all you did for your family and for us, digging in so deep.”

Slatery spoke about the grassroots effort that launched lacrosse, comparing it to the grassroots effort that led to the tribute. “A lot of us were sitting around thinking about Coach Dent this year, and it took one of us to find another one to start the conversation. One turned into two, two turned into 20, and 20 turned into 200, which is us tonight – and the 2,000 kids who will eventually come out of MUS lacrosse because of Coach Dent.

“When you think about time, I always felt you had nowhere else to be ... except with us.”

(continues on page 42)



That sentiment likely was shared by many in the room. From the words of his former players, fellow coaches, and supporters, it's clear the Dent Lacrosse Dynasty has left lessons and impressions that will be remembered time after time.

(Following are tribute excerpts. For more, see the video at tinyurl.com/MUSlaxdent.)

PREPARATION

In general, the quotient of pure athleticism among the [MUS] players was inferior to our competition throughout the state. Coach compensated for this by having us so well versed in each facet of the game that our team was greater than the sum of its parts. The net effect was a sense among the players that, no matter what the other team threw at us, Coach would have an answer. He always did. We won state every year I was in the Upper School.

– *Harvey Kay '01*

Coach Dent taught us if there is anything you want to do in a game, you have to practice it. ... In the spring of 2004, he wanted to spice up practice when the field was slightly muddy. He told **Jimbo Rainer '05** to get in the goal, then he proceeded to sprint toward the goal, launched himself into the air taking a behind-the-back shot, and landed flat in the mud. So, the whole team started practice that day doing diving behind-the-back shots in the mud.

– *Kyle Slatery '04*
St. George's Independent School
Head Lacrosse Coach

You were probably the most prepared and caring individual that I've ever met. I loved competing against your teams because they were always well prepared. Honestly, you kept me up at night. So if I look old, it's your fault!

– *Troy Kemp*
McCallie Lacrosse Head Coach (1992-2019)

MOTIVATION

I'll always remember those visualization drills, lying on the ground, eyes closed, hearing about how Rome was not built in a day and getting so fired up about what we were trying to build. The passion you brought to the field day in and day out was such a huge part of what made MUS lacrosse such a special experience for me.

– *Stuart Gillespie '04*

What made Coach Dent great is that he built a culture around doing the little things the right way, and he rewarded players for learning this value. When you do that ... players understand they are responsible for their own individual development, and they are responsible for team building and their relationships therein. Elliott taught us to think. He taught us to be learners. He did not treat us like chess pieces on a chess board. He instilled in us autonomy and treated us as ends in and of ourselves and not as a means to his ends.

– *Kyle Slatery '04*

As I walked from the locker room to the practice field, I'd be thinking, 'What is Coach Dent going to have for us today? Is it Art of War? Is it the Roman Empire? How is Coach going to fire us up and get us to the next level?' To me that was the magic of Coach Dent – that culture he and others helped us enjoy and thrive in. ... It's incredible to think how many people in Memphis and around the country have benefited from being a part of the culture that Coach Dent built.

– *Dan Gibson '05*
former Notre Dame Lacrosse midfielder

LASTING LESSONS

I am proud to be able to say I was Elliott Dent's assistant coach. You've left a legacy second to no one. You've left an imprint on hundreds of young men. You've created memories for families that will not be ever forgotten.

– *Pat DiMento*
MUS Assistant Lacrosse Coach (1994-2016)

Being able to coach [the Lower School lacrosse team] with you this year has been one of the best years for me. ... Watching the impact you have made and continue to make on these kids' lives IS your legacy.

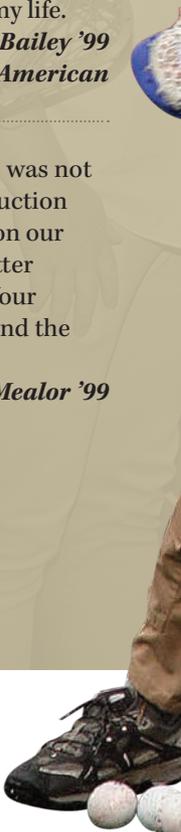
– *Jeffrey Block '94*
MUS Lower School Head Lacrosse Coach

The biggest lesson I learned from you as a coach is relationships are not transactional. You taught me how to evolve as a player myself with the teammates around – what made other people contribute in the most valuable way to the team. I [practiced] that in coaching during my tours of duty and afterward coaching kids. Changed my life.

– *Ben Bailey '99*
Navy All-American

Coach Dent, you always said, 'Rome was not built in a day,' and it is under construction still with the Mealor boys, working on our lacrosse skills, working on being better teammates and better gentlemen. Your legacy lives on here, going well beyond the bounds of any lacrosse field.

– *Bill Mealor '99*





You taught me to set big goals and to go after them without any fear of failure, and more importantly, you taught me how to give my absolute best in a way that benefited the team. Your teaching has really been foundational in my life, and when I'm at my best, I can see values that you placed at the core of MUS lacrosse.

- Thomas Robinson '00

Member of 2003 national champion Colorado State University team, White Station Lacrosse Coach (2008-14)

A little over 25 years ago, I asked you what I needed to do to be good at lacrosse. You said, 'Get a stick and make the wall your best friend.' Little did I know that would lead to a lifetime of friendships, collegiality, and coaching together.

- Whit Tenent '00

MUS Assistant Lacrosse Coach (2005-17) Rhodes Assistant Lacrosse Coach

GRATITUDE

You would take chances on guys who weren't necessarily the best athletes in the school, and you put them together and made them a hell of a lot better than they were individually. We had an incredible time doing it, and we were successful. Thank you for all your years building that program. It would not be there without you.

- Battle Williford '01

Elliott Dent's impact on my life and the lives of many other lacrosse players has been incredible. His mission has always been consistent with that of MUS. Preaching character and encouraging a team-first mentality, Coach Dent taught life lessons on the lacrosse field and in the classroom.

- Buck Towner '07

MUS Director of Admissions and Head Lacrosse Coach

I'll never forget the support you gave me and my family my senior year when my mom, a big MUS lacrosse supporter, passed away. Thank you again for your support and your contributions to MUS.

- Jeff Daniel '11

Coach Dent, thanks a ton for everything. To me you were more than an instructor, more than a coach. You were a true teacher. Whatever we wanted to do on the field, off the field, you helped us get there.

- Kamar Mack '15

One of the most valuable lessons you taught me is to do all the little things the right way, and everything else will take care of itself. You have changed so many people's lives, and we love you for it.

- Barry Hillyer '09

As the son of a high school head coach, I know all the time and dedication and sacrifices that you made to spend so much time with us, the players. I really appreciate it, and I know we all do.

- Josiah Crutchfield '18

Without you, I wouldn't be where I am today, and for that I am truly thankful.

- Bobby Wade '18

Duke Lacrosse midfielder





Robert Jones Hussey, Jr., 1932 - 2021

Former Memphis University School trustee Robert J. “Bobby” Hussey, Jr. died peacefully in his Memphis home on May 20.

Mr. Bobby Hussey, who served on the MUS Board of Trustees from 1981-89, had continued a tradition begun by his father, Robert J. Hussey, Sr., a founding member of the board who served from 1954-61. Bobby’s son, **Rob Hussey ’81**, is a current trustee.

In 1984 Bobby, along with brothers **Edwin Hussey ’63** and Richard Hussey, established the Robert J. Hussey, Sr. Chair of Religion to honor their father.

