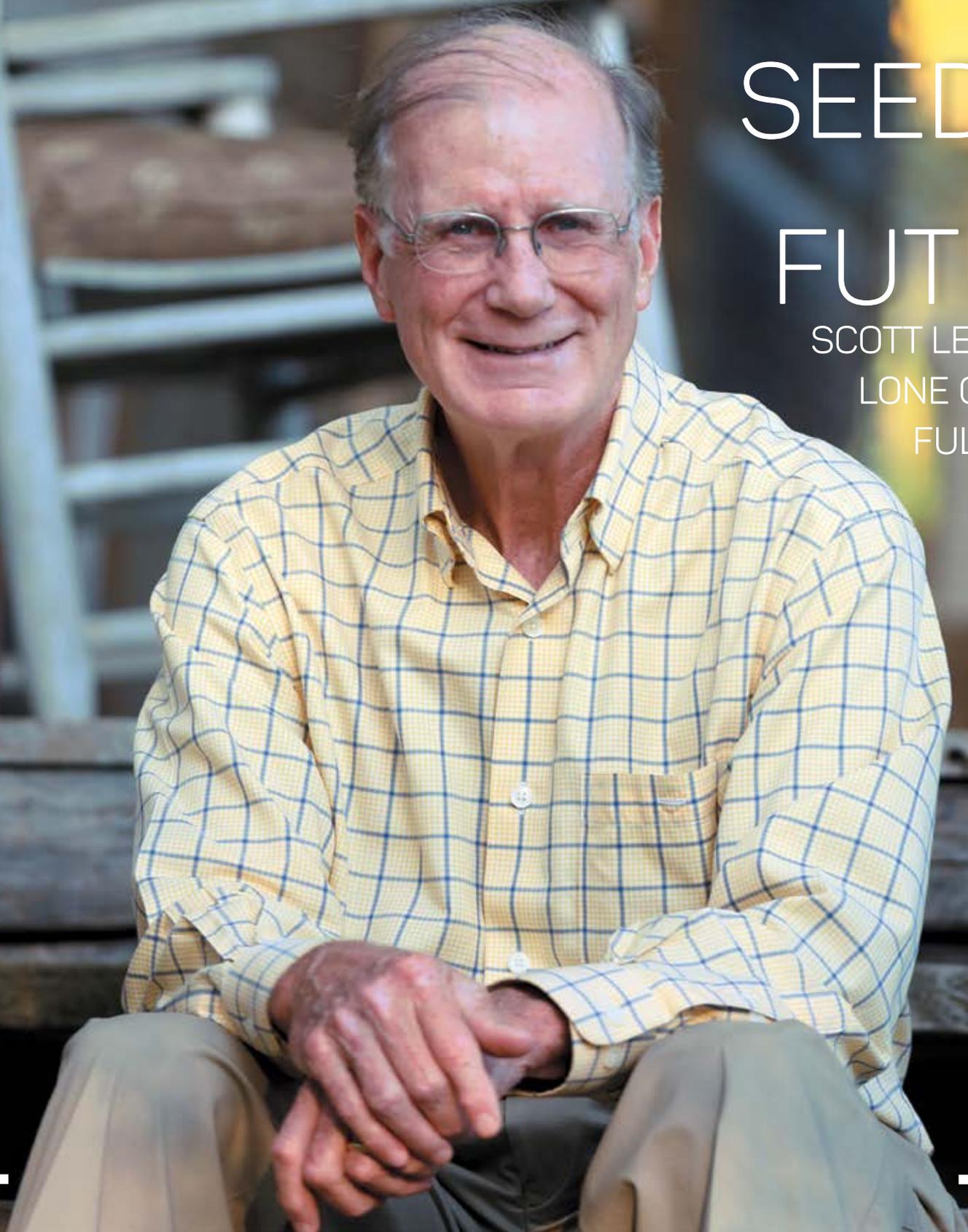


U TODAY

SEEDING THE FUTURE

SCOTT LEDBETTER'S
LONE OAKS FARM
FULFILLS NEW
PURPOSE

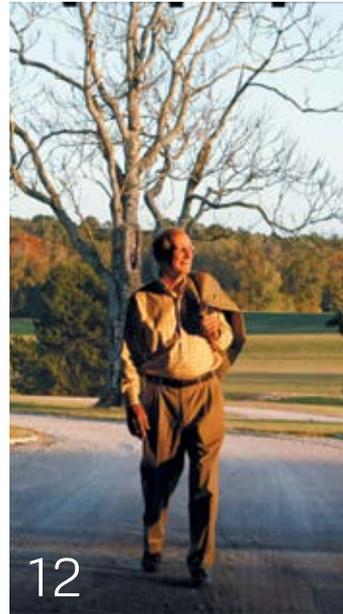


The sun sets over the Mississippi River, framed by the 100-year-old Harahan Bridge. Residents from the Mid-South and visitors from around the world now have a new vantage point for enjoying sunsets and river views - the Big River Crossing pedestrian/bicycle bridge - which opened October 22. The new attraction has proven quite popular; by December more than 66,000 walkers and bikers had crossed. At nearly a mile in length, it is the longest public pedestrian bridge across the Mississippi River. Read more about how alumni helped bring the project to fruition on page 5.





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Founded 1893

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ON THE COVER



After spending almost 20 years creating a working cattle and hay farm that also served as inspirational rustic retreat in Hardeman County, Scott Ledbetter '60 and his wife decided to sell their 1,600-acre Lone Oaks Farm to the University of Tennessee. Now under the direction of Dr. Ben West and the UT Institute of Agriculture, Lone

Oaks is poised to become a national model for agricultural education with plans in development for a new 4-H and conference center facility. Photo by Karen Pulfer Focht

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Connections in All Directions

Walking the Big River Crossing on a high-definition fall day, connections come to mind. The 4,827-foot pedestrian pathway over the Mississippi on the Harahan Bridge connects the bluffs guarding Memphis to the soybean fields fringing West Memphis, AR. A broader project encompassing infrastructure in both cities, the Main Street to Main Street Multi-Modal Connector Project, drives home the point. And the Big River Strategic Initiative, a collection of projects “to activate and celebrate the Mississippi River and its surrounding landscape,” aims to expand a levee trail system and create the Delta Regional River Park on the Arkansas side.

The people bringing these plans to fruition include many with connections to MUS. (See story next page).

Since the days when school co-founder **J.W.S. Rhea** wrote letters to graduates – including **Sgt. Lee V. Harris 1916** on duty guarding the U.S.-Mexican border (page 22) – individuals and families in the MUS community have been making connections – and making a difference.

Scott Ledbetter '60 and his wife, Kathy, spent nearly two decades collecting 27 parcels of land in Hardeman County to create their 1,600-acre cattle operation and family retreat, Lone Oaks Farm. In December 2015, motivated by their desire for more Tennesseans to connect with their pastoral getaway, they sold the property to the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture for a 4-H, youth education, and conference center (page 12).

A connection **Malcolm Wood '08** made at his job in Jackson Hole, WY, led him to the island of Sumba in Indonesia, where he teaches organic farming techniques to students as part of the Sumba Hospitality Foundation program (page 20).

More than 270 alumni recently joined together to honor their legendary football coach in a monumental way. Now **Jake Rudolph**, clipboard in hand, is memorialized in a bronze statue at Jacob Courtney Rudolph Plaza in front of Stokes Stadium (page 40).

In 25 years as the volunteer Lower School football coach, **Jim Burnett '83** connected with about 1,000 boys, teaching them not only to play the game but also to live life with character and heart. Many of his former athletes were present at the Football Banquet in December as their coach, who recently retired from his gridiron duties, received an honorary varsity letter (page 24).

A number of Faculty Emeritus **Terry Shelton's** former students attended the October unveiling of their English teacher's portrait for the Dining Hall (page 30). Shelton, who often connected with boys via his red-penned remarks on their papers – received praise for holding his students to a lofty standard of excellence that remains with them to this day.

Walking from the Memphis side of the Big River Crossing, where **Henry Turley's '59** South Junction Apartments project has spurred interest in South End development, to the Arkansas side, where **Bert Robinson '90** envisions outdoor concerts, festivals, picnics, and bike races on land now hosting soybean cultivation, connections – and lofty standards of excellence – come to mind.



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Opposite page: From left, Doug Carpenter '82, Paul Morris '92, and Dow McVean '92 played important roles in the opening of the Big River Crossing, the new pedestrian/bicycle bridge over the Mississippi River.

A photograph of three men standing on a bridge structure. The man on the left is wearing a blue blazer, white shirt, and blue jeans. The man in the center is wearing a grey suit, white shirt, and green tie. The man on the right is wearing a dark blazer, checkered shirt, and khaki pants. The background is a clear blue sky and the metal framework of the bridge.

A RIVER RUNS THROUGH IT

BY MARCI WOODMANSEE

Alumni play essential roles in bringing Big River Crossing to life

Union Pacific's antique locomotive No. 844 billowed steam across a cloudless blue sky as it crossed the Harahan Bridge and slowed to a stop for the opening of the Big River Crossing – a new pedestrian/bicycle bridge over the Mississippi River – on October 22.

A large assembly of train buffs had gathered alongside local dignitaries, railroad executives, government officials, and other excited Memphians to celebrate the breathtaking new attraction. In the middle of it all was a contingent of elated Owl alumni, whose involvement in the whole undertaking was critical to its completion. A similar celebration took place on opening day on the Arkansas side, where Owl support also played a critical role.

Most everyone involved in the Big River Crossing credits one man in particular, Memphis businessman and visionary, Charlie McVean, whose unflinching belief in the project catalyzed the effort. Arkansas State Senator **Keith Ingram '73**, who helped supporters pitch the idea to state government officials early on, describes McVean as a force of nature.

"He's a hurricane wrapped up in a tornado surrounded by a cyclone," Ingram says.

Charlie's son, **Dow McVean '92**, who carried the flag and served as the daily articulation of his father's vision throughout the project, agrees with that description. "I've been caught up in that tornado for a few decades now!" he says.

Paul Morris '92 was indispensable in the implementation of Charlie McVean's vision, including helping secure a grant for Big River Crossing as the centerpiece for the Main Street to Main Street Multi-Modal Connector Project he directs.

Developing a compelling brand identity for promoting and publicizing the bridge boardwalk was handed to **Doug Carpenter '82**, founder and principal of the Memphis creative communications consulting firm DCA.

What happens at each end of the bridge was another concern on both sides of the river. In Memphis developer **Henry Turley '59** quickly set about tackling that issue by creating an attractive, walkable, bike-friendly neighborhood around the bridge entrance where people would want to live, work, and play. Across the river, Arkansas landowner **Bert Robinson '90** granted easements to allow for the creation of new biking/hiking trails, and he is advocating

for the creation of a regional river park. It's all part of a grander plan for Mississippi River-area activation called the Big River Strategic Initiative.

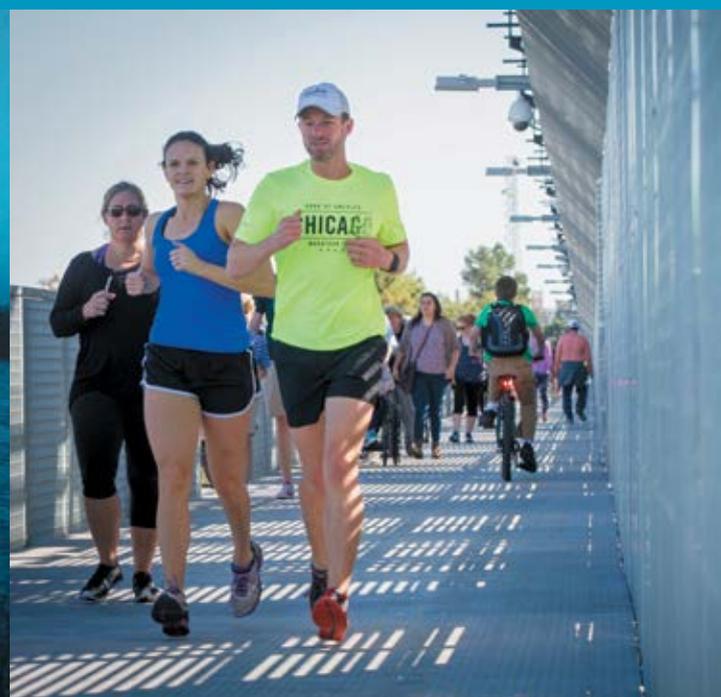
In celebration of these Mid-South developments, we highlight Owl contributions to the cause.

PAUL MORRIS '92

Paul Morris admits he was just listening politely to Charlie McVean and a fellow visionary, attorney Charlie Newman, explain their "crazy idea" of building a mile-long bike trail more than 100 feet above the Mississippi River, right next to an active rail line. But when they suggested joining the concept with the Main Street improvement project Morris was working on as president of the Downtown Memphis Commission, he quickly became interested.

Shortly thereafter, the Main Street to Main Street Multi-Modal Connector Project was born, and the team began pursuit of a federal Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant to fund the project.

"Why did we pick that name?" Morris asks. "We learned that federal transportation officials love words like *multi-modal*



and *connector*, and in DC they love Main Street – they want to help Main Street America. They love it so much, we put Main Street in there twice.”

With the invaluable advocacy of U.S. Rep. Steve Cohen, the team won the \$15 million federal grant, and real work on the project began. The aggressive deadlines set by the U.S. Department of Transportation, along with the paperwork, imposed the discipline to get the project done. But managing all the moving parts in a project that involved the federal government, two states, two counties, two cities, the Union-Pacific Railroad, and private sector funders was a complex task, to say the least.

“Did we encounter problems we didn’t expect? Virtually every day!” Morris says. “Managing the various funders, [all of whom] felt ownership, and rightfully so, to make sure their expectations were being met, while [at the same time] dealing with engineering challenges that presented themselves in repurposing a 100-year old bridge and a wagon-way built at the turn of the last century – it presented a lot of interesting challenges.”

Morris recalls one day in particular when he started informing stakeholders

that, despite all their best efforts, there was no way they could make it happen. However, the people who had the vision did not accept that answer.

“It took the visionaries to keep it going,” he says. “[You need] that kind of visionary leader who can see past the day-to-day drama and details.”

So Morris pushed through the challenges and ultimately guided the project to completion two weeks ahead of the November 4 deadline and \$1.5 million under budget.

“My feeling is mostly of relief,” he says. “And a little bit of disbelief, like, wow, that actually worked!”

KEITH INGRAM '73

Arkansas State Senator Keith Ingram recalls a certain amount of skepticism about the prospect of bringing Big River Crossing to life. “When I first heard Charlie [McVean] pitch this, I thought, “What a fabulous idea! The railroad will kill it immediately,” Ingram says.

Then a member of the Arkansas House of Representatives, Ingram was helpful in getting McVean and his team an audience with the Speaker of the House, a key to

garnering the state government’s support for pursuing the project. Ingram was also part of the group McVean gathered to fly to Omaha, NE, to pitch the project to Union Pacific.

“Within 20 minutes of McVean pitching the idea, the president of the railroad, Jim Young, raised his hand and said, ‘I get this, we’re going to do it. We’re going to find a way.’ I was probably more stunned than anyone in the room, other than the railroad execs who may have thought the president had lost his mind.”

Now that the project is complete, the next steps on the Arkansas side involve

Opposite page, left, Paul Morris spoke at the opening-day press conference in Memphis about his skepticism upon first hearing the pitch for the Big River Crossing. “I thought that was crazy,” he said. “Think of it. Who does that? Memphis does that.”

Opposite page, right, about 70 percent of current visitors to the bridge are entering from the Memphis side.

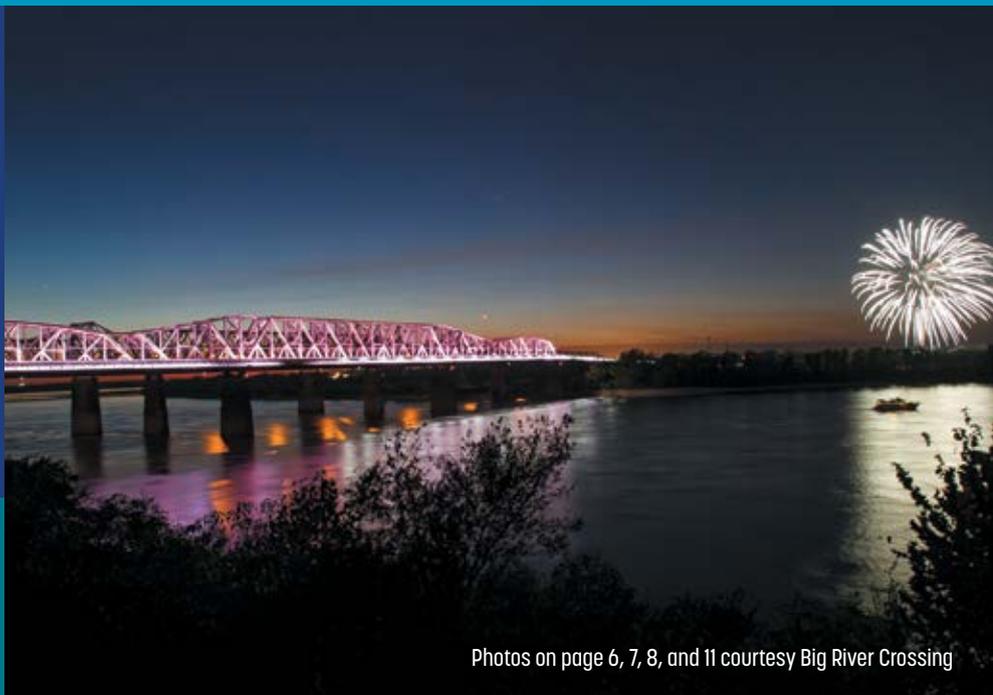
Below, a fireworks show heralded the lighting of the bridge on opening night.



Big River Crossing is a pedestrian/bicycle boardwalk on the northern side of the 100-year-old Harahan Bridge connecting Downtown Memphis, TN, to West Memphis, AR.



Opened October 22, 2016



Photos on page 6, 7, 8, and 11 courtesy Big River Crossing

connecting the crossing to a bike-trail system on the levees and the proposed park and recreation area. Ingram sees tremendous potential for the region.

"It's a huge quality-of-life issue," he says. "For years we've tried to figure out how to tap the beauty of the Mississippi River when it's blocked by a levee. So getting on top of [the levee] is certainly the most advantageous view of the river. It's a fabulous opportunity to view the Memphis skyline and to be able to take in nature. It's rare that a major metropolitan city has unblemished, beautiful farmland just across the river."

Ingram believes Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson's support of cycling could also prove advantageous. "Our governor is embracing the tourist and economic value bicycling can bring," he says. "He would like Arkansas to be known as the bicycling hub of the south."

The state has a great start, including the 73-mile Big River Trail, running from Marianna to West Memphis along the St. Francis Levee and connecting with Big River Crossing. Trail work is also underway north of New Orleans, Ingram says.

"I think [this project] really has the potential to link St. Louis and New Orleans."

DOW MCVEAN '92

For Dow McVean, there are three small "miracles" his father helped make happen in conceiving the crossing: taking the mayor and "a couple of airplane loads of folks to Omaha" to convince Union Pacific to consider the plan, working with Congressman Cohen to get the federal grant to pay for the bulk of the project, and convincing the St. Francis Levee Board to allow the trail atop the levee from West Memphis to Marianna. In the overall five-year endeavor, he says, "Dad did most of the heavy lifting." He describes his own role as more behind the scenes, "keeping things organized and moving forward and raising a little money along the way."

The reason the project has been important to the McVeans has a lot to do with their love of Memphis. Dow calls his father a diehard Memphian who wants the best for the city, which includes supporting the creation of jobs to fuel the economy.

"The main drive behind Big River Crossing is as an international tourist attraction, and as a derivative of that, to drive job growth locally," Dow says.

"Also, my grandfather was in the Army Corps of Engineers; he was very involved in the building of the Mississippi River levees after the war," Dow adds. "The river

has always been sort of a part of our family and something that's been near and dear to dad's heart."

Charlie Newman, a well-known environmental advocate because of his previous work with Overton Park and Shelby Farms, is another individual Dow credits, calling him an "invaluable Sherpa of the entire project" from the beginning. At Charlie McVean's request, Newman and his firm found the original titles to the roadbeds of the Harahan Bridge. "The fact that the City of Memphis and Crittenden County still owned those lean-tos certainly helped our case convincing the railroad to allow us to do this in the first place," Dow says. "Charlie Newman is an outstanding Memphian ... he's been working hand-in-hand with us since the beginning."

Now that the Crossing is complete, Dow is excited about pressing forward on related projects, including the levee trails and river park in Arkansas. On this front he has received assistance from alumnus Bert Robinson, who helped secure easements for a trail system adjoining the Arkansas end of the bridge.

"A 6.7-mile reclaimed asphalt-paved loop is currently under construction," Dow says. "So in the spring, when people go across [from Memphis], they'll be able to



go down along the riverbank between the I-55 and I-40 bridges and loop back around. It will be a perfect destination for people [biking] from Downtown. The next thing is how to put together the land to make a regional river park a reality. It could be upwards of 1,700 acres inside the levee between the Big River Crossing and the [Hernando de Soto] bridge.”

Hearing McVean describe the future possibilities for the area, it’s easy to see how important his enthusiasm and drive have been to the project’s success.

“Until you go over there, you can’t appreciate how amazing the views are of the river and both bridges and Downtown Memphis. That’s what I’ll be working on,” he says.

“It’s not unrealistic to imagine in less than 10 years, say, an uninterrupted trail from Memphis to New Orleans, on top of the levee, and ultimately on up to St. Louis.”

DOUG CARPENTER ‘82

In the life of an advertising agency, the bulk of the work that comes through the door is generally related to promoting a service, product, or brand. Giant cultural amenities, the kind of enhancements that make a difference in a community for decades to come, are more rare. The

Big River Crossing certainly fits into that category, and Doug Carpenter is proud to be engaged professionally in the launch and ongoing communications of this public asset. He classifies undertakings such as this as legacy projects.

“They have a long-lasting impression and benefit to a community,” he says. “We’re really proud to be able to contribute to that.”

