

# U TODAY

## ROAD TAKEN

TOM BURNETT'S  
JOURNEY OF  
FAITH, SCIENCE,  
AND HEALING





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Eugene Smith '73, right, and fellow canine handler Jody Cornmesser prepare for a search-and-rescue training session with Smith's German Shepherd, Elke. Smith volunteers for the Shelby County Sheriff's Office Emergency Services. Read about his work on page 12.



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MEMPHIS UNIVERSITY SCHOOL  
Founded 1893

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## ON THE COVER



With unwavering faith and determination, Tom Burnett '96 was able to recover from a terrible accident and discover new roads in his life. Throughout the experience, his ever-questioning intellect and joy in physical activity have remained undimmed. "A great day for me is any day that I ride a bike," he says. Read about his journey on page 5. Photo by Victoria Ruan.

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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.

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# Tales to Live By

**Tom Burnett '96** thought he had life all figured out. He was on his way to a Ph.D. in the history of science at U.C. Berkeley. He had rediscovered the Christianity of his youth as a profound, thinking-man's faith, and he had formulated four guiding principles for his life. He had recently completed a daylong, 200-mile bike race over three mountains. Then came the unexpected: an accident in Nicaragua and a broken back. His path through recovery forced him to reassess some of his goals – and hold fast to others.

Tom's story came to our attention by serendipity. He wrote an article published in *Slate* online magazine about his year-long journey getting solar panels installed on his Washington, DC, home. Thinking it would be an illuminating subject for the pages of *MUS Today*, Managing Editor **Marci Woodmansee** gave Burnett a call and discovered there was much more to his journey – and his illumination – than the kilowatt hours of power now generated from his rooftop. His story would be perfect, we thought, for the first in an occasional series of articles about unexpected turns in life. We call it Journey Men: Stories of Self-Discovery. The concept is to highlight tales of faith, epiphany, resilience, recovery, and yes, serendipity.

Through *MUS Today* we are always discovering enlightening stories about Owl alumni. In this issue, thanks to an unexpected tip from **Jim Varner '73**, we learned that **Eugene Smith '73** trains his dogs to perform search-and-rescue missions for Shelby County Sheriff's Office Emergency Services. We also learned that **Miles Tamboli '07** teaches young people farming and entrepreneurship through the Girls Inc. of Memphis Youth Farm. That **Brice Bailey '02** and partners serve up breakfast and lunch at their new East Memphis restaurant, Staks Pancake Kitchen. From a school essay by **Ross Redmont '15**, we learned about the old campus golf course created by Coach Jake Rudolph. (Read about a planned memorial statue on campus honoring Rudolph on page 28.)

You may have noticed a new look for the magazine, thanks to the talents of our Creative Director and Graphic Designer **LeeAnn Christopherson**. We hope you enjoy the sleek, contemporary appearance featuring the iconic U, as you discover more stories about the men who make the community of the U such a treasure. As always, we appreciate your help in discovering more of these stories for *MUS Today*.

Here's to serendipity!



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# Unbreakable Spirit

BY MARCI WOODMANSEE

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Tom Burnett's '96 intellectually grounded faith allows ample room for questioning and scientific thought. Here in the Great Hall of the National Academy of Sciences, where he works, inspiration can be found simply by looking up. Burnett helped create an interactive visualization of the dome that allows visitors to explore the elaborately painted surface of the ceiling in greater detail. See it here: [nasgreathall.com](http://nasgreathall.com)

## An Accident Alters the Course, But Not the Spirit, of One Lifelong Learner

**T**om Burnett '96 had never been one to shy away from a challenge, and this sunny May afternoon near Matagalpa, Nicaragua, was no different.

On vacation to celebrate passing his Ph.D. qualifying exams at the University of California, Berkeley, Burnett was visiting his host family from an earlier sojourn in the beautiful country.

Accompanied by a friend from Berkeley, he headed out on a hike with one of his hosts, Guillermo Prado, and the trio reached a 55-foot-tall waterfall. When Prado casually mentioned he knew someone who had once jumped into the pool below, it was the most natural thing in the world for Burnett to try it for himself. A seasoned, adventuresome traveler and outdoor enthusiast, Burnett had been jumping off cliffs since his dad first took him camping in the Ozarks as a child.

"Unfortunately, this jump did not turn out well," Burnett says.

The fall fractured his thoracic-12 vertebra, and Burnett could not feel or move his legs. His friends dragged him out of the water, and the most perilous adventure of his life commenced. The waterfall was in the mountains, an hour from the closest city.

"Guillermo ran to get help," Burnett says. "We had attracted the attention of some locals who improvised. They placed me in a hammock, and six men carried me out of a steep ravine and onto the side of an unpaved road. Within minutes an ambulance, which apparently crossed the rural area once a week, emerged from nowhere. They piled me into the back and drove an hour along unpaved roads to the hospital in Matagalpa."

After undergoing X-rays to determine the severity of the injury and enduring a long and painful night, Burnett faced another two-and-a-half-hour ambulance ride along more unpaved roads to Managua. Although he had regained feeling in his right leg, the resident orthopedic surgeon there told him, "*Es una situación*

*muy grave*," and gave him two options: a risky medevac flight back to the United States, which might result in permanent paralysis due to the bone fragments in his spine, or immediate surgery to stabilize him.

"I asked him point blank, '*Tienes confianza que puedes ayudarme?*' (Are you confident that you can help me?)," Burnett says.

"He responded with bravado, '*Si. Tengo mucho confianza.*' I was impressed with his self-assured response and gave my permission for the operation."

Fearing a grim prognosis Burnett began to consider life confined to a wheelchair, living with his parents, Michael and Sue Burnett, in Memphis. "One of the first thoughts that went through my head during this time was, 'I'm going to have to figure out how to get along better with my mom!'" he says.

### JOURNEY MEN

*Stories of Self-Discovery*

THIS IS THE FIRST IN AN OCCASIONAL SERIES OF STORIES ABOUT ALUMNI

JOURNEYS THROUGH LIFE, ENCOMPASSING SELF-DISCOVERIES,

EPIPHANIES, AND SERENDIPITIES ALONG

THE WAY. IF YOU HAVE

A STORY YOU WOULD

LIKE TO SHARE ABOUT

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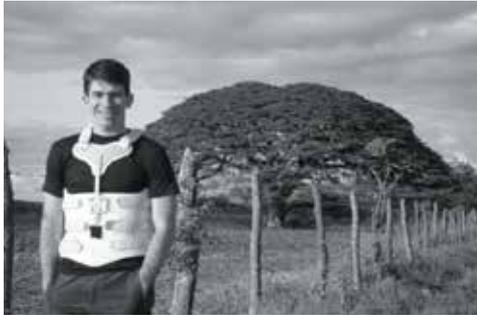
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### FINDING A NEW NORMAL

Burnett returned home for a second surgery and a month of inpatient rehabilitation at TIRR Memorial Hermann in Houston, where doctors and physical therapists were able to get his left leg working again. Then it was back to Memphis for a long, grueling year of regular outpatient therapy and recovery. It was 2007, and he was 29 years old.

"I attended an MUS football game in a wheelchair that fall," Burnett remembers. "The funny thing is, I was living for a time in Nicaragua the year before, in 2006, but had come home for several weeks to attend my sister's wedding and my 10-year class reunion. All my friends then said, 'Oh you're so lucky, living in Nicaragua!' A year later I'm back on campus, but in a wheelchair, and people were like, 'Man, you are so unlucky!'"

Burnett's life until that point had been extremely active – baseball (at MUS), cheerleading (during college at Rice University), skiing (for two years in Austria), and bicycling, always bicycling.



Tom Burnett, in the back brace that he wore for six months following his spinal surgeries, visits Nicaragua after the accident.

During the most intense window of his studies in grad school at Berkeley, he gave himself the additional challenge of training for the annual Devil Mountain Double Century – a 200-mile route with 20,000 feet of climbing over three mountains. In one day. Which he accomplished.

He brought the same level of intensity to his rehabilitation. “I did my physical therapy very hard,” he says. “I told people if everything were paralyzed except my eyelids, I would train my eyelids every day.”

As with most major life events, the accident brought Burnett to a crossroads in deciding what would come next.

### AN INQUIRING MIND

Before his injury Burnett was on track for a life in academia, a not-unexpected course for a self-described voracious learner with a highly inquisitive mind. “As long as I’ve been conscious, I’ve been a very intellectual person who is never satisfied with just what I’m told,” he says. “I have to understand things; I have to ask questions.”

As an undergraduate at Rice University, Burnett switched from physics to philosophy to try to find answers to his questions about life. Reading the 1992 philosophical novel *Ishmael* by Daniel Quinn (Bantam/Turner Books) led him to form a group called The 12 Hours Club.

“Twelve hours was the minimum

course load you could take at Rice and be considered a full-time student,” he explains. “In naming the club, we were being a little tongue-in-cheek, trying to convey that it’s not a course load but a state of mind. The club was about people who were not satisfied with the status quo, who had big questions. We wanted to encourage our fellow students to be more reflective, to spend time talking about what they were learning, not just about papers or tests or grades or internships.”

The co-founder of the club threw down an intellectual gauntlet when he asked Burnett, about halfway through his senior year, what his fundamental principles were. About to graduate with a degree in philosophy, Burnett was dismayed to find he couldn’t tell his friend what he stood for.

“So every day, for about three months, I woke up in the morning and tried to write down what my guiding principles were,” he says. “I finally was able to do it, and it was a really important turning point in understanding who I was and what I valued. The four principles I discovered, the ones that still drive me every day, are learning, loving, sharing, and experiencing.

“Of course, my friends in other majors were like, ‘Really? That’s what four years of study got you, four principles? One per year?’ And I [said], ‘You don’t understand, this is a really big deal!’”

At MUS Burnett had studied Spanish in class and during a summer abroad in Madrid. At Rice he studied German and made plans to go to Austria on a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship.

“After four years living in a burning-hot jungle of concrete, even flatter than Memphis, I thought Innsbruck, Austria, was the opposite in every way, and just what I needed,” he says. “I knew I wanted to go skiing all the time. I was also in search of enlightenment.”

### LET THERE BE LIGHT

In Austria Burnett perfected his German and met two men at the University

of Innsbruck – an English theologian and an Austrian philosopher – who deeply influenced his thinking about Christianity. “I’d had a touch-and-go experience with Christianity,” Burnett says. “I grew up in a Christian home but didn’t really connect with it very well, so I was kind of along for the ride, as many people are growing up. In college I pretty much drifted away from the church. But what I discovered in Austria, to my surprise, is that I was really impressed with Jesus’ teachings from 2,000 years ago.”

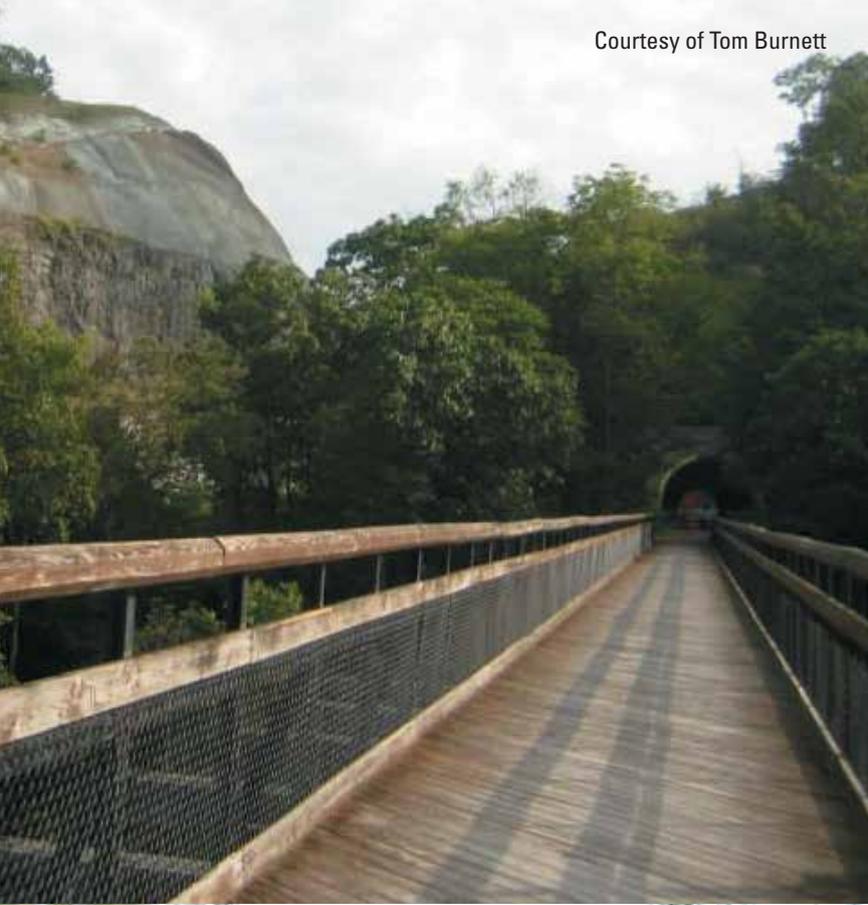
Taking a fresh look at his faith while studying religious teachings in a different language helped him develop a new perspective. “I had to leave Christianity in order to come back to it,” he says. “And it took meeting people who challenged me to look at Christianity intellectually. One said, ‘Tom, I can tell you like to think, and I think you’d make a great Christian.’”

Studying Christianity for the first time from a historical perspective was also critical. “It’s not a system that someone just made up, and said, ‘Here are a bunch of good ideas you should follow,’” Burnett



Tom Burnett and his wife, Alyson, on top of Big Schloss a 2,963-foot peak just west of Washington, DC, with gorgeous views.

says. “It started at a particular place in time in the first century, in the near east, with a particular founder, who lived a certain way and died a certain way. I realized you can’t



Courtesy of Tom Burnett



Photo by Victoria Ruan



just examine it philosophically; you have to know the history behind it, where it came from and what it's founded on. Once I could distinguish historical Christianity from the contemporary cultural baggage that encumbered it, I found myself in a very different place than when I first arrived in Austria."

After two years Burnett wound his way back to the States and the Ph.D. program at Berkeley, studying the history of science. He and a friend took the idea from Burnett's 12 Hours Club at Rice and started a similar group for inquisitive-minded Berkeley students. They called it "*Fiat Lux*," Latin for "let there be light."

Eventually tiring of the graduate research, Burnett dropped out for several months in 2006 for his first extended visit to Nicaragua. He returned to Berkeley by 2007 and set himself the challenge of competing in the Devil Mountain Double Century while doing the most grueling part of his studies for the Ph.D. qualifying exams.

"I trained like crazy, and I picked that event because I figured I needed a sport that was as difficult as my academic studies were – having to read 200 books in six months," he says. "My life at that point was full-tilt, full-throttle. And I have to say doing that bike trip – on our bikes 14 hours in one day, going over three mountains

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*Clockwise from upper left:*

*Roadside produce market near Jinotega, Nicaragua, not too far from Matagalpa, where Burnett lived with his host family. "I love Nicaragua and its people dearly, and I've been back there four times since my accident, including for my honeymoon!" he says.*

*Crossing a bridge along the Great Allegheny Passage, a network of long-distance hiking and biking trails between Maryland and Pennsylvania.*

*Burnett's athleticism and perseverance have had a positive effect on his ongoing physical therapy and rehabilitation.*

– was way more rewarding than passing those Ph.D. qualifying exams!"

Later that spring, his fateful jump from a Nicaraguan cliff changed everything.

### A PATHWAY REVEALED

While living at home with his parents as he recovered over the course of the next year, Burnett decided he would not finish the Ph.D. program. "Some people are just super-genius, academic rock stars who can keep all the information you have to process in their heads, but for the rest of us normal human beings, it's not a healthy thing to do," he says. "After the accident, I was thinking, 'Why am I doing this to myself? I don't enjoy it.' It took me breaking my back to stop me from doing something that was even worse, which was breaking my mind. But sometimes you need a strong push to get you to change course."

Burnett revisited his doctors in Houston about a year after the accident for his final medical clearance. "They said, 'Go, live your life, ride a bike, don't fall down,'" he says. "My first bike ride in May of 2008 was honestly probably the happiest day of my life."

Burnett moved to Washington, DC, where his sister was living, in search of a new adventure. He spent time teaching in a private school, interning with the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and then working as a web editor for BioLogos, a Christian advocacy organization dedicated to fostering dialogue about the relationship between science and religion. He met his wife, Alyson, along the way, and eventually accepted a staff position in communications at the National Academy of Sciences.

Now Burnett spends his days researching interesting topics, including renewable energy (see article he authored in *Slate* about his experience installing solar panels on page 10), and creating visualizations such as interactive and animated graphics that help people grasp complex scientific topics.

Although Burnett walks with a limp and still has to do exercises and battle certain health effects of his injury, he is able to bike long distances. He and his wife recently completed a six-day, 350-mile bike trip on unpaved roads from Pittsburgh to DC, to celebrate her 30th birthday.

"Some good things have definitely come from the accident," he says. "It restored a lot of balance in my life. I'd gotten so obsessed with doing sports, the outdoorsy stuff, adventures, that it put my priorities out of whack. It was also an experience that was very humbling, and enabled me to relate better to people of all kinds, not just other super-athletes who run around in spandex and climb mountains. I could relate to someone who was in a wheelchair because I was there."

Burnett says he is no longer a competitive athlete. He will never be able to run or jump again. He will never repeat the 90-mile Rollerblade trip he attempted during his college days. ("I would love to do that again, even if Rollerblading isn't cool!")

From the realization of his limitations has grown a perspective of hope and gratitude. "I met my wife here, and I have an interesting career," he says. "And fortunately, I recovered enough to walk again and resume my great passion for bicycling. I ride a bike to work every day and go on long rides every weekend. A great day for me is any day that I ride a bike."

His faith has helped him deal with the physical and emotional effects of his injuries. "Although I broke my body into pieces, at the end of my life, I'll receive a new physical body that is not broken. That is very encouraging to me. I can't hang out with many of the friends I did before because they are off climbing mountains and doing things I can't do. But it's much easier for me to deal with my condition knowing it's not the totality of my life," he says.

"It's the end of a chapter, not the end of the story." ■

# My Yearlong Adventure in Getting Solar Panels for My Home

BY TOM BURNETT '96

One day, as a child in the early 1980s, I spotted a strange device on my grandfather's roof in San Diego. I asked my dad about it, and he told me, "That's a solar water heater. Your grandpa doesn't like spending money, and now he gets his hot water for free." I digested the information and never really thought about it again – until, 30 years later, my wife and I bought a house. Suddenly the prospect of saving money with solar energy became relevant.

But it wasn't just the high cost of homeownership. Every time I turned on the air conditioning, I imagined a coal-fired power plant belching out pollution, warming the planet, and destroying the lives of poor families in developing countries. If I didn't want to live with a perpetually guilty conscience, what were my alternatives? Going without AC was one option – I have lived in rural Nicaragua, and my wife spent a summer in India, so we could certainly endure the Washington, DC, heat. But it would make my house intolerable for guests.

As I searched [for alternatives], I noticed that many houses in Washington had yard signs saying that they had switched to solar power. It seemed like an attractive option from a sustainability perspective, but would it make sense financially? I had heard for years that solar power was a luxury item for hippies and rich liberals. But after doing some research, I learned that the price of solar panels had decreased 80 percent since 2008. Even more surprising, I discovered that I didn't have to spend a huge sum of money up front to buy solar panels anymore – instead, I could lease them.

The way solar leasing works is that a company installs panels on your roof. Rather than paying for the panels themselves, you are charged for the electricity they generate. The exact way this works depends on the agreement you sign. In many cities across the United States, the solar electricity rate is actually lower than what you'd pay on your regular utility bills. So I could save money and reduce pollution by leasing solar panels. It sounded like a no-brainer.



On a beautiful, sunny day in Washington, DC (12/1/14), I got solar panels installed on my roof. It's a new era! I like being a power producer rather than simply a consumer. These are SunPower E20/327 panels, very high efficiency. If I had gotten regular ones from Canadian Solar, I would have needed 15 panels, which would have required a lot more hardware on my roof. With SunPower, I only needed 12 in order to generate 115% of my house's energy consumption.

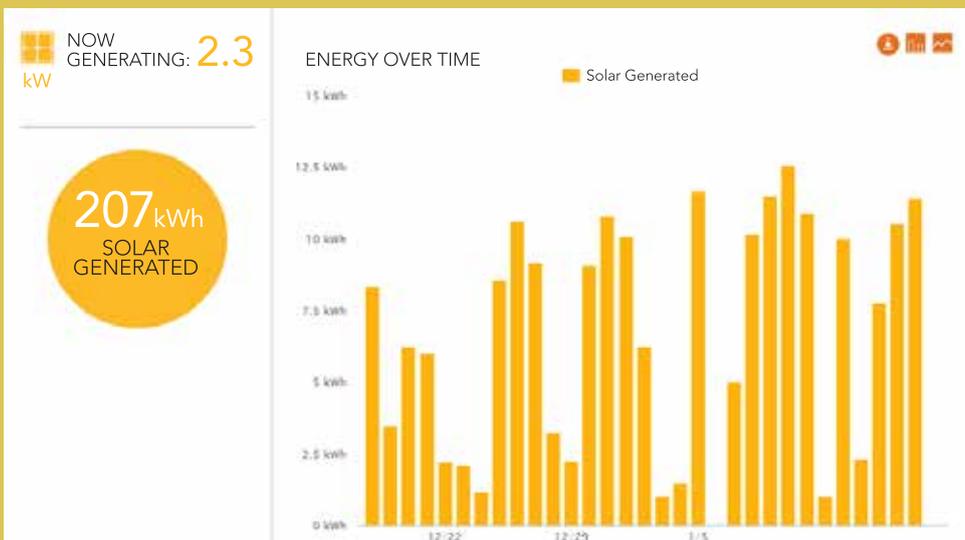
The next step was deciding which solar company to choose. I stumbled across a TED Talk from Sungevity co-founder Danny Kennedy that was so inspiring that I bought his book, *Rooftop Revolution* (Berrett-Koehler Publishers, 2012). [But] before signing a lease, I decided to do a little more investigation. First I had a couple of local

solar companies come to my house, climb up on the roof, and design a system to fit my budget. Then I stumbled across a neighborhood co-op in Washington that organizes bulk solar purchases to save homeowners money. Suddenly, buying solar panels started to look even more attractive than leasing. With a 30 percent federal tax credit, renewable energy credits, and additional savings as part of a group purchase, I would only pay a fraction of the upfront cost of solar. After I told my neighbors about this deal, four of them joined the bulk purchase.