Born on October 27, 1932, in Memphis, Bobby was the eldest child of Robert and Kathleen Hussey. He attended The Baylor School in Chattanooga and earned his business degree from the University of Mississippi. He then served as an officer in the United States Navy. In 1960 he married Eva Mae Duncan, and they spent the early years of their marriage in Greenville, SC.

After the Navy he entered the cotton business, following in the footsteps of his father and grandfather. The first seven years of his career were with McFadden Cotton Company. In 1963 he joined his childhood friend and fellow Camp Carolina alumnus, William B. Dunavant, in his cotton business on Front Street. He retired from Dunavant Enterprises in 1993 and embarked on a new chapter, focusing on helping his community along with hunting, fishing, and travel.

An enthusiastic supporter of the arts, especially Dixon Gallery and Gardens, he also sought to counter hunger and poverty in the Mid-South, especially as it related to children. He was emphatic that these efforts continue after his death.

He traveled the world, but his favorite places were the beach in Destin, FL, and Menasha Hunting and Fishing Club in Turrell, AR. Bobby and Eva Mae honeymooned in Destin and continued to visit over the next 60 years. Silver Dunes



was his home away from Memphis.

In addition to the MUS Board, he served on the Board of Trustees of Presbyterian Day School and The Dixon Gallery and Gardens. Eva Mae and Bobby have been longstanding members of Independent Presbyterian Church.

Bobby is survived by Eva Mae, his wife of 61 years, and his son, **Rob Hussey ’81**

(Julie), along with grandchildren, Jones Hussey and **Edwin Hussey ’16**. He is also survived by his brother **Edwin Hussey ’63** (Julia) and nephews **Richard Hussey ’87** (Beth), **Thomas Hussey ’88** (Stacey), and **Martin Hussey ’91** (Molly). He was predeceased by his parents and brother, Richard Hussey. ■

Where Tradition Surrounds U

For more than 125 years, Memphis University School has educated young men to become the future leaders of our community, our nation, and the world.

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

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

Leave your legacy of scholarship and leadership.

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



Extra! Extra!

CLASS NEWS

'59

Not much new news from the Class of 1959 this time because all are recuperating from or in the process of planning for their 80th birthday. So happy birthday to all you old goats.

'60

Kent Ingram reports that he is enjoying retirement after 52 years in business. With his granddaughters, Abigail and Scottie, now attending Hutchison, he has enjoyed moving across the river to Memphis. For the 42nd consecutive summer, he will spend a month fishing in Montana.

Still working as a commercial real estate appraiser, **George Owen** reports that he looks forward to our reunion and going out West for some trout fishing. His wife, Kay, has 20/20 vision as a result of laser eye surgery. He recently had a conversation with **David Morelock** [MUS language teacher from 1956-66] who

attends a regular exercise class at Lambeth House's assisted living complex in New Orleans.

Todd Slaughter appears to be the last of our class sending off children (rather than grandchildren) to college. His daughter Layla is joining son, Atom, at Ohio State, and Layla's twin, Signe, is entering Reed College in Portland, OR.

'62

Pete Shearon is still working at the University of Memphis in educational research. He apparently enjoys going to work every day and would miss it if retired. Got to hand it to him on that! Who else is still working every day 9-5? His daughter Elizabeth is now a full-fledged assistant public defender in Memphis. His other daughter, Laura, is a judge in Miami with two children. Her husband is a prosecuting attorney there. They all visited from Thanksgiving to Christmas 2020 here in Memphis. Pete is still running, including a recent "virtual" St. Jude half marathon!

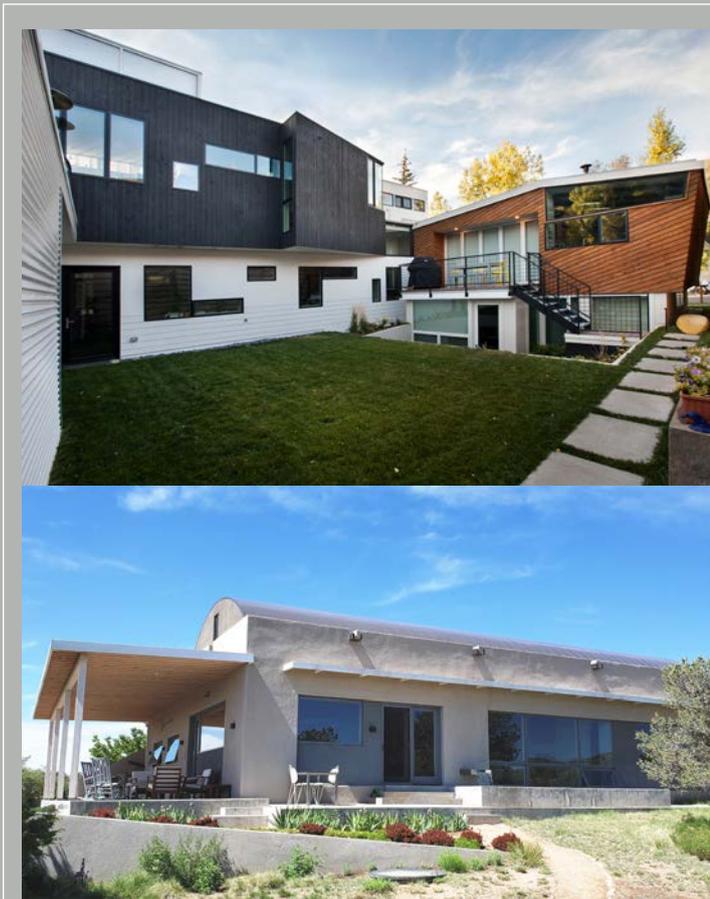


Fred Smith was voted Best All-Round in 1962.

I hope many of you enjoyed the fascinating 50th anniversary history of FedEx in the June 27 *Commercial Appeal*. The article traced the development of the company from a 1965 term paper **Fred Smith** wrote at Yale. In a speech Fred gave at the Pentagon a few years ago, he attributed much of the organization of FedEx to his experiences in the Marine Corps. The company has transformed with the times, revolutionizing the logistics industry worldwide. Although Federal Express was originally based in Little Rock, Memphis became the center

of its "hub and spoke" system. Packing parcels into larger containers that were loaded onto planes was another major innovation. I remember being quite impressed with all the interconnecting belts when the class took a tour of FedEx during our 50th reunion in 2012. The company has grown from the first overnight-delivery operation in 1973 with 389 employees to the current 600,000-plus, from 186 packages on the first night to 484,000 per hour now. FedEx has developed into one of our nation's great companies, and we are all duly proud of our classmate's determination to make his dream succeed. I was particularly impressed to see Fred pictured standing by the first Falcon Fanjet, which he personally flew in 1983 to Andrews AFB to be permanently displayed at the Smithsonian museum!

Cole Wilder recently shared a story with me about **Dan Copp** and Fred coming down from Yale to visit him and others at UT his freshman year. He couldn't remember any details from the visit other than



Howie Mallory's Aspen home, pictured at top (with thanks from photographer Derek Skalko), was built next to the studio of his father-in-law, noted photographer Ferenc Berko. Below is Beverley Spears and Philip Crump's Santa Fe home, which she designed as an active-and-passive solar structure, complete with expansive views of the city and mountains.

“hanging out.” Perhaps Dan or Fred could supply some other details from so long ago. Cole is still working part-time with a commercial real estate firm.

Dan Copp says, “Nothing new other than the welcomed maskless entry at groceries and health clubs. Donna’s spending more time in the studio struggling with a portrait of two teenage grandchildren. The older boy, Grant, a college freshman, stares at me whenever I step into her

workplace. I’m hoping the construction of a greenhouse/sauna/exercise room will begin soon. Tomatoes in the garden are large but still green, and I’ve stored a quantity of freshly harvested garlic to cure for a few weeks. Swiss chard is plentiful, and the peppers will soon be ripe and hot. I need to purchase a scare-owl to keep birds away from the blueberries.”

