

U TODAY



MASTER OF VIBE

TOMMY PETERS LETS THE GOOD TIMES ROLL



After a family trip to Italy in 2018, making pasta from scratch became an obsession for Miles Tamboli '07. He perfected his craft, and months of testing at area farmers' markets proved his product was a hit. So when a space became available - one that happened to be owned by his father, artist Roy Tamboli - launching his own restaurant seemed inevitable. Tamboli's Pasta & Pizza opened in the former Fuel Café in October in Midtown Memphis and is committed to sourcing only the freshest produce and meats available from local farming operations.



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(Pictured above, Jake Franklin '09 and David Tillman '09)



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ON THE COVER



Tommy Peters '73 helped resurrect a long-forsaken entertainment district in the early '90s by putting eminently worthy blues icon B.B. King on the marquee. "People forget that Beale Street was practically boarded up [then]," he says. That was only the beginning for the successful entrepreneur, restaurateur, and – as his wife describes – master of vibe, who has a special knack for marrying atmosphere, food, and music in a way customers can't seem to resist.

Photo by Alan Howell

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Peter D. Sanders

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MEMPHIS UNIVERSITY SCHOOL
Founded 1893

MISSION STATEMENT

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

Growth and Development, Professionally Speaking

There used to be a saying among teachers that the three best things about teaching are June, July, and August. While the more relaxed summer months are always welcome, I have seen that the committed professionals at MUS put this “time off” to very good use, honing their teaching and coaching skills, digging deeper into their subjects, working on advanced degrees. Summer comes to mind in the midst of winter because my mailbox and inbox are cluttered with announcements of professional development opportunities in the upcoming months.

Of course, enrichment is not limited to the summer – continuous learning is ingrained in the culture here, part of the yearly rhythm. It is backed by administrative support and budget, and participants can apply for help with the cost of registration, supplies, travel, even college tuition. Last August’s Board Report listed 77 faculty and staff members who had engaged in professional development during the 2018-19 school year. Activities included workshops at the TAIS Biennial Conference (hosted by MUS); CPR training at school; a track and field clinic in Nashville; visits to peer schools in Atlanta and Dallas; the Tennessee Junior Classical League State Convention in Chattanooga; tours of historic sites and museums on the East Coast; a Fins, Fishes, and Fisheries Workshop in Dauphin Island, AL; and a tour of the National Memorial for Peace and Justice in Montgomery, AL, to name just a few.

Thanks to generous donors, the school has endowed funds used to award excellence and support continued professional development. The John M. Nail Award, given annually to a teacher chosen by the senior class, provides a generous stipend to the recipient as well as a grant to his or her department. The departmental award has been used in a variety of ways, including upgrading lab equipment and technology in the McCaughan Science Center and funding math and science faculty retreats. One year the English Department traveled to New England, visiting sites significant to American literature. The following year the Nail recipient – coincidentally, another English instructor – organized a literary departmental trip to France.

In addition, the Hale Fellowship for Faculty Development provides financial support for the pursuit of professional research, study, and travel. Last summer the fellowship paved the way for three teachers to investigate wide-ranging interests: Science Instructor **Rosalyn Croce** traveled to London and Edinburgh to research a potential MUS in Europe trip blending detective literature and forensic science. Religion

Department Chair **David Jackson** traced the Apostle Paul’s scriptural journeys in the Aegean region of the Mediterranean. And Classical and Modern Languages Chair **Ryan Sellers** explored sites in Tennessee with names inspired by classical Greece and Rome.

“One of my primary objectives is to help my students understand that the language and culture of classical antiquity is by no means confined to the past,” Sellers said. “The influential legacy of the Greeks and Romans is all around us ... even in the most isolated communities of rural Tennessee.”

Presentations at faculty meetings provide additional enrichment, and we have experienced some invaluable programs in the past year. Psychologist and author Dr. Dave Verhaagen spoke at the February 2019 meeting on the generational characteristics of millennial parents and students. Last October, David Vuletich from the Education Advisory Board (EAB) in Washington, DC, presented a data-filled talk on “Tackling the Student Stress Dilemma,” and he also addressed our counseling staff and colleagues from PDS, Hutchison, and St. Mary’s. **David Felsenthal ’88** is CEO of EAB, an educational, big-data consulting firm that we have engaged to help us keep abreast of best practices in education. Director of Advancement **Perry Dement** and Director of Business Operations **Rankin Fowlkes** gained valuable insights at recent EAB conferences, as did I during a head-of-school roundtable.