I thought that once I signed a contract with local installer Solar Solution, everything would be completed in a few weeks. But it turns out that solar panels require a lot of paperwork. It did require some patience – three months' worth, in fact, to accomplish the following:

- Get permission from the local utility (in my case Pepco), since my system would be connected to its electrical grid.
- Get building permit for the installation of the panels.
- Notify Pepco when the installation was complete.
- Schedule Pepco to install a smart meter to measure how much energy my system was feeding into the grid.
- Wait for Pepco notification that it would start giving me credit for the excess electricity my panels produce.
- Sign up to sell my solar renewable energy credits on the spot market.

My favorite part of the whole process was the installation. On a bright day in early December, I took off from work to watch a crew install the system. I had no idea how much hardware was involved. Since my row house has a flat roof, the first step was to build a frame for the solar panels to rest on an incline. It required six 20-foot aluminum beams to span the width of my roof. After that, they hoisted 12 solar panels up a two-story ladder and bolted them in place. Finally, an electrical conduit was installed down the front of my house to connect



Kilowatt hours of power that Burnett's solar array generated over the course of several weeks last winter



the panels to the electrical box, inverter, and utility meter.

From start to finish, a crew of four guys needed only four hours to complete the roof work; the electrical connections took just a bit longer. Once the system was up and running, my installers provided me access to an online tool that monitors the power production of the panels in real time. This monitoring device is not only useful for calculating the renewable energy credits I produce and sell, but it's also really fun to check on a regular basis. Now I find myself rooting for sunshine every day, and I can check online to see how much of it my panels captured. What's the difference between sunny, partly cloudy, and overcast? With my system I can precisely quantify the amount of sunlight hitting my roof.

How much power a solar array produces depends on its size, local weather conditions, and the season. When my system was installed in the dead of winter, direct sunlight hit my panels for only about eight hours per day. A really sunny winter day got me between 8 and 12 kilowatt-hours per day. Overcast days consistently produced less than 3 kWh. One day stands out in particular – January 6, when 4 inches of snow covered my solar panels. As you might expect, my system produced zero energy.

It was forecast to be extremely cold for the rest of the week, so instead of waiting for the snow to melt, I decided to climb onto the roof after work to clear off the

panels. Since my attic doesn't have roof access, I talked my neighbor into letting me climb through her roof hatch. Unfortunately her hatch didn't have a fold-down staircase, so I resorted to climbing up to the top rung of a footstool and used some ninja moves to pull myself through the hatch while avoiding a flurry of lead paint chips falling from the ceiling. Once I got onto the roof, I relied on a long-handled dust broom and my nearly frozen hands to wipe off most of the snow. Standing out there shivering in the pitch dark with woefully inadequate tools, wondering how I was going to get down without hurting myself, I still felt a great sense of satisfaction for rescuing my buried solar panels.

Even with the occasional snowstorm in Washington, my system is estimated to generate about 5,000 kWh per year, which averages out to nearly 14 kWh per day. What can a kilowatt-hour of electricity actually get you? To my delight, I discovered a data visualization from General Electric that answered this very question. One kilowatt-hour can power a ceiling fan for 12 hours, make 36 pieces of toast, or blend 400 frozen margaritas. On the other hand, 1 kilowatt-hour can give you 12 minutes of central air conditioning. Maybe we should be making more margaritas and less cold air.

With solar panels on my roof, I'm much more aware of the energy that our household consumes each time we run the

dishwasher, dry clothes, or turn on the oven. Appliances like the Internet router, the refrigerator, and the hot water heater consume energy 24 hours a day, whether we're home or not. After installing solar panels, I've come to realize that all of our modern conveniences come at a cost. Fortunately, by relying on renewable energy, we don't have to give up all of our amenities in order to reduce our impact.

When I look back 30 years to the first time I saw my grandpa's solar water heater in San Diego, I think he would be proud of me. ■

### SEEKING SOLAR IN MEMPHIS

The prices of solar panels have come down dramatically in recent years. "You can get a 30-percent federal rebate until the end of 2016, so this is an ideal time to lease or buy solar panels," says **Tom Burnett '96**, who has solar panels on his roof in Washington, DC. "Since Memphis gets more sunlight than Washington, DC, you'd also get more value out of your solar panels than I do." He found three companies in Memphis that offer solar panels:

**Benchmark Electric:** [benchmarkelectric.us](http://benchmarkelectric.us)

**Lightwave Solar:** [lightwavesolar.com](http://lightwavesolar.com)

**Sungevity** (a national company that leases solar panels to residential customers for little to no money upfront): [sungevity.com](http://sungevity.com) ■

*Excerpted from an article by Tom Burnett '96 that originally appeared in Slate as part of Future Tense, a collaboration among Arizona State University, New America, and Slate. Future Tense explores the ways emerging technologies affect society, policy, and culture. Burnett works in communications at the National Academy of Sciences. He has degrees in history of science and philosophy from the University of California, Berkeley, and Rice University.*

# Dog Days are some of the Best Days for Eugene Smith

BY CINDY WOLFF



# Sheriff's Office Volunteer Trains His Pets for Search-and-Rescue Missions

**Eugene Smith '73** kneels so his dog Retta can smell a shirt. The Redbone Coonhound sniff, sniff, sniffs. She raises her head. Ready. Her nose knows what to do.

"Go find," Smith tells her. After eight years training his dogs for search and rescue, Smith knows his dog's body language. She takes off like a shot, nose to the ground, focused on the scent. Smith practices with the hound twice a week to keep her tracking skills sharp. Once he gives the command, his job is to keep watching her body language. And to keep up.

Retta's nose continues to skim the ground headed down a trail that is neither stench nor aroma to humans. The only sounds are Retta's tags jingling and the crunch on the gravel made by two feet and four paws.

"I try to keep my mouth out of the search as much as possible," Smith says. "She knows her job and if she's 'in scent' and tracking, I'd just be a distraction."

Retta runs straight until the scent fades. She puts her head up, which means she has lost the scent.

"Sometimes the scent is behind her," Smith says. He walks a wide circle repeating, "Check it." Retta snuffles the brush and ground. Suddenly, her tail straightens; her wag becomes a commanding twitch.

Off she goes, a beeline through thick woods with ground covered in limbs, logs, and stumps. Smith zigzags to avoid the obstacles. When he catches up to Retta, she is sitting in front of her "missing person."

Retta catches her treats. Smith catches his breath.

## ILL WIND BLOWS SOME GOOD

Ten years ago Smith was searching for something that would snatch hold of his life



Smith has been training his dogs for search-and-rescue missions for eight years.

— give him focus and meaning, something that would help others. Then Hurricane Katrina hit. He watched newscasts of death, destruction, and helplessness in New Orleans and beyond. It was in that chaos where he saw his answer. Dozens of people with search dogs were looking for survivors and helping to find the dead.

"That's it," he told his wife, Pat. "It's something I can do."

Smith volunteers for Shelby County Sheriff's Office Emergency Services. There are 165 volunteers, and he is one of 12 handlers who work with 14 certified dogs.

The volunteers ride eight-hour shifts at least three times a month in trucks with medical equipment and tools, including chainsaws to remove logs or debris, strobe lights to guide medical transport helicopters, and load locks to stabilize overturned vehicles. Smith almost never turns down a chance to work on the truck when another volunteer can't make it. Volunteers are expected to put in 24 hours a month. Smith typically hits 100. The excitement comes when he gets a call for search and rescue.

"Your adrenaline starts running the minute you get the call," Smith says. "You never know what's going to happen. Everything's different. I'm usually sweating because tracking is pretty fast, and it's exciting."

## MEMPHIS, NEW ORLEANS, ROME, AND HOME

Smith grew up on Tuckahoe Road the son of Landon and Maurene Smith. His father was president of Plough Inc. sales division. His mother was a schoolteacher and then stayed home to raise Smith and his older brother, **Landon '71**, who died in 2004.

After he graduated from MUS, Smith went to Loyola University, taking a year to study in Rome, Italy.

His Jesuit professors at Loyola were strict, but someone even tougher had taught Smith. **William Hatchett**, his English teacher from 10th to 12th grade, gave students an F when there was a single grammatical error, Smith says. Worse, Hatchett wouldn't mark the mistake. The student had to find it and then turn the paper back in.

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Left, Eugene Smith and his Redbone Coonhound, Retta, prepare for a training search.

“If the mistake was corrected, the most he’d give you was a C,” Smith says. “I rarely made a grammatical mistake after his classes.”

When Smith took courses in Rome on Catholic mysticism, philosophy, and theology, his professors did not talk about the content of his papers. “They commented on the grammar and how pleasant it was to read a paper and not have to go through and red-ink everything,” he says.

He finished Loyola with a bachelor’s degree in business management. After college he worked in mortgage banking in Memphis. Through investments his father made and some Smith made himself, he was able to retire early.

He and Pat, his wife of 30 years, moved to a house in Lakeland on 5.5 acres, which included a barn for Pat’s horses. She grew up participating in English hunter-jumper competitions, and she still enjoys riding, he says.

Smith has kept in touch with some of his MUS buddies. In second grade he met **Grady McDonald ’73**, and the two have been best friends ever since. They even ended up marrying sisters, Pat and Beth Goodwin (**Michael Goodwin ’74** is their brother).

McDonald describes Smith as a man full of energy with the wit of a professional comedian. “He is so funny that sometimes his jokes make your ribs ache from laughter,” he says.

The two couples once took a trip together to Monte Carlo, and Pat stopped to talk to some “shady characters,” McDonald says. Smith told McDonald and his wife: “Don’t worry, I know how to say take the chicks and leave us alone in five different languages.”

## HELPING HANDS AND PAWS

When Smith found out about the sheriff’s office emergency services, it became a way for him to work closely with law enforcement and help people. He took a 16-week course from the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians to become certified as an Emergency Medical Responder.

Patty Wood, a long-time volunteer for the sheriff’s office emergency services, has worked in search and rescue for more than 22 years. She trained Smith and his dogs Retta and Elke, a German Shepherd who searches for cadavers.

Wood says Smith is great with his dogs and recently helped pinpoint the corner where a missing person was last seen several days before.

“The scent had vanished at that corner,” Wood says. “Eugene thought the tip he and Retta provided was not as helpful as he had hoped, until a woman who lived at the corner told detectives that the man got in a red truck at that spot a few days ago. That’s detective work, putting pieces together to solve a case. Eugene and Retta did that.”

Beyond tracking skills, Wood says one of Smith’s biggest contributions to the search-and-rescue effort is his ability to get along with anyone and put people at ease in a tense situation. “Other searchers look forward to working with him,” she says. “He’s always got a joke, and he keeps us laughing, which helps.”

A few months ago, **Dr. Jim Varner ’73** spotted Smith at Shelby Farms practicing his search and rescue.

“When I saw him working with the dogs, I thought, of all the people in our class, he would be the person who would be voted Least Likely to be Involved with Law Enforcement,” Varner says.

“I’d have probably thought that too,” Smith says.

Back then, nothing held his attention long, he says. He was enthusiastic about everything. Over time Smith honed his energy and focus. That helped with his studies at Loyola and in Italy as well as with his career. And now, it’s with ease, confidence, and a desire to help the community that Smith works as a first responder and trains his dogs in search and rescue.

## IN SEARCH OF THE RESCUE

After Retta finds her “missing person,” Smith puts the dog in her crate. He grabs a jar from his truck – five rib bones and a piece of a vertebra clatter. Human bones.

Smith scatters the bones around a new trail, tossing one off the path and hiding another under leaves. He brings Elke to the trail on leash. He unhooks her.

“Sometimes I have to send her places that I can’t access,” Smith says. “I do that by extending my arm and hand in a general direction. You know, how the game-show girls do when showing the prizes.”

He says the hand motion has to be general because sometimes, when cases go to trial, defense lawyers accuse people in search and rescue of cueing their dog to show an alert – that they have found something.

The technique works. Elke watches the hand and casts her nose in that direction, walking into the woods. Then she stops, sits, and waits for Smith to come see the bone she has found.

“When I started, I was kind of thinking I was going to come down with a [rescued] little girl on my shoulder,” Smith says. “It’s not like that.”

“It’s a daisy chain of people and dogs, not one person,” Wood says. “It’s the people that go hide in the woods for you so you can train your dogs. The people who keep the equipment running. We all come together to try to save lives.”

Smith understands that. He’s happy when his dogs hit a scent or trail that eventually helps find the person, or their remains.

But he hopes one day Retta – or Joey, a new bloodhound he is training – will lead him to a person who was missing. He still wants that hero shot – coming down a hill with a rescued little girl on his shoulder. ■

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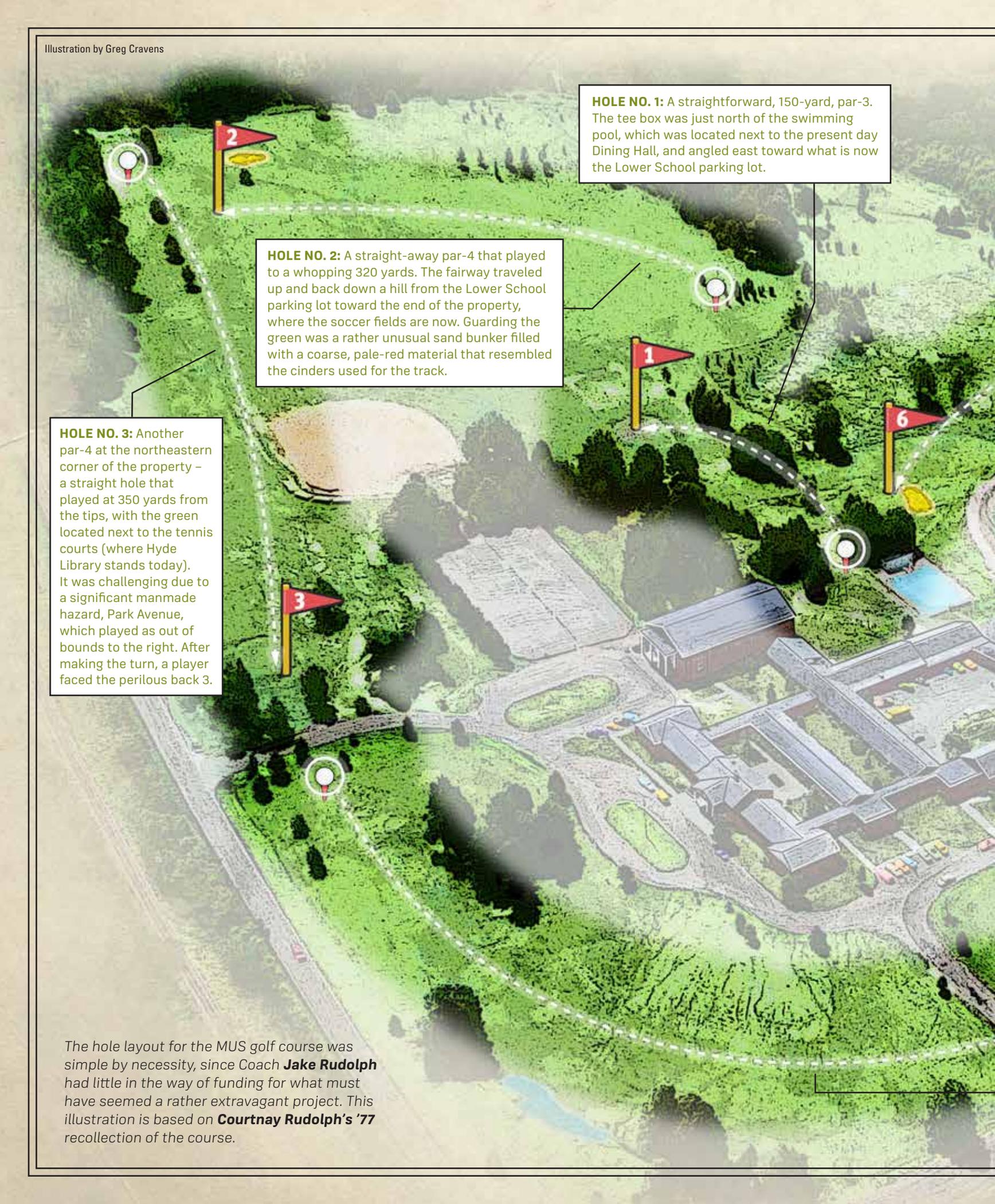
CINDY WOLFF IS A FREELANCE WRITER BASED IN MEMPHIS.

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*At top right, human bones – from skullsunlimited.com – await a search-and-rescue trial for Elke, Smith’s German Shepherd.*

*Bottom right, Retta’s nose is a powerful tool in a search mission.*





**HOLE NO. 1:** A straightforward, 150-yard, par-3. The tee box was just north of the swimming pool, which was located next to the present day Dining Hall, and angled east toward what is now the Lower School parking lot.

**HOLE NO. 2:** A straight-away par-4 that played to a whopping 320 yards. The fairway traveled up and back down a hill from the Lower School parking lot toward the end of the property, where the soccer fields are now. Guarding the green was a rather unusual sand bunker filled with a coarse, pale-red material that resembled the cinders used for the track.

**HOLE NO. 3:** Another par-4 at the northeastern corner of the property – a straight hole that played at 350 yards from the tips, with the green located next to the tennis courts (where Hyde Library stands today). It was challenging due to a significant manmade hazard, Park Avenue, which played as out of bounds to the right. After making the turn, a player faced the perilous back 3.

The hole layout for the MUS golf course was simple by necessity, since Coach **Jake Rudolph** had little in the way of funding for what must have seemed a rather extravagant project. This illustration is based on **Courtney Rudolph's '77** recollection of the course.

# Lost Links

Remembering the Greens and Fairways of the MUS Golf Course

BY ROSS REDMONT '15

**HOLE NO. 6:** The dramatic finishing hole – another short par-3 of about 110 yards that teed off from where the home plate of the baseball field is now to the green, which was guarded by a deep water hazard: the swimming pool.

**HOLE NO. 5:** A par-3 that typically played to 120 yards, the tee box was where the long and triple jump pit is located today, and the green was situated near the south end zone of the football field. What made this hole tricky was a shallow grass bunker at greenside left, a hazard more closely associated with links-style golf in Ireland or England than Memphis.

**HOLE NO. 4:** The course's signature hole – a dogleg left par-4 that played to a smooth 350 yards, with a fairway that ran parallel to Park Avenue. This was a hazard in that the road was considered out of bounds, and drivers were inclined to honk during one's backswing. A drainage ditch angled across the fairway to the corner of the property, and the smallish green was located in what is now the northwest quadrant of the senior parking lot. Longer hitters, eager to take both the road and the ditch out of play, would try to eliminate these perils by hitting the ball over the front of the school.



Editor's Note: In spring 2015 **Ross Redmont '15** wrote an essay about the MUS golf course based on interviews with **Courtney Rudolph '77** for **Jonas Holdeman's** Great American Essayists course. Following is an excerpt.

**A** satellite image of our campus today would reveal woods, buildings, and parking lots with narrow asphalt ribbons of road linking the business of the school day to the recreation of the afternoon and evening, including a newly completed tennis center; fields for baseball, lacrosse, and soccer; and a six-lane track inside stately Stokes Stadium. Had you taken a shot from a small plane flying over the property in 1962, you would not have seen Stokes Stadium, the six-lane track, the now-familiar fields for soccer, lacrosse, and baseball, or the newly-completed tennis center. Instead, you would have seen a rifle range, a hotel-sized pool, and, believe it or not, a six-hole golf course.

Today members of the golf team rarely train together: Each golfer belongs to a club or plays at one of several public courses in the area in preparation for the competitive season each fall. That idea made no sense to the school's legendary former football and golf coach, **Jake Rudolph**. He wanted his players to

have the opportunity to practice and play together – and what better way to accomplish that objective than to build and maintain a course on the 94-acre campus.

Soon after his arrival at MUS, Rudolph began work on the layout of the six-hole course. Construction of the greens – accomplished by the acquisition and use of a specialty greens power mower – and cutting of the fairways began in 1962, and in 1963 the course was ready for play. Rudolph was adamant about his players practicing; in fact, in absence of appropriately deep sand bunkers on the course, he had them practice hitting out of the trackside long jump pit.

*I have vivid memories of the course that Coach Rudolph designed and built – and he sometimes cut greens. The golf team used the course for practice and intra-squad practice matches. It was also heavily used during summer day camps.*

- **Dwight Drinkard '66**

Rudolph was an expert in turf grass care, and notoriously protective of the lush carpets he maintained on the campus athletic fields, assisted by Roosevelt Dean from the maintenance staff. Students often joked with him about his vigilance in keeping the grass in pristine condition. One story passed down through the Rudolph family involves **Gayden Drew '71**, who once took a bag of balls and started hitting iron shots from the football field to the green on hole No. 5. When Rudolph asked, irately,



Barry Blumberg '68 putts as Rob York '71, Gayden Drew '71, Bob Sullivan '68, and Ray Turman '68 stand by.

*When we got older and could hit the ball farther, it was tempting on the fourth hole to just try to hit it directly over the school buildings on the left towards the green. When Dad found out about that he fussed at us a lot. I also remember that on the fifth hole, which was in the south end zone of the football field, usually no one remembered to take the pin out for games. So in old game films, when they would pan to the scoreboard, you could always see that flag just flapping in the breeze, especially on windy nights.*

- **Courtney Rudolph '77**

why Drew would hit balls on his field, he responded, "Sorry, Coach, the grass is so lush, I couldn't help myself!"

Some would say that having a course on campus would be a disaster due to the liability of golf balls sailing into one of the streets and potentially damaging passing cars, but at the time, the campus boundaries of Park and Ridgeway carried

sparse traffic. The campus looked very different, too. There was no stadium around the football field, no athletic building, no science building, and no plethora of playing fields. The shopping center property across Ridgeway was the Lichtermans' farm then, and, periodically, cows would make their way onto the golf course, eat the grass, and leave enormous brown medallions as evidence of their visits.

*We practiced on this course, but did most of our practicing at Audubon, where most of our matches were played. Larry "Ducky" Shurlds was our coach. Coach Rudolph was always nervous about our hitting off of the football field and chunking up the turf – understandable.*

**- Mark Schandorff '71**

balls all over the field. By the late '60s and early '70s, the course was suffering from neglect. MUS began constructing new buildings around campus, which were located in harm's way. In 1966 Rudolph was named the school's athletic director and stopped coaching golf, simply because he did not have enough time to manage his new responsibilities and coach the golf team. This rang the death knell for the MUS course.

As the course fell into disrepair and ultimately began to fade back into the lawn from which it had come, the only surviving feature of its short life was the greens mower. After Rudolph stopped maintaining the course, the mower found a new home. Former Associate Headmaster **Leigh MacQueen**, who had a penchant for croquet and badminton, put the old mower to new use by making croquet and badminton courts in the yard of his home on the south side of campus. Often students would use these courts during their free time.