Sounds like Dan has put my gardening skills to shame as

I’m down to two rather paltry raised beds that are bursting with veggies tumbling over one another seeking any available light source. I got a follow-up email from Dan who added, “**Howie Mallory** and I took an interesting auto trip to Montgomery in March to visit the museums related primarily to the civil rights events that took place in the city. He’s in France now. Fred and I made the trip to UT. As you know, half of our class were Vols. What I remember about the weekend is not for publication. (Howie and I didn’t see that much of each other at Yale since our residential colleges were at the far ends of the campus, but we did take at least one memorable Vermont ski vacation together.) Haven’t been in touch with **Sam Gary**, but I played bridge with **Ferrell Varner ’60** recently.”

A casual mention from Howie Mallory’s brother, B Lee, at Calvary Episcopal Church one Sunday revealed that Howie was living in Aspen, CO. Further research led me to a fascinating discovery of a great article in the *Aspen Sojourner* magazine about the Mallory’s abode there. It seems his wife’s father was a noted photographer who is “considered one of the 20th century’s greatest photographers.” Ferenc Berko chronicled the early development of Aspen and built a beautiful studio there. After his death, they opted to retain his archives in the studio and add on to the backside for Howie and his wife, Nora, and their daughter’s family. The architecture is quite stunning and shows effective

Remember to
submit photos
whenever possible
with your Class
News items!
Email [ann.laughlin@
musowls.org](mailto:ann.laughlin@musowls.org).

use of space in a somewhat limited area. Be sure to check out the article in a 2018 issue of the magazine online at tinyurl.com/MalHome.

In a similar vein, **Philip Crump** has sent me information about moving to Albuquerque and then to Santa Fe after graduating from Duke. “Following some complexities and escaping Chicago, my then-esposa and I came through Tijeras Canyon and saw Albuquerque shimmering in the early September heat. Grad school, divorce, construction, UNM engineering followed.

“One day in 1986, as I was superintending a project in Santa Fe, my boss asked me to go by the office of a Santa Fe architect who was inquiring about having a custom metal roof fabricated for her office. Provided the same. Later that year, an Albuquerque book shop window displayed her new book, *American Adobes*, about northern New Mexican village vernacular architecture. A congratulatory note to her elicited an invitation to visit. Happiness ensued. Beverley, Julia (then 10), and I were joined on a windy first of July 1989. My career in metal

roofing was slowly superseded by mediation starting in 1992. Beverley's quite varied practice grew over the years; she has taken on a partner and is still quite active, though on a diminishing schedule. Although we dearly love our adopted home of Santa Fe, we spend a lot of time elsewhere, including Italy, Greece, Tunisia, India, France, Japan, and especially Mexico. One or two Mexican journeys each year, plus Beverley's passion for architectural forms, led to her latest work, *Early Churches of Mexico* (UNM Press).

"A few years ago, she finally got serious about her longtime goal of living in a house she designed. The result is our current, wonderful, beautiful, active-and-passive solar abode. Yes, the views of the city and mountains behind are quite spectacular. (Dan Copp can tell you more; we really enjoy the visits from Dan and Donna and hope they find their Santa Fe nest soon.)

"With the pandemic, my mediation/facilitation practice has slowed, giving more time to enjoy the mountains; we try to get out as frequently as possible. Thanks to our careful governor, New Mexico is well on the road back to so-called normal, with a vaccination rate among the highest in the nation. I confess to having appreciated the relative calm of the past year without tourists and the frenetic summer activities. Our current travel plans are limited to an August drive to LA for the

birth of our third grandchild – first granddaughter! The grandsons (7 and 11) are beside themselves with anticipation. So that's the skinny. We welcome visitors."

There you have two intensely dynamic design processes from two of our illustrious classmates. Like so many of us, they definitely married up! I had asked if MUS had ever done an article on Beverley Spears, Philip's wife, and was surprised that most if not all articles relate to the guys because that is the main focus of the magazine. Glad we could highlight two of the wives in our section of Class News.

'65

Bob Heller weighed in with the wisdom that "no news is good news."

'68

Waddy West still lives in Hot Springs, plays his Fender Stratocaster, and tends his organic garden. His wife, Margaret, is a traveling nurse.

The following are excerpts from responses to **Terry Wilson's** "Stay in Touch" requests:

David Cunningham reports that he and his wife, Mary Creed, took a trip from DC to Memphis to New Orleans to Naples, FL. Along the way they visited family, Janie and **Bruce Hopkins**, and Cynthia and **Ames Yeates**. "After 44 years of managing investments for

Top of Their Game

Owl alumni have fared well in 2021 publication lists of leaders in the Mid-South

Top Doctors

The following alumni were listed in the June/July issue of *Memphis* magazine's Top Doctors 2021 list as ranked by licensed physicians throughout the country:

Jeff Kerlan '90 of Stern Cardiovascular Center

Keith Tonkin '93 of Mid-South Imaging

Dexter Witte '76 of Mid-South Imaging

Mike Threlkeld '75 of Threlkeld Infectious Disease

Steve Threlkeld '82 of Threlkeld Infectious Disease

Howard Nease '78 of Baptist Medical Group Internal Medicine

David Spence '97 of Campbell Clinic

Power 100

The following alumni were listed among the Power 100 in the March 12 issue of *Memphis Business Journal*

Ben Adams '74, chairman emeritus of Baker Donelson and chair of the Memphis Shelby Crime Commission

Chance Carlisle '01, CEO of Carlisle Corporation

Andy Cates '89, managing member of ValFund and founder, general partner, and CEO of RVC Outdoor Destinations

Staley Cates '82, vice chairman of Southeastern Asset Management

Bob Fockler '77, president of Community Foundation of Greater Memphis

Mark Halperin '67, executive vice president and COO of Boyle Investment



Steve Threlkeld '82 is featured on the cover.

Kenneth Weiss '87 of OrthoSouth

Rush Waller '79 of UT Le Bonheur Pediatric Specialists

Hugh Francis '76 of Memphis Surgery Associates

Ed Garrett '71 of Cardiovascular Surgery Clinic

Pitt Hyde '61, president and founder of Hyde Family Foundations and founder of AutoZone

Bob Loeb '73, president of LPI Memphis

Tom Marshall '77, CEO of OT Marshall Architects

Billy Orgel '81, developer and CEO of Tower Ventures

Fred Smith '62, founder, chairman, and CEO of FedEx

Henry Turley '59, real estate developer and founder of the Henry Turley Company

Power Players

The following alumni were listed among the Power Players in the April issue of *Memphis* magazine.