So, as I sort through my mail and send off brochures and emails to faculty members for upcoming programs and workshops, I am reminded that great teachers are lifelong learners. Our instructors personify that description. They have the independence and latitude to teach in the unique and effective ways that our graduates long remember – ways that are impactful and lasting. As evidenced by the lengthy professional development log in last August’s Board Report, our teachers and coaches stay sharp by continuously expanding their knowledge and honing their skills. They – and we as a school – realize that the ultimate beneficiaries of their time, travel, and study are the students enriched by their experiences.



PETER D. SANDERS

HEADMASTER

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Why I Give

BY HOPIE BROOKS '80

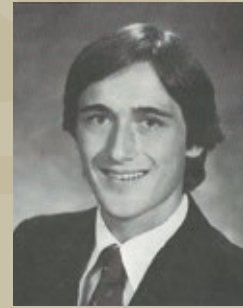
This fall, my Class of 1980 will gather for our 40th reunion. It doesn't feel like it's been that long (we are still young men, after all), and when we get together, we'll tell our stories again and it will seem like just last year when they happened. And we will reaffirm what we already knew: The Class of 1980 was, as Mr. Haguewood once described, "one of the best ever at MUS." Mr. Haguewood even said at one point, "The Class of 1980 represents what many would call 'the golden age of MUS.'" Now we don't care if he said this about other classes, because we know he really meant it when he said it about ours.

During the years that have elapsed since we last roamed the halls at 6191 Park Avenue, a lot has changed about the physical appearance of the place. The facilities are nicer, for sure, and there are things we never could have conjured up, even in our creative writings. But the physical and the spiritual are different, and a feel, or a vibe, or a theme, can't always be measured. What has remained constant at MUS is that the young men who are privileged to go to school there are being blessed with an almost indescribable and wholly positive experience that will shape them and stay with them for the rest of their lives.

I didn't realize this when I was there, of course. Few do. But when I got to the University of Missouri (where Mr. **[Bob] Boelte** thought I should pursue my journalistic dreams, and from where I eventually

graduated with a degree in general agriculture), I began to realize that my experience at MUS was different from the experiences of my college friends and fraternity brothers. Even those who had graduated from nice, expensive, reputable schools in St. Louis, Kansas City, and other places didn't quite have what I had. They started asking me (me, Hopie Brooks, who had graduated in the third quartile of my high school class) to help them write papers and to explain economic and social theory to them. I even helped a few with math, which would have alarmed Mr. **[Mark] Ramsey**, I'm sure. Some of my friends asked me what kind of school this MUS was, as if I had been educated in some sort of unique school that only a few chosen people were fortunate enough or smart enough to attend. Which, as it turns out, I had. But not unique like Hogwarts, because while Hogwarts is mythical, MUS is very much real.

MUS is unique and special, indeed, and in those first few months of college I gradually came to that realization. I saw no evidence that any of my college friends had been blessed with an **Ellis Haguewood**, a **Norman Thompson**, or a **Skip Daniel** to prepare them for life. Even the athletic experiences and learnings differed. When we all told stories about our high school sports teams, there just didn't seem to be another Coach **Jerry Peters** out there. Of course, there wasn't, because MUS really is one of a kind. And while we don't have wizards like Hogwarts, we have them for sure. MUS has wizards at Latin