*I remember the lucky guys who had good grades and were exempt from seventh period study hall could go outside and play on the course. The late Gayden Drew got caught playing golf out there without socks [by Coach Jerry Peters] and had to run a lot of laps! Unfortunately, Gayden is no longer here. I bet he had a photographic memory of the course that completely encircled the original school buildings.*

**- Jimmy Ogle '70**



Gayden Drew '71 makes a splash as he tries to hit out of a water hazard.

As it turns out, the golf course is one of the most unusual features to ever grace the campus. It was the only course of its kind in Memphis, and Rudolph believed it to be the only course on a high school campus at the time. Although now only a distant memory to older alumni and faculty, it will remain a part of the school's legacy forever.

ROSS REDMONT '15 IS A FRESHMAN MAJORING IN ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE AND A MEMBER OF THE GOLF TEAM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE, MARTIN.

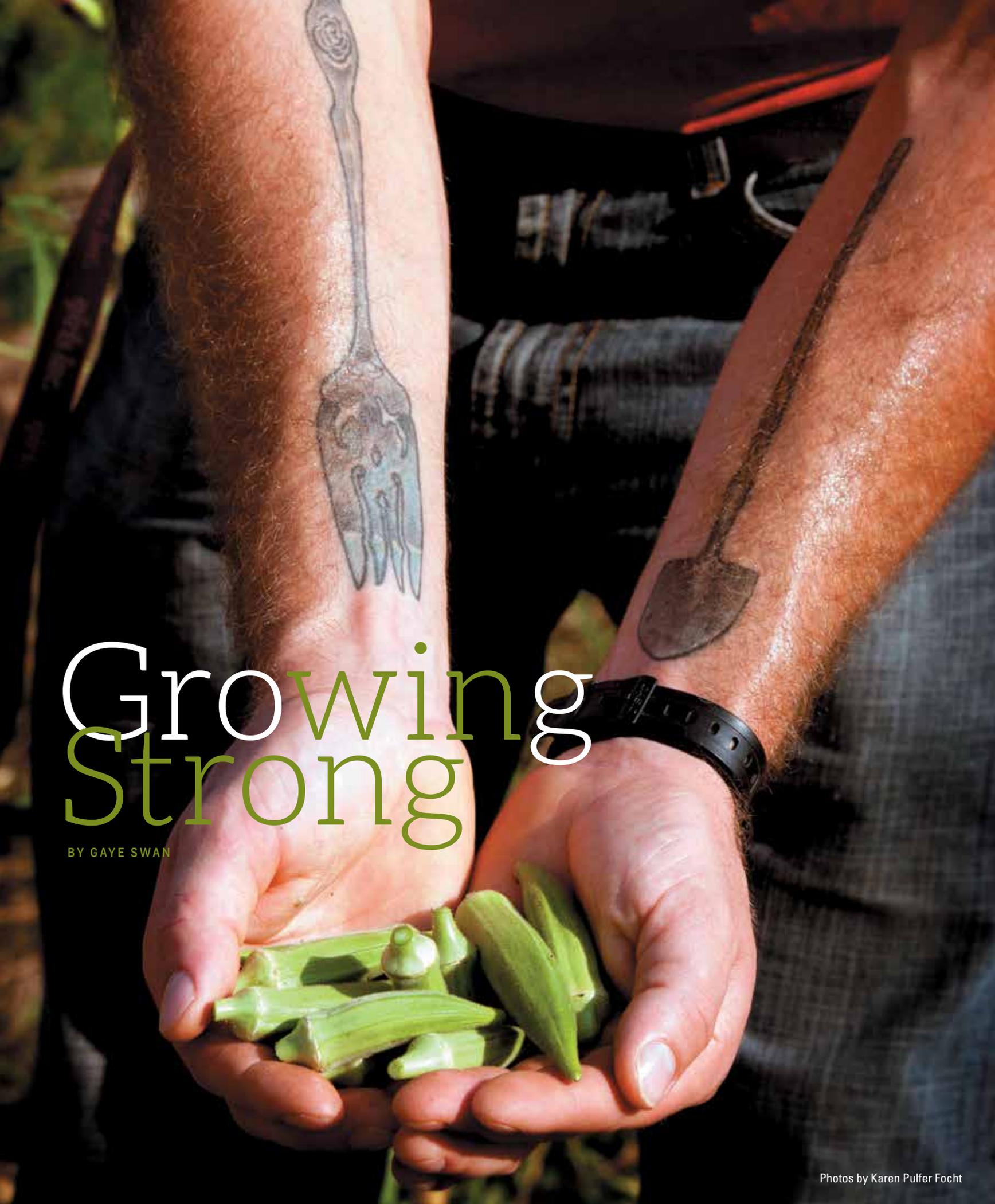
MUS ARCHIVIST AND SCHOOL HISTORIAN JOHN E. HARKINS, PH.D., CONTRIBUTED TO THIS PIECE.



Members of the 1964 golf team: Barry Blumberg '68, Andy Allen '65, Bill Miller '65, John Nickey '65, Dwight Drinkard '66, and Jim Sorrels '66 with Coach Jake Rudolph

The course was slightly modified in the late '60s when the new football bleachers were installed. Rudolph decided that hole No. 5 was to be cut out of the course because the new structures were too close to it, and he did not want golf





# Growing Strong

BY GAYE SWAN

# Miles Tamboli Helps Girls Learn the Business of Farming

**O**n a hot and humid summer's day, you would expect to find most teenage girls in the comfort of an air-conditioned building. Drive out to a 9.5-acre farm in Frayser, however, and you'll find six high school girls sweating over tomatoes, eggplant, okra, basil, and wildflowers – and, by all appearances, happy to be there.

The place is a youth farm created this spring for Girls Incorporated of Memphis, a nonprofit organization that provides educational programming for girls. The project is the brainchild of Girls Inc. President and CEO Lisa Moore and Farm Manager **Miles Tamboli '07**.

On this August afternoon, four of the six young ladies of the youth farm crew take a “farm walk,” examining the progress of the fall vegetables before moving on to collect the remaining summer bounty under Tamboli's watchful eye.

Laughter and chatter fill the air as the girls harvest their crops. Tamboli redirects the conversation back to agriculture with questions: “Has anyone seen any tomato hornworms? See where they've been eating the leaves?”

A chorus of “ewws” is the response, but the girls are more careful as they examine the tomato plants. Okra is next, with Tamboli showing the girls which green pods are ready to pick and which should be left to ripen until the following week.

After harvesting is complete, Tamboli and the crew head to the shade, where a picnic table awaits. As the girls have a snack, they plan for a trip to the Memphis Farmers Market, where they are responsible for pricing, marketing, and selling their produce every Saturday the market is open. Tamboli offers advice and supervision, but he says it is important for the crew to make the decisions, from what to plant to how much to charge at market.

“They are getting the full experience of running a business,” Tamboli says. “We want to encourage a spirit of entrepreneurship as well as teach life skills.”

The farm broke ground in April, and Memphis-area girls ages 16 to 18 applied for the six spots available for the first farm crew. Going forward the program will adapt and grow based on the input of these pioneering members.

“We have what we call ‘real talk,’ when the girls can tell me whatever they think about the farm. We'll continue to develop the program based on what they tell me – so they are forming the future of the youth farm,” he says.



*Miles Tamboli's passions for sustainable farming and social justice converge in his work managing the Girls Incorporated Youth Farm.*

Tamboli's work combines several of the causes he feels passionate about: “The farm is an opportunity to merge my love of food and people with my career and social goals of impacting youth, my community, poverty, and public health. Growing food with young people fights blight, educates our teens, provides jobs and healthy food options to the community, and affords me the opportunity to tap into natural systems while enjoying the literal fruits of my labor.”

The experience of Nikeishia Davis, a senior at Martin Luther King Jr. College Preparatory High School, reflects well on Tamboli's goals as well as the purpose of the Girls Inc. Youth Farm.

“Working at the farm has taught me that healthy eating is essential to life. I've also learned to use a cash register!” Davis says. “I've learned that teamwork is everything and that meeting new people and networking is very important.”

Tamboli says his interest in social justice work was formed at MUS.

“Volunteering and tutoring through the Civic Service Organization gave me the exposure I needed to become a confident mentor and a skilled facilitator,” he says. “Every time I give a

tour of the farm or speak at a community event, I think back on the skills I learned as a Student Ambassador, and I've certainly come to value the critical-thinking and problem-solving skills I learned from my teachers at MUS."

While in Upper School he also started working in restaurants – one of his first jobs was washing dishes and waiting tables at Petra Restaurant – and finding joy in eating good, healthy food, he says.



*In addition to tending the Frayser farm plot, participants learn about entrepreneurship, social justice, and civic engagement.*

Tamboli began to connect the dots between health and social indicators – poverty, gender, employment, urban environments, and education – while working toward his degree in global and community health at Tulane University. His interests truly lined up during an internship at Grow Dat Youth Farm in New Orleans.

"I thought I'd get the chance to find out what made a garden tomato better than a grocery tomato," Tamboli says. "It turns out the farm was all about teaching teenagers about social justice while paying them to grow food. Pretty much immediately, I knew they were onto something."

After graduating from Tulane in 2011, Tamboli earned a sustainable farming apprenticeship certificate from Apricot Lane Farms in California. He and a friend moved to Portland, OR, and founded the Simpson Street Farm, growing and selling high-quality fresh vegetables in the neighborhood around a reclaimed city lot. He moved back to Memphis in 2014, drawn by the city's climate for agriculture and environment for social activism. Soon after his return he met Girls Inc.'s Moore, who wanted to create a girl-managed organic farm on the Frayser property to teach high school girls skills in leadership, entrepreneurship, and community engagement.

"The vision was so clear, but no one on the Girls Inc. staff, including myself, had experience in managing a farm," Moore says.

She remembered meeting Tamboli at a community event and

hearing him share his reason for returning to Memphis – to work on urban farming. The two met for lunch, realized they shared common goals, and began to develop the youth farm concept.

"It is a powerful thing as a leader to work with a person who has connected his mission and vision for life with his career," Moore says. "Miles not only is deeply concerned about growing healthy food and building community, but he is equally focused on growing healthy whole girls the Girls Inc. way. He is a tremendous positive male role model for the youth farmers, and that is healthier in some ways for these young women than a pound of organic okra!"

Back at the Girls Inc. Youth Farm, the conversation turns to plans for the fall and the proposed launch of a farmers market in Frayser that will bring fresh produce to area residents. Customers can purchase produce through a program called Double Greens, which allows Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) beneficiaries to double the value of their dollars when purchasing vegetables from the youth farm. The girls are also implementing a community-action plan completely of their own making, working with younger children at community centers around Memphis.

After a break from mid-November to early January, the crew will plan their summer crops and participate in workshops on entrepreneurship, social justice, the food system, and civic engagement. In the meantime, there's more work to be done while the growing season lasts.



*Tamboli and Girls Inc. farm workers inspect the last of the summer harvest and the emerging fall crop.*

"Our fall crop is coming up rapidly," Tamboli says, "and we are looking forward to sugar snap peas, broccoli, cauliflower, Brussels sprouts, lettuces, beets, turnips, radishes, and a wide variety of hearty greens after the last tomato is harvested." ■

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GAYE SWAN IS A FREELANCE WRITER BASED IN MEMPHIS.

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# Kuroma Toys with 'Contorted Pop'

BY CHRISTOPHER BLANK

**S**ince the band Kuroma debuted eight years ago, music critics have taken stabs at categorizing its sound. The word “psychedelic” comes up in reviews, but mind-altering substances are hardly necessary to enjoy the musical groove of **Hank Sullivan '01**.

“I describe it as a kind of contorted pop,” says Sullivan, “and in some cases pure pop. I think of music as a really good toy that’s fun to play with.”

Download a few songs from their album *Kuromarama* – such as “Love Is on the Way” or “20+ Centuries,” released in April – and you’ll hear some feel-good, kaleidoscopic pop that pushes the smile button in the brain. Sullivan may profess a lyrical, spiritual connection to Franz Kafka and Thomas Pynchon, but his music is anything but dark and dense.

“I make music that reflects the music I listen to,” he says, talking from a Brooklyn recording studio where Kuroma’s next album is already in the works. “I want songs that are beautiful, something that blends the new and the familiar. Sometimes you go into a restaurant and they try to throw you off with wacky combinations. For me, this [forthcoming] album is like blackberry cobbler.”

We’re getting ahead of ourselves, though; we can expect Sullivan’s next release, title yet unnamed, sometime around March.

Despite wearing the multiple hats of singer, guitarist, songwriter, and producer, Sullivan’s role of frontman is his least



From left, Will Berman, Hank Sullivan, James Richardson, and Simon O'Connor of Kuroma

assuming. He prefers to let the music do the talking and the listener do the interpreting.

That was true back in high school when he and some friends – **Charlie Gerber '01**, Nick Robbins, and Andrew VanWyngarden – became devotees of the band Big Ass Truck, a Memphis group with a cult following.

“It was creative and cool music,” Sullivan says. “I still think Steve Selvidge is one of the best guitar players I’ve seen. As a 16-year-old, we’d go to a concert and they’d be playing music along with some weird indie film. It was an imaginative way of presenting music.”

Inspired by the group’s eclectic style, Sullivan’s buddies formed Accidental Mersh, a jam band that played gigs ranging from the MUS spring dance to concerts at the New Daisy.

After graduation Sullivan embarked on an English degree at the University of Georgia. There, he co-founded and played bass for an acclaimed indie band called The Whigs before leaving to launch Kuroma, derived from the Japanese word for “black horse.” Between the recording and release of Kuroma’s first album *Paris*, he also served a stint as a guitarist in VanWyngarden’s group MGMT, which toured internationally in 2008.

Sullivan followed up *Paris* with 2010’s *Psychopomp* and 2015’s *Kuromarama*. Meanwhile, Kuroma has made regular

appearances on tour with MGMT.

The band’s latest incarnation includes musicians James Richardson and Will Berman (guitarist and drummer for MGMT, respectively) and Simon O’Connor.

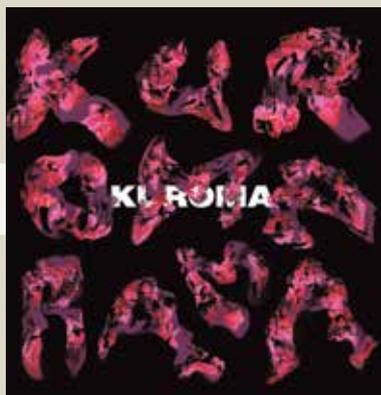
For his next record, Sullivan is trying to capture the grittier vibe of his early music days. “We kind of ripped through it,” he says of some of the recent sessions. “That’s what’s great about it. It has a good-time feel.”

While Sullivan was partially responsible for bringing the party music to the Class of 2001, he also made the school proud as the co-captain of its winning lacrosse team.

“I’m short, so I wasn’t awesome at basketball,” he jokes. “But at lacrosse, we were four-time state champions.”

Now living in Athens, GA, Sullivan is happily married to Daisy, a designer of fabric patterns. They have a 1-year-old son, Henry “Hank” Sullivan IV, whose influence on the music of Kuroma is starting to grow.

“For sure he’s having an affect on me and my music,” Sullivan says. “It’s hard to be reflective when I’m still kind of new to fatherhood. But I can feel it already.” ■



*Kuromarama* is the latest release, but more songs are on the way.

CHRISTOPHER BLANK IS NEWS DIRECTOR AT WKNO.

# Batter & Up



*Staks Pancake Kitchen Flips up Eats in East Memphis*

BY MARCI WOODMANSEE

**B**rice Bailey '02 shakes his head and laughs when asked about the catchy tagline, “So Flippin’ Good,” featured on the website and employee T-shirts for Staks, the pancake kitchen he opened with his wife, Stephanie, and partners, Bill and Tressa Ogles, at the well-traveled corner of Poplar and Perkins.

“Our marketing consultant came up with that,” he says. “My MUS teachers probably wouldn’t like it. I don’t think it’s grammatically correct!”

While the tagline might not pass muster with disciples of *The Owl English Handbook*, Brice’s former teachers likely wouldn’t argue with the menu.

Staks’ specialty is pancakes, and the bright, airy restaurant offers two central tables with griddles where you can cook your own, customizable with any of a dozen different topping options. You can also order up Chocolate Raspberry, Lemon Ricotta, Oreo-Praline, or even Gluten-Free flapjacks. The Gouda Grits have become a fan favorite, Brice says, along with the Cinnamon Roll pancakes. For those whose tastes run more to savory than sweet, Staks also serves up omelettes, Huevos Rancheros, Shrimp-N-Grits, and Chicken-N-Biscuit, among its many options. The menu also boasts locally sourced ingredients, including bacon from Porcellino’s Craft Butcher and sausage from Winchester Farm (owned by Leslie and **Peter Schutt '68**).

While Brice’s day job still revolves around the world of fixed-income sales and trading at Fifth Third Bank, the ins and outs of keeping a new restaurant afloat are never far from his mind.

“I’ve always been interested in restaurants,” Brice says. “We started talking with Bill and Tressa about doing this nearly two years ago. The concept evolved a lot, but I

think the restaurant has a little bit of all of us in it now.”

Brice’s wife, Stephanie Bailey, an emergency-room pharmacist at Methodist Le Bonheur Germantown Hospital, says part of the impetus for launching Staks was their feeling that the area could use more breakfast options.

“We wanted to create somewhere that we wanted to go,” she says. “There was really nothing for breakfast in this area, and it seems like a hub for business, with residential, schools, and churches nearby.”

Open seven days a week from 6:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., Staks also offers a lunch menu of soup, salads, and sandwiches. A pastry chef creates fresh treats daily that customers can purchase from the display case.

“We spent months working on the food,” Brice says. “The two qualities we wanted to focus on were consistency in what we produced and making sure everything always tastes good. The first couple of weeks were really nerve-wracking because if something came out slightly wrong, it really bothered us. We didn’t want to disappoint!”

“It’s been a learning experience,” Stephanie says. “We spent a lot of time researching, trying to find the right people to help us. I keep telling people we had a restaurant baby this summer!”

Finding the right general manager was key, Brice says. “Our GM [Eric Bush] is exceptional, and it made our job a lot easier once we found him.”

Still, the founders spend every spare hour at the restaurant, fine-tuning the experience, and they are already thinking about growing the business. “There are certain areas of Memphis we think we could do very well in, so we would definitely like to expand if we can,” Brice says. “A lot of people told us this is the hardest industry



Stephanie and Brice Bailey '02 enjoy the view from the front booth at Staks.

to break into, but if you have patience, it’s doable.”

Grateful for the steady stream of friends and family that came in during the restaurant’s opening month of September, the Baileys and their partners are determined to keep customers coming back for more.

“The first weekend, we were just overwhelmed by the support of family and friends,” Stephanie says. “Now it’s not just people we know, and our friends and family are still coming back – that’s been the best thing! So we know it’s not just because they love us, they actually love the place and the food, too.”

Among the patrons have been a good number of Owls and their families. Brice says he appreciates the foundation he received at Memphis University School and the community it fosters.

“I think MUS students like to be leaders,” he says. “If you look around this city, you see graduates who’ve been very successful in a variety of different industries. I think you leave there with the idea that you are supposed to do something very well. Ours just happens to be pancakes!” ■

## Staks Chicken Salad

**2 pounds skinless boneless chicken breast**  
**1 stalk celery, finely diced**  
**1/2 cup dried cranberries**  
**1 cup mayonnaise**  
**1/2 cup sour cream**  
**1 tablespoon ground coriander**  
**1/2 teaspoon cayenne pepper**  
**Salt and pepper to taste**

In stockpot of boiling water, cook chicken thoroughly. Remove from water and let cool.

Shred chicken.

Combine chicken and remaining ingredients. Salt and pepper to taste.

Makes about 5 cups.

# Extra! Extra!

## CLASS NEWS

### '59

**Don Austin** spent two and one-half weeks of the Christmas holidays in New Zealand, visiting his son, **Don '84**, and his family, who live in Hong Kong.

**Landon Butler** retired last spring from his family real estate investment advisory company in Washington, DC, and after traveling for a good part of the summer with his wife, Carol, now spends most of the time on their farm in northern Virginia. In October he participated in one of the panel discussions held during a tribute to former Vice President Walter Mondale in Washington, DC, organized by the University of Minnesota's Humphrey School of Public Affairs. On hand to honor Mondale were former President Jimmy Carter and Vice President Joe Biden. The conference is available on YouTube. The Butlers, along with the Deupree Family Foundation and the Turley Foundation, helped fund the Memphis Brooks Museum of Art's purchase of photos

taken by Ernest C. Withers (1922-2007) before and during the civil rights movement of the '50s and '60s. The exhibit, *William Eggleston & Ernest C. Withers in Conversation*, was scheduled to run through January 3, 2016.

**Fowler Cooper** made a summertime visit to Philadelphia with his son, Fowler, where they visited Dad's alma mater, the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, and his old apartment in the school area, now totally redone, which Fowler says, "is saying a lot, given it's not much bigger than a postage stamp!" They also visited the Philadelphia Museum of Art, took a historic tour, ate cheesesteaks, and went to an Eagles football game.

**Howard Ellis's** granddaughter Ashley Kane raised money last summer in St. Louis for the second consecutive year for Heifer International, a charity organization working to end hunger and poverty around the world by providing livestock and training to struggling communities. Upon completion of her goal (swimming 1,500

laps at her community pool), 27 sponsors contributed more than \$3,300, representing a 65 percent increase over the previous year.

**John K. Lawo, Jr.** has published a new webinar titled "10 Signs Magazine Publishers Need Help – Where to Get It, What to Do About It," which can be found at [shweiki.com/blog/2015/09/10-signs-magazine-publishers-need-help/](http://shweiki.com/blog/2015/09/10-signs-magazine-publishers-need-help/)

**Bryan Nearn** and his wife, Ginny, made a summer mission trip with Second Presbyterian Church to Beirut, Lebanon, where they taught Vacation Bible School classes to the poorest of the poor, Muslim boys and girls ages 1 to 4. The team also ministered to their Christian teachers and Muslim parents. The Nearn's hope to return to Beirut next summer to continue the ministry. Bryan's Asheville Holiday Inn was recently awarded the Quality Excellence Award by IHG, a result of customer surveys on hotel cleanliness and guest services. It was one of only 15 Holiday Inns worldwide to receive the prestigious award.

Plans call for refinancing and renovation of the hotel in 2016, which will keep the Nearn's in North Carolina quite a bit, as Asheville and Cashiers have become their second homes in the past several years. Son Ben continues production on several movies that should make their debuts in early to mid-year.

**Bill Simmons** made a hole-in-one with a 7 wood (182 yards) this summer on the 10th hole at Memphis Country Club. Reluctant to admit it, Bill didn't think it was newsworthy and said, "It only took me 74 years!"