Carpenter’s firm, DCA, developed the brand identity of Big River Crossing and its partnering regional developments – Big River Trail and Delta Regional River Park – all under the umbrella of the Big River Strategic Initiative. DCA utilized a bold X to reference a railroad crossing, which frames diamond shapes to feature various transportation modes in simple but recognizable iconography. The firm also implemented a web and social presence and managed public relations for the project’s construction and grand opening. Marketing efforts continue today, Carpenter says.

“One week after opening, ESPN requested film footage of the illuminated bridge for all Memphis sports broadcasts. We will constantly promote the bridge as an asset for both Memphis and Arkansas through traditional channels and partners including the Convention & Visitors

Bureau. Big River Crossing poses a clear reason to promote the city.”

Carpenter says the Crossing has drawn over 66,000 visitors during the first six weeks of opening. Seventy percent approached the bridge from Memphis, and thirty percent from West Memphis. More meaningful assessments of traffic will become available as the seasons pass.

“These are things that will be interesting to discover,” he says. “What is universal is the appeal of it. People just love it; it’s a transformative experience to walk or bike across the Mississippi. This will be one of the city’s most recognizable assets in the future.”

BERT ROBINSON ‘90

With little else besides farmland on their side of the river, it was a natural question for the Arkansans considering the Big River Crossing project to ponder: Where will it go? Bert Robinson was among them.

Opposite page, numerous dignitaries were present to celebrate the opening of the Big River Crossing.

Below, Bert Robinson sees greater potential for the soybean farmland on the Arkansas side.



At 4,827 feet, it is the longest public pedestrian bridge spanning the Mississippi River.



Total cost: approx. \$28M



"I remember talking with Dow and Charlie McVean a long time ago, when [this] was just a concept, about what the next step would be," Robinson says. His family owns land near the Arkansas entrance to the bridge. Average farmland, he says, that has bigger potential.

"We started thinking outside the box, that this would make a great park and recreation area," Robinson says. "It's basically a big blank canvas, with tremendous river views and views of Downtown Memphis, now accessible via the Big River Crossing. We think there's a higher and better use for that property."

As a good-faith start, Robinson and another landowner granted easements for a trail system, now in construction, and they are brainstorming ways to garner support to create a park. It is farmland that floods, but Robinson says attractions could be engineered to account for cyclical flooding. He pictures a park along the lines of Shelby Farms.

"Our vision is for a public/private partnership with the state of Arkansas, Crittenden County, and possibly several corporate partners and nonprofits," he says. "We envision wetland restorations, bottomland hardwood reforestation, and agricultural demonstration areas. We could

have open green space, campgrounds, an amphitheater for outdoor shows, festivals, food trucks, bike races – there are just lots of options. We haven't quite put it all together yet, but we're working on it."

Robinson describes the park concept as a long-term project that would benefit residents on both sides of the river. "It would be another amenity for Downtown Memphis," he says. "There are so many 20- and 30-somethings living Downtown who want to get out and about, this gives them an opportunity. But I think it also means a lot for Crittenden County, West Memphis, and Marion. Those Arkansas residents will enjoy and benefit from this, as well."

HENRY TURLEY '59

Near the bridge entrance on the Memphis side, a vibrant, eminently livable new neighborhood was recently established, thanks to pioneering Downtown developer Henry Turley. Turley is credited with sparking interest in the South End area through his South Junction Apartments at Carolina and Florida streets. Now his attention is on redevelopment of nearby Central Station, with apartments, a hotel, and a theater in the works.

Turley describes the completion of the Big River Crossing as "a real *tour de force*,"

by Charlie McVean and Charlie Newman, and says his own work in the South End area was prompted by the realization that there was little development along the route for those biking from the north to the bridge. "I told Congressman Cohen that if, indeed, they got [the grant], I would do something along the route. We wanted there to be activity along that line. That was a real factor in deciding to do it. We just didn't want people to come to Memphis and think we closed in 1942."

His work building neighborhoods and supporting the entire Main-to-Main project includes aesthetic infrastructure improvements to streetscapes and railroad underpasses and overpasses in the area of Tennessee, Florida, and Carolina streets. "You'll see they're much more open, clean, safe, lit, pretty," he says. "We like that kind of stuff."

Turley's gift in revitalizing communities has encouraged other alumni entrepreneurs in their ventures in the area, including the redevelopment of the Tennessee Brewery by **Billy Orgel '81**, and the transformation of the nearby Hotel Chisca by **Chance Carlisle '01** and **Chase Carlisle '03**. There's also the popular new dining/recreation area Loflin Yard, opened by an ownership group including Carpenter



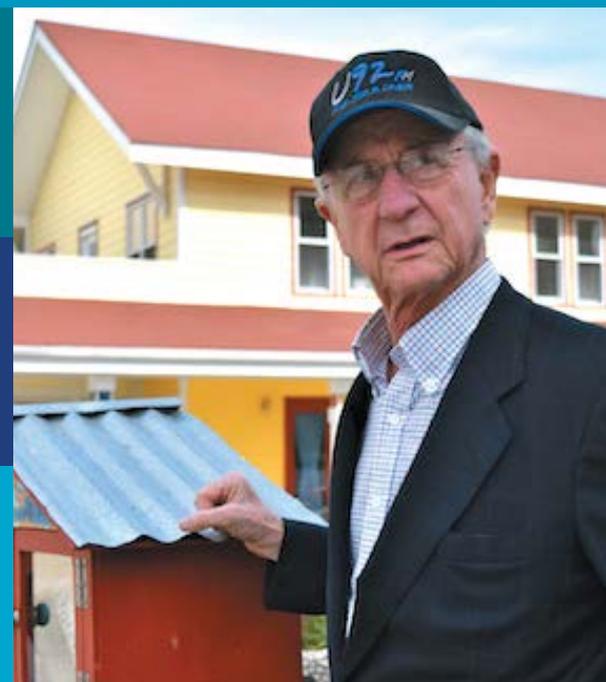
Adjoins Big River Trail system on the levee to Marianna, AR



Open from sunrise until 10 p.m.



46 cameras and 100K LED lights



and **Michael Tauer '95**, who recognized the tremendous community synergy in this developing area.

Morris describes Turley's continued support of Downtown as invaluable. "The neighborhood around the [Big River] project, he built pretty much from the ground up," Morris says. "We didn't want to build the bridge in the middle of nowhere. He made that somewhere. That's now one of the hottest places to be."

Carpenter makes the point that the success of a project such as the Big River Crossing would have been far less likely without Turley, whose vision for Downtown began so many years ago, or Auto-Zone founder **Pitt Hyde '61**, who located his business and his family foundation there and committed early on to Downtown amenities such as the National Civil Rights Museum. The constant growth in the numbers of people Downtown, through residential and business development as well as tourism, made the difference.

"[Without] continued investment projects in Downtown, which are paying good returns, this bridge wouldn't have been possible," Carpenter says. "We wouldn't have qualified for the TIGER grant were Downtown not so activated. And we wouldn't have had the vision or the wisdom

or the lunacy to pursue something like this, because there wouldn't be anybody to enjoy it."

Turley hasn't paused to reflect too much on progress to date. He just keeps looking further down the road.

"I would like to see the riverfront from the [Crossing] north along Riverside, and even on Island Drive on Mud Island, develop into a rather spectacular biking trail on the river," he says. "I think we'd get a lot of leverage by incorporating the whole of our dramatic riverfront into the experience.

"On a decent day, there's a significant crowd ... you can just feel sort of a good vibe, from the little knots of walkers and then all together," he adds. "It's a pretty happy place."

Morris, now president of Jack Morris Auto Glass in addition to serving as director of the Main-to-Main project, sees the Big River Crossing continuing a positive momentum for Memphis, becoming more than an amenity for current residents, but also a selling point for recruiting employers and new residents going forward. "It's not the single thing, but it's part of the package that we can offer to convince people ... to live here," he says. "The Big River Crossing

is distinctive."

He echoes Turley's sentiments in describing how well this new amenity has been received. "The diversity of people who love it is impressive to me," he says. "The Memphians, the Arkansans – it's bringing people together in a way that I'd not really contemplated or understood. It doesn't cost money to enjoy, and you can take your family. I see people who don't know each other, smiling and having conversations [on the bridge], amazed by what they're seeing. You need things like that in a community to bring people together." ■

Opposite page, left, Arkansas State Senator Keith Ingram recognized those involved in the Big River Crossing at opening-day ceremonies in West Memphis.

Opposite page, right, Henry Turley's development work Downtown, from Harbor Town to the South End, has created livable communities that have activated and revitalized the area.

Below, left, visitor traffic on the bridge to date has been 85 percent pedestrians, 15 percent cyclists.

Below, right, antique locomotive No. 844 made an appearance at the Big River Crossing opening.





Photo by Karen Pulfer Focht



Infinite Harvest

BY MARCI WOODMANSEE

Scott Ledbetter's Lone Oaks Farm will yield educational bounty for years to come

About an hour's drive east of MUS, a beautiful farm tucked in Hardeman County has become the newest jewel in the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture's holdings. The property, known as Lone Oaks Farm, is the work of Memphis businessman **Scott Ledbetter '60** and his wife, Kathy. The couple spent 18 years assembling 27 parcels of land into a 1,600-acre cattle operation and hay farm that served as welcome respite from the daily concerns of Ledbetter's real estate business and as inspirational family getaway near Kathy's hometown of Grand Junction.

Intent on showcasing the beauty of the property in a lasting way, the Ledbetters consulted with regionally respected architects to connect the fields and creeks and rolling hills by adding roads and fencing and unique residences that would draw friends and family to the property.

At its peak business operation, the farm had over 500 registered Black Angus cattle, and it was one of the largest Bermuda grass hay producers in southwest Tennessee. Ledbetter used it regularly for business gatherings, while welcoming friends and family members to come enjoy it as well.

In recent years, however, the couple had begun to consider ways the property they had developed and cared for might be enjoyed by more people.

"We did what we wanted to do, but it grew too big for two people to take advantage of ... it just wasn't being used like it should be," Ledbetter says.

That realization led to Ledbetter's sale of the property to UT, completed in December 2015. In coming years the farm will be home to West Tennessee's new 4-H and Conference

Center, expected to serve as a national model for agricultural education. As UT Extension professor and Lone Oaks Director Dr. Ben West says, acquiring Lone Oaks Farm was "the first big milestone in a world-class endeavor that will impact Tennessee for generations to come."

Ledbetter couldn't be happier. "This is an unbelievable next step. ... We've put almost 20 years of our life into [this], and seeing it perpetuate itself ... that's something that makes you very proud."

THE FIELD AT ROOSTER COTTAGE

Lone Oaks Farm may never have come to pass had Ledbetter overlooked a call from a broker acquaintance who wanted him to come look at a piece of property – located in what is now the southwest corner of Lone Oaks – that he was interested in developing.

Hoping to gain an equity partner in



Bird House Trail is one of many paths visitors can wander at Lone Oaks Farm.

the project, he took Ledbetter for a tour, and Kathy went along for the ride.

"We pulled up about 5 p.m., and the sun was coming through the trees from behind, and cows were grazing down below," Ledbetter says. "This place was ethereally beautiful. I felt Kathy kicking me under the seat, and I knew what that meant: 'Let's buy it ourselves.'"

So they did. They later moved a house across the street from Lone Oaks onto that hillside for guests who wanted to stay on the property. The welcoming, cozy house is named Rooster Cottage; its porch offers a great view of the surrounding landscape. The kitchen features an arched window Ledbetter salvaged from his childhood home at Central and Goodlett before it was torn down during the expansion of Second Presbyterian Church. "This is one of our favorite spots," he says.

The Ledbetters continued acquiring parcels to create Lone Oaks and began to work on a landscape plan, contracting with Nashville landscape architect Ben Page (who recently completed a landscape master plan for MUS). Page saw sublime beauty in the sweeping prairie landscape of Lone Oaks – its diverse mixture of pasture, woodlands, and water – and knew exactly how to showcase its aesthetic anchors.

Equally committed to implementing top-notch cattle and hay operations, the Ledbetters depended upon the help and expertise of eight dedicated employees to manage these businesses.

"Kathy and I attended cattle auctions all over the country on weekends in the spring and fall, acquiring cattle; we thoroughly enjoyed that process," Ledbetter says. "And of course our kids and grandkids spent time here. I wouldn't trade any of that time on the farm with growing family."

(Ledbetter's children are son, **Pierce Ledbetter '85**, and daughters, Baylor Stovall and Margaret Ledbetter. He and Kathy have five grandchildren, including **Scott Ledbetter '22**, a current seventh-grader at MUS.)

CREATING SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL

Over the years the Ledbetters made improvements to the property to develop the business operations as well as amenities for family and friends, always setting the bar as high as possible.

"If we could not build a building to where it was going to be terrific, we just didn't do it," Ledbetter says.

Early additions included the Sale Barn and embryo transfer facility necessary for the cattle operation, the stables for eleven horses, and the maintenance shop, where the grandchildren liked to play. Along the way the Ledbetters also acquired a collection of some 3,500 antique American tools – the largest displayed collection in the world. Dating from the 1600s to 1800s, the hand tools are mounted on 51 vertical, 8-foot panels that line the walls of the Sale Barn, with larger foot-operated tools displayed on the second floor, giving Lone Oaks' largest meeting space a museum-worthy exhibit for visitors to explore. The Sale Barn also features a large professional kitchen where UT's newest hire, Executive Chef Allen Cain, prepares meals with farm-fresh ingredients for visiting school and 4-H groups, guests enjoying a weekend stay, and other corporate retreat and event attendees.

The Ledbetters built or moved and renovated 13 guest residences at Lone Oaks, 10 of which are currently available for rental through UT via the website, loneoaksfarm.com. An airy, second-floor apartment at the stable looks out over the property. Above the shop a cozy apartment outfitted with a modern kitchen and wet bar (featuring a striking bronze sink by **Cecil Humphreys '73**) doubles as a small meeting space. Visitors can also stay in an 1832 log cabin, a ranch-style five-bedroom five-bath lodge, or an actual South African tent (a type of dwelling the Ledbetters admired when they got married in Zimbabwe).

The farm offers sites for camping and

What's Next for UT

Talk to Dr. Ben West, Director of Lone Oaks Farm, about the future, and you quickly get a sense of the value this property adds to the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture – and the potential it holds for programs benefiting youth.

"What's most exciting is to be able to do something here educationally for K-12 – not just in Hardeman County but in the region – that will become a national model as a way to use the outdoors to teach kids science, math, engineering, and technology," West says.

One of UT's partners is the Hardeman County School District, which will fund a UT faculty position at Lone Oaks.

"We want a real thought leader in STEM education, someone who can meet a group of fourth graders at the farm one day and demonstrate best teaching practices, and the next day talk to the CEO of FedEx and paint the vision for what we're doing here," West says.

Before the state legislature approved the purchase of the farm, West says nearly 1,500 people toured the property to grasp the scope of what it might offer. The State of Tennessee spent \$16 million on the purchase of Lone Oaks, and the fundraising for further development is just beginning. West's current challenge is to cultivate donors while overseeing the master planning project and the ongoing farming and hospitality operations. Cattle and hay operations continue for sale purposes, while vegetable farming and fishing operations help supply the culinary needs of the event and leisure-travel side.

Ten residences on the farm accommodate guests for overnight or weekend stays. Small school groups, Scout troops, and 4-H clubs can also stay for camping trips or educational outings. The university recently selected Virginia-based landscape architecture firm Nelson Byrd Woltz to complete a master plan for the property, which will outline locations for construction of the 4-H center, a shooting range, and hospitality facilities, including an inn and restaurant. The new educational facilities will make it possible for hundreds of campers to stay overnight for multiday trips in the future.

"What's important to us is that we arrange things so we can have multiple activities going on at the same time," West says. "The master plan will help determine how much more we need. [We believe] \$15 million would get us operational, with cabins for kids and hospitality facilities. We have raised over \$8 million in gifts, pledges, and in-kind support, but we still have a lot of fundraising work to do in order to achieve our dreams at Lone Oaks Farm.

"It will take years to realize our vision," he says. "It's a big project, and we're just getting started, but the potential is really tremendous." ■



Dr. Ben West, director of Lone Oaks Farm, left, has worked closely with former owner Scott Ledbetter during the transition of the property to UT.



picnicking, 16 lakes for boating and fishing, conversation spots for reflecting and relaxing, and 15 miles of trails and woods for hiking and exploring. Ledbetter says the night sounds outside the residences are unbelievable, and so are the stars. He is enthusiastic about the opportunities for city kids to explore nature at Lone Oaks, as is UT's West.

"Last fall I walked outside the Sale Barn next to a sixth-grade girl who'd really never been outside of Shelby County," West recalls, "and she looked up and said, 'I've never seen stars like this.' That's a big deal."

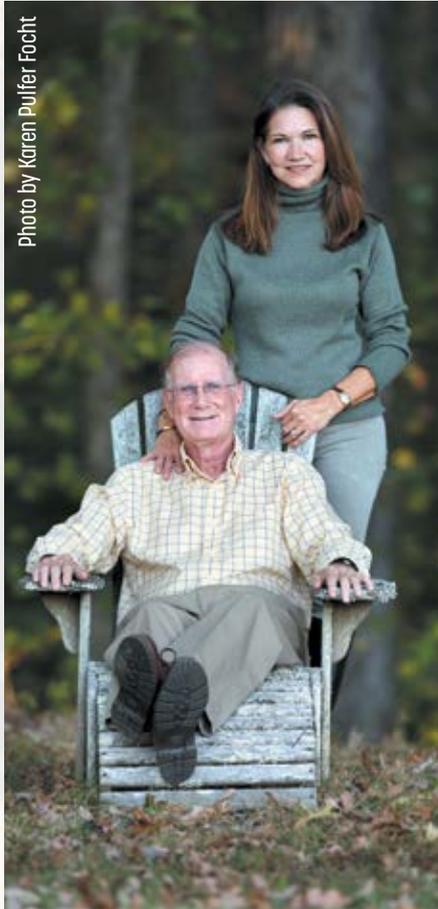
LOOKING AHEAD

Ledbetter is retired, for the most part. His son, Pierce, runs his business now as CEO of LEDIC Management Group – "way better than I did," he says. Ledbetter still spends at least one day every week or so in Memphis. "I have my real estate investments so I stay up with that, and it seems like I'm always busy doing something civic- or business-related. I still work eight hours a day, but the difference in life is that I don't have to adhere to a schedule. So I'm able to do things I love, and Lone Oaks is one of them."

Ledbetter held onto 400 acres of the Lone Oaks property for himself and Kathy (subsequently acquiring about 250 acres more). On land they have named HopeCote Farm, they are building a new house and eagerly anticipating the changes that UT has planned for Lone Oaks going forward. The best new addition so far, Ledbetter says, is the executive chef. "I like to eat; I wish I'd had [a chef] all along."

He is enthusiastic about planned additions, including a shooting range, which has been made possible through a grant from the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency. "It's being designed by Marty Fischer, who is regarded as one of the finest sports shooting consultants in the country, and he has convinced us it'll be one of the best sporting clay and skeet facilities in the southeastern U.S.," Ledbetter says.

Fisherman and television host Bill



Scott and Kathy Ledbetter held onto several hundred acres at Lone Oaks to create their new HopeCote Farm.

Dance is a friend of Lone Oaks, whom Ledbetter expects will participate in educational and sporting activities. And he is excited about the opportunities for increased tourism through the possible addition of a high-quality inn and restaurant, which will allow greater numbers of people to enjoy Lone Oaks. Most important of all, though, are the educational prospects.

"I am so convinced this will be the best 4-H camp in the nation," Ledbetter says. "It's UT's goal. Obviously, our desire is for it to be as successful an operation for the university as it can possibly be. We take great pride in what we did to the land and want to help them in any way we can. We're especially interested in what it will do for youth and young adults.

"Kathy and I are pinching ourselves at how lucky we are – that what we started from scratch will have a life forever."

While he watches Lone Oaks evolve, Ledbetter is helping to encourage further economic development in Hardeman County, serving as chairman of the Bolivar Downtown Development Corporation. Over the past 10 years he and Kathy have purchased seven 100+-year-old historic buildings in the courthouse square area of downtown Bolivar. They have renovated most of them and are now seeking restaurant operators and retail establishments. "We intend to take advantage of all the visitors coming to the region to visit Lone Oaks," Ledbetter says.

Ledbetter is also focused on helping promote and preserve the nearby Hatchie River, the last major unchannelized tributary of the Lower Mississippi River Basin, which the Nature Conservancy included in its list of the "75 Last Great Places on Earth" to save. This is the type of project he understands well from his work on the Wolf River (see next page). "I see every bit as much potential on the Hatchie," Ledbetter says.

One of his favorite weekend pastimes now is bicycling with Kathy to their favorite breakfast place – some 15 miles there and back. And the couple took their longest-ever vacation this fall, to Bali, New Zealand, and Bora Bora. The trip included a stay at New Zealand's luxury Otahuna Lodge resort co-owned by **Hall Cannon '95**.

In addition to advocating for UT's work at Lone Oaks and encouraging economic development in Hardeman County, Ledbetter will undoubtedly stay busy developing and caring for HopeCote Farm, which he and Kathy now call home.

"There are few things I've enjoyed more than clearing paths with a chainsaw," Ledbetter says with a smile.

It's a safe bet that, retired or no, Ledbetter is not done blazing trails for others to follow. ■

Scott Ledbetter – Change Agent

Years before beginning the creation of Lone Oaks Farm, Ledbetter had already established a name for himself as a respected commercial real estate professional and civic leader.

After earning his undergraduate and MBA degrees at Cornell University, his corporate real estate career began in 1969 when he founded the real estate division of Cook Industries, Inc., Cook Investment Properties.

In 1979 he founded LEDIC Management Group and was chairman until 2014. His son, **Pierce Ledbetter '85**, is now CEO of the company, which has over 1,100 employees managing more than 40,000 apartment units – 11,000 of which are company-owned – across the U.S. Ledbetter is also founder and chairman of CB Richard Ellis Memphis - Multifamily (formerly SPL Corporation).