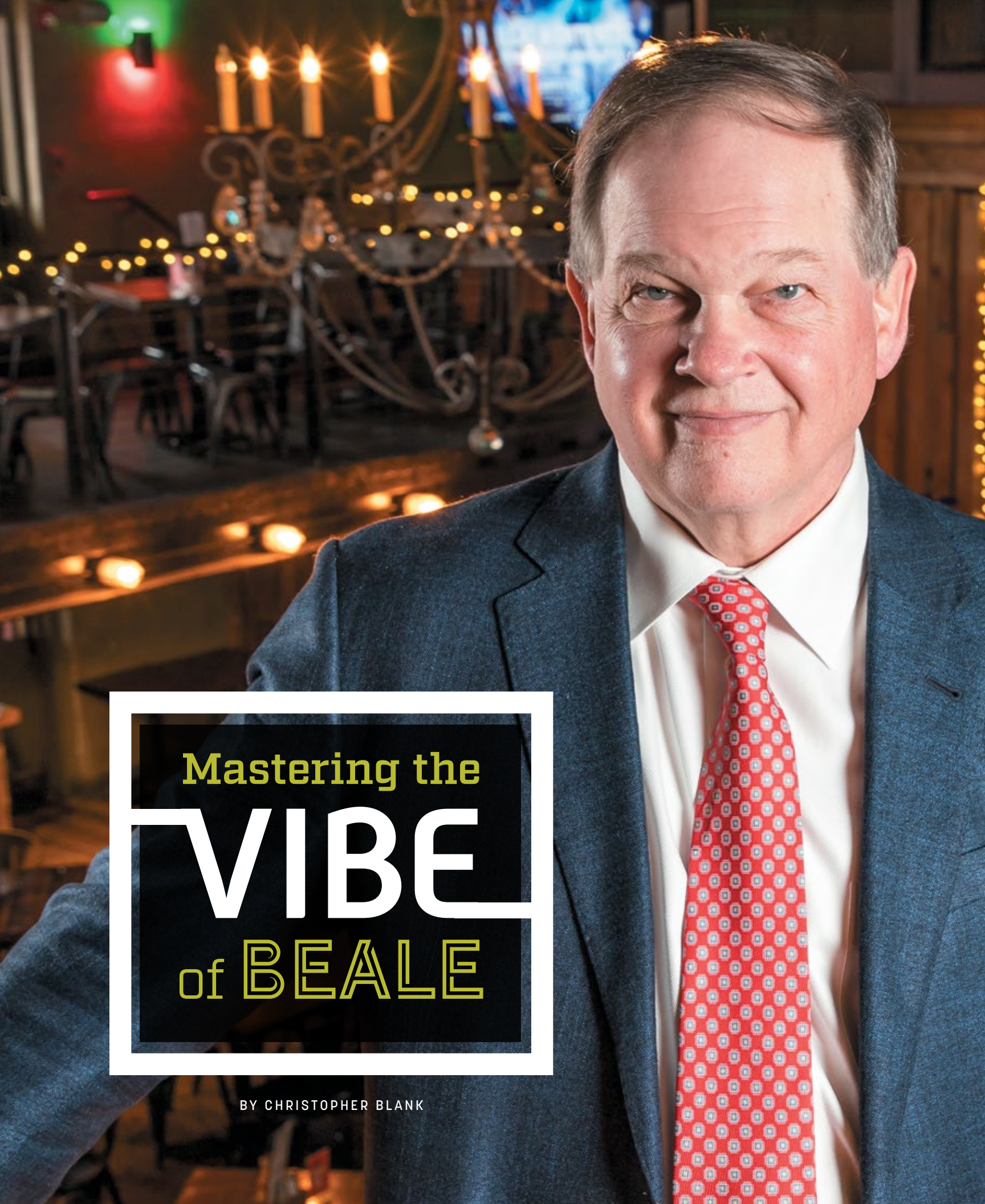
Brooks in The Owl, 1980

and math and composition, and wizards at teaching boys how to make better decisions in life. Even maintenance wizards like **Capt. Robert Davis**, who

taught me the "right" way to sweep the porch when I was working off one of my many Saturday schools.