**T.L. Stebbins** and his wife, Lucinda (celebrating 50 years this year), live in Wellesley, MA. He retired in 2008 after running the investment banking group at Adams, Harkness & Hill, a boutique firm in Boston, for almost 40 years. Lucinda, a tax accountant specializing in registered investment companies (read mutual funds), retired this year. They have three sons: Ted, who suffered a traumatic brain injury 30 years ago and now lives in a structured community in New Hampshire

with a lady in similar circumstances; Rusty, who bought a home healthcare business in the Boston area five years ago and is also a professional standup comedian; and Tom, who is the executive director of an organization trying to reform tort law in New York state. He and his wife, Jo, live in Albany with their two children. The Stebbins spend summers at their house on New Hampshire's Lake Winnepesaukee and much of the winter in Naples, FL. T.L. remains active on a few boards of organizations that help the handicapped and sells old kids' stuff that he has accumulated over the years on eBay. Lucinda remains on the boards of several mutual funds, and has begun playing competitive bridge. The Stebbins enjoyed a visit from Lyn and **Ted Bailey** for a couple of days last summer.

**Henry Turley** is working with Archie Willis III on a makeover of Central Station in downtown

Memphis. Plans include a hotel in conjunction with the Kemmons Wilson Companies, a theater complex with Malco, and new apartments on both Main and Front Street. The station would continue to serve the Memphis Farmers Market, Memphis Railroad and Trolley Museum, and Amtrak. "One of our goals is to make Central Station central again," Turley says. In other news, Turley has been named to the Hillary for Tennessee Leadership Council to help promote the presidential campaign of Hillary Rodham Clinton. Also, *Memphis* magazine named the downtown real estate developer to its annual Who's Who list, published in August.

## '60

At our 55th reunion, **George Owen** reported that Lucile and **John Bondurant** hosted a wonderful cocktail party, where

he said it was especially nice to see **Les Nicholson '58, Bill Butler '58, Bryan Nearn '59, and Allen Malone '59**, along with Class of 1960 attendees **William Gotten, Carl Olsen, Ned Smith, Todd Slaughter, Allen Morgan, Met Crump, Ferrell Varner, and Sam Rembert**. Owen also wrote that he particularly enjoyed a long talk with **Ned Laughlin** at the MUS football game, discovering among other things that Ned "is a closet musician – he plays the piano." He had hoped to see [former MUS foreign language teacher] **David Morelock**, who could not join the class this reunion. A longtime resident of New Orleans and the director of over 70 opera performances, Morelock remarked in a recent conversation with a classmate that our class was the most intelligent and interesting class he taught during his 50-plus year teaching career. Teaching ninth grade English as well as French, Morelock had us

read *Hamlet* instead of the usually required *Julius Caesar*, remarking to us, "I hate *Julius Caesar* and you are old enough to understand *Hamlet*."

At a weekly duplicate bridge tournament, Bondurant and **Alex Wellford** asked Owen's sister, Debby Schadt, why George does not play bridge. She said, "Because he can't sit still that long." They pointed out to her that George sits for long spells while fishing, sanding furniture, and writing MAI appraisals. She responded that she guessed he was not big on playing games. Most of our class took bridge lessons from Lucille Place, an extracurricular activity arranged by **Col. Lynn**.

## '61

**Hammond Cole** has retired from the University of Tennessee Health Science Center's Department of Surgery.



## '60

This fall, **C.D. Smith** became the first person in our class (and perhaps the first in his classes at Taft and Princeton) to complete a 37-day, 3,700-mile bicycle trek from Portland, OR, to Portland, ME, starting and ending with a dip in both oceans. Although occasionally pulling up the rear in the group, C.D. completed an 8,000-foot elevation climb one day and overcame muscle strains and fanny fatigue so he could cross off one of many items on his bucket list. When his group took to the Atlantic Ocean, as the oldest of the group, C.D. was selected to hold up his bicycle in the water. See photo on page 64.

He still does some work at the Memphis VA Medical Center and spends time with his seven grandchildren.

*Memphis* magazine named **Pitt Hyde**, president of the Hyde Family Foundations and founder of AutoZone, to its annual Who's Who list, published in August.

'62

**Jerry Bradfield** reports: What began as an inquiry about downsizing morphed into a discussion of children and grandchildren of various class members (who are very proud of their offspring, and rightfully so). While the final count is ongoing, several members seem to be leading the pack. Pat and **Nat Ellis** have three daughters and 10 grandchildren in East

Tennessee, but Billie and **Dan Work** have four sons and 11 grands! Word has it that **Fred Smith**'s a heavy contender in the grandchildren competition, but we'll need a final count from other class members to get this settled.

I ran into **Pete Shearon** at one of my Rhodes "frat guys" outings at Celtic Crossing. He's still working with the Center for Research in Educational Policy at the University of Memphis. As a former president of Memphis Rotary, he's still involved in several of their mentoring programs in Memphis area schools. His youngest daughter is a Rhodes Student Associate in the school's advancement office; his older one has returned to work as a prosecutor in Miami, where there are three prosecutors assigned to each division of criminal court. She's the one

who handles the most serious offenses. His granddaughters are now ages 3 and 1. Pete said, "I still attend Grace-St. Luke's – teaching Sunday school, doing pastoral care. I just got back from a semiannual, geezers-at-the-beach weekend with the group of old guys I run with. Younger daughter, Elizabeth, and I are both running the St. Jude half-marathon; we're on the Rhodes 'Heroes' team (meaning we try to raise \$ for St. Jude)."

**Dan Work** offered this in response to my query: "Jerry, downsizing is simple – don't. 1) Leave all your junk for posterity. When you and Kathy die, someone else will have to clean out the closets, garage, under the beds, etc. 2) If you cannot get your cars in your garage, give away or throw away all the junk in your garage. Garages are for cars. Now if you have

a two-car garage and three or more vehicles, you are probably not concerned with downsizing anyway."

**Nat Ellis** agreed with Dan: "Leave the downsizing to the next generation."

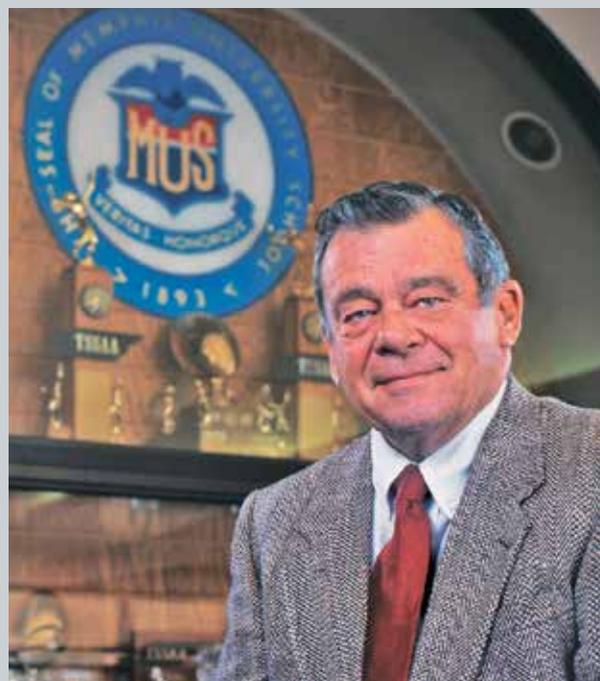
Do most of you agree? Our concerns started a couple of years ago with a Sunday Formation Class on this topic. With most class members about our age, we all felt it was time to unload a lot of our stuff. Not much progress was made, however, until we considered a move to Trezevant Manor and realized it was no longer a choice, but a necessity. We have decided to stay put for now, but it made us keenly aware of our predicament from living in the same house for almost 100 years!

## Bronze Statue to Honor Jake Rudolph

Owl football alumni spanning four decades from the 1960s, '70s, '80s, and '90s have come together to pay tribute to legendary Coach Jake Rudolph on the MUS campus. Their plan includes naming the Jake Rudolph Plaza at the main entrance to Stokes Stadium and Hull-Dobbs Athletic Field. They will erect a bronze statue commemorating his contributions to the school and the influence he had on generations of boys.

Jake Rudolph came to Memphis University School in 1959 as head football coach and later became athletic director. Over 39 years Coach Rudolph's teams went 295-119-4. Winning 10 district titles, six regional titles, two state runner-up titles, and a state AA championship in 1985, his teams always displayed teamwork, perseverance, dedication, and class. He also made an incalculable contribution to the moral development of generations of MUS men. The lessons he taught – courage, excellence, individual responsibility, discipline – exemplify the mission of Memphis University School.

If you would like more information on participating in the memorial to Coach Rudolph, contact the MUS Development Office at (901) 260-1353. Watch a video about the project at [bit.ly/JakeRudolph](http://bit.ly/JakeRudolph).



**Dan Work** added this grandchildren update: “Billie and I have 11 grandchildren. We are blessed in that our sons (we each have two) and their spouses are healthy, employed successfully, and have no desire to come to Germantown to live with Mommy and Daddy. All the grandchildren are healthy, smart, and talented. Billie retired from Helena Chemical in July 2014, and I retired as a CPA in December 2014. Not working presents some challenges of ‘what to do,’ but we overcame that and now are awaking to coffee at about 6 a.m. instead of 5 a.m. I am playing golf about three times more often than before. Billie has become more active at Germantown Presbyterian Church and participates in Team Read at a local school.

“Of course we made our annual train trip to New Orleans for three nights and days of dining and drinking. We will probably not travel to Europe in 2016 as the Muslim influx there concerns us. Next year, probably trips to San Antonio, The Greenbrier [resort], New Orleans, and Door County in northern Wisconsin. Maybe we can schedule San Francisco or upper New York state and New York City, or just drive out West. Every time we dream about these great destinations we are reminded about the difficulty of flying because of the destruction of air passenger service in Memphis.”

Pat Ellis wrote: “Nat and I are equally blessed. No sons-in-law or daughters are eager to return home to Collierville in the near future. All three daughters and their husbands are happy, healthy, and successfully

employed. All 10 grandchildren seem to be happy, healthy, and smart. They are all involved in the appropriate sports, be it soccer, swimming, or cross country, and musical activities, be it piano, violin, guitar, or voice.

“Nat and I enjoy taking our grands who have graduated from middle school on a one-week vacation (of their choosing and our affordability). This year we took two of our grandsons (14-year-old cousins) to Atlantis [Paradise Island Resort] in the Bahamas and had a great time on the water slides, swimming with the dolphins, and enjoying the aquariums, grounds, and beaches there. We also spent a week on Ono Island near Gulf Shores for some fine fishing and swimming with the whole family (all 18 of us). We agree with Dan and Billie that 30 days on a cruise is one week too many after our Panama Canal and South America trip last year! We drove on all our trips this year (except to Nassau) because flying has become such a nuisance – especially out of Memphis. And Nat is so uncomfortable in the airline seats with his 6’6” height.

“In retirement with the luxury of extra time, we find rail and car travel much easier. We’re looking forward to the holidays with our family in East Tennessee. We’ll probably drive to Knoxville or Kingsport where the kids all live. In the meantime we’re trying to pass along all the stuff we’ve accumulated. Some of this will probably be regifted to our daughters’ families. We like Dan’s answer to downsizing: ‘Don’t!’ It’s a daunting task.”

**Jamie Hall** didn’t mention downsizing, but he and Canon “have seen a good bit of activity with grandchildren. Major crisis was with my oldest granddaughter, Ellise, in Vancouver, WA. Bad curvature of the spine operated on and successfully corrected at Seattle Children’s Hospital. We were there for a week for my son, Warren, and his wife, Colleen. My ex, Pat, kept their son Burrich in Vancouver at their house while we were in Seattle.

“[We’ve had] a few trips to both Santa Rosa Beach and NOLA. Stepson **Taylor Hewgley ’94** and daughter-in-law, Tealy, live here but have a condo on St. Charles in New Orleans, so we stayed with them most recently. My oldest son, **Geoffrey ’89**, age 45, retired this year to a home near Boulder, CO, in the mountains. He and his wife, Gretchen, live there with two more grandchildren, Alex and Autumn, and we visited with them coming back from Seattle. My daughter, the youngest of my children, Patricia Jayne Hall Campbell, got her Ph.D. from Emory this year and is now working for the CDC in Decatur, GA. She lives there with her husband, Bob, and their dog, Merle. Canon’s oldest, Taylor, is the manager of Mid South Title in Memphis. Her middle son **Thomas Hewgley ’96** is currently working for a Memphis outdoor advertising firm in sales. Canon’s youngest son, James, is in Santa Rosa Beach where he works as a bartender now, after resigning a job as the manager of a restaurant to make more money for less hours and hassle. If you need anything mixed, Jim is the one to call on. He has become a pro mixologist

– a good thing to have in any group! Trying to get back into hiking again, but my old body doesn’t seem to like the idea much. Went 10 miles one day, and it took me two days to work out the soreness, but I’m keeping at it.”

I hope that some of you who might be challenged by this “grandchildren competition” will be motivated to send an email to me stating the numbers so we can get an actual winner as of now. I know that you are proud of them and would like to share that information with the rest of the class. Any other pertinent information would be appreciated also!

A shout out to **Sam Gary** for his generous establishment of an endowment in his parents’ names for deserving MUS students. If you missed it, there was an excellent article about Sam in the Annual Report, with a great picture of Sam’s parents.

Two of the people selected to write essays for Yale’s Class of 1966 reunion (out of an original class size of 1,000) are from the Class of 1962: **Fred Smith** on the globalization of commerce in the last four decades, and **Gene Dattel** on race, class, and inequality in America.

Also, *Memphis* magazine named Smith, chairman, founder, and CEO of FedEx, to its annual Who’s Who list, published in August.

'63

## Rusty Bloodworth Finally Kicks Back

In 1968 Boyle Investment Company founder Bayard Boyle, Sr. hired **Rusty Bloodworth '63** for a summer job. Some 47 years later, as he celebrates his 70th birthday, Bloodworth is transitioning into a new role at Boyle and enjoying semi-retirement.



Bloodworth, at left with Wilson Barton, received the Russell Johnson Creative Writing Award at graduation. As a senior, he also served as class secretary and yearbook editor of *The Owl*, and was voted Best All Around and Most Talented in the class "Who's Who."

Recognized in the company's fall 2015 report, Bloodworth is known for his dedication to preserving the natural environment in Boyle's development projects. Here on campus, he and his wife, Fran, the parents of **Russell '01** and **Christopher '08**, are also known for the generous gift that helped fund the school's music production studio, named in honor of the family.

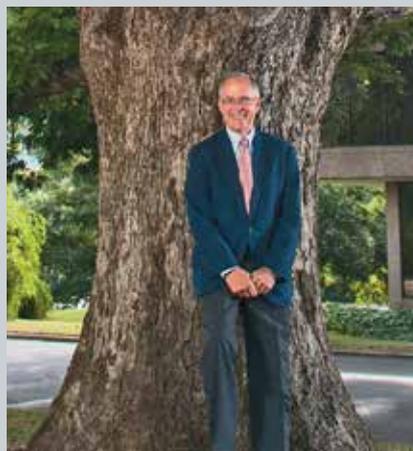
During his long career at Boyle, Bloodworth has worked on numerous large-scale, mixed-use projects. His office, retail, and residential developments include Capitol View in Nashville, and in the Mid-South, Regalia, Humphreys Center, The Cloisters of River Oaks, Spring Creek Ranch, and one of his biggest, Schilling Farms.

"Schilling Farms is probably the

project that reflects best our aspirations," Bloodworth says. "I feel like over time it will be a really great thing for Collierville."

Bloodworth has enjoyed working with numerous MUS alumni during his years at Boyle, including chairman **Henry Morgan '61**, president **Paul Boyle '87**, executive vice president and COO **Mark Halperin '67**, executive vice president **Cary Whitehead '68**, senior vice president **Joel Fulmer '67**, vice president **Tom Hutton '91**, property manager **David Ruben '09**, and **Jake Rudolph '10**, who interned with the company.

Keeping his title of executive vice president, Bloodworth has reduced his time in the office, only going in about seven to eight hours per week. "Although somehow, I feel busier than I was before, which is not what I was anticipating!" he says. "My decision to cut back was so we can travel more. We have four children – three of whom live out of town – and nine grandchildren, so that was a big part of it."



In all of his projects, Bloodworth has made it a priority to preserve the natural environment, including this 100-year-old tree in front of Boyle's headquarters at 5900 Poplar. At one point it was slated for removal for a parking lot, but he intervened. Photo by Jack Kenner, courtesy of Boyle.

'66

**Hank Hill** reports that **Bruce Bullwinkel** and **Baker Thompson** are both retired and enjoying life. Next time you're in New Albany, MS, stop by and say hello to Bruce. Sad to announce two classmates passed away this past year. **John 'Butch' Petree** and **George Stratton** died within months of each other. Business partner and friend, **Brig Klyce**, is helping fund a scholarship in memory of George at MUS (see info below). Classmates and friends are also planning to establish a memorial for Butch, and details will be shared as this develops. On a more cheerful note, this year will be our 50th reunion. Plans are underway for several events, so please mark your calendars for the weekend of September 30 to return to 6191 Park. See you then.

## Classmates Establish Stratton Scholarship Fund

Friends of **George M. Stratton, Jr. '66** established a new endowed fund in his memory this fall. George loved MUS, where he was very involved and made many lifelong friends. This permanent, need-based scholarship was established by **Johnny Adams, Henry Doggrell, Dwight Drinkard, Ed Eleazer, Henry Haizlip, Hank Hill, Frank Jemison, Brig Klyce, Jack Roberts, and Kent Wunderlich** of the Class of 1966 and new honorary classmate Peter Formanek.

Also contributing were **Bob Heller '65, Steve Schadt '65, and Robert Sayle '66**. The fund will ensure that deserving young men will benefit from the same environment and experiences that George held dear.

'67

**Bob Parrish** is still practicing dentistry in Memphis, but he and his wife, Pat, are building a home south of Knoxville in Vonore, TN. They plan to move there when it is finished.

**Hugh Sprunt**, an alumnus of MIT, was one of the school's 2015 George B. Morgan Award recipients, in recognition of his extensive interviewing of admission applicants. His wife, Eve, continues her work in petroleum energy and has written a book to be published early next year.

**Walton Tomford** has retired from his extremely distinguished career as a physician at Cleveland Clinic in Cleveland, OH. His family still has a cabin in Hardy, AR.

'68

"Spirit of Havana," an exhibit of photographs taken in Cuba by the late **David Gingold**, was on display at the Memphis Botanic Garden in July.

**Bruce Hopkins** is now a grandfather and is looking forward to travels with his children.

From attorney **Wis Laughlin**: "My daughter, Erin, former captain of the MUS cheerleaders, has an arts website: [etsy.com/shop/sErindipityArt](http://etsy.com/shop/sErindipityArt). I told her to get a business degree, so what is she doing a few years out of UNC Business School? She exhibits her grandmother's talent. Also, I am moving into a charming

house at 1438 Vance (the Ryan House featured on the Central Gardens home tour) with my girl of several years, Cyndee Gratz. It will accommodate my baby grand piano and all of Cyndee's pets; we are enjoying life with four cats and two dogs. Finally, I'm working on a Beatles medley, starting with the 'Tax Man!' At my office, as we hurtle toward the March 15 tax filing date, I have been giving my Tax Commenter© software a workout. Tax Commenter is my brainchild, and it allows me to produce a written tax plan that advises each client on how to pay the lowest legal taxes."

**Ed Moser** has opened a new business, EddieJack Consulting. His first client is RumChata Caribbean Rum and Cream. He is also a new grandfather to Jack Edgar Query in Boston.

**Peter Schutt**, owner of The Daily News Publishing Co., is planning to open The Curb Market this winter in the former Easy Way location on Cooper Street. Schutt purchased the property and is turning the former space into a retail market selling food exclusively produced within 100 miles of Memphis, including pastured beef, pork, and eggs. Some of the products will come from his own farms – Winchester Farm, a 1,600-acre sustainable, chemical-free farm in Dancyville, TN, and a recently purchased farm in Whiteville, TN. Visit [winchester-farm.com/blog/](http://winchester-farm.com/blog/).

'69

From **Scott Wellford**: "I spoke with **Bill Love** the other day. He recently had a quadruple bypass after having a physical. He's doing great and back up and around. He has sold his dentistry practice but plans to travel and do fill-in work. He sounded great, and everything is fine. Everyone, get an annual physical; make sure you are in good shape. We have a few miles now."

**Terry Reilly** is headed back to Taiwan for another fellowship.

'70

Plastic surgeon **Lou Adams** was included in *Memphis* magazine's annual Top Doctors list in July.



**Frank Crumbaugh**, the rector of Holy Innocents' Episcopal Church in Beach Haven, NJ, took a sabbatical in Maine and built a boat.

**Hunter Humphreys** of Glankler Brown was elected to the American College of Real Estate Lawyers. Humphreys is chairman of Glankler Brown's real estate section and an adjunct professor in the University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law.

**Mike Murphy's** company, Mike Murphy Builders, was runner-up in the Best Home

Builder category in the *Commercial Appeal's* annual Memphis Most contest.

Shelby County Historian **Jimmy Ogle** conducted his first-ever 10-hour tour of downtown Memphis on October 10 at 10:10 a.m. As reported in the *Memphis Flyer*, Ogle said: "I've always liked the number 10. I played basketball in school, and the number on my jersey was 10."

'71

Cardiovascular surgeon **Ed Garrett** was included in *Memphis* magazine's annual Top Doctors list in July. He was also a finalist in the physician's category of the *Memphis Business Journal's* 17th annual Health Care Heroes awards.

**Tom Jones'** daughter is an endodontist. His middle son has been working with him at his dental practice since June 2015, and his youngest son is a chef in New York City.

**Steve Morrow** was recognized as the 2015 Alumnus of the Year by the school's Alumni Executive Board. (Read more on page 42.)

'72

*Memphis* magazine named **Paul Tudor Jones**, founder of Tudor Investment Corporation, to its annual Who's Who list, published in August.

**Will Newbern** completed the Maui Channel Swim in August 2014.

'73

From **Rob Jones**: “**Wise [Jones]** needs some material, so I will come out of the cave and volunteer some info. I recently retired from management in the fitness/health club business after 38 long years, and my blood pressure is back to normal ... go figure. Now I go to Lifetime Fitness and get a great workout every day, take a power nap, and then do extensive research and study of eschatology, with geopolitical/economic events that relate to it. What have I learned? In a nutshell: Praise God for all our many blessings, but we need to WAKE UP and watch out for wolves dressed in sheep’s clothing. Get ready and get prepared. Shalom. God bless.”

*Memphis* magazine named **Bob Loeb**, president of Loeb Properties, to its annual Who’s Who list, published in August.