Business Hall of Fame

Pitt Hyde '61, president and founder of Hyde Family Foundations and founder of AutoZone

Allen Morgan '60, co-founder, chairman emeritus of Regions Morgan Keegan

Fred Smith '62, founder, chairman, and CEO of FedEx

Henry Turley '59, real estate developer and founder of the Henry Turley Company

Architecture

Met Crump '60, architect and chairman and CEO of The Crump Firm

Arts and Entertainment

Tommy Peters '73, founder and president of Beale Street Blues Company

Auto Dealers

Henry Hutton '72, president of Chuck Hutton Chevrolet, Chuck Hutton Toyota, and Chuck Hutton Company

Joey Schaeffer '77, owner of Wolfchase Honda and Wolfchase Nissan

Bryan Smith '91, owner and general manager of Lexus of Memphis

Banking - Administration

Will Chase '74, founding president, CEO, and board member of Triumph Bank

Mott Ford '83, Chairman and CEO of Commercial Bank and Trust

William Tayloe '92, president of Financial Federal Bank

Kent Wunderlich '66, CEO of Financial Federal Bank

Banking - Commercial Lending

Duncan Galbreath '94, senior vice president and Mid-South commercial banking manager at First Horizon National

CEOs, COOs, and Leaders

Andy Cates '89, managing member of ValFund and founder, general partner, and CEO of RVC Outdoor Destinations

Mark Halperin '67, executive vice president and COO of Boyle Investment

Billy Orgel '81, founder, president, and CEO of Tower Ventures

Commercial Insurance

Johnny Pitts '76, Co-CEO of Lipscomb and Pitts Insurance

Commercial Real Estate

Paul Boyle '87, president of Boyle Investment

Chance Carlisle '01, CEO of Carlisle

Darrell Cobbins '91, president and principal broker of Universal Commercial Real Estate

Rick Fogelman '84, CEO of Fogelman Properties

Bob Loeb '73, president of LPI Memphis

Treat Macdonald '79, principal broker and partner of Crump Commercial

Mac McKee '65, partner and broker of McKee and McFarland

Josh Poag '91, president and CEO of Poag Shopping Centers

Construction - Commercial

Montgomery Martin '73, Founder and CEO of Montgomery Martin Contractors

Clyde Patton '58, president of Patton & Taylor Construction

Construction - Residential

John Catmur '70, president of Catmur Development

Employee Benefits

Jay Keegan '88, chairman and founder of Bodock

Engineering

David Bradford '95, principal and mechanical engineer of Smith Seckman Reid

Financial Planning

John Laughlin '92, principal and CEO of Summit Asset Management

John Phillips '03, founding member and CIO of Red Door Wealth Management

David Waddell '91, publication contributor and CEO of Waddell & Associates

Independent Schools

Braxton Brady '91, head of Evangelical Christian School

Investment Brokers

Philip Zanone '86, CEO of B. Riley Wealth Management

Nathan Bicks '74, member of Burch, Porter & Johnson

John Heflin '72, member of Bourland, Heflin, Alvarez, Minor & Matthews

Law - Employment

Bruce Smith '66, member of Apperson Crump

Logistics

Bill Dunavant '78, president and CEO of Dunavant Enterprises

Neely Mallory '76, president of Mallory Alexander International Logistics

Marketing/PR

Doug Carpenter '82, principal of DCA

Brian Sullivan '83, principal and CEO of Sullivan Branding

Medical - Group Practice Administration

Kimble Jenkins '80, CEO of OrthoSouth

Philanthropy

Bob Fockler '77, president of Community Foundation of Greater Memphis

clients, I have wound down my practice such that with the help of my partners I now handle a smaller number of client portfolios. My reduced work schedule, plus very few in-person meetings has allowed us to travel while working remotely. My wife continues to put up with me, and we enjoy our golf games. She is able to sell some fine houses in the DC area with her real estate company. I am fortunate to still be able to play men's doubles with lots of good tennis-playing friends in DC, Cape Cod, and now Florida. My biggest complaint is I come in second in more matches than I would like, but it still beats yard work."

From **Charlie Chapleau**: "COVID has not much affected us. Thank God, I retired three years ago. The practice of medicine is surely no fun now. As long as my gym, church, and grocery store are open, I'm OK. Do miss travel. Have three grandkids in Vienna, Austria, and have missed seeing them. But have six more grandkids nearby, and there's a lot of action there. The mask-wearing has become politicized, but I wore masks at work for 45 years, so I'm used to them."

From **Hank Shelton**: "I still enjoy practicing law, and my partners seem to want me to stick around, so I think I'll work a couple years more. Ruthann just retired after 25 years in her little non-profit but seems quite happy without me under foot all day. The kids are doing well in their professions, and we added a COVID-year granddaughter, also known as the Best Thing

to Come Out of 2020. We're still in Memphis, where I run into some classmates from time to time; the kids are spread out all over the country. Seeing them isn't as easy as it was, but we manage."

From **Ames Yeates**: "I have great memories of MUS, growing up in Memphis, and all of you classmates, many of whom started with me at PDS. I remain here in New Orleans practicing architecture with my patient and tolerant wife, Cynthia (and others). While we worked through the pandemic and regularly came into the office, work slowed for us due to projects being put on hold and clients getting cold feet. However, we are fine and staying busy. After all of this, retirement is becoming a consideration. Everyone in my immediate family is doing fine. Neither of my children are married, and I have no grandchildren. Daughter, Winnie, is in her third year of medical school at Tulane. Son, Zeno, who has four degrees, is still experimenting with careers. I am fortunate to still be healthy despite knee and shoulder surgeries, and I am hitting the tennis ball three or four times a week."

'69

Wylie McLallen and his wife, Nickey, are still in Vancouver where they have been for 32 years. He has remained an American citizen, paying taxes and voting in the U.S., but they love the beautiful country and great weather, especially the cool sea breezes in the summer.

They are enjoying a life of good health. Wylie has published a new book, *Unbridled Dreamer - Hemingway and the Rise of Modern Literature, Volume 1* (2021, Sunbury Press). The second volume, to be titled *Man of Modern Letters*, should be released in the fall.

'70

Henry Sullivant, the man responsible for delivering many of our children, has retired as vice president and CMO at Baptist Memorial Health Care.



We pick up this story March 10, 2021, a balmy spring day at Island Pointe Golf Club in Kodak, TN. We approach the number 5 tee box, 145 yards out from a magnificent island green in the middle of the French Broad River. Our young, 68-year-old shooter addresses the ball sitting high on the

tee. High in his back swing, he turns, driving the club toward destiny. The ball screams off the face of his 7-iron gaining several inches of altitude and leaving a barely perceptible ripple as it flies across the river as his son and their two friends join the shot maker, straining through just a hint of mist, to see if the ball will indeed clear the front edge of the green. They witness bounce one, bounce two, bounce three, and kerplunk – the ball disappearing into the cup. Yeeessss, stupefyingly, one shot into one hole. On the tee box, the limp body of our hero was on the ground joined by a dog-pile of his son, Jim Ogle, and their buddies. **Jimmy [Ogle]** says, "I haven't played golf since that day!" Congrats. Might be a moment to retire on.

'76

Lane Carrick is now the managing director of the 86 Group out of Plano, TX. Joe Skinner has taken a new position as account executive of regional financial sales at Securitas Electronic Security.

'78

Rob Threlkeld has taken a new position as commercial real estate finance due diligence consultant at SitusAMC.

'79

Cam McCaa's company, Your Intown Home Property Management and Investor Services, completed the acquisition of Roost Realty



Will Cowan '00, left, and **Clayton George '79** are professional quail guides at SouthWind Plantation in the Sawgrass Belt of Southern Georgia. **Tim Cowan '73**, right, came down to hunt.

in April. The residential sales brokerage business, Your Intown Home, now manages 175 rental homes and condos throughout in-town Atlanta. Cam's daughters, Schuyler and Ainsley, attend Georgia Tech and Dickinson College.

'80

Louis Jehl will retire on July 31 and is looking forward to spending lots of time with his grandbaby, August, and possibly doing some consulting work to prevent him from driving Lisa crazy.

'81

Boyd Wade and **Jeff Harris** look forward to seeing our fellow classmates at our September 25, 40th year reunion. This year's celebration promises to be a bigger throw down than our previous reunion, as well as the party Boyd hosted in 1980 at his mother's home.