On the second floor of the Sale Barn, Scott Ledbetter shows off some of the antique foot-operated tools he's collected in a museum-worthy exhibit at Lone Oaks.

Even if you don't know about his business career or Lone Oaks Farm, chances are you have heard of his work chairing the city-county Pyramid Reuse Committee, which brought Bass Pro Shops' newest signature store to downtown Memphis.

"That was the hardest thing I ever worked on," Ledbetter says. "For two and a

half years we met every Wednesday morning at 8 a.m. in my office to work on this project." Ledbetter says the committee had concluded that a commercial retail chain was the only way to go when he got a call from **Henry Turley '59** suggesting they consider pursuing Cabela's as a possible suitor. He met with Jack Belz, chairman and CEO of Belz Enterprises, to ask about putting one of his factory outlet malls in the Pyramid. "When he turned us down, I asked him what he thought of Cabela's, and he said a far better choice would be Bass Pro, which had a store in his Orlando shopping center."

So Belz made a call, the committee got Bass Pro founder Johnny Morris and his friend, TV fishing host Bill Dance, to come visit, and the rest is history. "Bass Pro was a home-run choice for the Pyramid," Ledbetter says. "It brought us aquariums, an entertainment center, destination retail, a restaurant and tourists, and even a hotel, which was a bonus. It was the ideal use for the space."

Helping bring Bass Pro to the Pyramid is just one of many accomplishments Ledbetter can claim. The positive influence he has had on the community is evident in the long list of civic, cultural, and charitable organizations he has supported. He has served as chairman of numerous boards and spent years helping organizations such as the Memphis Museum of Natural and Cultural History (now the Pink Palace Family of Museums), the Memphis Arts Council (now ArtsMemphis), and the Memphis Zoo, among many others.

A fundraiser extraordinaire, he credits his success to the "good causes" he's been fortunate to assist. He played a pivotal role in leading the Campaign for a New Century for MIFA, an effort that was slated to be chaired by fellow alumnus **Jimmy Thomas '58**, who passed away unexpectedly before the campaign began. That five-year effort raised \$26 million. He helped save the Wolf River by serving as chairman of the Wolf River Conservancy's capital fund drive, raising \$6 million,

the largest fund drive for a conservation and environmental project in West Tennessee's history. One of Ledbetter's biggest cultural gifts to Memphis involved his leadership of the Memphis Zoo's first capital fund drive, which raised over \$110 million and led to the transformation of the zoo into one of the city's greatest assets. His belief in the importance of aiming for excellence is characteristic of his approach on other projects.

"When we were doing the Memphis Zoo, it was terrible, no question about it, one of the worst in the country," Ledbetter says. "We [changed that] with one philosophy: Hire the best zoo architect you can find, which in this case was Ace Torre out of New Orleans. We graded every exhibit at our zoo from A to F, and there were no A's; it was mostly C's, D's, and F's. So we made a decision: We would not rebuild a single exhibit unless it would be the No. 1 exhibit of its type in the U.S. Our first was Lion Country, and it would have been easy to do a good exhibit, but our instruction to the architect was that it had to be recognized as the BEST lion exhibit at that time. If I take credit for anything, it would be saying that to our board and architect – that we will only do it if it's going to be the best in the U.S."

"I've heard UT, from Ben West all the way to President DiPietro, say the same thing about Lone Oaks."

Ledbetter is a founder (along with Turley) of the Memphis Society of Entrepreneurs. He has been honored with an Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser Award, the Land Conservationist of the Year Award, and the Downtown Memphis Leadership Award, among other accolades. In 2006 he received a lifetime achievement award from the Memphis chapter of Lambda Alpha International, the principal professional real estate society for the Mid-South. He currently chairs the Bolivar Downtown Development Corporation, sharing his drive for excellence with his neighbors in Hardeman County. ■

Survival of the Clickiest: Darwinism in Social Media

BY CHRISTOPHER BLANK

It's coincidental, but not inconsequential, that we reach **Oliver Lockett '92** a few days after the presidential election. His debut book *The Social Organism: A Radical Understanding of Social Media to Transform Your Business and Life* (Hachette Books), co-authored by journalist Michael J. Casey, just made him the go-to savant for technology reporters scrambling to figure out how political pollsters went so awry with their predictions. Did social media play a bigger role in the election's outcome than anyone anticipated?

Photo by Gunnar Steinn



Oliver Lockett at Bruarfoss Waterfall outside of Reykjavik, Iceland

"First of all, I made really big bets that Trump was going to win," Lockett says. Lest the reader infer that this social media guru and former CEO of theAudience was eager for a Trump presidency, Lockett considers his recent move to Iceland with husband, **Scott Guinn '07**, as dodging a bullet.

"A lot of the inspiration for this book

came from being here, in a far more humanistic society," Lockett says. "This is a small, environmentally harsh island. If people don't stick together, they don't survive. Americans love to throw grenades into their system."

Lockett's book proposes a social media theory that began taking shape in **Alice Franceschetti's** AP biology class at MUS. It came to fruition years later when, as a so-called "digital maverick," he was asked to diagram the future of social media.

"I started drawing switches and routers and servers, but could never find the right level of complexity to explain how things floated around through the goo of the internet," he says.

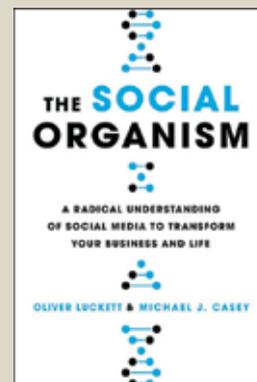
He realized that the complex networks created to share information have taken on characteristics of textbook Darwinism. The machine is evolving.

"The state of technology will inevitably look like biology," Lockett says.

As one example, he compares genes – the method by which organisms pass information from one generation to the next – to "memes" – those viral ideas like "Grumpy Cat" and hashtags such as #BlackLivesMatter – that make up the bubbling alphabet soup of social media.

Both genes and memes go through evolutionary processes. Genes that contribute to a species' survival endure through natural selection, while memes that resonate on a cultural level are shared and repurposed. Sometimes they become embedded in the collective unconscious.

What makes a powerful, viral meme? Lockett says that biology plays a role in that, as well. Certain memes activate neurotransmitter chemicals in the brain, such as dopamine, endorphins, serotonin, and adrenaline, making them far more likely to stick, or be passed along.



Lockett worries about the tendency of negative memes – much like cancerous genes – to metastasize. Facebook, he says, is the perfect platform for contagious ideas. The same algorithm that

feeds users the content they enjoy also inundates them with content that reinforces and inflames their prejudices – a perpetual echo chamber. After an election in which fictional scandal-memes spread like wildfire across social media, Lockett's book predicted the backlash that followed. Facebook and Google recently committed to removing fake news stories from their platforms.

The Social Organism speaks to both the savvy marketer looking to hone a message and the consumer of social media gaining new insight on how these systems influence the way people think, behave, and, yes, even vote.

"I hope this book encourages smart people to make and transmit content that matters," Lockett says. "We need more memetic diversity in the world. It's easy to be homophobic if that's all you know. Then you realize you have a gay cousin, and it's not so easy anymore. What's important is that people get access to information that can guide them on a humanistic level."

Visit thesocialorganism.com to purchase the book. ■

Christopher Blank is a freelance writer based in Memphis.

Sowing Seeds Abroad

Malcolm Wood helps educate Sumbanese hospitality students in sustainable farming

Malcolm Wood '08 wanted to “see new places, meet new people, and try new things personally and professionally.” This quest led him to Sumba, Indonesia, and a job as director of sustainability for the Sumba Hospitality Foundation. The foundation offers vocational education to young Sumbanese students. Through its Sumba Hotel School, which opened in July, the goal is to develop sustainable tourism that would employ the local people and protect the natural beauty of the island. In October the foundation opened a restaurant and hotel featuring five guest pavilions constructed of bamboo. The income of the restaurant, hotel, and organic farm is expected to make the organization self-sufficient in the future.

Sumba is a fairly large island (about 4,300 square miles) in eastern Indonesia. “Generally eastern Indonesia is less developed than much of the country, and Sumba is no exception,” Wood says.

He corresponded via email to share his impressions of Sumba and to describe his work on the island.



How did you find out about the position with Sumba Hospitality Foundation, and what is your job?

After studying business and

Spanish at the University of Alabama (Roll Tide!), I moved to Jackson Hole, WY, and began working at a hotel. My good friend, and now boss, Lauren Bruggeman, worked at the same hotel and asked me to join this project when she signed on as executive director. I work at the Sumba Hotel School, where we are educating 40 underprivileged Sumbanese students in hospitality, English, environmental awareness, organic farming, and life skills. Our school also has five guest rooms that offer visitors a chance to stay on our campus and allow students to practice their hospitality skills.

As the director of sustainability, I teach the environmental awareness and organic farming class and also manage our farm while working to spread organic farming

and permaculture techniques to the surrounding community. Additionally, I am able to help ensure the foundation moves forward in a way that is sustainable, both environmentally and economically.

Describe a typical day.

What I am doing changes a lot from one day to the next. Some days I teach for the whole day, which is great. My students are awesome, and I get to teach them in groups of 10, which is a great class size. Right now we are beginning a gardening competition between classes, so about half of the class is spent outside on the farm. After class I finish up any other work I have for the day, relax for a little while, and have dinner on campus with students and staff. All of our students live on campus, so we spend most of our meals together. Ideally I end my day having [drinks] with friends.

What has surprised you most about the culture?

The culture on Sumba is absolutely fascinating. I still do not fully understand it, and I probably never will. The people



Malcolm Wood shares a laugh with students while sorting trash for recycling at the Sumba Hotel School.

here are amazing, and some of my closest friends are Sumbanese. Most of the island is Christian, but many people still practice animism [the belief that natural objects such as rivers and rocks possess a soul



A beautiful Sumbanese sunset at Mananga Aba Beach, just a five-minute drive from the Sumba Hotel School

or spirit], and local traditions very much reflect that. In Sumba there is still a lot of animal sacrifice, at everything from building dedications to funerals. There is also a yearly festival in which men ride horses toward each other and throw spears with the intention of drawing blood and working out differences between tribes. (They no longer use sharp spears, but it is still a little crazy to see.) Traditions like these have been a bit surprising to me as I adjust to living in a place completely different from where I grew up.

Have you made other American or international friends?

Meeting new people, whether they are from Iran or Wisconsin, has been a highlight of my travels. We have several volunteers who work at the school for a few months at a time, and although it is difficult when people leave, it is always nice to have fresh faces join the project.

Can you describe where you live?

I live on campus, and all of our buildings

are made from bamboo, as it is arguably the most sustainable building material in the world. Our school is about 15 minutes from the nearest city, but since Sumba is not very developed, anything on the island is very different from the typical American city.

What do you like most about the country?

I would have to say the people, followed by the beautiful sites, both natural and man-made. Indonesia has some of the most beautiful beaches in the world, and in Sumba there is usually no one else on them.

Where have you traveled so far, and what places do you plan to visit while you are there?

I moved to Yogyakarta, Indonesia, last January to study Indonesian and stayed there for two months. Before moving to Sumba, I lived in Bali for two months studying permaculture, which is essentially a branch of organic farming. I have already gone back to both places for vacation and would recommend them both to anyone

wanting to travel in Southeast Asia. I have been to Singapore a couple of times, but only for very short periods of time. I want to visit Australia, New Zealand, Thailand, and about a dozen other places in Indonesia. I am not sure if I will be able to visit everywhere I want, but luckily I am close to many interesting places.

How long will you stay, and what's next for you?

I am planning on staying for two years, and I have absolutely no idea what I am going to do next. If it involves another job away from home, I will need to spend some time in Memphis first because no matter how much I love it here, I will always miss home.

How can we get more information about the Sumba Hospitality Foundation?

Visit sumbahospitalityfoundation.org. We are a nonprofit, and if anyone wants to donate to the foundation they can email me at malcolm@sumbahospitalityfoundation.org. ■

MUS Alumni Patrolled the Mexican Border 100 Years Ago

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

Current debate regarding the protection of the nation's southern border brought to mind struggles between Mexico and the U.S. a full century ago – and the role some alumni played in border patrol.

President Woodrow Wilson's famous and winning 1916 presidential campaign slogan, "He kept us out of war," may well have applied as much to our diplomatic relations with Mexico as to those with Germany. Before America's 1917 entry into World War I, the U.S. very nearly went to war with Mexico. One may argue that incidents of undeclared warfare between the two nations did take place between 1914 and 1918.

President Woodrow Wilson activated several state militia units to address Americans' growing problems along the Mexican border. These included the First Tennessee National Guard unit, which contained a number of MUS alumni. One of these, Sgt. **Lee V. Harris 1916**, wrote to school co-founder **J.W.S. Rhea** on February 1, 1917, to thank him for sending news of the school to him at Camp Ord in Eagle Pass, TX, and to share a bit of military news about MUS "old boys" with his former mentor.

"Your little card [was] received last night on our return from border patrol duty at Windmill Ranch, 46 miles from here. ... You cannot imagine how eagerly we old M.U.S. fellows have sought news of the old school. We have gloried in her victories and have been sad at her defeats in athletics, but Rozier, Davant, Donelson*, and all the rest have ventured the opinion that in many other ways M.U.S. leads all the rest. And, believe me, sir, it is being proved every day in the service that those schools with purely athletic victories to their credit are not sending as many men to the fore as the more conservative institutions. Every day is proving more and more – here in the Army

at least – that the all-around man is the only one that makes any headway."

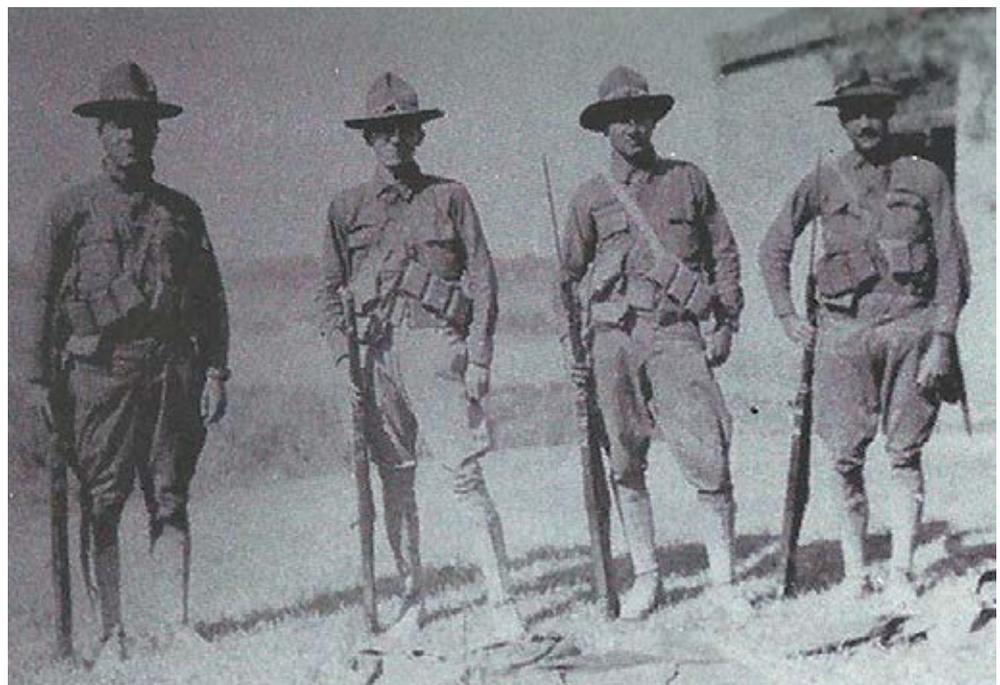
Harris regretted having had to stay at Camp Ord over Christmas – "it has been a sacrifice, though but a small one, for the good of the whole country. And in addition it has proved the necessity for a better system of national defense." His experiences caused him to advocate giving young men universal military training. (See pp. 50-52 in the *MUS Century Book*).

The Mexican Revolution (c. 1910-1920) was a time of particular unrest in that country. In addition, a series of incidents brought the U.S. and Mexico into armed conflict during this period and led to the necessity of border patrols.

In April 1914 Mexican soldiers detained American sailors at the Mexican east-coast city of Tampico. Although the sailors were quickly released, questions of sovereignty were involved. Several U.S.

warships were sent to protect American lives and property. With negotiations at a standstill, President Wilson secured Congressional authorization for American forces to occupy Mexico's primary east-coast city of Veracruz. This provoked widespread but disorganized resistance, with hundreds of American Marines and sailors involved and casualties on both sides. By May 71 American warships were operating in Mexican waters, and the U.S. Army's 5th Brigade under Gen. Frederick Funston took over the occupied city of Veracruz.

In January 1916 Francisco "Pancho" Villa, the boldest of the Mexican Revolution's bandit chieftains, ordered an attack on a train near Santa Isabel in Northern Mexico as a protest against Wilson's support for a political rival; 16 American passengers were executed. In March Villa's forces conducted a raid across the border into Columbus, NM. Villa's men burned the



Memphians Harold Morrison, Hugh Heiskell, Frank Donelson, and Joe R.T. Ransom on guard duty at the Mexican border. (MUS Century Book, page 52)



Camp Ord on the Mexican border near Eagle Pass, TX. Lt. Col. William Terry of Memphis was second in command. (MUS Century Book, page 52)

town and murdered 17 or 18 people. President Wilson sent Gen. John J. Pershing into Mexico to capture Villa dead or alive, but the Americans were unable to capture him. The U.S. eventually devoted some 10,000 troops and support personnel in their efforts, but to no avail. Despite his enemies employing machine guns, automobiles, and airplanes, Villa stayed free until his assassination in 1923.

Ultimately, the First World War obscured American problems with Mexico. Curiously, the Zimmermann Telegram played an important role in America's entry into the European war. British intelligence intercepted and decoded a note from German Foreign Secretary Arthur Zimmermann purposing a scheme to bring Mexico into the First World War on Germany's side.

Wilson had it published in early March of 1917, and the U.S. entered on the side of the Allies on April 6. Mexico stayed technically neutral but maintained a somewhat pro-German posture throughout WWI.

Most Mexicans greatly resented American violations of their sovereignty during this era. Wilson withdrew American troops in March of 1917, shortly before America's declaration of war against Germany early the following month. ■

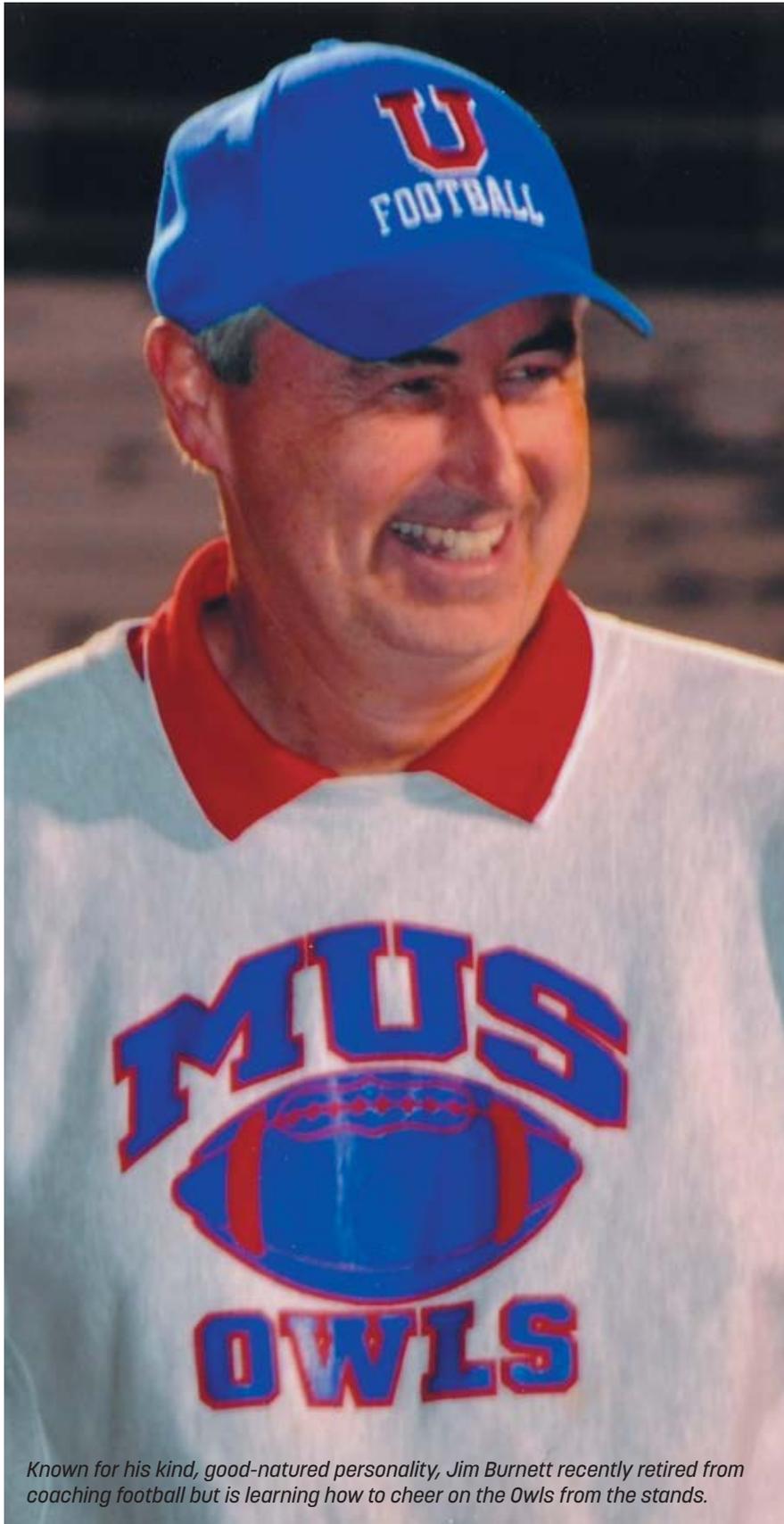
From the context, the men Harris indicates would seem to be MUS alumni. We located the following names in our database but cannot be sure the first names or graduation years are correct: **Jules Brady Rozier 1905, Joseph Allison Davant 1908, and Jackson Donelson 1909. We welcome input to clarify or add to our record.*

A Call for Stories from World War II

Herb Davis '70 has written a series of articles about his father's experiences in the Marines during World War II that were published in his son's blog (bit.ly/warstoriesMUS). After receiving positive responses from classmates, many of whom sent their memories, he decided to make this an MUS project.