Memphis gastroenterologist and award-winning wildlife

photographer **David Sloas** won first place in the Tennessee Wildlife Federation photo contest. His vivid image of a fox, shot in his yard in Cordova, is on the cover of the organization’s 2016 calendar. His wildlife photography was on display in October at Germantown Performing Arts Center. Sloas recently shared slides of his work with MUS students during a Friday chapel.



'74

**Chuck Day** was named Foodservice Equipment & Supplies’ 2015 Top Achiever Dealer in the food service industry. Whoop!

'75

**Stilly McFadden** is opening a Nashville sales office for his company, Toof American Digital Printing.

**Henry Stratton**, a broker with Colliers International, was named a Best Seller in the August/September 2015 issue of *Inside Memphis Business*.

Infectious disease specialist **Mike Threlkeld** was included in *Memphis* magazine’s annual Top Doctors list in July.

'76

Vascular surgeon **Hugh Francis** was included in *Memphis* magazine’s annual Top Doctors list in July.

Memphis attorney **John Good** is the new president and chief operating officer for Jernigan Capital, Inc., a direct lender to self-storage developers and owners, which recently moved

its corporate headquarters to Memphis.

First Tennessee has promoted **Rob Heard**, who began his career as a management trainee at First Tennessee 35 years ago, to executive vice president of the private client group in West Tennessee. Heard has experience in retail and commercial banking in addition to his role as a strategic financial partner for the banks and other financial services companies that are customers of First Tennessee and FTN Financial. He is a graduate of the University of Mississippi, the Darden School of Advanced Commercial Lending at the University of Virginia, and the Program on Negotiation at Harvard University. Heard has served in leadership roles with Presbyterian Day School, Second Presbyterian Church, Young Life, and the Southeastern School of Advanced Commercial Lending.

## From Triathlete to Ironman



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Memphis Business Journal

**Johnny Pitts '76** is moving fast, no looking back. In May he won his age group in the Memphis in May Triathlon 2015 Sprint (750-meter swim, 20K bike, and 5K run), his distance specialty. Despite his success, this race and subsequent events were not without challenges.

“The [MIM] triathlon is an all-out sprint race because of the short distance,” he says. “The weather the day of the race was awful. It rained before and during the entire race, which meant a dangerous bike segment with slick roads followed by slippery feet in soaking-wet shoes. There were several crashes and flats, but I managed to make it through.

“Before MIM I competed in a triathlon in Austin, TX, and placed second by only nine

seconds. Afterward I kicked myself for not finding 10 seconds in my transition from swim to bike or bike to swim.

“I was preparing for the triathlon nationals in Milwaukee [when I] strained a hamstring in late June during a 5K race, which ended my season. My orthopedic surgeon, **Owen Tabor '85**, diagnosed my injury and said to lay off the running, but that I could swim and bike as much as I wanted. Owen and I are on the same cycling team called Cirque de Velos. So I finished the season by bike racing as much as I could. I am considering a half Ironman this spring, and if I compete well in that event, I will consider a full Ironman (2.4-mile swim, 112-mile bike, and 26.2-mile run, which is a marathon) in 2017.”

'77

*Memphis* magazine named **Bob Fockler**, president of the Community Foundation of Greater Memphis, to its annual Who's Who list, published in August.

'78

Internist **Howard Nease** was included in *Memphis* magazine's annual Top Doctors list in July.

'79

*Best of Enemies*, a documentary by **Robert Gordon** about the 1968 political debates between William F. Buckley and Gore Vidal, hit the big screens across the country this fall. The film premiered in August in Memphis. Other alumni involved in the project were **Clifton Phillips '77** and composer **Jonathan Kirkscey '93**. Watch the trailer here: [bit.ly/GordonMovie](http://bit.ly/GordonMovie)

See Robert's interview on *PBS NewsHour*: [bit.ly/GordonPBS](http://bit.ly/GordonPBS)

**Rush Waller**, Le Bonheur Children's Hospital pediatric cardiologist, joined the board of Carpenter Art Garden. Under the umbrella of the Binghamton Development Corporation, the art garden is partnering with neighborhood children and adults, as well as local artists, to transform a blighted lot into a place of beauty.

'80

**Hopie Brooks** is on the Business Unit Leadership Team at Cargill Cotton. He leads a merchandising team of 11 people and recently celebrated 31 years with Cargill.

*Memphis* magazine named best-selling author **Hampton Sides** to its annual Who's Who list, published in August.



Memphis dermatologist **George Woodbury**, pictured above with **David Byrd** and **Ty Williams** from the Class of 2019 and **Ellis Haguewood**, was on the MUS campus this fall and talked to students during a Wednesday chapel about the dangers of alcohol, drug, and tobacco use.

'81



The 10th annual "Graduates" golf outing was held in September at **Andy Meyer's** golf chalet on Lake Oconee in Georgia. The boys enjoyed golf at Cuscowilla Golf Resort followed by water sports on the lake. A large time was had by all, with no measurable damage to the course. The Graduates are from left, **Rick Thornton**, **Andy Meyer**, **Ray Moore**, **Bud Thrasher**, **Kevin Russell**, and **David Rudolph**.

'81

Local developer **Billy Orgel** is renovating the massive Tennessee Brewery that has been vacant since 1953. Orgel plans for the 125-year-old brewery to have about 56 apartments; he will also develop the adjacent Wash House with 88 units. Construction is expected to start in January. [bit.ly/OrgelBrewery](http://bit.ly/OrgelBrewery)

With some extra time on their hands during a college tour visit to Montana State, **Boyd Wade** and his daughter, Larson, climbed Sacagawea Peak, the highest point in the Bridger Mountain Range at nearly 10,000 feet. Their guide was **Tom Owen '82**, who has lived there for the past 20 years. During the trip, Wade had the Habanero Parmesan Bacon Burger at the Lodge Sasquatch Kitchen in Fort Collins, which was featured on *Diners, Drive-Ins, and Dives*. It was spicy.

'82

**Doug Carpenter**, principal of doug carpenter & associates and founder of Explore Bike Share, contributed a guest column on the bike share system he envisions for Memphis in the October/November 2015 issue of *Inside Memphis Business*. Learn more about the concept on his website: [explorebikeshare.com](http://explorebikeshare.com).

*Memphis* magazine named television producer, writer, and actor **Dan Schneider** to its annual Who's Who list, published in August.

**Sammy Gannaway** and his wife, Sandy, are celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary. They met in Memphis 27 years ago on a blind date. Their oldest son, Neil, is a graduate of Tennessee Tech in finance. After four years of football as a wide receiver, he is now using his fifth year of eligibility by playing on the Tech golf team and getting his master's degree. Their youngest son, Cole, is following in his dad's footsteps as a freshman at the University of Alabama this fall.

'83

**Craig Christenbury** and his wife, Brook, have three boys, **Jack '15**, **Eli '17**, and **Stephen '19**, and a daughter, Rachel. Craig's company, Chris-Hill Construction, specializes in seismic bridge and utility construction. Craig tells us his retirement plan is "waiting on the big one from New Madrid, MO, ... a 6.8 or higher should be enough."

'84

**Lee McWaters** is on the board of directors of the Memphis Area Association of Realtors for 2016-17.

**Doug Pyne**, his wife, Dena, and their two children have moved from Cincinnati to Houston. He is working as in-house counsel at Whitestone REIT.

'86

**Steve Shipley** is senior vice president of derivative structuring and marketing at Texas Capital Bank in Dallas.

'87

**Richard Hussey** and **Jon Peters '84** were on campus in October as guest teachers in Economics II.

Attorney **Johnny Norris** was promoted to litigation manager at Jackson Lewis's Memphis office.

'88

**Scott McArtor** is a co-founder and managing partner of Hawkeye Partners in Austin, TX. Hawkeye creates institutional-quality investment management programs in real estate private equity.

**Frank Colvett** won the November runoff election for the Memphis City Council District 2 seat.

'89

**Jason Fair** with Wunderlich Securities has obtained the designation of Certified Divorce Financial Analyst.

**Allen Johnson** is vice president and general manager of the energy-management company DFS in New Orleans.

'90

**Will Gotten** recently received his captain's designation from the United States Navy. He is presently at the Pentagon in the Secretary of the Navy's office. He and his wife, Jennifer, live in Clifton, VA, and have two children: Claire, 13, and Trey, 11.

**Jeffrey Kerlan**, a cardiologist with Stern Cardiovascular Foundation, was included in *Memphis* magazine's annual Top Doctors list in July.

**Shannon Rhodes** is a managing director at Meritage Capital in Austin, TX.

**John Roberts** joined Cook

Systems International as a software developer.

'91

**Shea Flinn**, senior vice president of the Chairman's Circle at the Greater Memphis Chamber, was featured in an article about leadership in the August/September 2015 issue of *Inside Memphis Business*.

'92

**Evan Liollo** is a senior project manager with THS Constructors in Greenville, SC.

After five years as the president of the Downtown Memphis Commission, **Paul Morris** is retiring from full-time public service to become your local auto glass connection. Come see him at Jack Morris Auto Glass in the new year.

'92

The best-selling book, *Sex Trafficking: Inside the Business of Modern Slavery*, by **Siddharth Kara '92**, is being made into a movie. The film, *Trafficked*, is directed by Will Wallace and stars Ashley Judd. Kara, the director of the program on human trafficking and modern slavery at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, is one of the world's foremost experts on contemporary slavery. He says: "In addition to writing the screenplay, I was also one of the producers and was on set every day. I even have a small cameo. We finished principal photography in the fall and have started post-production. The film will probably be released in the summer."

**Hal Roberts** is a fellow at the Berkman Center for Internet & Society at Harvard University. He has been the lead researcher for Berkman Center reports on Internet surveillance, filtering circumvention, and distributed denial of service attacks against independent media. He is the technical lead on the Media Cloud project, a text aggregation and analysis tool for studying online media created at the Berkman Center. He has worked on the technical side of many social technology projects at the Berkman Center, including H2O, Weblogs at Harvard Law, and Global Voices Online.

'93

**Will Adams** is the vice president of clinical services at Strategic Behavioral Health in Memphis. He and his wife, Lindsay, have one daughter and twins on the way. In other news, he reportedly spoke to several people in a sarcastic tone today.



**Tommy Boyle** remains in Montana. Some believe that he has declared himself a sovereign nation, but these rumors are false. His beard, however, has been designated a national monument.



Photo courtesy of Mike Brown/  
The Commercial Appeal

**Kevin Cubbins**, executive director of *Beale Street Caravan*, was featured in a story in the *Commercial Appeal* in October. The internationally syndicated, Memphis-based weekly radio show is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year, and the program continues to evolve and grow under Cubbins' leadership. As Cubbins described, "When you turn on *Beale Street Caravan*, it's like ... bam! There's nothing else out there like it."

In June, **Matt Duke** started flying 737s for Delta Airlines. He recently moved to the Atlanta area to shorten his commute. Wimp.

In the great tradition of **Jack Irvine**'s leaps from high places, **Cam Hillyer** – allegedly while practicing aerial yoga – recently descended from a washing machine and broke his leg. Refusing medical attention as 'sissy stuff,' Cam soldiered on ... until his wife pointed out that Cam's feet should both point in roughly the same direction. Fortunately, post-surgical recovery seems to be progressing well. Cam can be seen limping his way to work through the Crescent Center parking garage most mornings.

**Tou Fue Lee** literally sells ice cream to Minnesotans. Not quite Eskimos, but still very impressive.

Las Tortugas Deli Mexicana, owned by **Jonathan Magallanes**, will open a new location in East Memphis in 2016. It will operate under the name El Pedregal.

**Sam Rembert** received his first credit in a major motion picture as a rigging technician in the camera department for the Marvel movie, *Ant-Man*. He is also credited in a couple of films coming in 2016. [bit.ly/RembertMovies](http://bit.ly/RembertMovies)

'94

**Jeffrey Block** was recognized as the 2015 Volunteer of the Year by the MUS Alumni Executive Board. (Read more on page 43.)

**Richard Bloom** is in Vancouver art directing on *War for the Planet of the Apes* (set to release in 2017). Though he misses home in Los Angeles, it's a nice break from traffic. He spends his days in the rain contemplating how apes would build things.

**David King** is the chef/owner of Hutch Bar & Kitchen in Oakland, CA. Hutch has been open two and a half years. Apparently a benchmark for restaurant success is two years, so David feels good about their progress. Visit his restaurant website or Facebook page: [hutchokland.com](http://hutchokland.com) or [bit.ly/HutchFacebook](http://bit.ly/HutchFacebook) In 2012 he married Cindy May Sum Lui; they have one

son, William Blake King, born 7/11/14. They have two Australian Shepherds, Elle and Delta. In his spare time, David plays heavy metal music. He says never marry one year, open a restaurant the next year, and have a kid the next.

'95

**Jake Lawhead** and several business partners recently opened Flow Cryotherapy, a health, wellness, and beauty emporium, on Sanderlin Avenue in Memphis. Check it out at [flowcryo.com](http://flowcryo.com)

'96

**Andy Crank**, an assistant professor of American literature and culture at the University of Alabama, recently published a review of Harper Lee's *Go Set a Watchman* in the *Los Angeles Review of Books*. His reputation is rising in the world of Southern literary and popular culture: [bit.ly/CrankReview](http://bit.ly/CrankReview)

**Elliott Ives** performed at the Country Music Awards this year with Justin Timberlake. Ives plays guitar as a part of Timberlake's Tennessee Kids band ([bit.ly/IvesCMAs](http://bit.ly/IvesCMAs)). "That was the most fun I've ever had doing a live TV performance. It's sweet to be that close to home and to represent your town and you know, just have fun," said Ives. He is also part of the Memphis group Lord T & Eloise.

**Rob Ratton** has joined the Memphis office of Fisher & Phillips as of counsel.

**Kerr Tigrett** and his company, IronHorse Capital Management, have relocated to Nashville.

'97

**Clayton Chandler** has moved to Austin, TX, where he is practicing law in the area of public finance and municipal securities.

**Jim Cochran** is the CEO and Principal of Valley View Agri-Systems, which he purchased along with two other MUS alumni three years ago. Valley View Agri Systems is the largest distributor and installer of GSI grain bins. He and his wife, Holley, moved to Jonesboro, AR, where they live with their daughter, Riley.

**Russell Erskine** recently bought Hightech Signs. He and his wife, Natalie, live in Utah with their five children.

**Trey Haire** accepted a position as lead counsel for Ortho Microport this year. He lives in Memphis with his wife, Maggie, and two daughters, Emma and Betsy, who attend Hutchison.

**John Scruggs** and wife, Elizabeth, are now parents to daughter, Betsy, who arrived in April. John joined the corporate communications team at FedEx Freight in August.

**Tripp Shubert** has taken a new job in corporate development for Cleveland Clinic in Cleveland, OH. He and Marisa now have three sons.

'98

**Jason Lewin** married Ashley Line in May 2015 in Quebec City, Canada. Friends from the Class of 1998 – **Don Drinkard, Courtney Carson, Matthew Saenger, and Wade Rhea** – plus **David Arnold '97** were among those who made the trip to Canada for the festivities.

**Drew Long** was married this summer in Seaside, FL, and **Galloway Allbright** and **Henry Gayden** were on hand to share the celebration. He and his wife, Steffi, live in Jacksonville. He is in his third year in public education as a bilingual elementary teacher and she is a professor of linguistics at the University of Florida in Gainesville.

**Michael Morgan** has joined Hertz Investment Group, a Santa Monica, CA, based commercial real estate company, as its vice president of leasing for the southeast United States. He continues to call Memphis home.

'99

**Adam Brinkley-Svanberg** moved back to the U.S. almost two years ago to build out a derivatives investment fund in Nevada after 11 years abroad in Russia, the United Kingdom, and the Middle East.

**Richard Burt** was promoted within Evergreen Packaging, where he has commercial sales responsibility for one of three packaging divisions.

**Beau Davidson** will be in the Hallmark TV movie, *The Ultimate Legacy*, which is the sequel to the movie, *The Ultimate Gift*. Beau will be singing some of his own songs.

**Will Levy** has been busy with his business, Oak Hall, launching a catalog and oakhall.com, in addition to signing a lease to open this spring in Nashville at the Hill Center in Green Hills.

**Elliot Pope** started a new position as director of finance with a Pittsburgh-area real estate company, Zamagias Properties.

**Gil Schuette** recently accepted a position as an attorney at Sims|Funk in Nashville, TN. Although he doesn't make it back to Memphis nearly as often as he would like, he does stay in touch with the many MUS alumni in Nashville: **Mac McFarland, Andrew Steffens, Beau Davidson**, and an old PDS buddy, Will Hicky, who is a lawyer in the neighboring building.

**Andrew Steffens** closed his second construction loan in Nashville in as many years. Rudy now has over \$110 million in mixed-use development under construction, totaling just over 600 luxury apartment units and several thousand feet of restaurant retail space. We hope to bring Andrew back home to Memphis to develop some great buildings in his hometown, as well.

Orthopedic surgeon **Norfleet Thompson** joined Campbell Clinic Orthopaedics in August.

'00

Amanda and **Witt Wittenberg** have moved to Portland, OR, and are loving the Pacific Northwest. Witt is a commercial real estate lender with Greystone Servicing Corporation in Portland and Seattle, WA.

'01

**Eric Beaty** joined Financial Federal Bank as vice president of commercial banking.

**Chance Carlisle** is CEO of LYFE, now a Memphis-based company after Carlisle Corp. relocated it from Palo Alto to Memphis in 2014. LYFE Kitchen recently opened in East Memphis, at 6201 Poplar.

**Harvey Kay** has joined HigherVisibility as a sales representative. The company specializes in search engine optimization, pay-per-click marketing, social media marketing, and web design.

**Paul McClure**, a teaching assistant and third year doctoral student in the sociology of religion program at Baylor University, will be the 2016 Metcalf Symposium speaker this spring at MUS.

**Battle Williford** joined Financial Federal Bank as vice president of commercial real estate and multifamily lending in Nashville.

'02



Stephanie and **Brice Bailey** are partners in Staks Pancake Kitchen, a new restaurant at Poplar and Perkins Extended, which specializes in pancakes but also boasts an extensive breakfast and lunch menu. Bailey, second from right, is getting used to seeing MUS alumni walk through the doors of Staks, including, from left, **Alex Snyder '06**, **William Ware '07**, and **Hunter Adams '06**. (Read more on page 24.)



From left, **Calvin Scott '02**, **Michael Schaefer '03**, **Jeremy Dowdy '02**, and **Spencer Bryan '02**

**Jeremy Dowdy** married Ashley Denbow on June 20, 2015, in a wedding chapel overlooking the Pacific in Rancho Palos Verdes, CA. Brother, **Jason '98**, was best man. The couple honeymooned in Cambodia and Thailand and now live in Memphis, where Jeremy is director of digital strategy at Wunderman, and Ashley is a physician assistant at The West Clinic.

Palmer and **Robert Gardner** welcomed daughter "K\$" in August (see Births page 40).

**David Ratton** joined Apperson Crump as of counsel.

'03

**Steed Carson** got a new puppy named Boomer.

**Lawrence Holcomb** is an attorney in Birmingham, AL, and was recently hired as senior litigator by Flint Law Firm out of St. Louis. He is responsible for handling toxic and mass tort cases as well as industrial accidents.

**Hill Stoecklein** and his wife, Elizabeth Rutter, are both ER doctors in Salt Lake City, UT.

'04

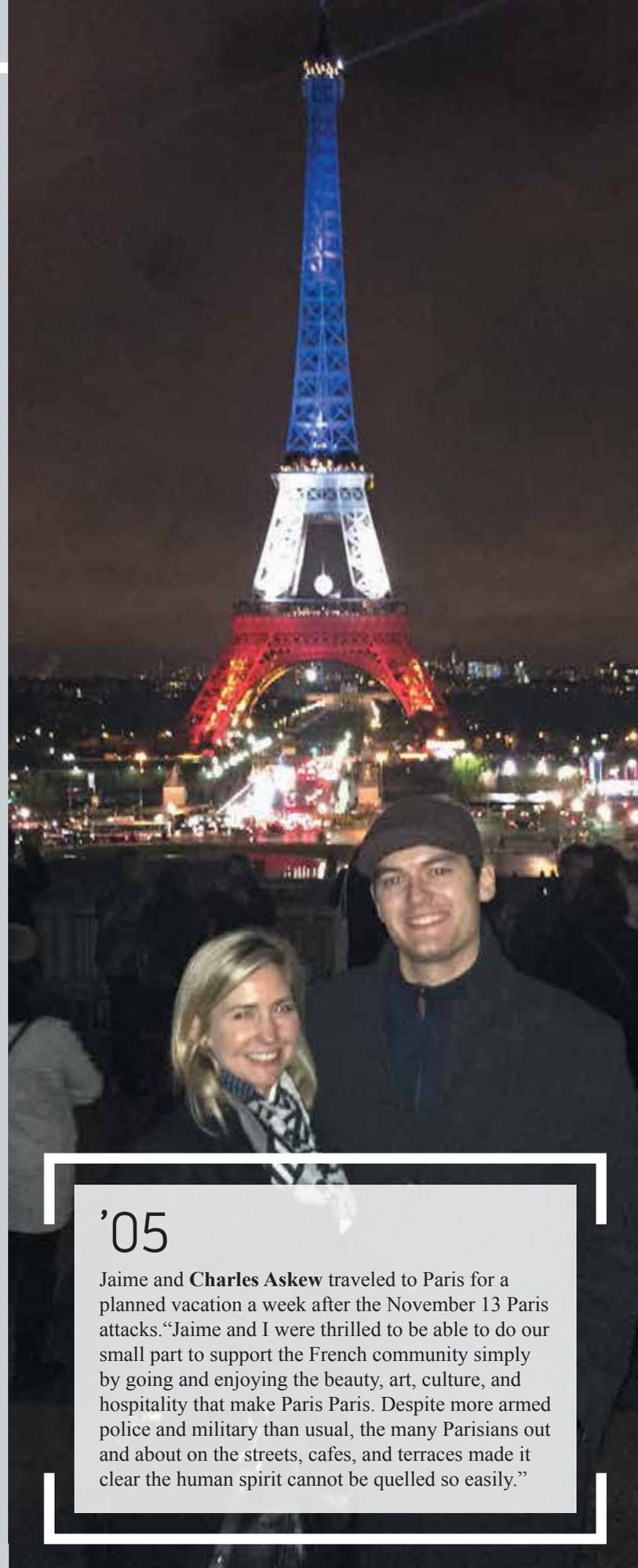
**Gordon Conaway** is a property management coordinator with Cushman & Wakefield in Nashville.

**Matt Ganier** lives in Dallas where he is a commercial insurance producer at Swingle Collins & Associates.

**Pierce Sullivan** received his doctor of veterinary medicine degree from Mississippi State University in 2012 and is currently a research resident in animal laboratory medicine at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center.