Temple Brown has accepted a new position with Apple as a business lead for the Southern California market.

'73

The Memphian, a 106-room boutique hotel affiliated with Marriott developed by Mary and **Bob Loeb '73** in partnership with MMI Hotel Group and LRC2 Properties, opened in May in Overton Square. Writer and filmmaker **Robert Gordon '79** wrote a 6-page story for the hotel suggesting the name. Artist Mary Seay Loeb oversaw the colorful and eclectic interiors that include works from over 15 Memphis artists, including many of her own.





'81

Philip Cox, Jeff Harris, and Philip Freeburg celebrate a win with jockey James Graham at historic Churchill Downs in Louisville, KY.

'86

Fifth Third Bank recently named **Paul Anderson** senior vice president and managing director of private bank for the Tennessee region.

William Barksdale has joined the Board of Trustees of New Memphis Institute.

Jonathan Ringel reports: "After 26 years in journalism, applying everything I learned from **Terry Shelton, Norman Thompson, Lin Askew, Jane Caldwell, Ellis Haguewood**, among others, I have shifted careers. In May I left the *Daily Report*, the Georgia legal community newspaper where I'd been managing editor for 16 years. In June I'm starting at Poston Communications, a public relations agency

that serves law firms and other professional service organizations, as senior vice president for content. I'd love to hear from any MUS alums and can be reached at ringel@postoncommunications.com. I live in the Atlanta suburb of Dunwoody with my wife, Deb, and our daughters, Lucy (12) and Marcy (7).

'87

Kent McKelvey married Elise Higdon last spring during quarantine.

'89

Mark Cox has overseen a successful car business, Cox & Company Motor Cars, in Nashville since 2003. They recently opened a second location in Birmingham, AL.

Mark and his wife, J'Anne, have two kids, Lawson (14) and Livie (12). Mark is an avid Tennessee Titans fan.

Miles Fortas is a senior vice president for CBIZ Investment Advisory Services (CBIZ IAS). Miles is responsible for the team's reporting process and regulatory compliance structure. Miles has over 20 years of experience in the institutional investment consulting industry. He and his wife, Ellen, have two boys currently at MUS, **Jack Fortas '23** and **Will Fortas '26**.

Griff Jenkins, a national correspondent for FOX News Channel, has been with the network for the past 18 years covering Congress, the White House, presidential elections, war zones, hurricanes, and most recently the Mexico border. You can also catch him most weekends anchoring *FOX News Live*. He lives in Georgetown with his wife, Kathleen, and their two daughters, Madeline (University of Georgia junior) and Mackenzie (Foxcroft High School sophomore) and their beloved Jack Russell, Rascal, who runs the house.

Scott Sherman and his wife, Deede, have triplet boys, **Walter, Cannon, and Tanner**, who are entering seventh grade – the Class of 2027 – at MUS in August.

'93

Kenneth Koleyni has taken the position of strategic advisor at Premier Lacrosse League.

'94

Richard Bloom spent the latter part of the pandemic masked up on the Sony lot art directing the upcoming Brad Pitt heist movie, *Bullet Train*. He's now in production designing the second season of *Hunters* for Amazon in the scorching southern California sun. If all goes well, he will finish filming the season in Budapest by November.

Spencer Reese earned a doctorate in literature and theology from the University of Aberdeen, Scotland, in 2021. Reese's research focused on the use of fantastic elements in literature as a means to reveal a theological truth. His dissertation, "The Fantasist's Chrysopoetics," discusses the origin of fantasy by considering how works of fantasy may embody theological significance as "metaphysical romances," a concept he coined. He is moving to Naples, FL, to become the chair of the English Department at Seacrest Country Day School. He will teach both sophomore and senior English literature. Undoubtedly, he'll be introducing a whole new group of students to both the genre of fantasy literature and the famous sayings of G.K. Chesterton.

'98

Jason Colgate has taken a new position as COO and head of strategy/corporate development at Wesley Holdings.



Ariel Cobbert / Used with permission of *The Commercial Appeal*

'01

Chance Carlisle cut the ribbon at the grand opening for the Hyatt Centric hotel at One Beale Street April 29. The 227-room hotel developed by Carlisle offers picturesque vistas of the Bluff City and the Mississippi River. Hyatt Centric was the setting for a tribute celebration for former Lacrosse Head Coach **Elliott Dent**. (See page 40.)

'99

Logan Taylor has completed his 15th consecutive year as boys 7/8 basketball coach for Grace -St. Luke's Episcopal School. He serves as assistant coach for the boys 5/6 team.

'00

Scott Cohen has taken a new position as head of customer success at Rill Data.

Tatiana and Brian Parks and son, Miles, welcomed a daughter, Cameron Valentina, in May. The family lives in Denver.

'01

Harvey Kay has taken a new position as sales executive at DialysisIQ.

Jay Tayloe has taken the position of chief financial officer at Second Presbyterian Church.

BIRTHS

Tatiana and Brian Parks '00, a daughter, Cameron Valentina, born May 13, 2021

Alina and Herbo Humphreys '02, a son, James Herbert IV, born April 22, 2021

Merillat and Trey Flowers '03, a son, William Dallas IV "Will," born March 3, 2021

Mary Elizabeth and Alan Humphreys '03, a daughter, Charlotte McKenzie, born January 19, 2021

Collin and Sam Buckner '04, a daughter, Bailey, born February 8, 2021

Katherine and Phillip Flinn '05, a daughter, Katherine "Kate" Vivienne, born April 2, 2021

Caroline and Jay Martin '06, a son, Albert Jay III, born May 17, 2021

Elizabeth and Peter Zanca '06, a daughter, Anne "Annie" Waller, born September 9, 2020

Lauren and Stephen Bowie '07, a son, Stephen Hogan, Jr. born October 2, 2020

Audsley and Tucker Carr '08, a daughter, Ruth Patricia, born February 15, 2021

Annie and Michael Cross '08, a daughter, Elizabeth "Libby" Britton, born April 2021

Tish and Clayton Furr '10, a daughter, Finley, born June 8, 2021

Bailey and Will Kaelin '13, a daughter, Blakely Paige, born June 2, 2021

Ellen and Alec Ossorio '13, a daughter, Virginia Kathryn, born April 6, 2021

Caroline and Preston White '15, a daughter, Gracen Gloria, born April 16, 2021

MARRIAGES

Jim Moore '09 to Lura Edge on November 21, 2020

Alex Perry '10 to Kate Latham on October 10, 2020

Victor Cole '12 to Christina Andreeva on March 4, 2021

Matt Bolton '13 to Rachel Halford on June 19, 2021

James Burnett '13 to Cassidy Nessen on April 2, 2021

Ashton Clark '13 to Annie Mandrell on May 29, 2021

Peyton Klawinski '13 to Allison Ann Gusmus on April 24, 2021

Goodman Rudolph '17 to Madisyn Rainwater on May 29, 2021

'03

Alan Humphreys is a veterinarian at Germantown Animal Hospital. He and his wife, Mary Elizabeth, have two children, John (19 months) and Charlotte (4 months).

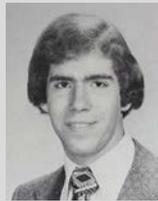
'04

Gordon Conaway is a property manager with Metropolitan Properties in Nashville.