"Many of the people involved [in MUS] were veterans of the war, including former headmaster Colonel Ross M. Lynn," Davis says. "How did the experiences of those men and perhaps some women (my mother was one) influence their philosophies and attitudes? What were the lessons they passed down to their MUS sons?"

"I am asking any alumni whose mothers or fathers served in the U.S. military during WWII to send me any stories of that parent's experiences. I'm also interested in stories from any former MUS faculty or administrators who served. My email address is hdavis52@outlook.com. Photographs would also be nice. My intention is to put these stories and photos into book form. I truly believe that MUS has some important stories to share."



Known for his kind, good-natured personality, Jim Burnett recently retired from coaching football but is learning how to cheer on the Owls from the stands.

Work, Play, Love

Seventh-grade and Red Team Head Coach Jim Burnett retires after 25 years on the gridiron

BY LIZ COPELAND

After 25 seasons coaching 1,000 Lower School football players, **Jim Burnett '83** has collected a few stories.

Like the one about the dad who got so excited during the very first game, he provided his own halftime speech to the players. Or the mom who explained to Burnett how to use an EpiPen in the event her son's heart stopped. (Thankfully, trainers were on hand.) Or the kid who didn't play a lot but had the greatest attitude.

"Before a championship game, he came up with a huge grin and said 'Coach Burnett, if you need to put the team on my shoulders, I'm ready.' He recovered an onside kick, and we won that game."

To Burnett, who hung up his whistle in 2015, the wins were always great, but that kind of spirit was even more valuable. What kept him coming back year after year, he says, was "love of the boys, love of the school, and love of the sport, in that order."

Those who watched Burnett since he and a couple of classmates started the seventh-grade team have no doubt about his motivation – or his influence.

"This guy has meant so much to our players, our coaches, and our school,"
Director of Athletics and Head Football



After the 2016 Football Banquet, Coach Burnett, center, adjourned to Hull-Dobbs Athletic Field for a photo with many of his former players and assistant coaches.

Coach **Bobby Alston** says. “For 25 years he helped our boys become better football players, but more important, he helped them become better young men of strong moral character. The impact he has had is immeasurable.”

Alston presented Burnett with a framed, honorary U letter at the 2016 Football Banquet, and he accepted the honor to thunderous applause from a crowd that included many of his former players and their parents.

Connecting with his young athletes was always a ministry, he says. “My goal was not to stand at a podium and preach but just to let them see my beliefs through my actions. Hopefully, I didn’t botch that too badly. Hopefully, the boys got something out of it.”

It seems his efforts were not lost on **Don Drinkard ’98**. “Coach Burnett instilled in all of us – through his actions and words – the true value of teamwork, something extremely difficult to do with 12-year-old boys.”

Fletcher Maynard ’97 remembers his coach’s kind disposition. “There was a certain gentle, stable peace about him. He obviously really cared about us to have done that so well for so long.”

Rob Park ’05, who went on to play

Seventh-Grade Football Coaches through the Years

Drew Harris ’83
 Craig Christenbury ’83
 Rankin Fowlkes
 Scott Williams ’85
 Mark Pera ’99
 Andrew Gardella ’10

The following coaches played under Jim Burnett as seventh graders:

Richard Moore ’98
 Trevor Knight ’02
 Derek Clenin ’03
 Jay Edwards ’07
 Russell Nenon ’06
 Buck Towner ’07
 Bryan Crenshaw ’10
 Drew Karban ’10

for the University of Mississippi, says the coach pushed the players hard on the field while making sure everyone understood the game. “Coach Burnett gave [us] a well-rounded foundation not only to work as hard as we could in athletics, but also to be prepared for all of the important things

in life that follow.”

Burnett, who played center and defensive end during his MUS days, walked on to the Ole Miss football team his freshman year. “I quickly realized my services were better used on the intramural field,” he says.

He earned a bachelor’s degree in business administration from Ole Miss and a graduate degree from Louisiana State University School of Banking. After working in banking for 13 years, he joined Morgan Keegan (now Raymond James Financial Services) in 2000 and now serves as a managing director and vice president of investments.

In 1990 Coach Bobby Alston approached Burnett and **Drew Harris ’83** with the idea of starting a seventh-grade football program. A year later **Craig Christenbury ’83** joined the coaching team.

Burnett shares credit for launching the program with his two classmates. Christenbury had played wide receiver and defensive back at MUS, and Harris had played quarterback. “We tried to have a balance of field experience on the coaching staff,” Burnett says. He mentions a string of men who served as coaches with him. (See sidebar at left.)

His wife, Dee, whom he married in

1993, provided balance at home. “Dee likes to joke that [coaching] came with the marriage,” he says. “She sees the value and what it means to me. That has made it easy. There have been some involved days and hours. I could not have done what I did without her support.”

In addition to coaching he serves on the MUS Board of Trustees (currently as secretary), and he has served on the Headmaster Search Committee, Parents’ Association Board, and as a class representative. In addition he serves on the Executive Board for Young Life Ministries.

He is a busy dad, as well. **James ’13** was the first of the couple’s three children to be coached by his father. **Scott ’19** and **Drew ’21** followed. Daughter, Gracey, who graduated from Hutchison in 2015, was often in the stands, cheering them on.

“It was a rich reward to be on the sidelines with my boys while they played,” Burnett says. He adds that they knew being related to the coach would not buy them favor. They had to earn their place on the field. As for Gracey, “She was always a trouper, going to games and asking me how the team did, even if she didn’t fully understand the game. She was just always there for Dad,” he says.

Burnett – who coached the seventh-grade team and, from 2013 to 2015, the Red Team of combined seventh and eighth graders – tried to teach his young players that athletics is “more a marathon than a sprint.” As some of his seventh graders had not hit puberty, he did not want them to be discouraged facing bigger boys on the field. “I did my best to give them a good experience so they would be interested in continuing if



Seventh-grade football coaches Rankin Fowlkes, Jim Burnett, Craig Christenbury, and Drew Harris proudly display their 2001 Shelby County Championship trophy after defeating archrival Collierville in a memorable, hard-fought battle that included scoring a two-point conversion in the final moments of the game.

Good Times with a Great Coach

Richard Moore ’98 contacted coaches and players to collect anecdotes about Coach **Jim Burnett ’83**. Following are a few excerpts:

I remember one of our games in seventh grade was out at FACS with no lights in the pouring rain. Parents pointed their car headlights toward the field to light it up for the last quarter. Yes, that really happened.

– **Richard Moore ’98**

I believe we were undefeated or maybe lost one game by one touchdown, but Jim made sure that every practice and every game was both fun and tough at the same time. He did an awesome job as our coach. I have a lot of great memories playing for Jim. We all still tell stories to this day and enjoyed every minute of having him as our head coach. – **Rob Park ’05**

I first got to know Jim when I started work at Morgan Keegan after college, and he became a professional mentor. Jim is one of the most honest, caring, and genuine people you could ever meet. He is somewhat of an oddity

in the financial industry so I really tried to glean everything I could from him and his successful practice. He asked me to coach with him in the fall of 2005. Over the next five seasons, I had an absolute blast with him, **Drew [Harris ’83], Scott [Williams ’85], Rankin Fowlkes, and Craig [Christenbury ’83]**, coaching the kids that were representing my alma mater. We didn’t take ourselves (or the scorelines) too seriously as we truly attempted to make the kids’ experience enjoyable, fulfilling, and educational. I’d like to think we accomplished those tasks while winning a lot of football games. – **Mark Pera ’99**

One of the best memories I have was when we were doing some drills one practice. **Charlie Erb ’06** and **Matt Farmer ’06** were in the back – Erb still had his polo shirt on under his pads – just talking and paying no attention to the drills. Coach Burnett yells out, “**ERB! FARMER! WHAT THE HECK ARE Y’ALL DOING?!?!?**” Erb and Farmer just looked at Coach speechless. Coach then yells, “Take a lap!!!” Classic. – **Chad Hazlehurst ’06**

the physicality caught up. I wanted to give them a good introduction to MUS and the traditions, and expectations, and pride that come with that.”

Burnett believes strongly in those traditions and expectations and the effect they have on boys. He remembers shaking hands postgame with an opposing coach, who said, “I don’t like to lose, but I have so much respect for MUS that it seems OK.”

One of the most valuable lessons Burnett learned as a coach, he says, is that the players are still boys, and they are going to make mistakes. “Often times, they are just looking for someone to say, ‘I’m proud of you.’ ... I think people always remember their good coaches or teachers and their bad coaches or teachers. One of my goals was to be one of the good coaches.”

He remembers experiences with good coaches when he came to MUS as a ninth grader knowing few people at the school. “My family was probably financially stretched for me to go there. I was nervous about being around guys who were a lot wealthier than me or a lot smarter than me, but I was welcomed. Coach [Jake] Rudolph, Coach [Bobby] Alston, Coach [Barry] Ray, and Coach [Jerry] Peters were some of the most instrumental people for me.”

Burnett says the support of Alston and Headmaster **Ellis Haguewood** over the years made it a pleasure to serve. Alston took on scheduling tasks and dealt with issues that arise when parents, students, and other schools are involved. Burnett also adds **Clay Smythe ’85** to the support list.

“As head of the Lower School, he ran a lot of interference for us. Clay loves the boys, and he wants them to be involved. When you have a guy like Clay helping out 8 to 3, it makes the Lower School coaches’ job consistent and easier from 5 to 7.

“I couldn’t have been surrounded by better guys to help me try to do the mission we started 25 years ago.”

Because of his experience as a student, parent, and coach, Burnett says he will be “forever indebted to

MUS. ... However much I give back to the school, I could never repay them. I wouldn’t have the position I have in life. It’s not an overstatement to say that MUS helped get me to where I am.”

This past season, his first away from coaching, Burnett says it was a little tough watching seventh- and eighth-grade football games. (Drew played on the eighth-grade team.) “I absolutely missed coaching. I felt myself cringing when something would go wrong and so excited when something would go right.”

Two of his former players who went on to play in college, **Richard Moore ’98** (University of North Carolina) and **Derek Clenin ’03** (University of Memphis), have taken over seventh-grade coaching duties. Both served as assistant coaches under Burnett.

“Those guys are doing it for the right reasons, and they are fabulous coaches,” Burnett says.

Moore says Burnett kept the teams competitive, but he also had higher goals in mind. “Jim would always end practice or games with a few thoughts and helpful tips for success, not just at football, but more importantly, success at MUS and in life. He has been such a champion for MUS, and we owe him a great debt of gratitude.”

Clenin learned important lessons about coaching boys from Burnett. “He impressed upon me to coach every kid with the same amount of intensity and passion no matter their skill level and to treat them like they were your own,” Clenin says. “I wish my own kids could have played for him.”

It was time for some young blood among the coaching ranks, Burnett says. He is learning to appreciate the view from the stands – where he can “sit back and relax.” And he enjoys the frequent reminders of his 25 years coaching 12-year-old boys.

“It makes you feel warm at heart for a guy with children to come up and say, ‘Hey Coach.’” ■



In his 25 years working with Lower School football players, Jim Burnett enjoyed getting to coach each of his sons, from the top, James '13, Scott '19, and Drew '21.



Owls First Again in National Math Team Scramble

Mathletes test their computational skills against schools across the country every fall in the Team Scramble math competition. Earning the first perfect 100 in competition history in 2015, the Owls once again proved themselves formidable competitors in 2016.

The team scored 98, which put them in first place out of 116 schools in the National Assessment & Testing competition. An academy in the northeast placed second with an 84.

The 100-question exam encompassed math problems ranging from simple subtraction to basic calculus, all of which had to be completed within 30 minutes. MUS fielded nearly 100 participants from seventh to 12th grade. To solve problems and proofread answers, students used an organizational system devised last year largely by Advanced Topics in Mathematics student **Patrick Murphy '16**. Dr. **Steve Gadbois**, instructor in mathematics, was extremely pleased with the results. "In the past 14 years, there has been only one 100 (MUS in 2015), and a 99 and 98 by a science and technology school in New Jersey in 2007 and 2008."



From left, Cullen Lonergan '21 and Max Shackelford '21 double-check their answers in the Team Scramble competition.



Chang Yu, Jackson Moody, and Arjun Puri achieved exceptional scores in the Statewide High School Mathematics Contest.

Math Students Earn State Honors

Three math students received top honors in the 60th annual Statewide High School Mathematics Contest sponsored by the Tennessee Mathematics Teachers' Association.

Jackson Moody '18 placed first in the state on the precalculus exam, **Chang Yu '18** placed third in the state on the calculus and advanced topics exam, and **Arjun Puri '20** placed third in the state on the geometry exam.

Department of Mathematics Chair **Nancy Gates** was not surprised by their accomplishments.

"The consistent high performance of these three students in particular is really impressive; they always seem to be at the top," Gates said. "We look forward to seeing what they achieve next."

The students were recognized at a banquet at Middle Tennessee State University in September.



Front row, from left, Walker Crosby '19 and Mason Rudolph '17; middle row, Philip Wunderlich '19, Goodman Rudolph '17, Frederick Danielson '17; back row, Jake Meskin '17, Trent Scull '17, Henry Wells '19, Wyatt Berry '18, and Jack Crosby '17

7th State Title for Golf Owls

The 2016 varsity golf team won the TSSAA Division II-AA state championship held at Willowbrook Golf Club in Manchester, TN, this fall, defeating runners-up MBA and Baylor by 23 strokes to secure their third state title in the last four years.

State competitors **Wyatt Berry '18**, **Jack Crosby '17**, **Goodman Rudolph '17**, **Trent Scull '17**, and **Walker Crosby '19** played superbly, shooting a 284 in the first round and a 292 in the second. Rudolph won the individual title with a two-day total of 141.

The title capped off what had already been a winning season. MUS took the regional championship earlier in the year, defeating Briarcrest, Christian Brothers, and St. Benedict. Rudolph, Scull, and Berry made the all-region team. In addition to the regional and state tournaments, the Owls were victorious at the Baylor Preview to start the season, besting 10 of the state's upper-echelon teams. They also won the Ronnie Wenzler Memorial Tournament, launched by the school five years ago in memory of former MUS golf coach **Ronnie Wenzler**.

This is the seventh state title for the Owls, who are led by Head Coach **Cliff Frisby**, a 36-year member of the Professional Golf Association and director of the US Junior Golf Tour since 2001.

National Merit Recognizes Scholars

The National Merit Scholarship Program named 11 Owls as National Merit Semifinalists this fall. These members of the Class of 2017 are **Philip Deaton**, **Andrew Douglass**, **Brooks Eikner**, **Ammaar Kazi**, **Rahul Mehra**, **Ogonna Oraedu**, **Ohm Patel**, **Callaway Rogers**, **Alex Salazar**, **McLean Todd**, and **Ray Zhou**. This is the highest number of semifinalists for any independent school in the Mid-South. Since 1955 the NMSP annually has recognized high achievement on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. If this year's semifinalists become finalists, they will compete this spring for some 7,600 National Merit Scholarships worth about \$33 million.

The NMSP also honored the following Class of 2017 Owls as National Merit Commended Students: **Kian Ghodoussi**, **Charlie Gilliland**, **Grady Hecht**, **Alex Hyde**, **Josh Karchmer**, **Ravi Lipman**, **Ramiz Somjee**, **Jacob Suppiah**, **Henry Trammell**, **Tom Wells**, and **Alex Wolf**. They are among 34,000 U.S. students honored for their outstanding academic promise.

These 11 National Merit Commended seniors together with the 11 Semifinalists represent 21 percent of the senior class.



National Merit Semifinalists, front row, from left, seniors Ohm Patel, Ammaar Kazi, Rahul Mehra, Ogonna Oraedu; back rows, Andrew Douglass, Brooks Eikner, Ray Zhou, Philip Deaton, Callaway Rogers, Alex Salazar, and McLean Todd



Red Letter Day

Portrait Enshrines the Man with the Crimson Pen

The Alumni Executive Board honored Faculty Emeritus **Terry Shelton**, revered English instructor for 38 years, with a portrait that now adorns the school's Dining Hall alongside the portraits of 11 other distinguished faculty members.

Students, alumni, faculty, and friends gathered on campus October 13 to celebrate Shelton and his legacy at an unveiling reception. Shelton taught a variety of classes, including AP English, Twentieth Century Literature, Junior English Review,

seventh- and eighth-grade vocabulary, and eighth-grade English. He held the A. Robert Boelte, Jr. Chair of Excellence in Teaching and received other awards during his tenure, including the Presidential Scholars Distinguished Teaching Award in 1997 and the MUS Distinguished Teaching Award in 2006.

Shelton is perhaps best known as the co-creator – along with fellow Faculty Emeritus **Jim Russell** – of *The Owl English Handbook*, an essential reference for students and faculty since 1985. He was involved with numerous endeavors related to the craft of writing, including advising the MUS Lower School newspaper, coaching entrants in the National Council of Teachers of English Writing Awards competition, and serving as a writing judge for the University of Memphis Wordsmith contest.

At the unveiling reception Headmaster **Ellis Haguewood** spoke of Shelton's omnipresent red grading pen. "Or as one student put it, 'red pen in morning, student take warning,' or as Macbeth put it, 'the multitudinous seas incarnadine.' He always assigned many papers, read them thoroughly, and returned them quickly; his markings were distinguished by comments showing the students how to improve," Haguewood said. "His standards were high, and he was effective in helping his students attain those standards."

Shelton's former student **Andy McCarroll '86** thanked his English mentor on behalf of all the students who were prepared for future careers by Shelton's meticulous, unwavering instruction. (Read McCarroll's tribute below.)

Elizabeth Crosby, chair of the English Department, described Shelton as

Student Thanks Teacher for Grammar that Helped Shape Men

BY ANDY MCCARROLL '86

It is my privilege, on my own behalf and that of hundreds of MUS students over four decades, to say "thank you" to **Terry Shelton**. There is no way in two or three minutes to honor and thank a man who spent countless hours giving his students thoughtful, individual, incisive guidance. This guidance came with a slashing red pen; it came with challenging wit and a pinch of irony; but most important, it came with his willingness to take the time to do the job well.

With the help of [English Department Chair] **Elizabeth Crosby**, I tried to estimate the number of hours Mr. Shelton spent outside the classroom just grading papers – not including office hours with students and class-preparation time. Using conservative assumptions, if you totaled the number of hours Terry spent grading

and then assumed he spent 24 hours a day seven days a week sitting in his chair marking papers, it amounts to two straight years.

Not only did Terry take the time to do the job well himself, he taught us to do the same. Each day in class, word by word, phrase by phrase, he, and we, patiently broke down parts of speech and word functions: time consuming, methodical training necessary to prepare us for future success.

Thirty-five years ago when I was in eighth grade, before he wrote *The Owl English Handbook* with **Jim Russell**, Mr. Shelton accompanied each correction with a reference to chapters and sections of the *Harbrace Handbook*. I can see him now, pacing up and down the rows and in front of the class with a military cadence, stating corrections and references sharply,

matter-of-factly, but with no anger or frustration that we weren't getting it: "That's a dependent clause functioning as a direct object, 10c ... subject-verb agreement, 6a ... a comma, non-restrictive appositive, 12d ... future perfect progressive tense, 7b." Hundreds of sentences, over and over, reviewing them for potential issues. His patience in instruction and endurance of mind let us know that he would stick with us, if we could stick with him.

No detail was too small, no misplaced comma too immaterial. Each must be addressed with care and correctness. To this day, every time I pause and reach for the dictionary or thesaurus, I am reminded of Terry, who would often stop in the middle of class, reach for the dictionary, make us watch him turn the pages to get to the word and wait for the result. He made it clear that there are no shortcuts in



“wickedly intelligent,” calling him “a friend of our minds” and also a “dear friend of our hearts.”

“All of us fortunate enough to call him friend have experienced his devotion and ready faithfulness, his presence for life’s moments of joy. Uncle Terry is well known to our children as the giver of silly and mysterious gifts such as a stuffed buffalo, flashlights, feathers, and messages that need decoding.

MUS Faculty Emeritus Terry Shelton, an English instructor at the school from 1978-2015, poses next to his portrait, the 12th installment in the school’s Faculty Portrait Series. The Faculty Portrait Series subjects are selected annually by the school’s Alumni Executive Board to honor faculty members who have given much of their lives in service to the school.



the pursuit of excellence. If necessary, one must take several minutes to find just the right word.

His graded papers are legendary. I had no idea until I tried it for two years myself, how difficult it is to establish a mind meld with an eighth grader while trying to decipher his handwriting! Terry somehow mastered this. He discerned where meandering prose was trying to go, and with a startling lightning bolt, captured it in a few words. While it took time, over time, we began to see. We began to learn the habits of writing with clarity, concision, and directness.

Equally as important, and a prerequisite to clear writing, is clear thinking. Terry engaged our eighth-grade minds as our neural pathways were still being formed. I can only imagine the faces he might make as he sought to figure out where a paper was trying to go, but he persevered, and showed us the way. To say that he shaped our minds is not a metaphor; it’s a reality.

And he shaped them to be capable of engaging complex topics, analyzing them, breaking them down, and then presenting them in a coherent manner. In our rapidly changing world, this skill is essential for all of us, whether we are writers or not.

If you were lucky, as I was, you might have gotten Mr. Shelton again in Upper School, where we honed our thinking and writing skills further as we opened our minds to engage authors and poets in the historical, personal, creative contexts that inspired them to write. No class I had as an English major at Vanderbilt comes close to those I had with Mr. Shelton, or the rest of the English department at MUS for that matter.