'05

**Rob Baird**, now living in Austin, TX, provided the music at the Memphis Brooks Museum of Art's annual Vin-A-Que event. He included originals from his upcoming CD *Wrong Side of the River*, which is slated to be released in March.



'05

Jaime and **Charles Askew** traveled to Paris for a planned vacation a week after the November 13 Paris attacks. "Jaime and I were thrilled to be able to do our small part to support the French community simply by going and enjoying the beauty, art, culture, and hospitality that make Paris Paris. Despite more armed police and military than usual, the many Parisians out and about on the streets, cafes, and terraces made it clear the human spirit cannot be quelled so easily."

**Josh Hall** is pursuing his MBA through the McCombs School of Business at the University of Texas at Austin.



**Worth Morgan** won the November runoff election for the Memphis City Council District 5 seat.

**Trevor Skelley** was promoted to vice president, private wealth lending advisor at Regions Bank.

'06

**Matt Farmer** will serve as operations director for Catherine & Mary's, a new Italian restaurant scheduled to open in the remodeled Chisca on Main (the former hotel being developed by **Chance '01** and **Chase Carlisle '03**).

**Zach Glover** is a filmmaker. He teaches Intro to Film at the University of Memphis, where he is pursuing a post-graduate degree in film and video production. Zach also serves as faculty advisor to the school's chess club.

**Frank Jemison** is the curriculum coach at Cornerstone Prep, a public elementary school in Binghamton that is part of the Achievement School District. Frank is managing the school's library reorganization project.

**Donald McClure** and his wife, Michelle, live in Denver, where

he works in corporate development for Ascent Capital.

**Russell Nenon** is a portfolio manager with First Tennessee Bank.

Trustmark promoted **Logan Welch** to commercial real estate officer at its Trustmark Centre office in Memphis.

'07



Musician **Tyler Anthony** (pictured above with brother, Hudson Anthony '16) and his band Cereus Bright rocked the Moon River Music Festival at the Levitt Shell in August and played Lafayette's Music Room in Overton Square in November. Tyler also brought his band to campus to headline the school's annual Fall Fest.

**William Harris** now works at FedEx as a business analyst.

**Connor Robinson** is a product development engineer with Grace Medical in Memphis.

**Zach Scott** lives in Santa Cruz, CA, and works as an organic and analytical chemist on the Google Life Sciences team, a part of Google X.

**McCauley Williams** is an associate in the law firm of Baker Donelson in Memphis. He focuses his practice on securities, corporate governance, mergers

and acquisitions, real estate, and areas of general business law.

'08

**Michael Cross** is currently doing his pediatric rotation in Little Rock, AR.

**Collin Fountain** has completed New Memphis Institute's Embark program. Embark is a three-month training program designed for high performing 20-somethings who choose to live and lead in Memphis.

**Adam Gordon** works for a Bay-area California start-up company.

After three years as a financial analyst at UT Le Bonheur Pediatric Specialists, **Stuart McClure** has enrolled in the Olin Business School at Washington University in St. Louis, where he will concentrate his graduate studies in health care administration.

'09

**David Ruben** is currently working for Boyle Investment Company in commercial sales and leasing. He is also pursuing his MBA at Ole Miss, with an expected graduation date of fall 2016.

**Austin Smith** is working in Dallas for Alliance Financial Group.

**Kimbrough Taylor** has joined marketing and advertising firm inferno as a digital marketing specialist.

'10

**Norfleet Abston** works with FTB Advisors as an investment advisor.

**Bryan Crenshaw** graduated from Ole Miss with a B.S. in mechanical engineering in May 2015. He has returned to Memphis and is working for Smith and Nephew as a manufacturing engineer in a two-year program in which he will rotate through five departments, receiving training in each.

**Hank Hill** is the first mate on the *Oriana* yacht in Vancouver, Canada.

**Harrison Martin** is finishing his finance degree at Ole Miss.

**Travis Nauert** is an analyst with Vining Sparks IBG.

**Brad Ringel** and **Reid Sanders** are both working as private equity analysts with Brown Brothers Harriman in New York City.

**Paul Stephens** and his partners, Benjamin Orgel, Logan Scheidt, and J.C. Youngblood, opened a pop-up food and beverage concept called Station 3: The Memphis Firehaus, in October in the former Fire Station No. 3 at Third Street and Dr. Martin Luther King Avenue downtown. Food trucks and live music and more are featured in the outdoor courtyard of the building, which is owned by Orgel's father, **Billy Orgel '81**. Check out the Facebook page for info: [bit.ly/Firehaus](http://bit.ly/Firehaus)

Stephens is also working as a partner with **Trey Jordan '83** for Holiday Deli & Ham.



**Will Taylor** is a second-year doctoral student at Brown University in the particle astrophysics group studying dark matter. In the fall he traveled to Portugal for a week's worth of meetings before spending several weeks in South Dakota, conducting research at the Sanford Underground Research Facility, one mile underground. He is a member of the LUX and LUX-ZEPLIN (LZ) collaborations studying dark matter. Recently, science instructor **Bill Taylor** traveled to Providence for the 2015 National Association of Biology Teachers conference and caught up with Will over dinner.

**Wilson Waller** is president of Clean Cycle, a social entrepreneurship venture that works in

the waste management sector of Faridabad, India.

**Peterson Wellford** is completing graduate work in the health administration program at the University of Kentucky. He plans to attend law school.

**Michael Wilder** is an air export agent in the Memphis office of Expeditors International, a global logistics company headquartered in Seattle, WA.

'11

**William Cross** is a financial analyst with VMG Health in Nashville.

**James Davies** graduated from the University of Georgia with degrees in Russian, Spanish, and international relations (with a concentration in security).

After graduating from the University of Tennessee Haslam College of Business, **Blake**

**Hennessy** lives in Jackson, TN, where he's a sales associate with

PepsiCo. He joined the company in June 2015 following a successful 2014 internship with Frito-Lay.

**Alex Jarratt** interned with Dixon Hughes Goodman over the summer. He was finishing his master's degree in accounting through Rhodes in the fall.

**Britt McGuire**, senior goalkeeper for the Christian Brothers University soccer team, was named Defender of the Week by the Gulf South Conference in October.

**Ben Roberts** is living in Arlington, VA, and working for U.S. Rep. Stephen Fincher's office (TN-08).

**Quay Stallworth** is living in Nashville where he is a commercial insurance account executive with Arthur J. Gallagher & Co.

'12

**Tunkie Saunders** is at the

University of Colorado Boulder pursuing majors in chemical and biological engineering and applied mathematics, as well as a minor in business entrepreneurship.



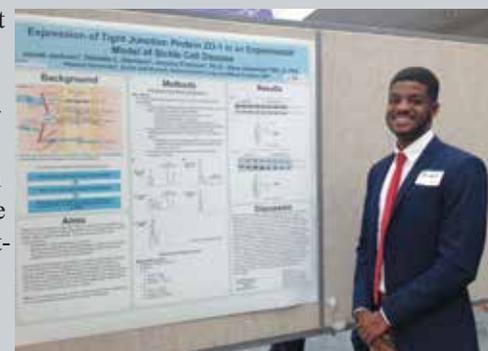
**Thomas Threlkeld** (with teammates Will Cobb, left, and Evan Deere, right) won first place in the regional ACM International Collegiate Programming Contest (ICPC) competition held recently at Rhodes College. Sponsored by IBM, the ICPC is an annual, multi-tiered global programming competition among the world's colleges and universities. Amazon Fire tablets were awarded to Threlkeld and his team, Cache Money.

## Jackson Researches Sickle Cell Disease

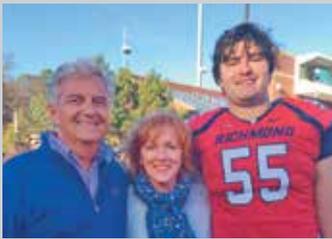
This summer, **Jarrett Jackson '13** was selected as an Amgen Scholar at the National Institute of Health in Bethesda, MD. The Amgen Scholarship Program allows undergraduates the opportunity to participate in innovative and groundbreaking research. Jackson conducted research in the Sickle Cell Branch of the NIH National Heart Lung and Blood Institute, creating his own project and working closely with some of the best biomedical researchers in the country. His summer culminated with the presentation of research to the department branch and with a poster presentation at the NIH annual Summer Poster Day. Now a junior at Howard University in Washington, DC, Jackson is preparing to apply

to medical school and serves as the vice president of the Howard University College of Arts and Sciences Honors Association. He is also a biology/chemistry tutor in the Howard Center for Preprofessional Education and a member of the Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation Program, a government-funded research initiative aimed at increasing the amount of underrepresented minority students in STEM fields who go on to matriculate into graduate programs. Currently, he is facilitating the development of a screening protocol at Howard for sickle cell disease and alpha thalassemia, both inherited blood disorders prevalent in people of African descent.

"MUS prepared me well!" Jackson says.



Jarrett Jackson, Howard University legacy scholar and honors student, is pursuing a B.S. in biology.



**Nicholas Vergos**, pictured with Nick and Jenny Vergos, was selected to the CAA 2nd Team All-Conference. Nicholas, who plays center for the University of Richmond Spiders, was interviewed in the fall for SpiderTV – lots of mentions of Memphis: bit.ly/VergosMemphis.

'13

**Pace Clark** is continuing to earn accolades in swimming at the University of Georgia. As a Bulldog Clark has excelled, particularly in the 200 butterfly: He holds the fifth-best time in school history. He is also seventh in the 200 backstroke and eighth in the 100 butterfly. He finished third in the 2015 Phillips 66 Nationals Men's

200m Butterfly A Final: bit.ly/PaceClark.

**Arbré Jones** is a sophomore on the football team at Murray State University.

'14



Home for Thanksgiving: Class of 2014 alumni **Hayden Combs** and **Tucker Fox** with Director of College Counseling **Brian K. Smith**, center

The Old Dominion Athletic Conference named Washington and Lee sophomore golfer **Hayden Combs** the Men's Golfer of the Week in late September. Combs helped lead the Generals to

a third-place finish out of 17 teams at the Rhodes Fall Classic. Individually, Combs placed in a tie for second out of 93 golfers, two strokes behind the medalist from Berry College. In shooting a +1 score of 73 on the first day of the tournament, Combs recorded a hole-in-one on the 156-yard par 3 13th hole.



**Tal Keel** and **Witt Hawkins** are sophomores at Washington and Lee. Tal is a huge Generals supporter, and Hawkins is a wide receiver on the 17th-ranked football team, which completed its first perfect regular season (10-0) with a 34-21 win over Shenandoah. The Generals

had already clinched the Old Dominion Athletic Conference title.

Another great article about rising star decathlete **Harrison Williams** in the September 2015 issue of *VAULTER Magazine* (go to page 32): bit.ly/VaulterHarrison

'15

**Patrick Demere** pledged Sigma Alpha Epsilon at the University of Tennessee along with **Win Duncan**, **Will Hunt**, **Selden Montgomery**, and **David Scharff**.

**Carlton Orange** earned a 4.0 GPA in his summer courses at the University of Arkansas, placing him in the prestigious Honors College this fall – this in addition to earning the gold medal in the 800-meter dash at the 2015 Junior Pan American Games.

MILESTONES

MARRIAGES

**Minor LeBlond '98** to Carolin Hubscher on September 26, 2015

**Drew Long '98** to Steffi Wulff on June 20, 2015

**Billy Kuntz '99** to Kelly Stein on July 25, 2015

**Brian Parks '00** to Tatiana Erbstoesser on October 3, 2015

**Jeremy Dowdy '02** to Ashley Denbow on June 20, 2015

**Jeff Hackmeyer '02** to K'Lea Lisenby on April 11, 2015

**Haynes Vaughn '07** to Robin Marston on November 14, 2015

BIRTHS

Holley and **Jim Cochran '97**, a daughter, Riley Marie, born July 31, 2015

Natalie and **John Pettey '97**, a daughter, Charlene Russell, born August 21, 2015

Shannon and **Stefan Banks '98**, a daughter, Mimi Evelyn Ashworth, born November 18, 2014

Kendall and **Brown Gill '98**, a son, Benjamin Brooks, born August 15, 2015

Kathy and **Justin Lohman '98**, a son, Matthew Justin, born October 26, 2015

Alli and **Mark Pera '99**, twins, Ann Catherine "Annie" and Joseph Thomas "Jay," born October 3, 2015

Catherine and **Brandon O'Mell '01**, a son, John William, born October 25, 2015

Ann and **Battle Williford '01**, a son, William Battle, Jr., born September 11, 2015

Palmer and **Robert Gardner '02**, a daughter, Katherine Pope, born August 27, 2015

Mary Katherine and **Alex DeBardeleben '03**, a daughter, Katherine Miles, born August 19, 2015

Susie and **George Edwards '03**, a daughter, Mary Nell, born July 16, 2015

Ivy and **John Phillips '03**, a son, John VI, born May 28, 2015

Sarah and **Matt Ganier '04**, a daughter, Anna Grace, born August 21, 2015

Anna and **Harris Jordan '04**, a son, Alfred Harris III "Harry," born September 10, 2015

Elizabeth and **Donnie Malmo '06**, a son, Donald Anthony IV "Andy," born February 5, 2015

DEATHS

**George M. Stratton '66**

# Class Reps

Send news to your class representative listed below or to Ann Laughlin at [ann.laughlin@musowls.org](mailto:ann.laughlin@musowls.org).

- '59 John Lawo.....[johnlawo@bellsouth.net](mailto:johnlawo@bellsouth.net)
- '60 Met Crump.....[metcrump@crumpfirm.com](mailto:metcrump@crumpfirm.com)
- '60 Alex Wellford.....[awellford@farris-law.com](mailto:awellford@farris-law.com)
- '61 Scott May.....[sfmay@bellsouth.net](mailto:sfmay@bellsouth.net)
- '62 Jerry Bradfield.....[jbradfi293@aol.com](mailto:jbradfi293@aol.com)
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- '64 Bill Quinlen.....[w1q1975@aol.com](mailto:w1q1975@aol.com)
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Regional alumni events are popping up across the country. Parties were held most recently in San Francisco and in Dallas. Other cities will be hosting in the coming months. In Dallas, from left, **Chris Joe '87, Copley Broer '96, and George Edwards '03**



# Alumni Honor Morrow and Block

Each year the Alumni Executive Board honors two alumni for their outstanding service to the community and the school. At the board’s annual luncheon November 13, **Steve Morrow ’71** was named *Alumnus of the Year* and **Jeffrey Block ’94** was named *Volunteer of the Year*.



*Alumnus of the Year Steve Morrow*

## Alumnus of the Year

*The Alumnus of the Year Award is presented to an MUS alumnus who exemplifies community leadership and personal integrity, personifying the school’s guiding principle of developing well-rounded men of strong moral character.*

**H**onoring **Steve Morrow ’71** as the Alumnus of the Year, **Harry Sayle ’92**, Alumni Executive Board president, called him the consummate team player, an alumnus who epitomizes the essence of the award. His vision, intellect, tireless commitment, and passion for the ideals of the school have been a trademark of his service.

An essential member of the Board of Trustees since 1994, Morrow has served as vice chairman and treasurer, and he has chaired both the development and finance committees. He has played a significant role in school fundraising campaigns, including the Multi-Sports Stadium campaign and the Doors to New Opportunities capital campaign. Morrow is a founding member and past president of the Ross M. Lynn Society, a member of the Crest and Cornerstone Society, and a past member of the Alumni Executive Board.

The co-founder and chief investment officer of NewSouth Capital Management, Morrow has also served on boards throughout the city. He and his wife, Nancy, are the parents of Anne and **Paul ’06**.

Morrow attributed his accomplishments to good fortune, calling his entry into MUS as an eighth grader “one of the luckiest things that ever

happened to me.”

“No institution did more to mold my character and instill the qualities and traits I needed to be successful than Memphis University School,” he said.

Morrow served on the Honor Council and the Social Committee, and he earned membership in the National Honor Society. A member of the basketball, football, and track teams, he was named “Most Athletic” in the senior class.

“MUS then, as it does now, had a tough-minded curriculum taught by outstanding faculty members,” Morrow said. “Men like **John Murry Springfield**, **William Hatchett**, **Jim Russell**, **Leigh MacQueen**, and others ingrained the importance of preparation and academic rigor,” he said.

“But the single most important aspect of MUS that shaped my life was the Honor System. Trust, integrity, and truthfulness are essential traits of strong moral character, and every day I spent at MUS, I appreciated the qualities the Honor System embedded in me. One of the primary reasons I chose to attend the University of Virginia was its honor system, which served as the model for MUS.”

The varied roles Morrow has taken on at the school have been his way of giving back to the institution that has meant so much to him. “I am lucky to have been a student at MUS,” he said. “The great group of fellow students I met, the outstanding faculty I learned from, the sports teams I competed on, led by coaches with a passion to win, the mentoring by headmasters like **Col. [Ross] Lynn** and **Gene Thorn** – [these] are all things I will be forever grateful for. What I have given to the school pales in comparison to what MUS has given me.” ■



Volunteer of the Year Jeffrey Block

## Volunteer of the Year

*The Volunteer of the Year Award is presented to an MUS alumnus who serves Memphis University School in a significant and needed way throughout the year, seeking opportunities to promote the interests of the school.*

**J**effrey Block '94 shares his time and talent on the playing field at MUS, the very place his skills first emerged when he was a student. As a varsity lacrosse player in the early '90s when the Owls were still just a club team, Block was part of a group that, by necessity, had to rely heavily on student leadership. He played a key role in the structure and cohesion of MUS lacrosse during its inception.

"The lacrosse program was started by coach **David Gearhardt** in the spring of 1990," Block said. "His dedication and those of other volunteers allowed me to play at MUS. David became a good friend, and he got me to come out to coach with him when he found out that I was moving back to town in 2003.

"He didn't ask, per se, but he told me that I was going to be an assistant that year!"

Considering the impact people like Gearhardt had on his life made it easy to return to campus and give back in the same way, Block said.

Head Coach **Elliot Dent** said Block understands the balance between a challenging academic program and a competitive athletic program, and communicates this well. "And being an alumnus, he serves as a good example to the boys," he said.

Block led the Lower School lacrosse team to its 14th straight city championship last spring, and he serves as a great ambassador throughout the city and state lacrosse communities. When he's not coaching and promoting Lower School lacrosse, Block works as vice president of sales and marketing for his family's business, Ideal Chemical and Supply Company. A graduate of the University of Virginia, he is married to Christina, and they have two daughters, Amelia and Josie.

"I especially want to thank my wife who puts up with me every spring when I am coaching, since she knows how much I enjoy it," Block said. "I always joke that I get my share of testosterone for the year by being around these 40 to 50 seventh- and eighth-grade boys in the spring."

In addition to coaching, Block volunteers in other ways, such as participating in the Mock Interview Program for the junior class, calling for the Alumni Phonathon, and offering the senior gift match for the Class of 2014.

"There are many volunteers who give their time to MUS to allow students all the varied opportunities to pursue their passions, so I am very honored to be receiving this. I couldn't coach year in and out without the help and support of the other volunteer Lower School coaches, Elliott Dent and the varsity coaches, Coach **[Bobby] Alston** and the athletic department, Mr. **[Ellis] Haguewood** and the administration, and tons of parents who help out along the way. MUS is a special place that I am proud to be a part of." ■

## Changing of the Guard

Alumni Executive Board members serve three-year terms, and this year six members rotated off the board.

"We appreciate the time, leadership, and support these men have given MUS whenever called upon," said **Harry Sayle '92**, Alumni Executive Board president.

Board members rotating off were:

**Albo Carruthers '78, Albert Alexander '84, Dan McEwan '88, Pat Hopper '89, John Barton '95, and Clark Burrow '95.**

Sayle also welcomed five new members: **Kelly McGuire '70,**

**Henry Wetter '70, Rob Preston '78, Will McDonald '97, and Robert Freeman '04.**

"We appreciate your willingness to broaden your support of MUS," he said. "The events we sponsor and fellow alumni we serve will benefit from your loyalty, and we look forward to the ideas and insight you will offer."



# Flip Eikner Pays Tribute to His Teacher, Mentor, and Friend, Andy Saunders

BY FLIP EIKNER '77, ACADEMIC DEAN

**T**he first MUS teacher I ever met recruited me from Ridgeway to play in an after-school jazz band here but then left after less than a year.

The second MUS teacher I met was **Rick Broer**, who succeeded the jazz band director.

And the third MUS teacher I met was **Andy Saunders**.

I never could have guessed when I was a 10th grader what a profound impact both Rick Broer and Andy Saunders would have on my life. But I know that I largely owe Rick Broer [previous

academic dean] for my current position as academic dean, and I know that I cannot possibly measure all that I owe Andy Saunders across the 40 years since that first day we met.

My playing in Rick's jazz band led to my playing in his pit orchestra for our spring musical of 1975, *Annie Get Your Gun*. The orchestra was rehearsing one afternoon in the Hyde Chapel foyer, about 10 of us with chairs and music stands and instruments plus Rick with baton all crammed into the corner outside the men's lobby restroom, limping our way through "There's No Business Like Show

Business," when in my peripheral vision as I played I noticed a stranger looming large next to Rick. We hit the coda with "let's go ... on with the show," Rick cut off the finale note, and this stranger, without any invitation to offer any criticism, volunteered, "Well, that chord certainly didn't resolve, did it?" and chuckled a booming chuckle and headed off into the chapel, singing opera at the top of his lungs.

Of course, that blunt, large-looming, opera-singing fellow was the inimitable Andy Saunders. Andy has never been one to hold back his opinions. Two

## Portrait of a Renaissance Man

Friends Gather to Celebrate Andy Saunders' 38 Years of Eclectic Service

MUS faculty members, alumni, family, and friends celebrated Faculty Emeritus **Andy Saunders'** many abilities and attributes at a reception in October for the unveiling of his portrait, commissioned by the school's Alumni Executive Board.

From 1972-2010 Saunders held a number of titles at the school, including chair of the Fine Arts Department, director of dramatics, director of the theater, and technical director of the theater. He directed, produced, and designed and built sets for more than 135 plays and musicals.

Saunders' expertise was not limited to the stage, however. He coached football and taught a wide range of subjects, including Lower School science, biology, mechanical drawing, Bible,

speech, astronomy, and photography.

At the unveiling Headmaster **Ellis Haguewood** praised Saunders' generosity of spirit, his work ethic, and the energy he committed to the plays and musicals he directed, designed, or produced.

"I have vivid memories of a younger (and perhaps thinner) Andy Saunders striding across the Harding College campus, his own personal performance hall, belting out operatic arias to the genuine amazement of some passersby, the bemusement of others," Haguewood said. "Wherever he has gone in life, the hills and certainly the halls have been alive with the sound of his music."