Why do I give? So that other young men can have what I had. I was a financial aid student, so I was able to attend MUS because someone else gave. MUS made me what I am, and one of my proudest achievements was sending my son, **Berry Brooks '14**, to MUS. Debbie and I were able to pay for it ourselves, which is anecdotal evidence that the program works exactly the way it was designed to. And he, too, went to college and was asked by his friends what kind of place had taught him so much. His experiences were as positive and life-shaping as mine were (even though it was a bit disheartening when I asked him if they still played Roller Hall, and he didn't know what I was talking about). So, of course I give. Other young men need to learn how to make good decisions, and when they don't, how to correctly sweep the porch. If I stay in the Thorn Society for the rest of my life, I will never be able to repay the debt I owe to MUS. But I'll keep trying, because MUS is special. ■

Editor's Note: Why I Give is a column we run periodically in MUS Today, and we welcome your submissions. If you would like to share your thoughts on giving to MUS, please email liz.copeland@musowls.org.



Mastering the
VIBE
of BEALE

BY CHRISTOPHER BLANK



On a quiet afternoon, before the music starts, Tommy Peters presides over Lafayette's Music Room in Memphis.

Tommy Peters puts his stamp on a Beale Street institution and more

When **Tommy Peters** '73 sits down to talk about his far-flung business ventures, he leads with caveats – the setbacks, the recalibrations, the inherent risks. He tilts back in his desk chair and advises: “Smart people don’t go into this business.”

Gentle reader: You are hereby warned.

So what, exactly, does he put on the line next to Occupation?

Peters laughs at the term “restaurateur.” Food, he says, is just part of it. His wife, Liz, offers this suggestion: “Master of Vibe.”

It’s a hipper job description, to be sure, and certainly more fitting for the proprietor of B.B. King’s Blues Club on Beale, its fine dining companion restaurant, Itta Bena, and Lafayette’s Music Room on Overton Square, each of which have multiplied to other cities. He and Liz also recently opened Moondance Grill, a business-casual eatery next to the Germantown Performing Arts Center.

After inking a deal with Holland America Line, his company now provides the B.B. King club experience on nine ships.

“I have a good understanding of three things,” says the Master of Vibe. “Human nature, atmosphere, and math.”

Discovering that aptitude, he adds, was a learning process. Math came first. He graduated from Ole Miss in 1977 with honors in accounting and spent the next five years with Touche Ross & Co., a national firm. He started out the '80s by forming a company to raise capital for Memphis businesses. One of his most successful clients during that time was The Memphis Group, which salvaged parts from decommissioned commercial jets. “We raised \$50 million in financing and enabled the company to move from corporate jets into the commercial aviation market, expanding their sales from \$18 million to \$100 million,” Peters says. The

company was acquired by General Electric in 2007.

In 1990 Peters was approached by John Elkington of the Beale Street Management Co., who asked for help raising capital for a club that would help re-establish the long-forsaken historic entertainment district as a world-class destination.

B.B. King, Beale, and the blues seemed like a winning lottery ticket. That’s how it looked, at least, on May 3, 1991, when blues celebrities joined 65 national media reporters for the opening of B.B. King’s Blues Club.

Under a neon marquee worthy of its august namesake, King beamed, “I’m as happy now as I’ve ever been in my life. I hope this club will be the home of the blues all over the world.”

Peters had a more practical perspective.

“What people forget was that Beale Street was practically boarded up in 1990,” he says. “There were pretty much three operational businesses, A. Schwab, Rum

Boogie, and Alfred’s. Nobody wanted to invest because most everything had failed.”

The honeymoon was short-lived.

“The first two months we lost several hundred thousand dollars,” Peters remembers. Surveying the crowds and trusting his intuition, he suspected that the biggest liability in the blues club business ... was the blues.

“The one talent I have is I know how to put together music depending on the concept,” he says. “I knew the kind of feel-good music that a broad audience would enjoy, which is basically Memphis music – Stax, Al Green – but balanced with blues-rock, like Clapton, Stevie Ray Vaughan, Albert King, and the Rolling Stones. In short, more commercial music.”

Peters introduced a more relatable, danceable spectrum of music. It reversed the club’s fortunes. It also created the template for the future – the club’s brand identity.

“It’s not something you can understand intellectually,” Peters says.





At left, Tommy Peters, center, brings the B.B. King's Blues Club All-Star Band to perform in MUS chapel each December. Top right, the fine-dining restaurant Itta Bena, upstairs from B.B. King's Blues Club in Memphis, features an intimate setting appointed with antique doors imported from Afghanistan. At right, Lafayette's brings live music to Overton Square.