Milton Mayeroff, in his book *On Caring* [William Morrow, 1990], one of the most personally impactful books I have ever read, states in the introduction: “To care for another person, in the most significant sense, is to help him grow and actualize himself.” In this crucial sense, Terry Shelton

is one of the most caring people I have ever known. His caring did not always feel good, to us or to our parents, but his patience and perseverance was invaluable in helping us to realize our potential – initially in the details of grammar and the challenges of writing. But that same discipline to seek the right word, to think clearly and carefully through complex facts, now pays off when meticulous surgeons, computer programmers, investment analysts, lawyers, and the like practice their crafts with excellence and confidence.

As the sun sets on this evening in October, I think of Octobers of days gone by, when boys were not yet men and they wondered if they were up to the challenges of the day. Our love of MUS and our love of Terry Shelton come from our appreciation that he and others challenged us – shaped us – to be the men we are today.

Thank you, Terry Shelton, and thank you, MUS. ■



“Terry is also a steady presence when we are hurting, such as when he finds one of our children in a hospital or one of *us* in a hospital – or one of us simply at home, needing the support of a friend. Terry quickly and easily offers a loaf of his favorite farmers’ market bread, a ready ear, and a sympathetic heart.”

Shelton accepted the honor with requisite dry wit. “I want to begin by thanking the previous speakers for their kind words and to agree emphatically with them. I *am* a wonderful person.

“Mr. Haguewood was just a peon when I began at MUS. But since his elevation to headmaster, he has, for 20 years now, never fired me, a sign of his kindness and his indulgence – or, depending upon one’s point of view, his incompetence.

“Mrs. Crosby and I shared an office for some years. She took over my AP classes. But perhaps most important, she got me to the hospital for my third heart attack and stayed there with me all day waiting for me to die. I did not.



Past and present instructors from the Department of English gathered to celebrate Faculty Emeritus Terry Shelton at his portrait unveiling. From left are Jim Russell, Dax Torrey '94, Elizabeth Crosby, Tim Greer, Eric Dalle '93, Sally Askew, Brian K. Smith, Shelton, Lin Askew, Michelle Crews, Barbara Crippen, Flip Eikner '77, Norman Thompson, Anne McWaters, and Headmaster Ellis Haguewood.

“I taught eighth-grade English, Junior English Review, and AP English to Mr. McCarroll. When he finished college, he came back ... and taught eighth-grade English in the same classroom in which I had taught that course to him. Then he went off lawyering for a while but came back to serve as a board member, essentially taking the spot his father, John, had served so long. And his younger sister and brother currently serve on our faculty.

“I was at MUS long enough to see this pattern of renewal closely. Col. Lynn called it tradition with change,” Shelton said, naming a number of students who have returned to serve the school.

“For the past 15 years or so, I’ve enjoyed teaching the sons of former students and have been amazed at how much better my former students are as dads than they were as students, the sons routinely outshining their fathers.

“So I think our journey is worth it: Students become teachers and board members, and parents, and MUS stays strong thereby.”

Shelton thanked the Alumni Executive Board and President **Harry Sayle '92** for the honor and Phoenix-based artist Chris Saper for her work – “though I understand that the beauty of the model can be inspiring.” He also expressed his gratitude for colleagues, friends, and especially for his former students.

“Many years hence, I hope to espy from wherever I am, a pair of new seventh-graders sitting over there in the corner, where I understand my portrait will hang, and having one look up at my portrait, then turn to his pal and say: ‘Who do you figure *that* old guy was?’” ■

Pete Sanders Named Next Headmaster



Peter D. “Pete” Sanders will join MUS as headmaster this summer.

The Board of Trustees announced the appointment of **Peter D. “Pete” Sanders** as the school’s next headmaster on October 3. Following a highly selective and comprehensive process, the Board’s Search Committee unanimously agreed on his recommendation to the Board of Trustees, which fully supported his selection.

A seasoned educator and administrator with 32 years of experience at independent schools, Sanders will join MUS for the 2017-18 school year upon the retirement of **Ellis Haguewood**, who has served with distinction as headmaster for 22 years and as a member of the faculty since 1969. Sanders is currently the director of the upper school and a history teacher at Christ Church Episcopal School in Greenville, SC. Since joining the school in 2007, he has been instrumental in increasing enrollment by 33 percent, expanding the college counseling office, and instituting a faculty-evaluation system focused on professional development.

“I am tremendously honored to be chosen as the school’s next headmaster,” Sanders said. “I have been an admirer of Memphis University School for over 25 years. The MUS commitment to academic excellence and to affording boys opportunities to grow into well-rounded young men resonates deeply with me on a personal level. I am looking forward to working with a talented faculty, administrative team, and Board of Trustees to



build upon a great foundation toward an even brighter future.”

Board of Trustees Chairman **Sam Graham '80** introduced Sanders to the MUS faculty, staff, and student body during a visit to campus October 3. Sanders also visited in December to begin meeting with administration and faculty members one-on-one.

When asked how he would follow Haguewood, Sanders said that such a leader cannot be replaced. “One can only strive to carry forward and build upon the good work,” he said. “I want to reaffirm the many great attributes of MUS and then begin working with the faculty and administrative team to execute a thoughtful plan on how we can continue to improve.”

Math Instructor Steve Gadbois Wins Distinguished Teaching Award



Dr. Gadbois enjoys a laugh with Zuhair Somjee '19 after this year's Team Scramble, one of several math competitions he helps administer for students during the year.

Instructor in Mathematics **Steve Gadbois** was recently honored by the Mathematical Association of America (MAA) with the Edyth May Sliffe Award for Distinguished Mathematics Teaching in Middle School and High School. This award is given annually to middle and high school mathematics teachers who have done outstanding work motivating students in mathematics through participation in one of MAA's American Mathematics

Competition (AMC) events. Gadbois was one of only 34 teachers across the country to receive this honor.

“I am lucky to teach at MUS, which is consistently supportive of math activities outside the math classroom, and where there is a critical mass of students who are mathematically talented,” said Gadbois. “I earned this award only because I get to teach, coach, and learn from those students.”

About a year after his arrival at MUS in 2007, Gadbois took over the management of a majority of the mathematics contests in which students regularly participate, including the AMC contests. According to Department of Mathematics Chair **Nancy Gates**, who helped nominate Gadbois for the award, MUS students are quite competitive in local AMC competitions, thanks to his leadership.

“His enthusiasm and expertise have made a real difference in our department,” Gates said.

Yunhua Zhao '15 also nominated Gadbois for the award. “My favorite aspect of his teaching was his unwillingness to be limited by a set curriculum,” Zhao said. “He would teach everything required, but he always went beyond just that, including interesting asides and teaching many tangentially related topics.”

Fudge Trains Future Scout Leaders



Robert Fudge, standing at left, and a Philmont Scout Ranch trail crew take a break after a day of breaking trail.

Technical Director of Theater **Robert Fudge** has spent the last 12 summers working at Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron,

NM, where he will serve again next summer as the director of conservation. As the Boy Scouts of America's largest national high-adventure base, Philmont provides unforgettable experiences for some 22,000 scouts every year. The ranch hires hundreds of college students annually to help lead the youth as they learn about trail building, stream restoration, reinvesting in the land, and other aspects of environmental conservation.

Fudge, an Eagle Scout, was recognized with a Distinguished Service Award by the Boy Scouts in 2012. Because of his expertise in guiding college-age leaders and working with youth, Fudge was recently invited to participate in a national task force for the Boy Scouts to develop training for adult leaders. The program's objective is to provide training for adults advising the high school and college-age leaders who typically run local summer camps and other scouting events. Fudge delivered a presentation at the Developing Youth Leaders Conference in November in Lake Tahoe, CA, and participated in a national planning meeting in December in Dallas, TX. He will participate in another instructor training conference in January in Chapel Hill, NC, and expects to assist in rolling out weekend training courses in the Southeast later in the year.

“I've always been especially interested in project-based and service-based learning,” Fudge says. “I participated in a trail crew program as a college freshman and thought it was one of the best outside-of-class experiences I had ever had. Later they asked me to work out there, and I never really left.”

For Fudge, working with the Boy Scouts is a natural extension of his work at MUS.

“Building show sets here is not unlike going out to build trails,” he says. “These are boy-led projects, where we are giving them the knowledge they need to run something themselves. [In both cases] these may be the first times kids have used tools or organized a group. It's an opportunity for young men to be in charge of something, to lead and learn from doing something.”



Memphis College of Art Stages Peter Bowman Exhibit

In January Memphis College of Art presented *“Beloved, Quirky, and Covered in Paint: Peter Bowman, 1942-2015,”* an exhibit of works by the late **Peter Bowman**, who attended the school (then the Memphis Academy of the Arts) from 1964 until his graduation in 1967, and taught there much later as part of the school’s community education program. Bowman was also an instructor in fine arts at MUS from 1979-2008.

According to Remy Miller, longtime professor and dean of faculty at MCA, Bowman had a very childlike, sweet nature that called to mind a sort of “absentminded professor.” Yet he remained a dedicated, serious painter with a very recognizable style.



Young Peter Bowman

“He painted with unabashed enthusiasm, and the paint was heavily applied,” Miller says. “He was always covered in paint, but it wasn’t the sort of ‘show off’ thing you sometimes see in artists who are trying

too hard. Peter wasn’t capable of being false. He was as genuine a painter and as genuine a person as you would ever want to meet.”

Bowman was equally beloved at MUS, where he was as well known for his artwork as for his unique persona. Headmaster **Ellis Haguewood** describes him as a memorable figure in the life of the school for 29 years. “We loved him because he loved us,” Haguewood said. “He cared profoundly about MUS and his friends on the faculty and staff, and we are a better school because he was here.”

Bowman taught drawing in the community education program at MCA



Pink Rose, 48" x 65"

from 2009-2013, shortly after retiring from MUS. Cecilia Palazola, director of community education at MCA, echoed Haguewood’s sentiments.

“He was a sweetheart, and his affection for MCA was boundless,” Palazola said. “He was very friendly and always had a story of the good ole days ... in short, a delightful person.”

The Bowman exhibit, January 4-26, was curated by Melissa Farris, MCA gallery director, and gallery owner David Lusk, who represented Bowman. A reception was held at MCA on January 20.

Laura Hine, vice president of advancement, said the college was pleased to be able to showcase his work. “We were honored to exhibit selected pieces from Peter’s large collection and share his contribution to the arts and to this community. Proceeds of the sale of his work will benefit MCA’s scholarship fund, something we think Peter would be pleased by – the cultivation and support of future artists. We are very grateful to his wife, Beth, for her generosity and support.” ■

IN MEMORY



Answering an information request in a pre-technology library (The Owl 1974)

Pallie B. Hamilton Brown (1919-2016)

Pallie B. Hamilton Brown, faculty emerita and head librarian from 1970-1990, died September 21 after a brief illness.

Brown was born on December 19, 1919, in McCrory, AR, and was preceded in death by her husband of 58 years, Hadley Hamilton, in 1999. In 2002 she married Dr. William Brown, who predeceased her in May of 2014. She leaves her sons, Fred H. Hamilton (Jan), of Collierville, TN, and John J. Hamilton (Margaret), of Taos, NM; her daughter, Jane Whitby (Marshall) of Olive Branch, MS; and five living grandchildren, including **Chris Sullivan '85** and **Hadley Hamilton '88**. One grandson predeceased her.

She was a member of Union Avenue Baptist Church for 68 years. After raising her three children she returned to college and received her Bachelor of Arts degree (summa cum laude) and Master of Arts degree in education from then-Memphis State University. After completing her education she accepted a position as the librarian at Memphis University School in 1970, where she served until her retirement in April 1990. ■



Board Bids Farewell to Three Distinguished Trustees



From left, Andy McCarroll and Gary Wunderlich

Andrew R. McCarroll '86

Since joining the Board of Trustees in 2005, Andy McCarroll has served in a number of key positions, contributing his wisdom and dedication to excellence.

“Talk about having a friend who will push you to get better,” Chairman **Sam Graham '80** said at the May Board meeting. “Andy has been that person since I’ve known him, even more so since we’ve been trustees here. He has done anything he was asked to do, and he has done it better than one could imagine.”

Graham cited McCarroll’s leadership on the Board Executive Committee, the Risk Management Committee, and the Strategic Planning Committee. “Wherever you go, people want to follow you,” he said.

In addition McCarroll was Board secretary from 2014-16, and he served as chair of the Strategic Plan 2012 Organization and Structure Committee and as Major Gifts Committee team captain for the Doors to New Opportunities Campaign. He is a member of the Lynn Society and the Crest & Cornerstone Society.

Vice president and general counsel at Southeastern Asset Management, McCarroll is active in the community, serving on a number of boards, including

Hutchison School (vice chair), Goodwill Inc. Excel Center, and Church Health Center.

After graduating from Vanderbilt University with a bachelor’s degree in English, he earned his master’s in religious studies from the University of Chicago and his law degree from Vanderbilt University. From 1990-92 he came back to MUS to teach history and English.

“Truth is this school has made me the guy I am, and I will always love it,” McCarroll said.

He is married to Anne Hamer McCarroll, and they have two daughters at Hutchison, fourth grader Izzie and seventh grader Josie.

William E. Troutt

President of Rhodes College Bill Troutt was named to the Board of Trustees in 2009. His expertise as the head of the respected Memphis liberal arts college brought an important perspective to the Board.



William E. Troutt

“Dr. Troutt has been a very close confidante and friend. It has been a significant benefit to our board and headmaster to know we had access to someone of his stature and experience and wisdom,” Graham said. “He has been invaluable to this Board and has been particularly encouraging during this time of transition. His insights have been uniquely helpful.”

He served on the Academics Committee, the Strategic Planning Committee, and the Strategic Plan 2012 Committee, and he is a member of the Thorn Society.

Retiring from Rhodes at the end of this school year, Troutt is credited with helping to establish a new college

curriculum, endowed faculty chairs, key partnerships to enhance student learning, a move from scholarships to fellowships, and a nationally recognized student work program. In 2005 Troutt secured the largest gift in college history, \$35 million, to build the Paul Barret, Jr. Library, the heart of a campus master plan. He led the founding of the Memphis Center at Rhodes to focus on the human experience of Memphis and the Mid-South and oversaw a \$314 million capital campaign, completed in 2015. Active in the greater academic community, he served as chair of the American Council on Education and the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities.

Troutt and his wife, Carole Pearson Troutt, have two grown children, Jack Troutt and Carole Ann Schmidt.

Gary K. Wunderlich, Jr. '88

Named to the Board of Trustees in 2008, Gary Wunderlich has undertaken a host of vital responsibilities, including serving as vice chair under Graham.

“Gary represents a long lineage of devoted service and leadership to MUS and has been a valued friend to many in our community for a long time. As a trustee he has contributed in numerous ways and served on just about every committee during his tenure on the board,” Graham said. “Gary has been an exemplary trustee and consistently generous to the school with his broad range of skills and wisdom.”

His roles included service on the Executive Committee, Governance/Trustee Development Committee, Strategic Planning Committee, Special Gifts Committee of the Doors to New Opportunities Campaign, Admissions/Enrollment Subcommittee for the Strategic Plan 2004-2005, and Headmaster Search Committee. He is a member of the Lynn Society and the Crest & Cornerstone Society.



Chief executive officer and founder of Wunderlich Securities, he is a member of the 2017 Board of Directors for the Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association (SIFMA) and a member of the SIFMA Advisory Council and Regional Firms Committee. He is also a founding board member of the American Securities Association.

He was inducted into the Society of Entrepreneurs in 2014 and elected as a board member in 2016. Named the University of Memphis Entrepreneur of the Year in 2009, Wunderlich serves on the board of ArtsMemphis and the advisory board of Memphis Botanic Garden.

He received a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Virginia and an MBA from the University of Memphis. He is married to Libby Ware Wunderlich and has two children, **Gary '14** and **Madison**, Hutchison Class of 2016.

As he accepted his engraved chair from the Board, Wunderlich said, "It has been a true honor to serve on this Board. There is nothing I wouldn't do for this great school." ■

New Trustees Bring a Wealth of Experience

R. Earl Blankenship

In 2008 Headmaster **Ellis Haguewood** recognized Earl Blankenship's dedication and service to MUS by naming him an honorary alumnus. A Thorn Society Founding member, Blankenship served as president from 2006-2008, and he initiated the Emerging Leaders group of the society. He lent his expertise to the Doors to New Opportunities Capital Campaign Steering Committee and the Multi-Sports Stadium Steering Committee, and he donated the naming gift for Blankenship Field. He has



The 2016-17 Board of Trustees, front row, from left, Bob Loeb '73, Collie Krausnick '79, Fred Schaeffer '88, Chris Sanders, Steve Morrow '71, Brett Grinder '91, Rick Moore '63, Johnny Moore; second row, Bill Dunavant '78, Trow Gillespie '65, Earl Blankenship, Billy Orgel '81, Sam Graham '80, Jim Burnett '83, Mark Halperin '67, Philip Wunderlich '90, Edward Dobbs '89; back row, Owen Tabor '85, Lou Adams '70, Glenn Crosby '77, Pitt Hyde '61, Wiley Robinson '75, Bob Fockler '77, Suki Carson, and Joe Morrison '78

served as Lynn Society President since 2014.

Blankenship, who has 40 years of experience in the commercial real estate industry, is chairman and CEO of Mercury Investment Management, a Memphis-based real estate fund management and advisory firm. He recently was named president of Sun Capital, a Los Angeles-based private equity investment firm specializing in commercial real estate development.

He earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from Texas A&M University. A member of Lambda Alpha International and the Memphis Chamber of Commerce, he also serves as an elder at Second Presbyterian Church. He is married to Kimberly Wales Blankenship, and he is the father of two Owls, **Brent '01** and **Preston '03**, and a daughter, Elizabeth, a 2008 graduate of Hutchison School. In his free time he enjoys fitness activities and sports.

Edward J. Dobbs '89

Edward Dobbs brings a dedication to MUS that began in his school years, when he played football, ran track, and earned National Merit Commended status. Since those days Dobbs has continued to support his alma mater, serving on the Alumni Executive Board and as Thorn Society president. He was a generous donor to the Doors to New Opportunities Campaign and the Multi-Sports Stadium Campaign, and he is a member of the Lynn Society.

Dobbs is president of Dobbs Management Service, a family-run, private equity firm that assists the John Hull Dobbs Family in business investing activities. He also serves as president of Premier Distributing Company, an Anheuser-Busch distributorship in Albuquerque, NM.

A graduate of the University of Virginia with a bachelor's degree in English, Dobbs serves on the board of the school's Jefferson Scholars Foundation. He is also on the

boards of the Church Health Center, Hutchison School, MIFA, and Memphis Tomorrow, and on the Baptist Hospital Advisory Board. He is married to Cindy Parnell Dobbs. They have two daughters at Hutchison, Lila in first grade and Ella in fifth; their son, Andrew, is in sixth grade at Presbyterian Day School. In addition to spending time with family, Dobbs enjoys golf, skiing, and hunting.

Philip S. Wunderlich '90

Since serving as president of both the Civic Service Organization and his senior class, Philip Wunderlich has contributed greatly to the MUS community. He played varsity baseball, basketball, football, and golf and received the James R. Haygood III Best All-Around Athlete Award while also earning membership in the Cum Laude Society, the Latin Honor Society, and the Red and Blue Society.

A class representative since 2003, Wunderlich has been a member of the Alumni Executive Board, the Parents' Association Board, the Doors to New Opportunities Campaign Major Gifts Committee, and the Rudolph Plaza Campaign Committee. He is a member of the Thorn Society and a longtime Phonathon volunteer.

A Chartered Financial Analyst, he is managing member of Wunderlich Capital Management and chief investment strategist for Wunderlich Securities. He serves on the boards of Gulf States Insurance Holdings and the Peer Power Foundation. He received a Bachelor of Science degree from the McIntire School of Commerce at the University of Virginia.

He and his wife, Julie Aaron Wunderlich, have three children, **Philip '19** and two daughters at St. Agnes, Libby, a freshman, and Kate, a sixth grader. Like their father, the kids play sports – and one of his favorite pastimes is watching them compete. He also enjoys golf and hunting. ■

Where Tradition Surrounds U

For more than 100 years, Memphis University School has educated young men to become the future leaders of our community, our nation, and the world. Our legacy of scholarship and leadership is perpetuated by caring individuals who name the school as a beneficiary in their estate plans.

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

Leave your legacy of scholarship and leadership.

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





Benitone and Smith Receive Alumni Awards



Alumni award honorees Chuck Smith and Trevor Benitone

Every year the Alumni Executive Board honors two alumni for their outstanding service to the school and the community. This year the board named **Trevor Benitone '91** its Volunteer of the Year and **Chuck Smith '66** its Alumnus of the Year.

At the annual luncheon September 29 at the Racquet Club, Alumni Executive Board President **Harry Sayle '92** presented the honorees with their awards.

"Memphis University School remains a strong institution, in part, because of the strength and leadership of our alumni," Sayle said. "We hold these two gentlemen in high regard, and we want to extend our thanks for their support, service, and love of the school."

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.

As a student at MUS, Trevor Benitone '91 manifested drive and leadership ability early, participating in organizations such as the National Honor Society, the newspaper staff, the Honor Council, and the Civic Service Organization. He was also a dedicated athlete, competing at the district and/or state level in wrestling, baseball, and football.

In introducing Benitone, Sayle relayed a story about his final football game from Coach **Bobby Alston**.

"Coach Alston said, 'The memory I have of Trevor that showed me the kind of man he would become came at the end of our quest for a state championship his senior year. Victory was no longer in sight as the clock ticked down, and Marion County was trying to punch in one more score, but Trevor almost single-handedly refused to give in. Watching Trevor play so hard at the end is still one of the great memories I have of any MUS football action.'"

After MUS Benitone enrolled in the United States Air Force Academy, graduating in 1995 and remaining in the service

until his retirement in the spring of 2015. Upon returning to Memphis he immediately reconnected with his alma mater on a number of fronts. He is one of the Lower School football coaches, he volunteers in the Mock Interview program for juniors, and he makes calls during Phonathon. As a class representative, he has helped increase Class of 1991 giving significantly, generating strong momentum as his classmates prepared for their 25th reunion in September. He also proved instrumental in the Jacob Courtney Rudolph Plaza campaign, serving as fundraising captain for '90s alumni and encouraging numerous fellow football Owls to support this player-initiated effort.