IN MEMORY



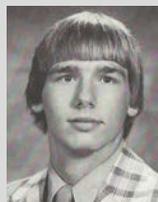
David Cochran Dando '64
April 28, 2021



Thomas D. Moore, Jr. '72
April 15, 2021



Dunbar "Josh" Abston III '75
March 19, 2021



David Loyd Pepple '80
December 28, 2020



Jeffrey Paul Crowton '06
April 23, 2021



Elliott Max Bryant '10
March 5, 2021

During the 20th Pinnacle Awards in May, **Elliot Embry**, vice president with NAI Saig Co., was named Grit & Grind Broker of the Year, an award given to the broker who closed the most transactions. Sponsored by the Memphis Area Association of Realtors, the event honors the top local commercial real estate professionals for the year.

Kyle Vogel has been promoted to trade operations manager at AssetMark.

'05

Sam Sawyer is back in Texas after some time in Silicon Valley and has launched a new cloud-based residential real estate brokerage called Archetape.

'06



Lance Minor, left, reports that **Drew Davenport** came out to visit him in Tahoe for some spring skiing. In other – more important – news, Lance's wife, Margot, just graduated from UC Hastings College of the Law.

Philippe Blais is working as a regional sales manager at ExtraHop.

Drew Davenport has been promoted to manager of financial planning at ProEquities.

Paul Morrow has started a new position as domestic tax planning advisor at FedEx.

'07

Blake Cowan has taken a new position as head of BizOps and Analytics at Invoice2go.

Julian Prewitt has been promoted to intermodal operations manager for Cornerstone Systems.

'08

Tucker Carr has returned to Memphis and taken a new position as senior associate at Diversified Trust.

DeAndre Jones has been promoted to manager at Deloitte Digital.

Jack Montgomery has taken a new position as VP of finance and business operations at YAPI.

'10

Stephond Allmond has joined the staff at MUS as coordinator of student life. (See page 37.)

Kyle Anthony has been promoted to global digital marketing manager at E2open.

Alex Perry has been promoted to Biel Partners vice president, and he will head their full-service commercial real estate brokerage office in Midland, TX. Biel Partners is based in Dallas.

Jake Rudolph has taken a new position as portfolio manager at FirstBank.

Ryan Saharovich has joined Nahon, Saharovich & Trotz, a large regional personal injury law firm. Ryan will be chairing the firm's mass torts practice group working on legal cases involving dangerous pharmaceutical products and defective products. He obtained his undergraduate degree from University of Texas at Austin and then graduated with honors from Emory University School of Law in Atlanta. At Emory he received the Dean's Award in Legal Writing and Research, and the Custer Tuggle Award in Family Law. He also served as a Notes and Comments editor of The Bankruptcy Developments Journal. His article was published by the journal, and he also won the Keith J. Shapiro Award for Excellence in Consumer Bankruptcy writing for his law review article. While in law school, he served as a judicial intern for the Honorable Jon McCalla. After law school Ryan worked as a litigation associate at Burch, Porter & Johnson for four years. In 2019 and 2020 he was named as a Super Lawyer Rising Star.

Parker Wilson has been promoted to project management analyst at FedEx Services.

'11

Rob Dickinson has been promoted to vice president at The Stephens Group.

Blake Hennessy has been promoted to territory manager at PepsiCo.

Ben Roberts has taken a new position as program manager at Medallia.

'12

Tunkie Saunders has been promoted to chemical engineering manager at Redwood Materials.

'13

Philip Aiken lives in Washington, DC, and works as director of growth at Cancer Study Group.

Seth Carson started a new position as retention marketing manager at Ollie Pets.

Drew Hutson is currently working as a structural engineer for General Dynamics Electric Boat designing pressure hull structures for Virginia-class nuclear submarines.

Allison Ann and **Peyton Klawinski** had a COVID-wedding "redo" at the Peabody on April 24. They live in Charlotte, NC, where Peyton works in the Private Client Group with Stephens Inc.

Jackson Loeb recently moved back to Memphis and is working as an associate at LPI.

Chima Onwuka was featured in *High Ground News*, talking about his life and work as a counselor, public speaker, and entrepreneur. Read it at tinyurl.com/chimaO.

Earlier this year, **Hurston Reed** took a job as a broker with The Shopping Center Group.

'14

Lucas Crenshaw has started a new position as arborist consultant at Certified Tree Care.

Tucker Fox is a financial advisor with Raymond James & Associates in Memphis.

Salman Haque has taken a new position in growth at Medsender.

Malik Smith has accepted a new position as accounting specialist at Clarion Security.

'15

Jack Gray is in Chapel Hill for law school and will spend this summer working for a judge on the North Carolina court of appeals.

Carlton Orange talks about his track success and how his studies at Texas A&M Mays Business School are preparing him for life after track here: tinyurl.com/carltonO.

Caroline and **Preston White** welcomed daughter, Gracen Gloria, April 16. Preston is still playing Minor League Baseball for the San Francisco Giants.

Ty Wolf has taken a sales associate position at Pylant Medical.

'16

Reed Barnes has taken a position as software developer with Workday in Pleasanton, CA, following his graduation from the University of Southern California.

Nathan Dinh reports: "I graduated May 2020 from University of Richmond with a degree in biochemistry and molecular biology after several summers of research, an internship at the National Institutes of Health, and an internship at the Virginia General Assembly. All these experiences really solidified my interests in combining science with government, so I worked at Gryphon Scientific, a science policy consulting group based just outside of DC, where I am currently living. I worked on various projects, including conducting COVID literature research for the Centers for Disease Control and National

Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. I start a fellowship at the Science and Technology Policy Institute in Washington, DC, in July, conducting science policy research for the White House and other federal agencies."

Dylan Echlin became engaged to Lillie Hixson in May 2021. He has been working as a research naval architect for the Army Corps of Engineers in Vicksburg, MS.

Jalen Friendly has started a new position as communications specialist at Zotec Partners.

Matt Fuess graduated with a master's in biomedical engineering from Washington University in St. Louis. He will be starting his job as technical solutions engineer at Epic in Madison, WI, in July.

Austin Hord is clerking for a judge in the federal court system and will be starting his second year of law school at the University of Memphis in August.



2016 baseball Owls, from left, **Max Murray**, **Mac McArtor**, and **Will Buser** after the baseball victory over CBHS.

Eric Makapugay graduated from Northeastern in music business in December 2020 and is currently working as a music producer and songwriter in Memphis.

Andres Salas attended Emory and studied business information systems. He has been working at Cloudmed since undergrad as an internal consultant on their Audit Strategy Team. His job takes place at the intersection of insurance and healthcare, and most of what he does involves helping hospitals uncover underpayments, which are omnipresent in this industry, by building programs that identify areas of risk for hospitals.

Daniel Tancredi has been promoted to trader at Susquehanna International Group.

Theo Wayt graduated from NYU last year and has been living in New Orleans and working as a journalist for a publication called *The Academic Times*, where he has written mostly about new academic research into economics and politics. He has just accepted a new job as a technology reporter for the *New York Post*.

'17

Ishan Biswas has started a new position as programmer/developer at Capgemini.

Frederick Danielson now works as a marketing intern at American Savings Bank.



Kobe Gibson has graduated from the University of Missouri - Columbia with a bachelor's degree in Architectural Studies, and he will head to Florida A&M University in the fall to obtain his Master of Science in Architecture. Earlier this year the Mizzou Alumni Association Student Board presented him

the Mizzou '39 Award as one of the college's 39 outstanding seniors. Kobe thanks his college mentors in a video here: tinyurl.com/kobegib.

Parker Kaye served as team captain for the University of Tennessee men's varsity swim team this season. The Vols finished third in the 2021 Men's SEC Swimming and Diving Championships. Kaye was also selected to be a representative on the UT Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC). The mission of the SAAC is to enhance the total student-athlete experience by promoting opportunity, protecting student-athlete welfare, and fostering a positive student-athlete image.