**Bob Fockler '77**, president of the Community Foundation of Greater Memphis and a member of the MUS

Board of Trustees, thanked Saunders for his guidance during his own student years as well as those of his son, **Ted Fockler '10**, who is now teaching history at the school and serving as assistant director of theater.

"Andy's portrait appropriately belongs on these walls amongst those of his peers and former co-workers," the elder Fockler said, referring to the paintings of 10 other celebrated faculty members lining the Dining Hall. "His contributions to MUS are immeasurable."

A consummate professional and dedicated volunteer, Saunders also shared his time and talents with area arts organizations, including Germantown Community Theatre, Theatre Memphis, Opera Memphis, and Memphis Symphony Chorus. He and his son,



such opinions spring to mind. The first came via a phone call from Andy to me in Charlottesville, VA: Andy opined, “I think you should come interview for this teaching position opening up at MUS.” The second opinion came after Andy watched me conversing with Kim Justis, who has been my wife now for 24 years: Andy said, “I think you should ask her out.” Any great theater director must be attuned to details and keenly read people. Andy is a great theater director. I must say, his opinion was right on target about that unresolved music chord. And he’s been right about a lot of other stuff, too. Across 40 years, with my career, my wife, and two wonderful children I adore, I’ve been in great hands with Andy.

Andy’s great hands, by the way, are one of his most distinguishing features. He can perform beautifully delicate artistic work with those hands, but those are also really strong hands. Andy gives just about the best shoulder rubs in the world with those hands. **Lin Askew** [instructor in English], who for



Andy Saunders, right, helps Flip Eikner '77 with his makeup to play Don Quixote in Man of La Mancha.

years was Andy’s office mate, being grateful for a longstanding therapeutic series of such shoulder rubs, decided one day to return the favor and, for a change, gave Andy a shoulder rub. Again, never one to withhold

his opinions, Andy expressed his pleasure by loudly and sensuously moaning – giving considerable pause to the passersby outside his office.



The Saunders family gathers after the unveiling ceremony: from left, Aidan '21, Jonathan, Jordan, Andy, and Jean.

**Jonathan Saunders** (computer science and music instructor/assistant director of IT at MUS), have composed an opera, which they hope to debut on the Hyde Chapel stage next summer. Equally skilled in front of and behind the curtain, he has been nominated for various awards in the theater community’s annual Ostrander Awards.

Germantown Community Theatre’s Executive Producer Dr. Michael D. Miles says Saunders’ work has been vital to the organization for more than 30 years. “Acting, set design, directing – anything that’s been needed – Andy’s been one of the first to jump to the table and volunteer. His designs have saved us. That’s why we

named the newest iteration of the stage in his honor – because of his blood, sweat, and tears, and backbreaking efforts on our behalf. We simply wouldn’t be where we are today, a theater company now in its 44th year, if it weren’t for the dedication of Andy Saunders.”

At the unveiling reception, Saunders called on the *MUS Hymn* to express his gratitude to the school community.

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

He thanked the school for allowing him to be a “jack of all trades” and for embracing his family – his wife, **Jean**, a Development Office assistant; their son, Jonathan; and their grandsons, **Aidan '21**, a seventh grader at MUS, and Jordan, a fifth grader at Presbyterian Day School.

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

“The words for me are certainly appropriate, and absolutely true.” ■



Saunders, center back in black, and Eikner, center front, in the cast photo for the 1977 musical *Man of La Mancha*

As a speech teacher, Andy always preached to his students, “Concrete examples! Concrete examples!” As a Lower School science teacher, Andy memorably supplied a concrete example of conservation of momentum by pulling two students out of their seats to posit a hypothetical collision between wiry little twig **Bernhardt Trout ’86** and future record-setting state championship Mr. Football runner-up running back **Andy McCarroll ’86** – a collision in which Bernhardt would surely have perished. But a grateful Bernhardt later became one of Mr. Saunders’ many superlatively loyal backstage crewmen who won the Brescia Award for Unselfish Service in Dramatics at graduation.

All of Andy’s students have been in great hands with Andy, even when he was bluntly screaming at them for acting like “manganese nodules at the bottom of the ocean” or for laziness that was dooming them in adulthood to be “no better than a gas station attendant.” **Sam Rembert ’93** – just such a predicted purveyor of petroleum – today credits Andy with being “one of my greatest mentors.” He explains Andy’s influence this way: “Those who can make the most impact on your life might be the ones who are telling you how it really is.” **Bryan Davis ’88**, whose imperfections garnered frequent recrimination from Andy, says he was “a rock of dedication and a role model for how to be a man.” **Michael Rodgers ’96** remembers that during one Saturday set-building session,

Andy screamed commandingly at one of the crew members, “Alan, don’t move!” as a huge, suddenly out-of-control scenery wall, with a door opening cut in its middle, fell, benignly, all around **Alan [Hsu] ’96**, Buster Keaton-style. In great hands, indeed.

I exaggerate when I say that Andy is never one to withhold his opinions, for it is certainly a hallmark of a superior teacher that he can withhold his opinions and guide his students toward their own discoveries. **Ted Fockler ’10** confirms this superior trait in Andy: “Mr. Saunders always asked for my opinions, and, even more important, he would respect my input.” Jodie Markell, a Lausanne alumna who often acted at MUS, recalls that “he always made us feel like he was one of us, like we were all in it together ... he valued our ideas and our experience, and he was always on our team.” Sam Rembert concurs: “[Andy] was always willing to let us, the students, do the work and learn from both our successes and our mistakes.”

It most certainly says something about Andy Saunders’ character and influence that all these former students – inspired by what **Patrick McCarroll ’92** celebrates as Andy’s “awe and wonder in the act of discovery” – all these former students – Sam, Bryan, Michael, Ted, Jodie – all went forward to careers in the arts, and whether on Broadway, television, film, the grand concourse of a London museum installation, or the Hyde Chapel stage – all continue doing theater professionally in some form

or other today.

The traits that most people admiringly and fondly associate with Andy’s character are his sensitive acting ability, the clarity of his teaching methods, the breadth of his Renaissance-man erudition, his academic versatility, his remarkable design skill, his hearty and jovial laugh, his generosity with his time and talents and advice and philanthropy, and, especially, his operatic singing voice. Person after person has rhapsodized to me about images of Andy roaming the campus halls, giving Falstaffian gusto to Puccini’s “*nessun dorma*.”

**Will Gotten ’90**, Michael Rodgers, and **Curt Schmitt** [former religion department chair and fine arts instructor] all remember how cheerful Andy was in the scene shop when either singing opera or listening to it on the Saturday-afternoon Texaco radio broadcasts. But they also remember how darkly saturnine Andy turned when students played contemporary pop music, which he loathed. Between these sudden mood swings and belting Verdi in your face, Andy could be kind of scary to the uninitiated as they timidly pulled nails or sorted screws. In time Will Gotten caught on that Andy’s exploding into an aria was a sign that all was right with the world. Will remembers going around to young newbies, frozen with shock, and urgently whispering, “Keep working! Keep working! That means he’s happy!”

Every time we welcomed Andy into our home, he would sing Puccini to our infant daughter. What a golden picture that made – this handsomely smiling, angelic-faced man, his burly artisan’s calloused finger tenderly stroking the infant’s cheek, crooning a lullaby of “*Nessun dorma, nessun dorma, il principessa*” to the drowsing babe. A lovely picture, indeed. The ballet is also a lovely picture, but we all know that in person a performance of the ballet sounds a great deal less of swimming swans than of clomping cattle. And no matter how pianissimo an operatic tenor sings *nessun dorma*, it is still pretty doggone loud. By the way, “*nessun dorma*” translates, “Nobody sleeps, nobody sleeps, even the princess,” and, I’m telling you, she didn’t.

One of my favorite experiences in life is hearing Andy sing “The Impossible



Dream,” which he has done beautifully on innumerable occasions. I think Don Quixote’s famous anthem from *Man of La Mancha*, offers apt insight into Andy’s sometimes-contradictory character.

One of his most consistent philosophical stances has been that all human behavior can be reduced to the desire for status. Awareness of this stance makes all the more logical to me Andy’s intense love for three favorite literary works in particular: *Great Expectations*, *Death of a Salesman*, and *King Lear* – all of whose protagonists struggle with this desire for status. But despite all of Andy’s faith in this Grand Unified Theory of human behavior, he is himself the clearest evidence of the contrary. He is always the first to deflect credit and status away from himself to others.

What drives Andy is not the desire for status but the passion for perfection. And live theater is a dreadful medium for pursuing perfection. You work yourself to the bone – and Andy does always do exactly that: When a production is afoot, his own personal mantra becomes *nessun dorma*, for he sleeps but little as he fights toward excellence.

Then the performances come, and so much that can go wrong in live theater does go wrong, and then you tear it all down and toss it into the dumpster, and – poof – it’s gone – the quested-for perfection either impermanent, or botched, or both.

When you work as hard as Andy does, and you value excellence as he does, such incessant failure can be severely disheartening and utterly exhausting. When you set yourself and your actors to make the invisible deaf, dumb, and blind lady on the back row see, hear, and cheer your performance, you are predetermined to come up short. I’ll let you in on a secret: During our last 10 years or so doing theater together, it seems that Andy quit at the end of every second or third production. He would declare, “I just can’t do this any more.” During dress-rehearsal week, **John Hiltonsmith** [the late director of the Fine Arts Department] would come in every morning and joke, “Well, has Andy quit yet?” As intensely as Andy always throws himself into every job, this should come as no shock, but, rather, as Shakespeare’s Kent

says of King Lear, “The wonder is, he hath endured so long.”

After weeks of relentlessly pushing himself to strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield, Andy cyclically found himself in the depths of Don Quixote’s bare, frigid dungeon. That is, until the following Monday, when we started discussing possible designs for the *next* show. And then it wouldn’t take long. The embers in the dungeon grate would glow, the distant rhythmic strums of a Spanish guitar would beat 7/8 time in an imaginary soundscape, the castle steps would descend into the dungeon, and, like Don Quixote, Andy would be back and would once again seize manuscript in hand and dream the impossible dream to fight the unbeatable foe and undertake the triumphant march up those steps and off into the sky.

Andy is a poetry lover. Several of those “next shows” that inspired him over the years were ones he assembled himself – and he especially enjoyed cobbling together theatrical anthologies of poetry. One such production that he created was called *Life Ain’t No Crystal Stair* and was anchored by the Langston Hughes poem “Mother to Son”:

*Well, son, I’ll tell you:  
Life for me ain’t been no crystal stair.  
It’s had tacks in it,  
And splinters,  
And boards torn up,  
And places with no carpet on the floor –  
Bare.  
But all the time  
I’ve been a-climbin’ on,  
And reachin’ landin’s,  
And turnin’ corners,  
And sometimes goin’ in the dark  
Where there ain’t been no light.  
So boy, don’t you turn back.  
Don’t you set down on the steps  
’Cause you finds it’s kinder hard.  
Don’t you fall now –  
For I’ve still goin’, honey,  
I’ve still climbin’,  
And life for me ain’t been no crystal stair.*

At turns of the corners on the landings of his career, Andy has been both the mother and the son in that poem. And even though life ain’t been no crystal stair, he’s

still climbin’; he *hath* endured so long. Andy is not a blind idealist. He knows the score. As Sam Rembert said, Andy knows how it really is. But still he keeps going. That makes him the No. 1 most courageous man I’ve ever met.

Directing theater is a spectator job, and you sit in the audience with the other spectators. Teaching school and being a theater’s technical director are both, in the main, backstage jobs. It would be all too easy after a long career at any of these jobs – and Andy held all three – to watch from the shadows as all the actors and students in the spotlight receive plaudits for their achievements, and to begin to feel a little like *persona non grata*. In the words of Arthur Miller, “Attention . . . attention must finally be paid to such a person.”



Saunders’ renowned pipes get a workout as he plays the parish priest in *Man of La Mancha*.

So, Andy Saunders – teacher, mentor, father, brother, collaborator, counselor, role model, director, actor, middle-of-the-night confidant, designer, artist, opera singer, and dear, loyal friend – you are certainly not *persona non grata*, and I hope you know just how *grata* you are. In return for years and years of “such larks,” please accept, from all of us, tonight’s metaphorical shoulder rub that you so richly deserve. May it be resolved: “Let’s go . . . on with the show.” ■



## Hutto Succeeds Easum in Upper School Office



**Cassie Hutto**, a native of West Palm Beach and graduate of Samford University, is the new administrative assistant in the Upper School Office, replacing Mary Nell Easum, who retired in May after 53 years at MUS. Before moving to Memphis, Hutto worked as the office manager and director of ticket operations and community affairs for Birmingham's arena football team, and later at EBSCO Information Services as executive assistant to the president. In Memphis she previously worked at Evangelical Christian School as the administrative assistant to both the high school principal and the athletic director. Her husband, Colin, is a teacher, varsity football coach, and head of athletic field maintenance at ECS, where their son, Mason, is a senior. They also have a daughter, Emma, who is a senior majoring in graphic design at Mississippi State University.

## New Faces in Communications



**LeeAnn Christopherson** joined the staff as creative director. She holds a B.A. from the University of Memphis and brings more than 20 years of experience as a graphic designer and creative director for the city's most notable advertising agencies. Christopherson was the recipient of the Deloss Walker Memorial Art Direction Award from the Memphis Advertising Federation in 2001. Her work has been featured in such national industry publications as *Communication Arts Magazine*, *Print Magazine*, and *Graphis*. As a designer and creative team member, she has won more than 60 international, national, and local industry awards. She and her husband, Eric, the creative director at Combustion, are the parents of Rachel, a freshman at Germantown High School, and Ben, a fifth grader at Macon Hall Elementary.



**Marci Woodmansee** joined the staff as associate director of communications. Woodmansee received her B.A. in English from Rhodes College, and she brings more than 20 years of experience in communications and public relations. Before MUS she worked at Grace-St. Luke's Episcopal School as the director of communications for the past nine years. She previously served as director of public relations for the Arts Council (now ArtsMemphis) and as a managing

softbacks editor at Towery Publishing. From 1992-97 she covered the cotton and rice farming industries throughout the United States as a reporter and editor for *Cotton Farming* and *Rice Farming* magazines. She and her husband, Ken, the director of communications at Rhodes College, have two children: Mary, a sophomore at Hutchison, and Will, an eighth grader at GSL.

## Simi Joins Technology Team



**John M. Simi** is the new director of instructional technology. He began a career with the Shelby County School system 30 years ago as an eighth-grade science and social studies teacher and became the technology supervisor for the district in 1993. He developed websites for technology courses, managed the teacher laptop program, developed the district's Technology Plan, reviewed local school technology plans, and managed the state's 21st Century Classroom Project for the school system. Last year he served as technology supervisor for Bartlett City Schools, where he oversaw a department of 13 employees and a budget of more than \$2 million. Over the years he has won a number of awards, including Member of the Year (twice) and the Director's Award from the Tennessee Educational Technology Association (TETA), the Making It Happen Award from the International Society for Technology in Education, and Apple's Distinguished Educator status. He was chairman of the TETA Board of Directors from 2007-2009 and president of the Shelby County Education Association in 1994-95. He holds bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Memphis.

## English Department Welcomes McWaters



**Anne McCarroll McWaters** joined MUS this year as an instructor in English. A graduate of St. Mary's Episcopal School, McWaters earned her bachelor's and master's degrees from Vanderbilt University. Previously she taught fifth and sixth grade at St. George's Independent School, where she also served as middle school director, creating a curriculum and assisting with long-range planning for the opening of St. George's Collierville campus. At MUS McWaters is teaching seventh- and 10th-grade English classes. Her son, **Smith '19**, attends MUS, and her brothers are alumni **Mac McCarroll '83**, **Andy McCarroll '86**, and **Patrick McCarroll '02**.



## Math Department Adds McFarlin



**Meredith McFarlin** joins the Lower School mathematics faculty this year as an instructor and coordinator of the Lower School Math Lab. She is a graduate of Lipscomb University, where she received a scholarship in cross country and track. In college she served as an admissions student recruiter, acted as the freshman orientation team leader, and founded the Young Life chapter. She most recently taught Algebra I at Freedom Preparatory Academy, a high-performing charter school in southwest Memphis.

## Tutor Joins Music Department



**Matt Tutor '91**, who stepped in last winter after the untimely passing of longtime teacher and Fine Arts Chair **John Hiltonsmith**, has joined the faculty full-time as a music instructor. Tutor earned a bachelor's degree in jazz and studio performance from the University of Memphis and a master's degree with academic honors in jazz composition from the New England Conservatory of Music. President and CEO of Custom Music Works, he is a composer, arranger, studio/audio engineer, producer, vocalist, and instrumentalist, and for the past seven years, he has worked at Hope Church in all of those capacities. He was also the first student conductor of the men's choir under Hiltonsmith. Tutor's wife, Sheila, is a flight attendant for Delta; their daughter, Delaney, is in pre-kindergarten at St. Francis.

## Counseling Staff Additions



**Anne Cook Burruss** joined the staff this year as a counselor. After completing her bachelor's degree in child development and master's in curriculum and instruction at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Burruss taught at Mt. Pisgah Middle School and at St. George's Independent School before her appointment as the director of St. George's middle school. After eight years as middle school head, she moved with her husband, John, to Virginia, where he completed a program at Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria and she finished another master's degree, this time at George Washington University, in school counseling. Upon returning to Memphis, she served as director of student experiences and outcomes at the Bodine School. She is a graduate of the Leadership Academy and the co-founder and president of Ali's Way, a nonprofit organization that helps children with cancer. Anne's husband is the canon

for sustainable ministries for the Episcopal Diocese of West Tennessee; they have a son, Jack, in prekindergarten at GSL, and a 2-year-old daughter, Bailey.



**Amy Rolfes Poag** is the new guidance counselor for Lower School. A graduate of Hutchison School, Poag earned a bachelor's degree in English from Davidson College and a master's degree in counseling from the University of Memphis. Most recently she served as a therapist at Lakeside Behavioral Health System. She is active in the community as a graduate of the Leadership Academy and former board member of the Children's Museum of Memphis. She has also held leadership roles in Junior League of Memphis and is the current chair of the MIFA Board of Directors. Her husband is **Josh Poag '91**, CEO of Poag Shopping Centers, a retail real-estate development company. They have three daughters who attend Hutchison: Celia, fourth grade; Charlotte, second grade; and Alexandra, junior kindergarten.

## Fockler Joins Faculty



**Ted Fockler '10** is teaching Lower School history in place of **Ross Rutledge '02**, whose military duties will keep him away from campus for an extended time. Fockler is also serving as assistant director of theater. He earned a B.A. in history and art history with a minor in ancient civilization at Boston College, followed by an M.A. in history. While in Boston he completed internships at the Museum of Fine Arts and the national headquarters of Facing History and Ourselves. This summer he worked as head boys' counselor at Camp Bear Track in Drasco, AR. Fockler's father, **Bob Fockler '77**, is a member of the Board of Trustees.

## Library Staff Welcomes Sandberg



**Zach Sandberg** joined the Hyde Library as a library assistant for public services. Sandberg was library assistant at the Ned McWherter Library at the University of Memphis for the past four and a half years. Before his tenure at the university, he was a manager at the Booksellers at Laurelwood (formerly David-Kidd Booksellers). He holds a B.A. in history from the University of Memphis and an M.S. in information science from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. He and his wife, Lee, are expecting their first child in January.



## Wrestling Honor for Steve Hendricks

The Tennessee chapter of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame honored wrestling coach **Steve Hendricks** with its Lifetime Service Award in October. He joins five other honorees in the 2015 Hall of Fame class. This award is given in recognition of years of dedication to the development of leadership and citizenship in young people through the sport of wrestling.

Hendricks began his career in Cape Girardeau, MO, as an assistant coach at Southeast Missouri State University. He also coached at Millington High School from 1975-1991, establishing a team record of 168-48-3. After several years in administration with Shelby County Schools, he transferred to Bolton High School. From 1998-2003 his duties included coaching wrestling, and his teams established a record of 78-22.



From left, James Walker, Steve Hendricks, and James Hivner

After retiring from Shelby County Schools, Hendricks began coaching here as an assistant. This fall he starts his seventh year as head coach. He is assisted by **James Walker**, head coach of the Lower School team; **John Knaff**, instructor in math and economics, and **Jonathan Jones**, chair of the Department of History and Social Studies. Last season three of his wrestlers placed in the top six at the TSSAA-IIAA state individual tournament.

This award means Hendricks will be permanently recognized at the National Wrestling Hall of Fame and Museum in

Stillwater, OK. Assistant coach James Walker, who wrestled for Hendricks as a student at Millington, was present for the ceremony, along with his Millington wrestling teammate James Hivner, now the appellate court clerk for the state of Tennessee. ■

## Suddarth Holds Boelte Chair of Excellence

It is not surprising that **Samuel D. (Trey) Suddarth III**, recently named to the A. Robert Boelte, Jr. Chair of Excellence in Teaching, approaches his craft – be it on the basketball court or in the classroom – philosophically.

“Teaching is not so much about what you know, but what you can get the students to understand,” says Suddarth, who serves as chair of the Department of Foreign Languages, instructor in Latin, and assistant varsity basketball coach.

“The idea that the teacher just stands up there, spouts ‘expert’ information, leaves the students the work of learning content, and then expects them to spit it back perfectly is utter authoritarian arrogance. *What* we are learning in Latin has stood the test of time, but I’m also interested in communicating to students *why* it’s still around for us to learn it. Today’s students don’t really need us for information; they need us for interpretation. In the classroom or on the court, process matters every bit as much as content.”

Headmaster **Ellis Haguewood** says Suddarth introduces eighth graders to Latin “in such a manner that they actually enjoy it, and he teaches Advanced Placement Latin in such a manner that his students excel on their examinations.”

Since 2004 nearly 90 percent of his Advanced Placement students have earned top scores (4 or 5) on the AP Latin exam.

His friend and colleague Coach **Joe Tyler** says Suddarth approaches everything he does with consistent excellence. “Whether it’s athletics or teaching in the classroom, he brings the same energy, enthusiasm, passion, and organization,”

Tyler says. “He has a firm belief in doing things the right way and helping others discover the excellence inside them.”

Academic Dean **Flip Eikner ’77** agrees. “He has a profound desire for excellence, he is sensitive to the feelings of others, and he is his own fiercest critic.”

Suddarth came to MUS in 2004 after nine years as head varsity basketball coach and Latin teacher at Germantown High School. Growing up in Nashville, he was a scholar and an all-state basketball player at Hume-Fogg High School. After earning his bachelor’s degree at Sewanee: The University of the South and his master’s at Vanderbilt University, he compiled 32 hours toward a Ph.D. at Emory University.



Trey Suddarth with the *Lupa Capitolina* sculpture in the Capitoline Museums in Rome, Italy, during an MUS in Europe trip.