Benitone now works in business development at Adams Keegan Inc. He thanked his wife, Carrie, and his boss, **Jay Keegan '88**, for supporting his service efforts.

"To have a work environment and a home environment where you are encouraged to get involved is really nice," he said. "When I look at serving at MUS, it's a pretty easy decision. MUS taught me the value of service when I was kid and really set me up for success when I served in the military for 20 years."

Benitone believes there is a considerable return on investment for contributing to MUS. "The school produces leaders, so when you contribute time, and money, and effort to MUS, what you do is produce 100 leaders every year who go out and do things, like **Shea Flinn '91** fighting blight in Memphis, or like FedEx [founded by **Fred Smith '62**] creating countless jobs. So the return on investment is pretty tremendous. I'd like to thank everybody from Mr. **Ellis Haguewood** down for all they do for the school, and for asking me to contribute."

Benitone and his wife have three children: **Banks '21**, James, and Ella.



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.

In introducing Chuck Smith as the 2016 Alumnus of the Year, Harry Sayle teased him about his commitment to socializing during his student days, telling alumni about a photo of a poster that appeared in *The Owl* 1966 – “Open House at Chuck’s – tonight, tomorrow night, and just about every night. Walk on in.”

Smith garnered additional laughs as he relayed his early memories of MUS, such as riding to school every day with then-new Coach **Jerry Peters**. “My mom paid him \$1 a week to drive me to school. I think we spoke about five words that semester. We’ve shared many laughs [since] about why he would never speak to me.”

Smith also told the story of an unexpected chat he had with Col. **Ross M. Lynn**.

“MUS was great for me,” Smith said. “I was making friends, enjoying fellowship with some Hutchison students I’d just met, until one day I’m walking down the hallway and I hear over the speakers, ‘Chuck Smith, please report to the Headmaster’s Office.’ I go in, and Col. Lynn is sitting down behind his big desk. There are lots of chairs in his office, but he does not invite me to sit down. I look down and harpooned onto his pen set was a note that read, ‘Chuck Smith, three deficiency reports.’ I was only taking four subjects, and the fourth was typing. He proceeded to tell me that he felt I’d been neglecting my academic performance and I needed to straighten up. It had a profound impact on me. I am still very touched by that particular event.”

While Smith’s social skills were clearly prodigious, his philanthropy and selfless service to the school have proven equally

Alumni Board Changes

Alumni Executive Board members serve three-year terms, and this year four members rotated off of the board: **Robert Freeman ’04, Joel Kaye ’84, Edward Nenon ’03, and Craig Witt ’85.**

Harry Sayle ’92, Alumni Executive Board president, thanked the alumni for their dedication to the school. “We appreciate the time, leadership, and support you have given MUS whenever called upon,” Sayle said.

Sayle also welcomed four new members to the board: **Derek Clinin ’03, Don Drinkard ’98, Wesley Grace ’86, and Ted Simpson ’85.**

“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,” he said.

impressive. He joined the Board of Trustees in 1994 and served for 20 years. He was a member of the development/advancement subcommittee for the 2004-05 Strategic Plan, played a significant role in school fundraising campaigns, and is a founding member and past president of the Ross M. Lynn Society. His fundraising efforts benefitted the recently built Field House and the Multi-Sports Complex (now Stokes Stadium), where the south gate is named for his gift.

He has been a major donor to the Doors to New Opportunities campaign (the Alumni Terrace bears a plaque in recognition of his gift), and the Sue H. Hyde Sports and Physical Education Center. He is also a member of the Crest & Cornerstone Soci-

ety, whose members have included MUS in their estate plans. He is a longtime Phonthon volunteer, a class representative, and a regular participant in the school’s Mock Interview program for juniors.

He has served the Memphis community on the boards of the Children’s Museum of Memphis, Ducks Unlimited, and Presbyterian Day School. He is a supporting member of The 100 Club of Memphis and Dixon Gallery and Gardens.

Smith is the chairman of National Guard Products and is a member and past president of Door Hardware Institute. Married to Susan Stevens Smith, he is the father of **Foster ’98, Lewie ’00, Rhett, Austin ’09**, and Katie, and stepfather to Anna Lane.

An avid tennis player, Smith thanked his good friend and former tennis partner Billy Dunavant, an equally devoted MUS benefactor who was in attendance at the luncheon. Smith also reminisced about attending past football banquets with his son, Austin, who was No. 15 on the team, and Mr. Haguewood’s ability to introduce each player at these events, whether by name or number, with no notes.

“To this day, as Austin sends in his campaign contribution and receives a letter back from the Development Office, handwritten on every note is, ‘No. 15, thank you so much for your gift,’ signed Ellis Haguewood,” Smith said. “That’s very special to me and to him, and speaks a great deal to the school we love and the contributions the faculty and staff make every day on our behalf.

“Thanks again for this honor. I love MUS and all of you ... I’m extremely pleased to be a small part of this great school.” ■

To watch the full video of Benitone and Smith receiving their awards at the annual Alumni Executive Board luncheon, visit musowls.org/NetCommunity/alumni/awards.



Jacob Courtnay Rudolph Plaza Dedicated at Stokes Stadium

Family members, friends, and fans turned out en masse for the unveiling of a statue honoring legendary MUS coach **Jake Rudolph** and the dedication of a plaza in his honor. Held before the Homecoming football game on September 30, the ceremony featured former Owl football players **Owen Tabor '85**, **Parker Phillips '85**, and Rudolph's youngest son, **David Rudolph '81**, along with Headmaster **Ellis Haguewood**.

As the sun was beginning to set on the bright fall afternoon, Tabor described the man who had been his coach. "He was tough, he was scrappy, he was demanding, encouraging, conservative, and innovative; and most of all, he was classy. He didn't tolerate showmanship. You didn't taunt or belittle your opponent. You didn't give up when things weren't going your way."

Rudolph is legendary to thousands of alumni as much for his coaching on Hull-Dobbs Athletic Field as for his teaching about life. The idea to honor him in a permanent way was conceived by Phillips and supported by many alumni who played for him during his 39 years as head football coach and athletic director.

Leaders of the fundraising campaign included Tabor as chairman along with the following co-chairs who encouraged fellow Owls to support the effort: **Trow Gillespie '65** and **Kent Wunderlich '66**, 1960s Committee; **Ben Adams '74** and **Chip Grayson '78**, 1970s Committee; **Jim Burnett '83** and **Andy McCarroll '86**, 1980s Committee; and **Trevor Benitone '91** and **Will Thompson '95**, 1990s Committee.

More than 270 alumni from 1960 through 2010 contributed to the campaign for the statue and accompanying landscaping work in front of Stokes Stadium.

"Usually raising money is difficult. This was not," Tabor said. "When the men



Headmaster Ellis Haguewood and David Rudolph unveiled the statue of Coach Jake Rudolph.

we talked to looked back on their youth and acknowledged who made them the people they are today, they thought of Jake Rudolph.

The quality that most inspired Phillips was the way Rudolph represented MUS to the outside world. "I never saw Coach Rudolph publicly bemoan officials or

demonstrate anything other than the utmost respect for all opponents, win or lose. He didn't run up scores, and nothing got him more fired up than his own players' unsportsmanlike behavior, on or off the field."

Haguewood spoke of Coach Rudolph's legacy and the importance of



Jake Rudolph's wife, Carolyn, was on hand to celebrate at the plaza dedication, along with their sons, from left, Courtney '77, David '81, and Steve '74.

Coach Rudolph's Winning Career

Jake Rudolph came to MUS in 1959, and during his 39 years at the school, his football teams went 295-119-4. Winning 10 district titles, six regional titles, two state runner-up titles, and the 1985 state AA championship, his teams always displayed teamwork and perseverance. He was honored over the years with many awards, including Tennessee Coach of the Year, the Rex Dockery Award, the Lawrenceburg Touchdown Club Coach of the Year, and the Memphis Quarterback Club Coach of the Year. He was inducted into the TSSAA Hall of Fame, the Tennessee Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame, the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame, and the Georgia Tech Athletics Hall of Fame.

remembering men like him not only for their contributions, but also because their lives inspire us. "Alumni who played under his tutelage inculcated the values he taught through the game of football – courage, perseverance, teamwork, discipline, consistency, excellence, and individual responsibility," said Haguewood. "Over the years, he became an MUS icon, like Col. Lynn and Gene Thorn. Jake Rudolph made an incalculable contribution to the moral development of generations of MUS men, and thus he has had a profound influence on many great leaders in the city of Memphis and elsewhere. All of us who knew him held him in high esteem."

Like Tabor and Phillips, Haguewood also paid tribute to Jake's wife, Carolyn, a "steady presence [who] provided constant support." He thanked major alumni donors to the campaign and recognized other entities and individuals whose expertise

helped bring the project to fruition, including Page Duke Landscape Architects, **Rusty Bloodworth '63**, **Justin Grinder '97** and **Brett Grinder '91**, Christie Cut Stone, and **Fred Smith '62** (for a timely assist on the shipping of the black granite slab supporting the statue).

Haguewood and David Rudolph unveiled the statue, which was sculpted by internationally acclaimed artist Zenos Frudakis of Philadelphia. Then Haguewood led the crowd in 15 Snappy RaHS in Coach Rudolph's honor.

David Rudolph expressed his family's gratitude, talked about his father's famous clipboard, and shared some excerpts from his father's last preseason speech to parents in 1997. He also recognized his mother, whom his father always called his "one greatest fan."

"This is a proud day for the Rudolph family," he said.

In his tribute Phillips described how other teams' pregame rituals, "to whoop and holler and generally carry on," were the absolute antithesis of what Rudolph expected of his team.

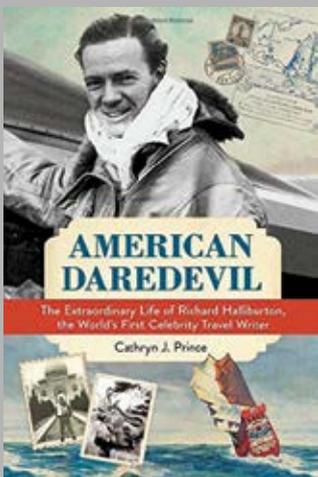
"MUS conducted its pregame drills in virtual silence because [Coach Rudolph] considered all the whooping and hollering to be a waste of energy," Phillips said. "We were expected to act like we'd been there before, whether we had or hadn't. All these years later, this practice of letting one's actions speak for themselves – minus the dignity-sapping rituals of bragging and browbeating – seems quaint, perhaps even strange and unfamiliar, but maybe not to those of us gathered here today to honor this fine man." ■

Watch the full Jacob Courtney Rudolph Plaza Dedication video on our YouTube channel, [youtube.com/user/MUSOwlsTube/](https://www.youtube.com/user/MUSOwlsTube/) videos.

Extra! Extra!

CLASS NEWS

1915



A new book on **Richard Halliburton**, titled *American Daredevil: The Extraordinary Life of Richard Halliburton, the World's First Celebrity Travel Writer*, by Cathryn J. Prince, was released this summer (Chicago Review Press, 2016).

'60

Jimmy Allen reports that he enjoys his work and travels in his job at Supply Technology, where he meets with a number of customers he has developed over the years.

In October Hurricane Matthew ousted Lucile and **John Bondurant** from their condo on Hilton Head, and prevented their visit with Kay and **George Owen**, who live in nearby Beaufort, SC. With downed trees blocking their street and driveway, the Owens settled in with their eight cats for a week without power and four days without water. Kay performs in every local theater production, while George has continued his appraisal work for paychecks and his woodworking and guitar playing without pay. Over the summer they visited Meredith and **Carlisle Page** at their home in Durango, CO. The Pages have provided a permanent home for Spring Creek Horse Rescue, which celebrates its 40th anniversary on its new 35-acre property and focuses on rehoming and rehab for horses.

Fall brought a major celebration to Sandra and **Ned Smith**, courtesy of the Chicago Cubs. Ned has been a Cubs fan since acquiring that affliction years ago while teaching math at Messick.

Since dipping his bicycle in the Atlantic Ocean in Portland, ME, after riding from Portland, OR, our other Smith apparently has not climbed on a bike again. Instead **C.D. Smith** continues to perform surgery on newborn children at the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston.

Teresa and **Phillip Patterson** have eight grandchildren, four of whom spent a week at the Nashville Chess Club's summer camp. Phillip practices the piano some each day at his office, and four of his grandchildren take piano lessons.

'61

Scott May reports: Well, it is hard to believe that we just celebrated our 55th reunion. MUS went all out for us with three reserved tables in the Dining Hall and meals and a skybox for the football game. Maybe that's because we again had 100-percent participation – our third time – no other class has done it once, or because we contributed about \$35,000, which was a record for a 55th reunion class. After

the game, Barbara and **Pitt Hyde** entertained us at their beautiful home. In attendance were **Jody Brown, Pepper Allen, Hammond Cole, Lyle Adams, Bill Oxley, John Bell, Jim Barton**, and many of our significant others. Headmaster **Ellis Haguewood** and his wife, Peggy, even dropped by. The conversation was great, just like we were visiting in the Senior Commons Room in the spring of 1961, plotting another prank.

Tammy and **John Bell** and Lisa and **Jody Brown** toured the State of Maine for two weeks in June. John reports that they visited with the “greats and near greats” on their yachts and their estates, but he is tired of lobster.

Snow and **Henry Morgan** and Carol and **Jim Barton** spent the better part of last summer at their Montana mountain homes.

Your class rep spent two weeks this past summer in Montevallo with my three granddaughters and their parents. I also had an eight-day stay in New York over Thanksgiving. President-elect Trump did not offer me a

Cabinet position, but his staff said that they could use me as a guide around Manhattan for his visitors. Duck and deer seasons are upon us, and those of us who still have the blood lust are hard after their prey.

'62

Bob Manker shares that he has been married for 23 years. He has five children and 11 grandchildren.

'66

Bruce Bullwinkel has given up surgery but is still practicing medicine in New Albany, MS.

Brenda and **Sid Caradine** have two antebellum homes that back up to each other in Columbus, MS. They live in one and run a bed and breakfast in the other. When this doesn't keep him busy, Sid enjoys finding time to do some fly fishing.

Gail and **Scott King** took a 36-day cross-country trip with Sally and **Hal Rhea**, who is fully retired. The trip covered 7,000 miles in their matching Airstreams.

After traveling the globe as a teacher and administrator, **Fred Niell** and his wife have returned to the United States and have settled in Tampa where he is the full-time "manny" for his grandson, Grey.

The Alumni Executive Board named **Chuck Smith** its Alumnus of the Year. See story on page 38.

'67

Mike Harris is on the board of Families Matter, a faith-based nonprofit organization in Memphis that addresses family-related issues of crime, poverty, and education through several channels, including schools and churches.



Friends of the late **Butch Petree '66** raised funds to create a patio and seating area in his memory. After their 50th Reunion luncheon at Homecoming, members of the Class of 1966 joined with the Petree family to remember Butch at the seating area, which features three benches and overlooks Hull-Dobbs Athletic Field. From left, **Dwight Drinkard, Fred Niell, Brig Klyce, Henry Doggrell, Robert Sayle, Kent Wunderlich, Johnny Adams, Hank Hill, Bert Johnston, Bruce Smith, and Ferd Heckle**

John Pettey was recently appointed to the board of United Way of the Mid-South and serves as chairman of its Tocqueville Society of contributors who give more than \$10,000 per year.

James Seale is a professor in the Department of Food and Resource Economics at the University of Florida. He is doing international work that includes travel to China and Vietnam.

Minor Vernon reports that his oldest son, Stewart, has founded America's Swimming Pool Company, which sells franchises for pool cleaning. They are in 20 states and 250 cities, and approaching 100 total owners. His daughter, Claire, is headed with her husband to Masindi, Uganda, to help build

a hospital there. His second son, Hampton, is a pediatric resident in Charleston, SC.

'68

Curb Market will open an expansive second location in Crosstown Concourse next year, owner **Peter Schutt** announced in September. It is expected to be four times the size of the current location on Cooper.

Remember to submit photos whenever possible with your Class News items! Email ann.laughlin@musowls.org.



The dedication of the Jacob Courtnay Rudolph Plaza was held during Homecoming. Many alumni attended, including, from left, **Pepper Allen, Jody Brown, John Bell, Scott May, Lyle Adams, and Hammond Cole**, all from the Class of 1961. Read more about the dedication on page 40.

Bobby Whittemore is retired and living in Collierville. His son, John, will attend the University of Miami next fall.

'69

First Third Books released *Big Star - Isolated in the Light*, a limited-edition monograph featuring hundreds of black-and-white and color images, many rare and previously unseen, of the band Big Star, whose members included **Chris Bell** and **Andy Hummel**. The publication coincides with the 50th anniversary of Ardent Studios, the Memphis independent label and recording studio founded by the late **John Fry '62** that became ground zero for all of the band's recordings. The book pays tribute to Fry, the band's producer and mentor.

'70

Herb Davis recently published his first book, *Seeking Diana*,

on Kindle. He has also written a series of articles about his father's experiences in the U.S. Marines during World War II, which were published on his son's blog. Due to the enthusiastic response, he is seeking more stories from alumni and former faculty whose parents served, or who served themselves. He asks any alumni with stories to share to email him at hdavis52@outlook.com.

'71

David Bull is living outside of Chicago and has a construction company.

A classmate spoke with **George Dameron** in November and learned that his father passed away last year and that his mother has since moved closer to him in Vermont.

Bruce Edenton attended the Rolling Stones and Paul McCartney Coachella concert in Palm Springs, CA.

Kirk Frederick is living in San Francisco and working with an

architectural firm.

Barlow Mann is a new grandparent. His son, **Barlow, Jr. '03**, and his wife, Alex, just had a daughter, Abigail.

Harrell Schaeffer took a trip to Maine to enjoy the fall foliage.

Malcolm Wood and **Ed Garrett** are enjoying being grandparents together as a result of the marriage of their children Ruth and **Andy Garrett '03**.

'73

Reb Haizlip was involved in setting up the Aydelott Travel Award fellowship, funded by the late architect Alfred Aydelott who felt that design in the South never got its due. The award provides funding for travel and research for architectural students at four southeastern U.S. schools.

Buck Lewis is the new chairman of the American Bar Association Standing Committee on Pro Bono and Public Service. The committee's mission is to ensure access to justice for the underserved through legal professionals.



For the second year in a row, a photo by **David Sloas** has been selected for the cover of the Tennessee Wildlife Federation calendar.

'74

Chip Barton reports that his wife, who had a terrible fall and accident, is up and around and back at work in her card shop, part time to be sure, but it is a MAJOR miracle that she recovered to the extent that she has. She was at Shepherd Center in Atlanta for two months, and they had to teach her how to walk again. Chip wants to thank all the Owls who prayed, sent CaringBridge notes, and generally helped his wife and family in their most dire hour. Truly, miracles occur every day. Just gotta be on the lookout for them.

Brett Bonner is building the "super garage" complete with lifts! He's been traveling the world for Kroger, paving the way for the grocery store of our future.

Chuck Day remarked that he is sad to see **Ellis Haguewood** leave, and that his 60s aren't what they're cracked up to be. He got a new knee, lost some weight, found some weight, grew a beard, and, for the most part, became a teetotaler. He still likes a glass of pinot noir now and then, but found that wearing a lampshade and topsiders is a look best reserved for someone 40 years younger than he is. He sings in his Methodist church choir, first tenor, and can hit the high G. Tony Bennett has nothing on him! Got another award – at least a nomination in the food service industry – as top business executive of the year from *US Business Executive*



In September, **Jimmy Ogle '70** (front right) became the sixth Duckmaster of the Peabody Hotel. Ogle visited campus as a guest chapel speaker in the fall and also led the school's History Club on a tour of the Peabody and downtown Memphis.

magazine. It's an honor but only business people read it. Maybe 20,000 a month. That and \$3.50 will get you a venti cup of coffee at Starbucks. But he says he has a gift card ... so it's free.

Mack Ray is doing well. His youngest daughter, Suzanne, is getting married shortly and his oldest, Kathleen, lives in San Antonio, where her husband is an engineer and is able to CRUSH a golf ball. Mack crushes them, just not sure where they end up. His wife, Pam Brady Ray, is with a radiology firm in Memphis and trying to see why her husband loves to kill things: ducks, deer, coyotes, and doves. Sort of the Ted Nugent of Arkansas. They have renovated the family homestead in Crawfordsville, AR. Now all they need is rain.

'75

Ramsay Clark is now working in development with Memphis Leadership Foundation.

'76

David Dunavant recently launched GiveGood, a benefit corporation that will give young adults on the autism spectrum an invaluable employment opportunity that provides them "a place and purpose." The company will sell toffee made specifically for GiveGood by Dinstuhl's. To order online visit givegoodco.com.



Maine architect **William Winkelman** was featured on the Tiny Home Tour website in 2016 for his transformation of a vintage, 1959 Chevrolet Viking bus into a super-cool hotel on wheels.

'77

Flip Eikner will direct *Man of La Mancha* this spring at MUS. Eikner performed in this production as a student 40 years ago. It is the second time he has directed the musical at MUS and his second time

directing his son, **Brooks '17**, on the stage of Hyde Chapel (the first occurred when Brooks made a brief appearance in *Pippin* at around age 6).