1960

1961

1965

1966

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1980

1981

1985

1986

SAVE THE DATE

WELCOME

 HOMECOMING

September 24-26, 2021

For details, visit musowls.org/homecoming.

1990

1991

1995

1996

2000

2001

2005

2006

2010

2011

2015

2016



Dan Shell '21 and his brother, **William Shell '22**, used their math skills to calculate where to locate fish in Sardis, Enid, and Grenada lakes during the pandemic. They were so successful that they shared their bounty with people in need. Read their fish story in *The Panolian*: tinyurl.com/fishymath. Photo by Joey Brent

John McBride has returned to MUS to accept the position of communications specialist in the Communications Office.

Jake Meskin graduated from the University of Texas at Austin and is now a real estate analyst with Barings in New York City.



Alex Robinson graduated from the University of Alabama with a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry with magna honors. He had an outstanding college career in the pool as well, swimming in the SEC Championships all four years. He is taking a gap year to work in the Memphis Church Health Scholars program before medical school.

Griffen Walden has graduated on the Dean's List from the University of Arkansas with a bachelor's degree in strategic advertising and PR. He has been accepted, on full scholarship, to the UA graduate program for the same course of study. He continues to live in Northwest Arkansas.

'18

Josiah Crutchfield is working toward a degree in mechanical engineering at the University of Memphis and is working as an engineering intern with the US International Planning and Engineering group at FedEx Express this summer. "I primarily am assisting the project manager of the Freight Canopy Modernization project," he says.

Aedan McKay has taken a position as global marketing engagement intern at FedEx Services.

Owls Provide Professional Advice and Interview Practice

Professional Sessions

Upper School students heard from professionals in engineering, business, and law this spring in a series of virtual meetings. We are grateful to the following alumni for lending their time and expertise to give students a look at their professions and the preparation needed to follow similar paths.

- **Engineering:** Kameron Bradley '14, Brett Grinder '91, Justin Grinder '97, Braden Kimball '96
- **Business:** Horace Carter '89, David Lee '12, Sam Sawyer '05
- **Law:** John Houseal '94

Mock Interviews

Alumni across the country participated in five virtual mock interview sessions in June. In this annual event organized by College Counseling and the Alumni office, rising seniors meet with professionals so they can practice and improve their interview skills. Many thanks to the following alumni who served as interviewers this summer: Jimmy Allen '80, Trevor Benitone '91, David Bradford '95, Jay Coleman '99, Brett Grinder '91, Daniel Harriman '06, Bert Johnston '66, Joe Lazarov '82, Jeff Lewis '88, Richard Moore '98, Jeffrey Posson '03, Nick Schwartz '14, Sherman Tabor '15, Bill Townsend '78, Mac Trammell '13, Gil Uhlhorn '93, Stephen Weinberg '95, Cort Winsett '92, David Zadick '80

Jake Wilbourn has taken a job as transaction associate at First Citizens Bank.

'19

J.J. Johnson completed his sophomore year at Vanderbilt University where he is majoring in chemistry with an eye toward becoming a pharmacist. He is also practicing meditation and teaching himself how to invest in stocks using the Robinhood app.

Caleb Riggs has an internship with Bryce Canyon National Park in Southern Utah this summer. Specifically, he will

be helping out with most of the evening/night sky programs such as stargazing and constellation tours offered as it is an International Dark Sky Park. During the day he works the information desk answering visitors' questions and providing hiking trail recommendations.

'20

Ben Cramer is currently enrolled at Truman State studying physics with a minor in computer science.

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

- '58 **Claude Crawford:** grill17@yahoo.com
- '59 **Bryan Nearn:** bryan@bnearn.com
- '60 **Metcalf Crump:** metcrump@crumpfirm.com
- '60 **Alex Wellford:** awellford@farris-law.com
- '61 **Scott May:** sfmay@bellsouth.net
- '62 **Jerry Bradfield:** jbradfi293@aol.com
- '63 **Doug Ferris:** dferris@ffcfuelcells.com
- '64 **Bill Quinlen:** wlq1975@aol.com
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- '68 **Terry Wilson:** theactor@cypressusa.com
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- '69 **Parks Dixon:** parks@gwpalmer.net
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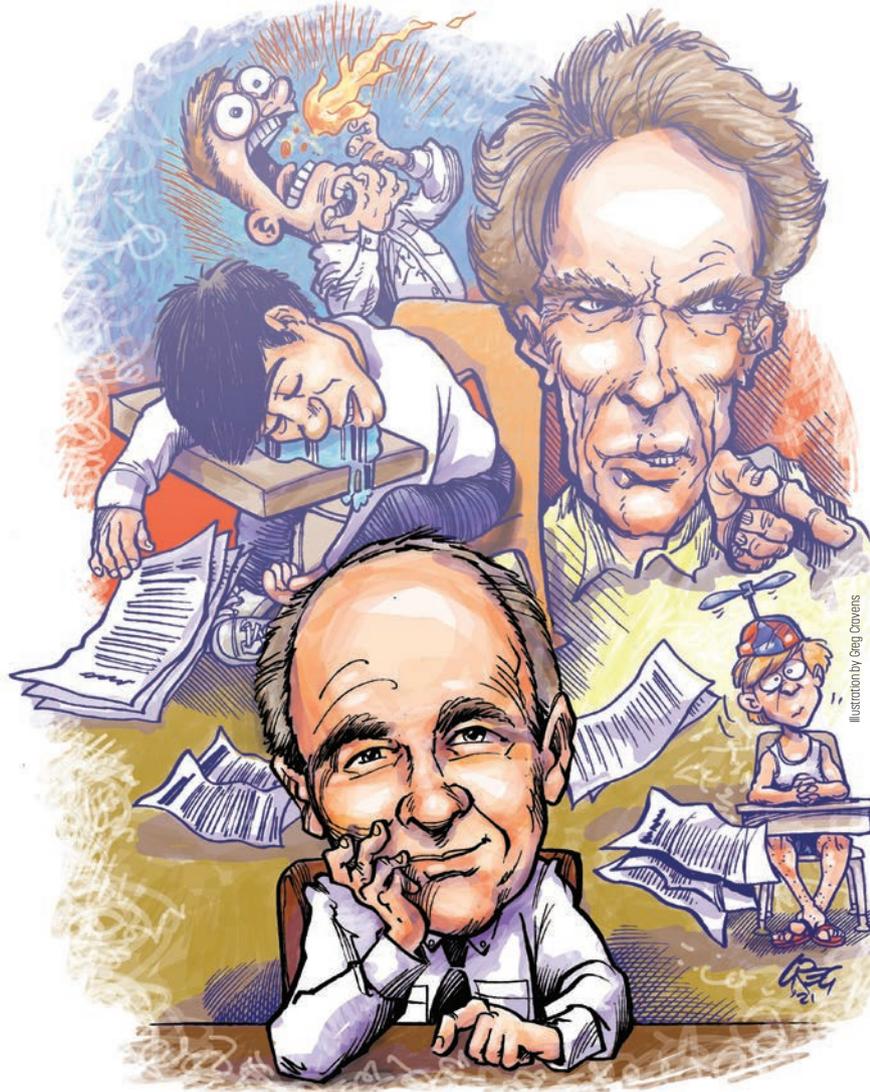
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THE LAST WORD



Classroom Antics and Anomalies

by Norman Thompson

As the sun begins to set on my very long day in the classroom, I find myself meditating on memorable moments in the gallery of events that have studded my career in the classrooms of MUS. I would most like to remember and treasure the irradant moments when a student asks the question that indicates that he *gets* it, that he understands everything that I was hoping to convey about a passage in Shakespeare or the subjunctive mood in grammar. But strangely, the classroom happenings most indelibly imprinted on the folio of my memory are those often unrelated to the lesson plan and only

tangentially related to academics. Many of these memories float up from long ago in the Magic 8-Ball of my mind. Others are of more recent vintage.