In addition to serving as assistant coach to the varsity basketball team, he has coached ninth-grade basketball and Lower School golf and tennis. He has provided strong leadership and guidance to students in an MUS run of eight straight state Latin championships. In 2012 he received the school’s Distinguished Teaching Award.

Fellow Instructor in Latin **Ryan Sellers** says Suddarth embodies traits the community holds dear. “The students have no finer role model than Trey Suddarth. He is honest, hard-working, and modest, and he is dedicated to excellence not only in the classroom but also on the athletic fields.”

Suddarth is married to the Rev. Deborah Suddarth, pastor at Collierville United Methodist Church, and they have two children, Reese, 10, and Doug, 7. ■



## Mason Soun Creates Memphis Communiversity Program with Help from Faculty Members

BY MARCI WOODMANSEE

**T**oward the end of his senior year, **Mason Soun '11** recalls telling mathematics instructor **Steve Gadbois** that surely they had, by that point, covered all the math in the world that there was to learn.

Later, as an undergraduate at Princeton University studying mathematics, Soun quickly realized that, actually, there was still much more.

"If all the math I knew was a drop, then there was the ocean [left] to study," Soun said.

This realization helped inspire his creation of Memphis Communiversity, an organization designed to share his love of learning. He launched his first program in August – a week-long series of short courses for local high school students held at Christian Brothers University.

"I'm interested in education, especially the academics themselves, whether that be math, literature, or history," Soun said. "I want to focus on the appreciation and study of these subjects. My goal is to spread a love for the liberal arts and the sciences that was passed on to me during my days at MUS and Princeton."

Now a 2015 Princeton graduate, Soun spent months organizing and recruiting teachers and students for the inaugural Communiversity seminars.

Intended for intellectually curious high school students, the program offered three courses, all of which were taught by MUS faculty members. History instructor **Jonathan Large** led a seminar on the life of Winston Churchill; English instructor **Spencer Reese '94** held a class titled "Literature and the Fantastic;" and math instructors **Nancy Gates** and Gadbois co-taught a course on math competition problems and graph theory.

"What Mason created in his first Communiversity program was an opportunity for students in the Memphis area to experience

the Aristotelian knowledge for knowledge's sake, which is, after all, the essence of education," Reese said.

Soun's goal is for the summer program to become an annual event. He funded this year's program himself, but he is in the process of filing as a 501(c)(3) organization, a designation that would exempt Memphis Communiversity and future sponsors from certain tax obligations, thus encouraging outside support for the summer program and other workshops in development. He hopes to expand the number of classes available to high school students by inviting instructors from other high schools and universities in the area to participate.

In the meantime, he has started two monthly educational events. The first is World Culture Night, held at Collierville High, which is essentially a series of language tables open to any high school students who want to practice their conver-

sational skills. "At the first event, the main tables were Spanish, German, and French," says Soun. "But we also had The Confucius Institute at the University of Memphis with Chinese, two girls from the Russian Club at Rhodes did Russian, and students from Pleasant View School did Arabic."

Soun's other monthly event, Memphis Math Circle, is held at the University of Memphis. High school students work in groups on famous math problems and thought-provoking paradoxes.

"Really, this is learning for fun!" Soun said. "What I'm hoping to promote, and what we started during the summer program, is found in the name, Memphis Communiversity. Both parts of the name are equally important and form the unifying theme and foundation for all the programs: 'community' and 'university.'"

For more information, visit: [facebook.com/memphiscommuniversity](https://facebook.com/memphiscommuniversity) ■



Alumnus Mason Soun, center, recruited MUS teachers, from left, Spencer Reese, Jonathan Large, Steve Gadbois, and Nancy Gates to teach a free week-long afternoon seminar in their areas of academic interest for some three dozen high school students who attended the inaugural Communiversity program at Christian Brothers University.



# Unforgettable Art Teacher Peter Bowman Leaves Legacy of Artwork and Memories

BY MARCI WOODMANSEE

**W**ith his artwork dotting campus buildings and on display in homes and businesses throughout Memphis and beyond, Faculty Emeritus **Peter Bowman** won't soon be forgotten. Bowman, who died July 31 at age 72 due to complications from cancer, taught art at MUS from 1979 to 2008. A noted and prolific painter, Bowman was as well known in the community for his artwork as for his unique persona.

"All of us who knew Peter loved him," Headmaster **Ellis Haguewood** says. "We loved him for his art; he was one of the most accomplished and significant artists in the city. We loved him for his observations about students or events of the day. Peter was a unique character."

Bowman was a graduate of Corinth High School (Class of 1961), where he was known for his appearance as Shakespeare in the senior follies. He earned a B.F.A. from the Memphis Art Academy (now Memphis College of Art) and an M.A.A. from Montana State University in Bozeman, and by the time he arrived at MUS in 1979, he was already an accomplished artist with pieces on display in galleries.

As the school's lone visual art instructor for many years, Bowman taught courses at all levels. In addition to seventh-grade art and Art I, he taught Art II (painting) and worked with countless students in advanced, independent study. All of his students, regardless of the course, benefited from his extensive knowledge of the history of art. Photographer and Memphis gallery owner **Matt Ducklo '92**, who went on to earn his master's degree in fine arts at Yale, learned a great deal during the hours spent in Bowman's art studio.

"Coming into Mr. Bowman's class as a bewildered seventh grader was a revelation," Ducklo says. "The art teacher was an artist. I went on to take as many classes with Mr. Bowman as I could. He taught

the most fundamental lesson: Form is everything."

Bowman also taught at Rhodes College and Memphis College of Art during his career, but most of his years were spent at MUS. His works appear in the collections of Rhodes College, Financial Federal, Pfizer, Promus, and the VCU Health System. He exhibited at David Lusk Gallery as well as in shows at the Memphis Botanic Garden, Dixon Gallery & Gardens, Memphis Brooks Museum of Art, Leu Art Gallery at Belmont University, Hunter Museum of American Art, and Memphis College of Art. He was a regular contributor to the annual Works of Heart auction benefiting Memphis Child Advocacy Center. He was also active in Artists' Link, and he was a faithful attendee at weekly breakfasts held by the arts group.

At MUS Bowman was more than an artist; he was a community mainstay who fully participated in life outside the classroom. As Haguewood describes, he was a very good art teacher but also a very good faculty member, always willing to chaperone a dance or attend an alumni function. Ducklo believes the interaction complimented Bowman's creative process.

"He was an enthusiast who loved the camaraderie of teaching at MUS, which must have been such a counterbalance to the solitude of the studio," Ducklo says.

His friend and faculty colleague **Bill Taylor** says Bowman was good for the school. "It's good to be around somebody who just thinks differently than everybody else. The boys loved him, I think because there was absolutely no facade whatsoever. He didn't hide anything. And he was as smart as can be," says Taylor, instructor in biology and holder of the Ruth McCaughan Morrison Chair of Science.

In addition to his artistic talents, Bowman had the gifts of congeniality and compassion. He was interested in everything

and would talk to anyone. A longtime member of Evergreen Presbyterian Church, he also served as an auxiliary probation officer for the Shelby County Juvenile Court. This involved hands-on supervision of youths on probation and serving as a mentor.

Taylor and Bowman had a ritual of eating lunch together at the beginning and end of every school year, and Bowman also accompanied Taylor on one memorable MUS in Europe trip as the master teacher. "You couldn't leave him alone; he had no sense of direction and would just get lost in the city," Taylor says. "I wanted to tie a rope between his waist and mine! But he taught a great art course, and the kids loved it."



Spanish instructor Vince Mutzi, Peter Bowman, and English teacher Barbara Crippen upon their retirement from MUS in May 2008.

Bowman's own artwork was described in a review in the *Memphis Business Journal* as "surreal realism" – landscapes and real objects infused with deep color and thick texture. Gallery owner David Lusk, who represented Bowman, says that from early in his career he layered paint thickly, whether he was working on paper, canvas, or panel.

"Typically, he scraped the paint to the edges of the artwork's surface, and all that crusty, chunky paint clinging to the perimeters gave his art the presence of sculpture," Lusk says. "He wasn't afraid of color either



– the brighter the better – to accentuate his loping trees, flowers, table, or whatever form struck his attention. One form that fascinated him for a number of years was a coffee mug. Through his use of color and attention to surface, that mug developed its own energy and animated qualities.”

Taylor says that once Bowman finished working on a piece of art, he was through with it; it was the process that was important, not how much it would sell for. Taylor liked to visit his classroom to watch him teach. “He’d pick up some boy’s pencil drawing to look at, and then with his thumb he’d kind of smear it across the piece to maybe blur the line a bit, and hand it back. The boy would look up bewildered, and I would be thinking, ‘Genius!’ He was something else ... a purist. He just saw things differently.”

An avid supporter of student activities

and performances, Bowman happily served on the sidelines of many home football games as a member of the “chain gang,” claiming a close vantage point from which to express his unwavering support for MUS. Taylor recalls one night when Bowman left his post at halftime to visit the concession stand. Missing in action at the start of the second half, he was summoned over the loudspeaker by announcer **Norman Thompson**, and soon thereafter he was running across the field back to his post, a soft drink sloshing under his arm, popcorn flying in the air.

“He was as uninterested in his appearance as he was enthusiastic about food and snacks – any kind, anywhere, any time,” Haguewood says. “He was just a memorable figure in the life of the school for 29 years. We loved him because he loved us. He cared profoundly about MUS and his

friends on the faculty and staff, and we are a better school because he was here. We will miss him.”

Bowman leaves his wife, Elizabeth (Beth) Davis Bowman and one son, Matt Bowman (Amanda), of Richmond, VA. He also is survived by two brothers, Thomas A. Bowman (Sally) of Atlanta and Rush Bowman (Kathy) of Arlington, TX, as well as a sister, Patricia Blackwood (Dan), of Prescott, AZ. ■



Above: Paper bag painting/Courtesy of Beth Bowman



Top right: Peter Bowman, Jenny’s Place, 2009

Bottom right: Table in Bowman’s studio

Photo by Matt Ducklo.



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## Homecoming 2015



Class of 1965 luncheon attendees, from left, Chris Fitzhugh, Jim Keirns, Trow Gillespie, Al Varner, Bob Heller, Rick Ferguson, Wilson Sneed, Rick Miller, Don McClure, and Thomas Woods

**50th Reunion** The Class of 1965 gathered for a luncheon to celebrate their 50th reunion, in addition to spending time together at the Homecoming game and at a party Friday night at the home of Edith and Bob Heller '65.



The Class of 1960, along with some alumni from the Classes of 1958 and 1959, gathered at the home of Lucile and John Bondurant '60.



Members of the Class of 1970 get together at the Homecoming Dinner.



Cindi and Lee Marshall '75 hosted a party for alumni from the Class of 1975.



The Class of 1980 gathered at the home of Lisa and Louis Jehl '80.



'85

Alumni from the Class of 1985 converged in the photo booth at the Homecoming Dinner before the game. They gathered later for a party at the home of Jeannie and Owen Tabor '85.



'90

The Class of 1990 caught up at Local Gastropub.



'95

The Class of 1995 met downtown at Central BBQ.



'00

The Class of 2000 met at the home of Betha and Ray Gill '68.



'05

The Class of 2005 gathered at the High Point Ballroom.



'10

Hank Hill '10 hosted the Class of 2010 reunion party.



## Homecoming Dinner

Old friends enjoyed reconnecting over dinner at the Homecoming 2015 pre-game party. The photo booth was also a hit!



Mary and Sonny Stephenson '70 show off his letter jacket.



Tom Austin '65 and Ralph Braden '70



Andrew Sutherland '90 and Shelley and Coors Arthur '90 hang out with Lloyd.



From left, Martin Daniel '75, Will James '85, Ken Jones '85, and Craig Christenbury '83



Class of 2010 classmates, from left, Conner Davis, Ted Fockler, Stephond Allmond, Holt Edwards, Chase Harriman, and John Straton



Class of 1995 classmates, from left, Trey Carr, David Bradford, Blake Bourland, and Mark Arnold



From the Class of 1975, from left, Chip Austin, Josh Abston, Neil Townsend, and Bob Wilder



## Golf Scramble

It was a beautiful afternoon for golf as alumni hit The Links at Galloway for a catered lunch and 18 holes together.



Kim Jenkins '80 and Brooke Rodriguez '80 enjoyed catching up on the course.



William Gates '99 and Richard Burt '99 were in it to win it.



Kenny Kyle '75 and Louis Johnson '65 get ready to tee off.

## Emerging Leaders

At the Emerging Leaders luncheon, alumni visited with favorite faculty from the past and enjoyed a keynote presentation from Lower School Principal Clay Smythe '85.



Connell Hall '08 and Buck Towner '07



Clay Smythe '85 shared stories about how MUS fulfills its mission daily.



Science instructor Bill Taylor with Buck Lawson '03 and Will Carter '09

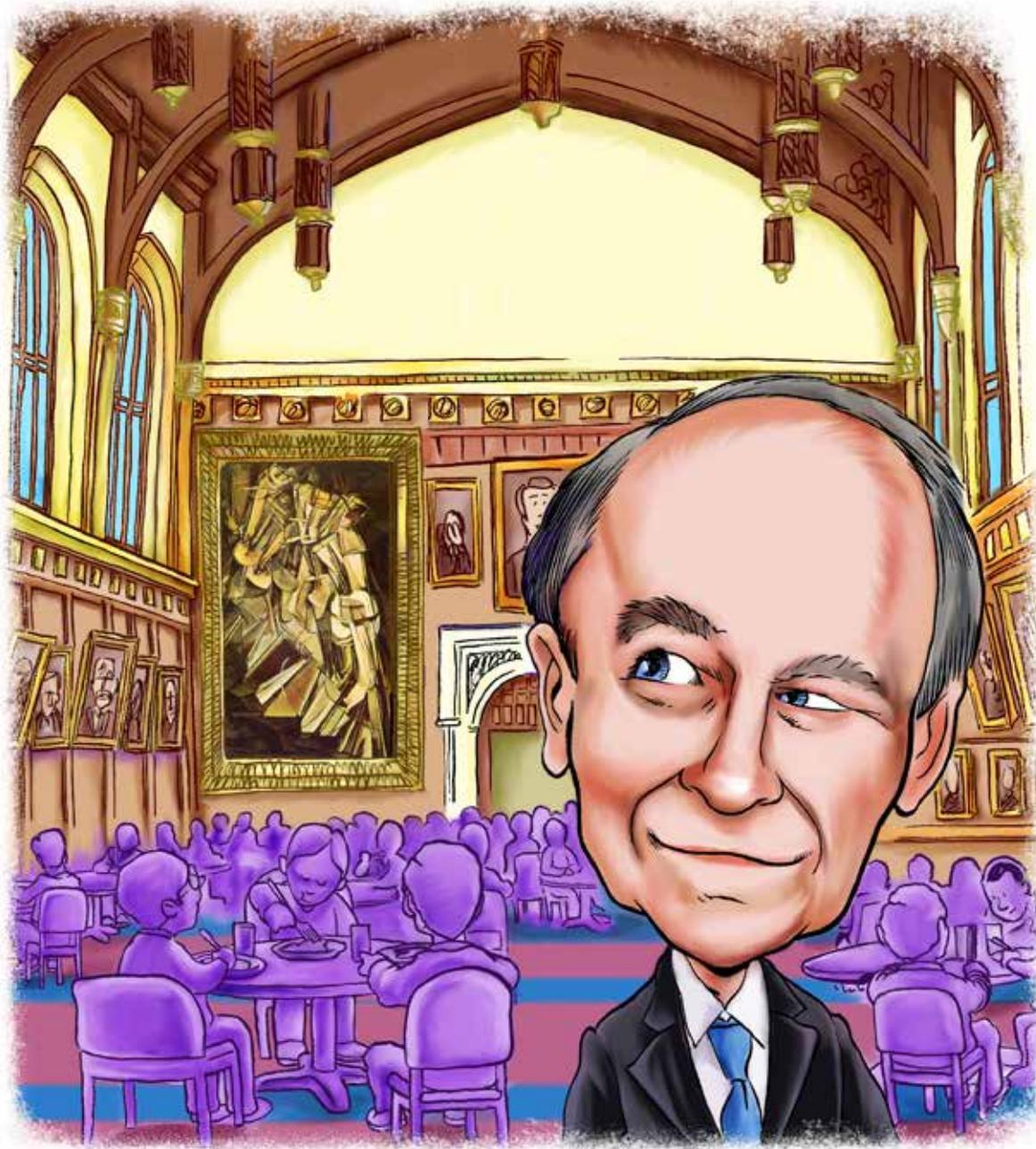


Jack Steffner '09, Neely Mallory '07, and Reid Wesson '06



John Summers '05, math instructor Darin Clift, and Eric Beaty '01

# THE LAST WORD



## Roaming the Halls of Learning

by Norman Thompson

*“The real thing for the student is the life and environment that surrounds him. All that he really learns he learns, in a sense, by the active operation of his own intellect and not as the passive recipient of lectures ... what he really needs most is the continued and intimate contact with his fellows. Students must ... eat together ... in a big dining room or hall with oak beams across the ceiling ... with a shield or tablet here or there upon the wall to remind them ... of the men who went before them and left a name worthy of the memory of the college.”*

So wrote Professor Stephen Leacock, humorist and astute critic of the human condition and of human foibles, in perhaps his best-known essay “Oxford as I See It” (1922).

As coincidence would have it, I was rereading this canny observation of the necessity of the confluence of knowledge and environment while seated in the cavernous grandeur of the Dining Hall, where I meet my senior homeroom on Friday mornings. I became acutely aware that the benign, sagacious eyes of iconic teachers of the MUS past – upon whose shoulders we stand, we teachers who are privileged to still be here – were looking down encouragingly from the portraits that line the walls of the hall, quietly exhorting us to continue to pursue excellence in all our endeavors, moral and ethical as well as academic, just as they had taught us.

Not the portraits alone, but also Leacock’s reference to the dining hall with oak beams across the ceiling, reminded me of the many years that I dined with my colleagues and my students in the old Clack Dining Hall, long since demolished. As depicted in the Spring 2015 edition of *MUS Today*, “the Clack” was the first addition to the fledgling facilities constructed at Park and Ridgeway in 1955. After the construction of an ell of Spartan classrooms, Margaret Clack Askew saw the aching need for a place where students and faculty could congregate, a place that functioned as a cafeteria and an auditorium, a place for the dissemination of knowledge, culture, and socialization outside the classroom. As presciently described by Leacock, the arched ceiling of the Clack was supported by massive laminated oaken beams and contained long, rectangular tables seating 10 or more. No carpets on the floor or tapestries on the walls, the din of conversation and argumentation was often deafening.

The Clack was a place where memories for a generation or two were made. It was here that a callow Lower Schooler might be warned by a senior not to look at the portrait of a naked woman hanging behind the serving line. Always defying the warning, the excited young man would steal a glance at a print of Marcel Duchamp’s

*Nude Descending a Staircase* and be less than titillated. A place where the same wet-behind-the-ears Lower Schooler would be told by another mischievous Upper Schooler to tap his fork (knives and forks were metal then) loudly on the counter for faster service. To the cafeteria commandant, Mrs. Nell Lenti, who ruled her domain with the iron fist of Boadicea, warrior queen of the Britons, the tapping of a fork was the trumpet call to battle. She would pounce on the malefactor with a reflexive ferocity that he would remember throughout his school years. Mrs. Nell, lacking an office from which to conduct business, prevailed finally on the administration to construct for her a large cubicle in the northwest corner of the Dining Hall, a structure with clear Plexiglas walls but no roof. It quickly became known as “Nell’s Topless Lounge” to students and the target of the occasional mortar launch of a partially consumed hot dog whenever Mrs. Nell was not in residence at “the Lounge.”

But old and new, the dining halls of MUS have always been places outside the classroom where learning proceeded apace. On my Friday mornings in the Dining Hall, I see students studying and doing homework, but I hear conversations concerning sports, movies, video games, and the quirks and peccadilloes of teachers. I had a conversation recently with a student concerning the feasibility of training a bald eagle to hunt. I said that it could not be done, that only falcons could be so taught. I was wrong. Mark Twain famously said, “I never let my schooling get in the way of my education.” MUS students in the Dining Hall and other extra-classroom venues agree with him.

Many locales on campus outside classrooms teem with inquiry and learning every day. The foyer of Humphreys Hall, with its comfortable couches, padded armchairs, and antique etchings, is a hotbed of disputation, the volume of which the disputants must sometimes be warned to tone down. Recently, while proctoring a makeup quiz there, I listened to the debate over the veracity of the Internet story of a lion’s having mutilated 42 members of the Cambodian Midget Fighting League in a

sold-out exhibition. One student alleged that a science teacher had referenced this story as fact. Surely, a sound education includes the skepticism that results from having been the gullible butt of such a hoax.

Teachers’ offices offer a depth and breadth of knowledge that is astounding to one who has not become inured to it, who has not yet learned to take this treasure trove of learning for granted. A teacher at MUS can get a college-level disquisition on any topic that intrigues him from one or another of his colleagues. Students benefit from the overflow of such arcane conversation. Several teachers routinely congregate in one history teacher’s office to discuss a dizzying array of topics. Students hover around the periphery, scarfing up the flung morsels of wit, wisdom, and opinion on subjects as disparate as old movies, science fiction, Civil War heroes, graphic novels, and the manna from heaven that is the work of P.G. Wodehouse. The hallways and courtyards are likewise hives producing the honey of maturity and civility, as are the computer labs and library reading rooms.

Having lived most of my life in classrooms, I cannot agree wholly with Oscar Wilde, who in “The Critic as Artist” (1890) wrote “Education is an admirable thing, but it is well to remember from time to time that nothing that is worth knowing can be taught.” But I must agree with Stephen Leacock’s percipient view of Oxford University, a place where education has changed little since its founding around 1096, that a young man’s education is not complete – or even adequate – if it does not include a rich “life and environment that surrounds him.” And that richness is encountered also in places not enclosed by classroom walls.

At MUS that is the kind of education that a young man receives if he opens his heart and his mind and immerses himself in the deep pool of knowledge and experience, in the classroom and out, that is Memphis University School.

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





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Quite a few Owls are taking on athletic challenges, and many involve bicycles. Here C.D. Smith '60 marks the finish of a Portland-to-Portland ride. On August 23 he and a group of fellow cyclists dipped their back wheels in the Pacific and left Portland, OR, headed on a cross-country trek to Portland, ME. Some 37 days later, they reached the Atlantic. As the oldest member of the group, Smith was selected to hold up his bicycle as he stood in the water upon reaching their destination. Read more on page 27. This issue also features Johnny Pitts '76 winning his age group in the Memphis in May Triathlon 2015 Sprint (page 32), and Tom Burnett '96 and his wife, Alyson, completing a six-day, 350-mile bike ride from Pittsburgh to Washington, DC (page 5).



# U TODAY

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