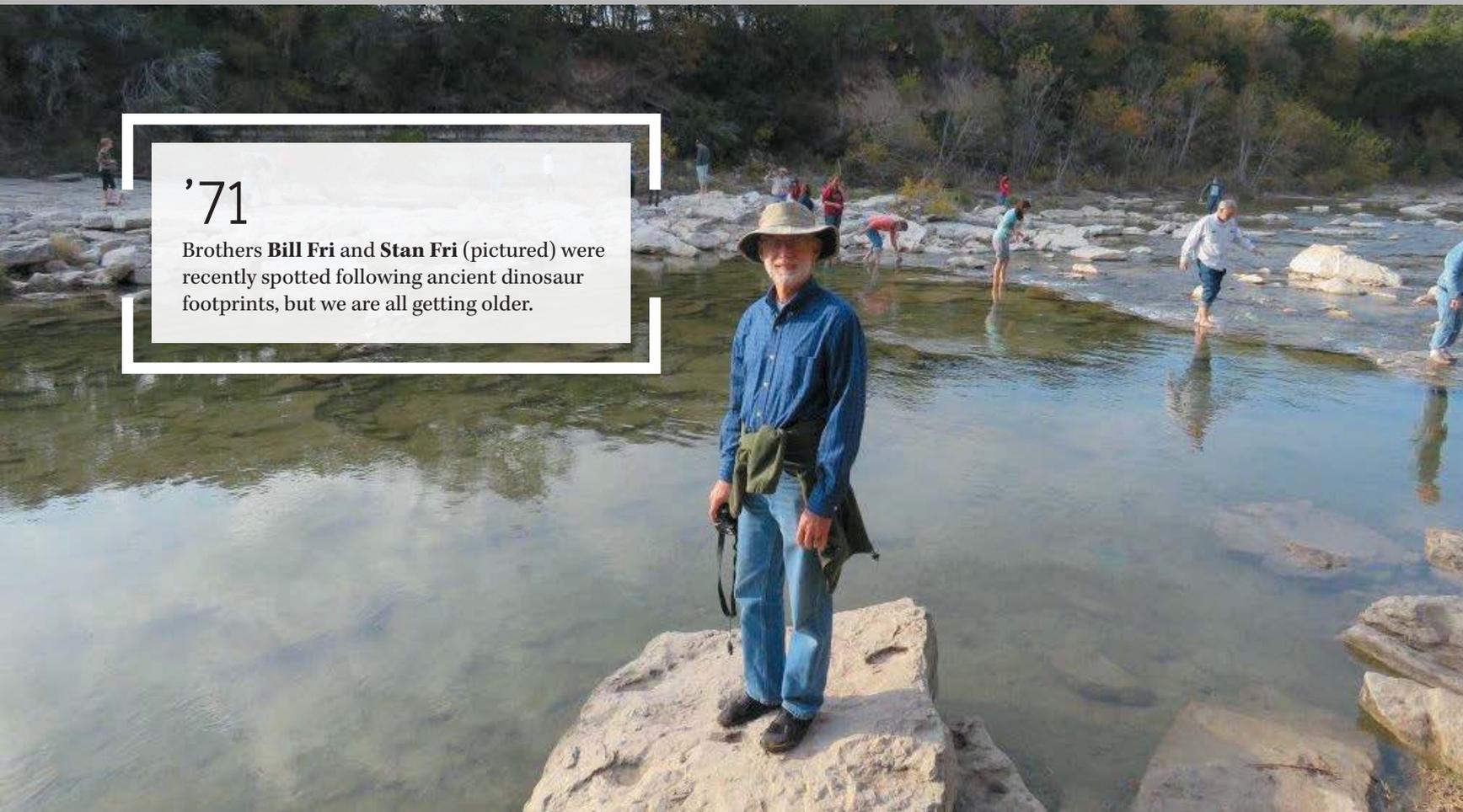
The Community Foundation of Greater Memphis, led by president **Bob Fockler**, has given \$1 billion to Memphis area projects, a milestone it reached this past summer. In 2015 alone, it granted \$143.4 million to 1,848 nonprofits.

'78

Jess Ossorio's son, **Alec '13**, is a senior at Ole Miss and is looking forward to graduation.

'71

Brothers **Bill Fri** and **Stan Fri** (pictured) were recently spotted following ancient dinosaur footprints, but we are all getting older.



'79



Best of Enemies by **Robert Gordon** aired on PBS in October. The acclaimed documentary examines the 1968 televised debates between intellectuals Gore Vidal and William F. Buckley. Gordon, left, with Lower School Principal **Clay Smythe '85**, visited campus in August as a chapel guest speaker and discussed his work and the characteristics that make Memphis special.

'81

Thad Carlile has been hobnobbing with the stars as part of the production crew of season one of the *Million Dollar Quartet*, a CMT series chronicling the birth of rock 'n' roll. He also worked on the *Hunger Games*, *Quarry*, *Veep*, and *Losers Take All*, to name a few other projects. Thad served as a background extra on numerous films and series including *Great Balls of Fire*, *Walk the Line*, *Finding Graceland*, and *Million Dollar Quartet*. Look for Thad on the next Hollywood blockbuster!

Boyd Wade and his team won first place in their division for the fourth year in a row at the 35th annual Outdoors Inc.

Canoe & Kayak Race on the Mississippi River.



Philip Freeburg and **Jeff Harris** enjoyed their annual trip to historic Churchill Downs. **Philip Cox's** wife would not let him attend this year.

'82

Scott Crosby and business partner Seamus Loftus have expanded their downtown pub, The Brass Door, and plan to hold the biggest St. Patrick's Day party Memphis has ever seen this March.

'83

After retiring in 2001, **Cole Inman** is a man of leisure.

Holiday Deli owner **Trey Jordan** opened his new restaurant concept, Pimento's Kitchen + Market, in October.

'84

Charles Yukon is practicing his 21st year of independent pediatric medicine in Germantown, TN.

'85

Will James is back in Memphis and working with Veraction as their CFO.

Ken Jones was named secretary and legal counsel for the board at MIFA.

Bill McKelvy reports that his daughter, Jane, is a first-year student at Emory and his son, Hugh, is in ninth grade. He sends his condolences to all classmates turning 50.

David Selberg was named a finalist in the *Memphis Business Journal's* CFO of the Year Awards. Selberg is CFO of Poag Shopping Centers.

'86

Wesley Grace joined SEACAP Financial as managing partner and was profiled in the

Memphis Business Journal in October.

Pearce Hammond reports that his daughter's volleyball tournament caused him to miss the reunion weekend. He is still at Simmons (an investment bank focused on the energy sector in Houston) and talks to **Wellford Tabor** from time to time. He has two daughters, Carolyn, 16, and Margaret, 12. Both are doing very well and keeping him busy with all of their activities. He would like to get back home for some Memphis barbecue.

'87

Donald Smith now lives in Muscle Shoals, AL, and is the rector of Grace Episcopal Church in Sheffield, AL. Both daughters attend Loyola University in New Orleans.



Dr. Sparky Reardon, dean emeritus at the University of Mississippi, spoke with MUS seniors in October. Afterward, he joined a few Ole Miss alumni for lunch. Pictured, from left, are **Dan McEwan '88**, **Jim Burnett '83**, Reardon, **Johnny Crews '84**, and **Gwin "Scotty" Scott '83**.



'88

Finally, the plinth is put to good use: **Jason Peters** enriches the minds of his AP Government students.

'89

Andy Cates, founder of luxury campground company RVC Outdoor Destinations, was featured on the cover of the 10th anniversary issue of *Inside Memphis Business* (August/September 2016).

Billy Frank has been named president of First Tennessee's Mid-Atlantic region, which includes Greenville, Winston-Salem, Charlotte, and Raleigh, NC; Richmond, VA; Charleston, SC; and Jacksonville, FL.

'91

The Alumni Executive Board named **Trevor Benitone** its Volunteer of the Year. (See story on page 38.)

MIFA named **Brett Grinder** to its board of directors.

Tom Hutton reminisces about his career as a punter at the University of Tennessee in a video interview featured on the Volquest.com website.

'92

Major Wright, head football coach for the Raleigh-Egypt Pharaohs, was featured on ABC 24's Local Hero segment in November in recognition of his accomplishments at Raleigh-Egypt. He led the team to a 10-2 season, which he says is the first 10-win season in school history. He was also selected to be the head coach for the West in the Toyota East vs. West Tennessee All-Star Classic game held in December at Tennessee Tech.

'93

Jack Irvine is a trial attorney in Memphis with the law firm of Shea Moskowitz & McGhee.

Jonathan Magallanes is one of several local chefs who teamed up with top chefs in the country

for the inaugural Memphis Food and Wine Festival in October.

Cavett Ostner's daughter, Savannah, signed a letter of intent to ride for the Auburn University equestrian team. Savannah is a senior at St. Mary's, and she competes in the Western reining category.



From **Andy McArtor '86**: Impromptu golf outing at Quail Hollow in early November. We wanted to test out the site of the next PGA Championship! All I know is that I lost a lot of money on the last day due to something called the "Piggammon clause." From left are '86 classmates **John Dulin**, **McArtor**, **Ted Miller**, **Ricky Heros**, and **Wellford Tabor**.

Malcolm Saxon is currently serving as middle school head at Christ Covenant in Ridgeland, MS. He is one semester in after serving at Jackson Preparatory School for the previous 11 years.

'94

Richard Bloom has just returned from shooting *Planet of the Apes* in Vancouver.

Sasi Duggirala and his family are living in Atlanta where he is an anesthesiologist at Emory University Hospital.

Duncan Herrington is an investment banker with Credit Suisse in New York City.

Hunt Taylor joined Virtue Capital Management as an asset manager and income planning consultant.



Jason Whitmore and his wife, Aundrea, have started a business, Aundrea's Attic, where they repurpose, refurbish, and upcycle furniture, including the mobile bar pictured here.

Zac Zaricor shares that after five years of moving around and working third shift and weekends, he and his family have found work/life balance. He started a new job as a tax

associate that will allow more time for travel and spending time with the family in their new home. He is working for Tax Advisors Group in the Dallas-Fort Worth area and loving it.

'95

David Bradford, senior principal at Smith Seckman Reid, has joined the management committee of Urban Land Institute Memphis.

Chuck Gilliland, an interventional radiologist at Emory University School of Medicine, recently received the school's Junior Faculty Clinical Excellence Award.

'96

Wilson Moore is on the board of Families Matter, a faith-based nonprofit organization in Memphis that addresses family-related issues of crime, poverty, and education through several channels, including schools and churches.

Rob Ratton, an employment and labor lawyer for Fisher Phillips, has written several guest columns on legal matters for the *Memphis Business Journal*.

'97

Robert Sayle enjoyed seeing Mr. **Haguewood** at the alumni event held in Atlanta in July. He and nearly 50 other alumni and their guests gathered at the Capital City Club Brookhaven to network and catch up.

The reception was hosted by **Bentley Long '79**, **Allen Graber '87**, **Reed Deupree '94**, **John Winford '00**, and **Lowell Hays '09**.

'98

Regent Holding Co., the family-owned business of brothers **Eugene Wang '96** and **Lee Wang**, was included in the *Memphis Business Journal* list of Memphis' fastest-growing companies in 2016.

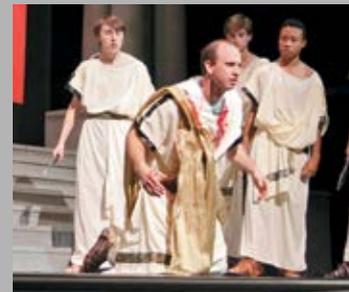
'99

Vanity Fair's December 2016 issue featured an article on the improbable success of Atlantis Books, the dream bookstore founded on the Greek island of Santorini in 2004 by **Craig Walzer** and his business partners.

Josh Winters is a commercial account executive with Oseman Insurance Agency in Memphis.

'00

From **Omar Malik**: Got married to the beautiful Cheryl (Hurley) Malik in 2014. And on September 23, 2015, we were lucky to welcome a happy and healthy boy to the world, Leo Thomas Malik. I'm still working as an assistant district attorney here in Memphis and am going on my sixth year there. Never a dull day fighting crime at 201 Poplar Ave – I'm still loving it. I've prosecuted everything from the meat-in-the-pants thefts to the gang-related, first-degree murder cases.



Instructor in History and Social Studies **Whit Tenent** was cast as Julius Caesar in the MUS fall production of *Julius Caesar*. Assistant Director of Theater **Ted Fockler '10** helped direct.

'01

Following the success of his restaurant South of Beale, **Ed Cabigao** and his wife, Brittany, took another leap when they opened Zaka Bowl. This vegan build-your-own-bowl concept – in a city that's obsessed with barbecued pork and fried chicken – shows how Ed continues to take chances and invest in Memphis.

McKee Humphreys has taken on a new role at PDS as director of development.

Paul McClure has published a new paper, "Faith and Facebook in a Pluralistic Age: The Effects of Social Networking Sites on the Religious Beliefs of Emerging Adults," in the journal *Sociological Perspectives*.

'02

Trevor Knight recently purchased Memphis Millwork (memphismillwork.com). He was promoted to Lieutenant Commander in the Navy Reserve.

Pay By Group announced that co-founder and CRO **Frank Langston** was selected as a Phocuswright Young Leader for 2016. The highly selective Young Leaders Summit gathers 35 rising stars under the age of 35 in travel, tourism, and hospitality at the Phocuswright Conference, the preeminent travel technology confab. "I am honored to represent Pay By Group among such an accomplished group of Young Leaders who are shaping the world of travel technology," Langston said.

David Ratton joined the Memphis office of Wyatt Tarrant & Combs. He concentrates his law practice in general corporate, compliance, mergers and acquisitions, and commercial real estate transactions.

Trevor Weichmann reports: After completing all necessary application build and testing for my ASAP Team (Emergency Room software for Epic Systems), I have switched teams to help focus on the ClinDoc and Stork Teams (Nursing and OBGYN software, respectively). In addition to working, I have used my placement to travel the world. I started a travel blog (ctscanstheworld.com) to document some of my adventures. So far, I have been able to visit 28 new countries.

'03

Members of the United States Marine Corps, in partnership with the Great American Rivalry Series, presented **Derek Clenin** (pictured with

son, Colt) the 2016 Hall of Fame award at the MUS-CBHS football game in October. Derek gives back to MUS as one of the head coaches for the seventh-grade football team and as a past president of the Emerging Leaders division and current member of the Alumni Executive Board.



'04

Gordon Conaway and **Winfield Clifford** continue to work in the commercial real estate industry for Cushman & Wakefield; Gordon in Nashville, and Winfield in New York.

In November **Hays Mabry** joined Centennial Resource Development Inc. as Director of Investor Relations; he is in Houston, TX.

Lyle Muller was recently featured in an article titled "Researchers Discover Rotating Brainwaves Help Memory Storage During Sleep," which was published on SciCast.com. Lyle is a post-doctoral fellow at the Salk Institute for Biological Studies in La Jolla, CA.

Joseph Robinson recently moved back to Memphis after living in Dallas. He has departed the banking industry to pursue his future

in the automobile industry at Robinson Toyota, the family business in Jackson, TN. He will begin studying the mechanics of the auto dealer industry at the National Automobile Dealers Association convention in January.

Robert Rogers, once focused on making fine art, has redirected his talents to concentrate on the creative side of advertising after taking some courses in media management and attending graduate school.

Kyle Slatery is in his fifth year teaching religion, philosophy, and ethics and coaching the boys' varsity lacrosse team at St. George's Independent School. He recently completed the New Memphis Institute's Embark Program.

Scott Tashie plans to open a second location of his I Love Juice Bar in the Crosstown Concourse development.

Edward Taylor is still living in the Big Apple and working at Scopia Capital. His wife, Mary, gave birth to their daughter, Mae Taylor, on September 3, 2016. They are thrilled to be starting a family, but Edward says he is losing his hair at a very competitive rate.

Additionally, this past summer, Dorothy and **John Collier** welcomed John Stuart "Johnny" Collier IV on June 14, 2016. Johnny's doing great; there are no updates on his father's hair, lack thereof, or retention therein.

Kyle Vogel would like to tell everyone, "Hello."

'05

Clint Cowan has recently graduated from the University of Virginia School of Law and started as an associate in the litigation group of Butler Snow in Memphis. He and his wife, Lizzie Willson Cowan, have two children: Mac, 3 years old and future MUS Class of 2031, and Allison, 16 months.

IN MEMORY



Fowler F. Cooper II '59
October 20, 2016



Blake Nicholas Caummisar '11
August 22, 2016



Wesley Alexander Hamilton Crump '12
October 22, 2016

MARRIAGES

Charley Foster '00 to Whitney Baer on October 8, 2016

Brent Blankenship '01 to Alyssa Rosalind Mae Clarke on October 1, 2016

John Harkess '03 to Hallie Jamison on April 2, 2016

Scott Tashie '04 to Rebekah Hill on June 4, 2016

Michael Haas '05 to Shelley Ploch on June 25, 2016

J.D. Lawhorn '05 to Kelli Reiff on July 18, 2015

Hunter Adams '06 to Carly Taylor on July 23, 2016

Garrott McClintock '06 to Margaret Watford on July 9, 2016

Logan Welch '06 to Rachel Lunati on May 17, 2016

John Catmur '07 to Sarah Schiavoni on April 9, 2016

Ferrell Varner '07 to Brannen Vick on May 29, 2016

William Ware '07 to Tara Hallie Tighe on June 18, 2016

George Coors '09 to Taylor Dunaway on August 6, 2016

Walt Wepfer '09 to Betsy Buxton on December 19, 2015

Ryan Turner '10 to Catherine Clubb-Brown on September 3, 2016

Mitchell Marino '12 to Olivia Hughes on October 7, 2016

BIRTHS

Kate Metcalf and **Brian Sullivan '83**, a daughter, Margaret Grey, born October 4, 2016

Adrienne and **Malcolm Saxon '93**, a daughter, Mae Louise,

born November 22, 2016

Tealy and **Taylor Hewgley '94**, a daughter, Frances Cecile "Francie," born October 27, 2016

Diana and **Stephen Brown '00**, a son, Henry, born August 2016

Cheryl and **Omar Malik '00**, a son, Leo Thomas, born September 23, 2015

Lea and **Ben Adams '01**, a son, Benjamin Chinn, born August 23, 2016

Allison and **Bond Hopkins '01**, a daughter, Hadley Elizabeth, born May 9, 2016

Ashley and **Scott Adams '02**, a daughter, Kyser McBride, born September 8, 2016

Elizabeth and **Chase Carlisle '03**, a daughter, Tully Rye, born November 22, 2015

Sarah and **Jeff Grimm '03**, a son, Jeff William, born March 31, 2016

Alex and **Barlow Mann '03**, a daughter, Abigail Jamieson, born September 16, 2016

Lauren and **Brad Spicer '04**, a daughter, Claire Joy, born November 18, 2016

Mary and **Edward Taylor '04**, a daughter, Mae, born September 3, 2016

Lizzie and **Clint Cowan '05**, a daughter, Allison, born July 14, 2015

Josie and **John Hammons '05**, a daughter, Elizabeth Meriwether, born June 24, 2016

Elizabeth and **Donnie Malmo '06**, a daughter, Rivers, born October 26, 2016

Alex Guyton is a vice president with Bailey Southwell & Co., an investment banking firm in Nashville.

John Hammons was recently named associate vice president at Wells Fargo Advisors.

Warner Russell just celebrated his first anniversary as manager of business development for Jernigan Capital, a real estate investment trust that provides debt and equity capital to private developers, owners, and operators of self-storage facilities. Other alums with Jernigan Capital are President/COO **John Good '76**, General Counsel **Bill Mathieu '76**, and Senior Investment Analyst **Will Aldridge '07**.

Hunter Swain has been selected for the 2017 Colorado Super Lawyers Rising Stars list in labor and employment law. It's pretty neat to be included because no more than 2.5 percent of lawyers in the state can be selected.

'06

Beau Creson was selected as a 2016 Rising Star in Mid-South Super Lawyers for Business Litigation, and is currently working at Butler Snow in Nashville.

David Deaderick is a CFA charter holder after completing a course that consisted of three tests over three years. He has been a fixed income analyst at Raymond James since 2010. In June 2015 he married Whitney Moffitt at

the First United Methodist Church of Searcy, AR. The wedding party included classmates **Bill Steele**, **Jesse Zellner**, **Patrick Kimberlin**, **Oliver Green**, and **Collier Calandrucchio**. David and Whitney live in Midtown Memphis.

Phillip DeBardeleben is now a tax manager with Dixon Hughes Goodman.

Reid Wesson earned his CFA charter in August.

Dex Witte graduated from UT Health Science Center last May. He is currently halfway through his intern year and will start his residency in radiology at Baptist Memorial Hospital in July.

'07

Will Aldridge joined Jernigan Capital in Memphis as senior investment analyst.

Preston Battle earned his JD in May from the University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law, where he served as president of the Student Bar Association. He is an associate in the Memphis office of Baker Donelson.

Miles DeBardeleben was elected president of his class at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson.

Jeffrey Wright is the executive producer of *The Geoff Calkins Show* from 9-11 a.m. weekdays on 92.9 FM ESPN. He is a contributor to the 929 Line at 929espn.com as well

as a talk host on the station. He is responsible for putting together a quality broadcast every weekday while also contributing to other aspects of the station and its website.

'08

Tucker Carr accepted a position with Merrill Lynch in the Austin office.

Mazen Istanbouli is getting his master's in biology with a focus in neurology from the University of Memphis.

Owen Mercer is an associate in the Memphis office of Cushman & Wakefield/Commercial Advisors.

Michael Wills has moved to Atlanta where he is regional director of internal sales for Angel Oak Capital Advisors, an

investment management firm with approximately \$5.5 billion in assets under management.

'09

William Anthony was voted into the Economic Club of Memphis recently. The organization's membership includes pillars within the Memphis community and provides an opportunity for individuals to network and discuss economics and finance.

Michael Folk is working for Kibo, a family-owned real estate investment and management firm based in Nashville. He will assist in both the acquisition and management of commercial properties.

Turner Morehead is currently training with the Atlantic Theater Company in New York.



Robert Threlkeld is now a Second Lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps after successfully completing Officer Candidates School. From left, **Joseph Threlkeld '17**, **Robert Threlkeld '09**, **Thomas Threlkeld '12**, and **Rob Threlkeld '78**.

Kimbrough Taylor has joined Wunderman Memphis as a project manager/content marketing strategist. Wunderman is a global agency specializing in digital media optimization.

'10

Ian Stockstill is an automotive business development lead for International Quality &

Photo courtesy of The Commercial Appeal



'07

Kimani Shotwell, center, head basketball coach for British Columbia Christian Academy, brought his team to Memphis for a game against the Owls in November. His story was featured in *The Commercial Appeal*.