“We all work very hard to immerse people in hospitality and serve great food. When it gets down to it in my experience, though, if something’s not working, ‘it’s the music, stupid.’”

The “feeling” of Beale is now dished out nightly at B.B. King’s Blues Clubs in Nashville, Orlando, New Orleans, Montgomery, and on cruise ships.

Little in Peters’ MUS yearbooks would have indicated this career arc, though his competitive spirit was highly valued on the basketball court. His uncle, **Jerry Peters**, was the legendary basketball coach at MUS. “Uncle Jerry” taught him “perseverance, teamwork, toughness, and discipline.” As captain of the 1972-73 basketball team, Peters led the Owls to a 27-2 record and the school’s first-ever district championship.

To this day Peters appreciates relationships he has formed with fellow Owls. “MUS has been a blessing to me – the connectivity with alumni through the years,” Peters says. “**Kent Wunderlich ’66** was my counselor at MUS day camp, and he, **William Tayloe ’92**, and **Gideon Scoggin ’95** at Financial Federal helped me finance Moondance Grill.”

His father, Bobby Peters, was a manufacturer’s rep. His death from a heart attack at age 52 came to mind one night in the mid-’90s while Peters was talking with B.B. King.

“We were in his room at the Peabody Hotel after he’d performed a series of concerts,” Peters says. “He looked terrible. He told me he was feeling so weak.”

King had long struggled with high blood pressure and diabetes, yet at age 65 was still averaging over 300 shows a year. Peters introduced him to the Pritikin Longevity Center

The music plays on at Peters’ B.B. King’s Blues Club on Beale Street, opened in 1991. Today he exports the Memphis sound far and wide, aboard Holland America Line cruise ships.





Photo by Alan Howell

in Santa Monica, CA, and its low-fat diet based on grains and vegetables. King lost over 60 pounds and credited Peters for extending his life. When the musician died in 2015 at 89, Peters served as a pallbearer, the only white person tapped for the honor.

"B.B. felt like Tommy was a son," says Tony Coleman, the acclaimed drummer who toured with the bluesman for 28 years and is now producing a King tribute concert with the likes of Keith Richards and Eric Clapton.

"Opening that club on Beale was something that made B.B. feel remembered and appreciated," Coleman says.

The friendship also gave Peters perspective on the lifestyles of musicians.

"I don't think Tommy ever realized he'd meet such a diverse group of people," Coleman laughs. "He was this big white guy on the back of the tour bus soaking it all up. Us blues guys, we know him as Tommy Peterson. The rhythm isn't complete unless you put the 'son' on the end. To us, it's Tommy Peter-son!"

After many successes (and a few setbacks) in the nightclub business, Peters says his musical confidence is one reason he agreed to open Lafayette's Music Room in Overton Square at the urging of his former basketball teammate **Bob Loeb '73**.

"There were many in Memphis who said (a music hall) wouldn't work," Loeb says. "But Tommy knows how to run an operation and, well, it looks like things are working to me."

For Peters, Lafayette's posed a different kind of challenge. Overton Square wasn't a big tourist destination, and there were no guarantees locals would support live music night after night.

"In some ways (Lafayette's) is more professionally gratifying than B.B.'s, because we had to build it from the ground up," Peters says. He points to a photo on his office wall of the old Elvis Presley's Memphis restaurant that used to be on Beale. "Just because you have a big name doesn't mean it's a slam dunk. To be successful in this business, you have to get everything right. The physics of a space has so much to do with it."

Lafayette's Music Room has been riding high on local "best of" lists for

the last several years. Music aficionados praise the sight lines and acoustics. Peters studies the crowds for ways to improve the listening experience. He plans to add a new lounge area in a vacant storefront next door.

A second Lafayette's in Orlando – within walking distance of the city's convention center – touts its Memphis cachet while serving as a springboard for Florida's up-and-coming bands.

When Peters gets circumspect about the industry, it's usually because a failed establishment can take a long-lasting toll. Two B.B. King's clubs, one in Las Vegas'

managing partner. "That's where the cruise ship concept came in."