Not long ago, for example, I was passing out a quiz to a very quiet, focused freshman English class. As I passed among the desks, a student asked me a question, the exact inanity of which I forget, but it came down to something like, "Should I put this or this other answer." I looked sternly at him, squinting my right eye, and said to him in my best (very bad) Clint Eastwood voice, "You've got to ask yourself one question: 'Do I feel lucky?' Well, do ya, punk?" And I stressed the last

word. The young man looked at me with something like fear in his eyes, the fear that his teacher had gone off the rails of sanity. Those seated near him looked equally stunned. A realization suddenly dawned on me, and I broke character saying, "Oh, my heavens! Do you people not recognize Dirty Harry when you hear his most famous locution?" Crestfallen, I learned that no one in the class knew this famous meme or had even heard of Harry Callahan. After the quizzes were submitted, I pulled up the relevant scene from the 1971 movie on my cell phone and called the class to the front of the room to its obvious enjoyment as it absorbed a bit of Americana.

Among my once-upon-a-time tales is one that involves a long-ago incident of an exasperated senior, a kid who often kept a significant distance between himself and the reading assignment, who huffily entered my office and dropped his failed essay on my desk. After a pregnant pause he petulantly pursed his lips and asked me, "Do you think that Mr. Hatchett is a good teacher?" I answered that, though I at the time did not know him well, I did know him by reputation to be an excellent teacher, in fact, an almost legendary one. The young man then triumphantly said, "Well, Mr. Hatchett gave me an A on that paper." Stunned at his unintentional confession of a breach of the Honor Code and ignoring his obvious exaggeration (an A, indeed!), I pointed out to him that I had assigned a paper on John Webster's *The Duchess of Malfi*, but that he had submitted a paper on *abortion*, which he had spelled *aborition*. Struggling with the concept of something unusual, such as a cogent thought, he came to realize the error of his ways and agreed to rewrite the paper and all future papers in accordance with the Honor Code – and on the topic assigned.

Another incident occurring many years later but also developing the theme of plagiarism involved a senior's submitting an excellent paper, a submission so good that I remembered that the paper had been submitted before, and by happenstance that paper now resided in a file that I keep containing examples of excellent writing. Calling him into my office, I questioned him about the provenance of his essay. His explanation being hazy and evasive, I showed him the same paper that had been submitted several years earlier. I showed him the date on that paper and then revealed the name of the earlier submitter. His eyes widened and his mind was overlaid with a thin film of temporary aphasia as he saw the name of his elder brother atop the paper.

Many teachers have no doubt experienced a student's falling asleep in their classrooms. I recall several such incidents, but one of them is prominent in my memory. Long ago in my classroom, Room 8 of the old school, during the last class of a late-spring day, a student fell deeply asleep. When the bell ending the school day rang, the class filed quietly out, not disturbing the somnolent young Rip Van Winkle. I quietly left the room and repaired to my office. Preparing to leave campus at 4 p.m. as was my wont, I looked in the window of the classroom. Snoring

sonorously and now drooling a bit, he had not moved. I was tempted to leave him to his dreams, but my better judgment prevailed. I sought out our much-respected maintenance man, Robert, and asked him to do me a favor, which he was happy to do. He jerked open the door, hovered over the unconscious young man and bellowed, "Boy, what are you doing sleeping here? It is seven o'clock in the morning!" Coming to and profoundly disoriented, the disheveled youngster grabbed his books, fell over a desk, and ran wild-eyed down the hallway to the uproarious laughter of a few students still lingering at their lockers.

Emerging from the deep recesses of the past is my memory of a time when early in the school year seniors were assigned freshmen, ostensibly to introduce them to the Upper School and to promote a spirit of camaraderie, but seniors knew that the real purpose was to *haze* the newbies, to ridicule them, and to treat them as unpaid valets. The image of a very small, blond, pink-faced freshman, seated in my classroom wearing a white dress, lipstick, and jewelry rises before me. Other of his classmates were wearing shorts, wife-beater undershirts, and beanies with propellers on top. All were walking embarrassments, except for one normally attired young man, who just happened to be as big as most seniors, was a superior athlete already on the varsity squad, and was an accomplished boxer. He only smiled when I asked him why his assigned senior had declined to dress him effeminately or to assign him humiliating tasks.

One anomalous classroom incident that shocked me at the time is one that I still find a bit troubling. Covering an absent teacher's class, I was grading papers as the quiescent class read or did homework assignments. Suddenly, the silence was shattered by a standing student bellowing at a classmate seated next to him. Startled, I looked up and was even more startled by the fact that the entire class pointedly ignored his continuing tantrum. I felt as if I had stepped into an episode of *The Twilight Zone*. I finally found the wit to order him to "Sit down!" and adding ill-advisedly, "What is wrong with you?" He yelled back at me, pointing to his classmate and angrily asserting, "He is drawing a mean picture of me!" I looked at the student indicated, who merely shrugged his shoulders in apparent innocence and resumed his concentration on the paper before him. Apparently, the class was aware of this frenetic student's occasional

tantrums and had learned to be oblivious of them. Animosity between students is rare but occasionally erupts unpredictably.

In the hope that a "twice-told tale" can be as entertaining as it was on a first hearing, I am inspired by Nathaniel Hawthorne to put forward a previously printed anecdote as a final example of memorable classroom happenings.

Though much is just flotsam and jetsam left stranded by the tide on the beach of my memory, I vividly recall an incident that occurred in my first summer school location, Room 8. After an hour or so of a 3 hour and 40 minute class, we would take a break; students were allowed to bring snacks to consume during breaks. One young man in the class, a likable kid from the hinterlands of suburban Munford or some such place, wielding a Southern accent so pronounced that he made the crackers in *Deliverance* sound like the denizens of *Jersey Shore*, routinely brought a baggie of what looked like bits of beef jerky. One day during snack time a classmate asked him to share his snack. The Munford kid told him, "OK, but they's spicy" (put a very long *i* in that last word). The beseeching classmate's hunger, or maybe it was his curiosity, mounted a *coup d'état* on his better judgment. He plunged his hand into the proffered sack, grabbed a morsel sight unseen and began to munch eagerly on what appeared to be a bit of crisp bacon. Suddenly, his eyes bulged, his mouth gaped, and his tongue flapped over his lower lip. Incapable of speech, he remained immobile for a few seconds, then bolted for the door. He could be seen through the window of the door running down the hallway, first one way, then the other in a frantic search for a water fountain. The snack that he had so cavalierly popped into his mouth turned out to be a species of weaponized chili pepper. Watching the distraught youngster fly by the window a second time, the Munford kid shrugged and said, "I tol' 'im they's spicy."

But not as spicy and not nearly as long lasting as the memories that define and give context and meaning to a long and fulfilling career in the classroom.

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



Tommy Shipmon '62 has been traveling to the Amazon rainforest in Peru for nearly three decades to perform dental work, most recently through The Liquid Legacy, a Memphis-based nonprofit that organizes mission trips and works to provide safe water, health care, and community development in Peru. In this photo from Laguna Cashivococha, just outside Pucallpa, residents demonstrate the easiest way to get around in the jungle – by water. See the story on page 12.



Photo by Sue Strydom for The Liquid Legacy

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