WHERE is B.K. TODAY?



Director of College Counseling Brian K. Smith enjoys visiting Owl alumni on the college tours he leads for current students. In the left column above from the top down, Smith is with **Nathan Dinh '16**, University of Richmond; **Philip Aiken '13**, Washington and Lee University; and **Tucker Colerick '16**, University of Virginia; right column from the top, **Trey Moore '14**, University of Richmond; **David Dabov '16**, Washington and Lee; and **Witt Hawkins '14** and **Hayden Combs '14**, Washington and Lee.



Productivity Center in New York.

Parker Wilson is a regional intermodal fleet manager for J. B. Hunt Transport Inc. in Memphis.

'11

Cale Carson is an English teacher in Santiago, Chile, with BridgeEnglish, an international leader in corporate language training.

'12

Obaid Anwar is in his first year at UT medical school.

Toby Baker was a semifinalist for the Burlsworth Trophy, which is presented to college football's best player who began his career as a walk-on. Baker, a senior, was one of 10 semifinalists for the award. In other news, Pro Football Focus rated the Hogs fifth-year senior

as the No. 3 punter in the country.

Britt Colcolough is working for Pareto Technologies, a tech startup in Austin, TX.

Jake Greenstein is a private equity analyst with Brown Brothers Harriman in New York City.

Patrick Holt recently graduated from the University of Tennessee with a degree in business and is now working for NexAir.

Joseph Morrison is participating in the master's degree program in accounting at Rhodes College.

Ashish Nathani will begin medical school at East Tennessee State University in the fall of 2017.

'13

Tiger Adams and his band, China Gate, played at



Witt Hawkins '14, a global politics major and mass communications minor at Washington and Lee University, received a William Jefferson Clinton Scholarship to attend the American University in Dubai during the winter term of 2017.



Class of 2015 Owls, now sophomores at the University of Arkansas, enjoyed an easy win against Texas State this fall in Fayetteville. From left, **Pierce Jones**, **Grant Stevenson**, **Dub Sorrells**, **Connor Truitt**, and **Butch Matthews**

Birmingham's Secret Stages Festival in August. They were well received. Their next step: recording at Ardent Studios. Read a great review of their festival show in this article from the Bitter Southerner: bit.ly/alumnirock.

Philip Aiken, a student at Washington and Lee University, has returned from a six-month trip to South America, where he spent one semester in Argentina and six weeks traveling through Bolivia, Ecuador, Peru, and Colombia.

James Burnett is a senior at the University of Mississippi and is currently working as a student assistant for football operations and recruiting.

Austin Pretsch is in his senior year at Furman University where he is president of the Student Government Association. This past summer he interned as an associate ecommerce strategist for Gant

Systems, which engineers and services technology solutions for a diverse mix of clients across a wide spectrum of industries.

Wil Rainer is a lacrosse player at Sewanee with teammates **Selby Austin**, **Patrick DiMento** and **Hayden Hunt '15**. He spent a semester abroad in New Zealand and the summer on St. Catherine's Island doing research for Sewanee.

'14

Drew Flaherty is a junior at Rhodes College.

William Lamb is doing well at Pomona College in California and last year was named Freshman Physics Student of the Year.

Ole Miss junior **Gary Wunderlich** was one of 20 semifinalists for the 2016 Lou Groza Collegiate Placekicker

Award presented by the Orange Bowl.



From left, Class of 2014 alumni **Harrison Williams**, **Josh Douglass**, and **Andy Sorensen** stop by for a visit.



Instructor in Science **Garrett Smithson** and **Nick Schwartz** show off their manly beards during a campus visit.

'15

Carlton Orange is an Academic All-American at the University of Arkansas.

Connor Truitt is attending the University of Arkansas where he is a member of Kappa Sigma Fraternity.

'16



Tim Hart, left, and **Thomas Pickens**, pictured here with Instructor in Science **Analice Sowell**, were frequent supporters at Owls games this fall. Both play for the University of Memphis.



A kicking tradition: At Meet the Rebels Day 2016, from left, **Will Crosby '22**, **Gary Wunderlich '14**, and **Matthew Crosby '89**

Class Reps

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

'58	Claude Crawford	grill17@yahoo.com	'96	Robert Dow	mail@robertdow.com
'59	John Lawo	johnlawo@bellsouth.net	'96	Rusty Shappley	wshappley@gmail.com
'60	Metcalf Crump	metcrump@crumpfirm.com	'97	Justin Grinder	jgrinder@grindertaber.com
'60	Alex Wellford	awellford@farris-law.com	'97	Trey Jones	trey.jones@ldcom.com
'61	Scott May	sfmay@bellsouth.net	'97	Michael Thompson	mthompsonjr@gmail.com
'62	Jerry Bradfield	jbradfi293@aol.com	'98	Erick Clifford	eclifford@leadcp.com
'62	Doug Ferris	dferris@ffcfuelcells.com	'98	Don Drinkard	Don.Drinkard@cbrememphis.com
'64	Bill Quinlen	wlq1975@aol.com	'98	Justin Lohman	lohmanjw@yahoo.com
'65	Bob Heller	hrheller3@comcast.net	'99	Richard Burt	richardtbur@gmail.com
'65	Rick Miller	rmiller634@aol.com	'99	Chip Campbell	chip.campbell3@gmail.com
'66	Chuck Smith	duckhead50@aol.com	'99	Norfleet Thompson	norfleet.thompson@gmail.com
'67	John Pettey	john.pettey@raymondjames.com	'00	Chris Hamilton	hamilton@generaltruck.com
'68	Bill Ferguson		'00	Michael Liverance	liverance.michael@gmail.com
'68	Terry Wilson	theactor@cypressusa.com	'00	Ryan Miller	phillipryanmiller@gmail.com
'69	Scott Wellford	spwellford@gmail.com	'01	Paul Gillespie	paul.t.gillespie@gmail.com
'70	Kelly McGuire	klm_nmm@yahoo.com	'01	Daniel McDonell	dmcdonell@gmail.com
'70	Jimmy Ogle	jogle@memphisriverfront.com	'01	Battle Williford	battlewilliford@gmail.com
'71	Barlow Mann	barlow.mann@sharpenet.com	'02	Scott Adams	scott.adams@ftnfinancial.com
'71	Phil Wiygul	philwiygul@earthlink.net	'02	John Adrian	jcadian@gmail.com
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Homecoming 2016

Alumni enjoyed visiting during all of the Homecoming festivities on campus September 30 and October 1.



Class of 1966 alumni Fred Niell and Frank Jemison



Class of 2011 alumni Russell Scott, Mason Soun, Jianyin Roachell, Scooter Taylor, and Richard Twardzik



Class of 2006 alumni Devin Owens and Max Prokell



Sporting his vintage letter jacket, Jody Brown '61, and wife, Lisa



Class of 1996 alumni Stephen Shannon, Worth Jones, Wilson Moore, and Chris Carr

Jacob Courtney Rudolph Plaza Dedication



David Rudolph '81, center, had lots of Owl support at the dedication of the plaza in his father's name, including, from left, Class of 1981 alumni Bud Thrasher, Rick Thornton, Ray Moore, Andy Meyer, Win Bonner, and Ted Angelakis.



Chip Wood '79, Bobby Eason '79, Greg Meyer '79, and John Peebles '76



Homecoming 2016

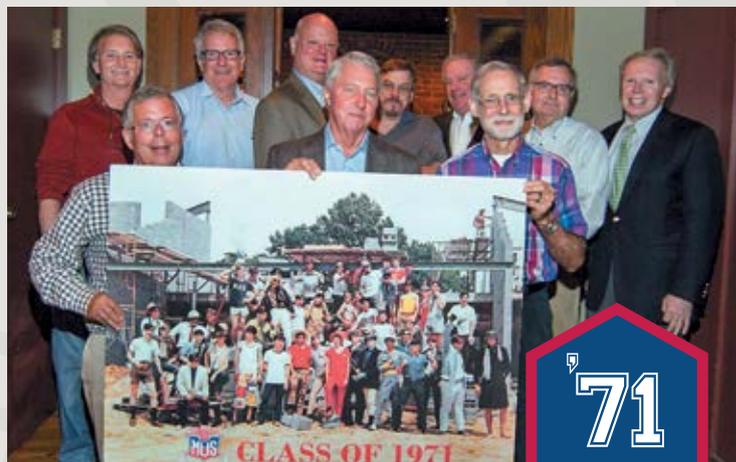


50th Reunion: Catching up and sharing stories topped the list of activities for the Class of 1966 during Homecoming weekend. They played golf, reminisced at their Friday night class party, and enjoyed a great meal with one another and Headmaster Ellis Haguewood at their 50th Reunion luncheon. They also remembered classmate Butch Petree, joining with his family members to dedicate three benches in his name near Hull-Dobbs Athletic Field (see photo page 43).

Jeanne and Frank Jemison '66 hosted the party for the Class of 1966, which included, from left, Robert Sayle, Stephen Crump, Jemison, Bob Lee, John Carrier, Bert Johnston, Brig Klyce, Johnny Adams, Ferd Heckle, Hank Hill, Henry Doggrell, and Fred Niell.



Celebrating their 55th reunion, the Class of 1961 gathered at the home of Barbara and Pitt Hyde '61.



The Class of 1971 celebrated their reunion at Boscos.



The Class of 1976 celebrated their 40th reunion at the home of Kim and Johnny Pitts '76. Alumni enjoyed seeing Bill Mathieu's new car, a 1974 Pontiac Firebird Trans Am, which had been delivered to him the day before the reunion. "Since several in our class had 1974 Firebirds during our time at school, I thought it would be fun to bring another '74 to the reunion," Mathieu said. "The car has a dark blue body and a red interior - MUS colors."

Interestingly enough, the car's original owner was Barlow Mann '71, who bought it new from Foster Pontiac in Memphis. "It is a very small world," Mann said.



'81

Cathy and Jeff Harris '81 hosted the reunion party for members of the Class of 1981.



'86

Members of the Class of 1986 enjoyed the chance to catch up with Coach Barry Ray, second from left; Coach Bobby Alston, center; and Coach John Cady '69, third from right, at their 30th reunion party at East.



'91

Megan and Brett Grinder '91 hosted the reunion party for members of the Class of 1991.



'96

Members of the Class of 1996 enjoyed their 20th reunion Downtown at Loflin Yard, an outdoor dining and gathering space recently opened by Doug Carpenter '82, Michael Tauer '95, and others.



'01

Courtney and McKee Humphreys '01 hosted the party for the Class of 2001.



'06

The Class of 2006 gathered at Loflin Yard for their 10-year reunion.



Golf Scramble

Alumni hit The Links at Galloway for a morning round of golf and camaraderie to kick off the Homecoming festivities.



Class of 1986 alumni Wesley Grace, Andy McArtor, Andy Wright, and John T. Pitts took home the Best Class Team award.



Class of 1981 alumni Andy Meyer, Rick Thornton, Ray Moore, and Bud Thrasher



David Zarfoss '86, Cullen Morgan '96, and Brad Conder '86



Buck Towner '07, Haynes Vaughn '07, Collin Fountain '08, and Jay Edwards '07



Class of 1966 alumni Johnny Adams, Dwight Drinkard, Henry Doggrell, Kent Wunderlich, and Hank Hill



We Got Game

The Invasion (B League) and the Big Dawgs (C League) were winners in the finals of the 2016 Alumni Basketball League championship. The ABL was founded some 35 years ago by cousins Judd Peters '81 and Tommy Peters '73.



The Invasion, Class of 2016 alumni, standing from left, Philip Freeburg, Connor Whitson, Matt Kruczek, Owen Galvin, and Reid Smith; front row, Dylan Jones



The Big Dawgs, standing from left, Dan Shumake '89, Bill Dowdle, John Sharp '81, Gene Hamilton '86, Josh Hammond, Jon Van Hoozer '88; front row, Greg Rhodes '89, Clint Dowdle; not pictured, Jason Fair '89, Miles Fortas '89, and Peter Monaghan '89

Emerging Leaders Host Memphis Mayor

Mayor Jim Strickland shared his goals for Memphis with young alumni at the Emerging Leaders luncheon this fall.



Hugh Francis '06 and Reid Wesson '06



Chase Carlisle '03 shares a laugh with Mayor Jim Strickland.



Hunter Adams '06, center, is current president of the Emerging Leaders; Elliot Embry '04, left, and Derek Clinin '03 are past presidents.



Neely Mallory '07, Robert Cartwright '10, and Paul Stephens '10



Young Alumni Holiday Brunch

College-age alumni stopped by campus in December to visit with faculty and former classmates during a holiday brunch in their honor.



Class of 2015 alumni Connor Truitt, Dub Sorrells, David Scharff, Pierce Jones, and Max Simpson



Class of 2013 alumni Jarrett Jackson, Andrew Raves, and Farhan Kathawala



Brothers Baker Ball '15 and Warren Ball '13



Andy Sorensen '14, Richard Ouyang '15, and Stephen Tsiu '14



Class of 2016 alumni Patton Orr, Danny Harris, and Murray Morrison



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

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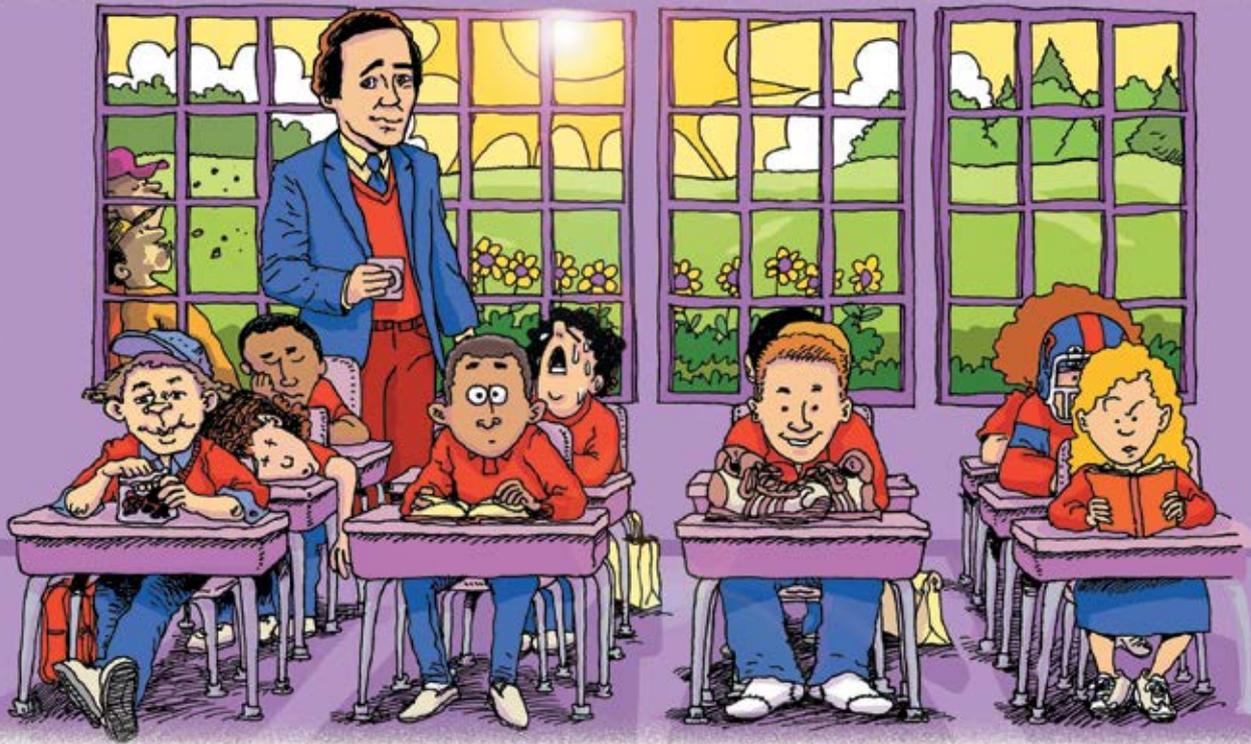


Illustration by Greg Cravens

Midsummer Day's Dreaming

by Norman Thompson

As I entered the last grade for the last student of the school year of 2015-16, logging off and closing my computer, a wave of relief commingled with nostalgia washed over me.

The relief was due to the realization that for the first time in a very long time I could look forward to a summer without the taunting specter of a summer school class of remedial English thumbing its nose at

me. The nostalgia was born of the memory of summers spent in the company of young people with their whole lives before them. Their innocence and naiveté were a constant source of entertainment for me. Though I had informed Headmaster **Ellis Haguewood** months before that personal obligations necessitated my surrendering my summer school class and directorship, the reality of this change in the predictable pace of my life only then began to seep into my consciousness. Confident because my duties would be placed in the capable hands of Mr. **Spencer Reese '94** (after all, he had learned at the feet of the master), I sank into a reverie, reflecting on summers long ago.

Thirty-five years ago MUS summer

school was very different from today's version. Then, summer classes comprised students from other schools, public and private, boys and girls, most of whom had failed the class for which they were enrolled at MUS. These students would file into the old Clack Dining Hall to register for the class that would darken their sunny summer of hoped-for freedom for the next two months. Mayhem reigned. Long lines formed to buy books from the tiny bookstore adjacent to the Clack. They then sought window-air-conditioned rooms, poorly cooled, through steamy, un-air-conditioned hothouse hallways, where they surmised that they would languish until nearly time for the fall semester of "regular" school to begin.

Because classes were three-and-a-half hours long and ran for two summer months, a student could get credit for a class that he had failed; he could also get credit for a previously untaken course that he would not then have to take in the fall. We offered almost all math courses that were offered in the fall, as well as American history and some English electives. Enrollment often exceeded 150.

In its present-day incarnation, summer school admits only MUS students; offers no academic credit; is designed for students who would benefit from some tutelage in math, English, and Latin; and is only one month long.

The summer school director during my first years was Mr. **Gene Thorn**. He was in the fullness of time succeeded by a pantheon of distinguished teachers, among them **Mike Deaderick**, **Bob Boelte**, and Mr. Haguewood. As summer school was devoid of sports, clubs, or proms, it was a predictable and pedestrian affair. Usually,

Most summer classes were unremarkable. The mélange of students from far-flung places were unknown to one another. There was little time to form lasting classroom friendships. Morose, sometimes petulant, students were eager only to pass the course and get on to the next grade to be with their peers. So, usually not much happened that was remarkable (except for the transformation of malleable young minds).

Occasionally, as the years unfolded, a teacher would experience something unusual or entertaining enough to distinguish it as a summer to remember. Mr. Haguewood, for example, recalls a time long ago when in the middle of one of his lectures, a young female student closed her eyes and slowly slid underneath the surface of her desk like melting taffy or a jellied eel. Initially thinking that his lecture was perhaps exerting a greater-than-usual soporific effect on the young lady, he was soon galvanized into action. An ambulance was called, and the semi-comatose student was restored to health. It seems that she had forgotten that morning to follow her regimen to combat diabetes.

Though much is just so much flotsam and jetsam left stranded by the tide on the beach of my memory, I vividly recall an incident that occurred in my first summer school location, Room 8 in the old

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

Later, my summer school classes met in a language lab (where the Upper School computer lab is today). Sweating a bit for a day or two, I discovered that the language teacher usually occupying that room had used cellophane tape to close the A/C vents. Apparently this teacher could not tolerate cool drafts. It was here that for me a disquieting incident occurred. A morose young lady from one of our more religiously fundamentalist schools, who had sat sullenly for more than a week, raised her hand. Encouraged that at last she was trying to become involved in the class, I called on her. Her question was “Do I *have* to read this trash?” as she held up her copy of Truman Capote’s *The Grass Harp*. I cringed like a salted snail and asked her whether she had read the novelette. She replied, “Of course not. I don’t read trash.” I asked her how then did she know that it was trash. She replied that her mother had

told her so. I told her that she did have to read the book, but that if she didn’t, the low grade would not fail her but would significantly lower her final average. I challenged her to show me *anything* in the reading that she found offensive. She agreed but said that she could not take the book home. She read for an hour after class for several days, leaving her copy of the novel in the classroom. She never called my attention to anything that offended her.

Still later, summer school was moved to the Lower School, where it remained for many years. It was here that several times I taught a few students two years consecutively. Reading the same short stories two summers in a row sometimes did not improve their scores. One young man appeared to be on the point of making an astute observation about the reading assignment, but it never came to anything. Once as I was putting grammar rules on the board, I turned to witness a very large young man with a brand new pair of size 14 football cleats on his desk that were the apple of his eye. When I reminded him that his remaining at MUS was contingent on his passing summer school, he said that he had tried to resist, but that he just couldn’t wait to inspect his new “kicks.” One Lower School summer we had to designate an outdoor place for sunflower-seed addicts to spit during breaks.

All my summer classes have been in my room, 103, since the opening of the new Upper School. Recent classes have been fulfilling for me and I hope beneficial to my students, but, alas, they have been uneventful. It was Chaucer who first wrote what has become a platitude, “All good things must come to an end,” but the axiom expresses my sentiments accurately. I shall miss my summers in the classroom.

And so, as I stared at my computer, closed finally on a long chapter of my life, the words of a hauntingly nostalgic ballad of the ‘50s by The Four Lads, titled *Moments To Remember*, rose like the evening mist on the horizon of my memory: “Though summer turns to winter/And the present disappears/The laughter we were glad to share/Will echo through the years.”

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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.





Scott Ledbetter '60 considers Lost Pond one of his favorite spots to relax and enjoy nature at Lone Oaks Farm. A local swimming hole in its former life, the pretty, two-acre pond features a number of enhancements that Ledbetter introduced in creating Lone Oaks, including a long diving "rock," a large sand beach, a "floating" sunning rock, and two sets of winding stone steps to make getting in and out of the pond easier. It also boasts bream beds for good fishing, five islands, 20 swamp cypress trees, and an encircling stone trail that is set among about 5,000 native wildflowers. Now owned by the University of Tennessee, Lone Oaks is set to become a world-class site for agricultural and STEM education, and Lost Pond will continue to serve as an inspirational spot for outdoor gatherings and recreation. Read more about how Ledbetter created Lone Oaks and what UT is planning for its future on page 12.

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