On a recent afternoon, Louis McKay III arrives at Peters' office looking less like a corporate director of music and more like the hip bandleader of a late-night talk show. He sports a sharp vest and silver bracelets with tinkling musical bangles.

McKay assembles top-notch Memphis-style bands that are shipped out, literally, to the high seas. Holland America Line now features B.B. King's Blues Club All-Star Bands on nine of its vessels. The bands go out for four-month contracts, playing to 2,000 passengers on every cruise under the



Mirage Casino and another in West Palm Beach, were hit hard by the recession and suffered in unpredictable ways – management changes, slow foot traffic, a surrounding development that never came to fruition.

"We lost significant money in the years 2010 through 2013," he says, resulting in those clubs' well-publicized closures.

But those setbacks also spurred some creative initiatives for Peters' Beale Street Blues Company. "I had to figure out a way to generate new sources of revenue that required no capital investment," Peters says from his office in the Cadre Building, an event space Downtown for which he is

B.B. King's aegis.

"We are a maritime talent agency," Peters says. "We employ about 300 blues and soul musicians, many of them from Memphis. It's about a \$3 million-a-year payroll for the artists."

McKay and Peters quickly fall into a running conversation about music – what should be on the playlists and how the music should sound.

"I give my singers homework," McKay says. "I want them to explain who they're singing, understand where the music came from."

Peters wants familiarity: big hits, A-sides. Creating the perfect live



At left, Tommy Peters, No. 44, was captain of the 1972-73 basketball team. At right, Moondance Grill - which Peters created with his wife, Liz, in Germantown - welcomes guests with an expansive bar and Southern-accented new-American cuisine. And music, of course. Peters curated the 700-tune playlist for the restaurant.

jukebox is the primary stock in trade here. It's one reason *Rolling Stone* magazine recently contracted with Beale Street Blues Company to curate a similar musical formula for its new live-music ventures, starting with cruise-ship entertainment.

While the autographed electric guitars behind Peters' desk speak to his love of music, a more biographical memento is a wooden plaque propped up on the floor next to them. It reads, "Did you get healed?"

Some might recognize it as the title of a Van Morrison tune. For Peters, it's a mission statement.

"The key to everything we do is feeling,"

Peters says. "When you come to our place, you may show up with some personal problems. You may be having a bad day. But after a few hours listening to the music, we want you to feel healed."

Van Morrison - Peters' favorite artist - also lends a song title to Moondance Grill.

When the Residences at Thornwood was being built in Germantown, GPAC's executive director Paul Chandler approached Peters about opening a restaurant in an available storefront just across the street.

"I know that Tommy is always the most successful when he's in an entertainment district," Chandler says. "He's so good at that. He knows music, and he knows food."

This year GPAC will premiere its new outdoor concert venue called The Grove, promising thousands more concertgoers every week. Chandler says pre-and-post show dining options are already in high demand around the center. Plus, a new Marriott Hotel is going up nearby.

"This was the classic 'location, location, location' situation," Chandler says. "But with Tommy, you have this extra level of quality because he's an active restaurateur. He's very hands-on."

In a way, Moondance is his most

personal project. Sure, the location promises a steady clientele. But it was also a chance for he and his wife of seven years to collaborate. They're equal partners in the business.

"He's very creative, ever the optimist," says Liz Peters. "I'm probably the more risk-averse."

Her husband elaborates: "Liz is smarter. Without her involvement, I would do more stupid stuff!"

Since the restaurant's September opening, the couple have been tweaking the menu and are already planning to add patio seating.

"Let me show you something," Peters says, opening an Excel spreadsheet on his computer and substituting his current receipts with his most pessimistic projections. Even bad numbers look good. "This is probably the most comfortable I've ever been with a concept."

After years in the competitive restaurant industry, Peters says he's proud of his company's recent growth. In some ways, he's almost reached a point when he can finally, in the words of an old friend, "let the good times roll." As long as the "thrill isn't gone!" ■

A Life of the Mind

Gene Dattel continues to explore the intersection of culture, economics, and history

BY JANE SCHNEIDER

Examine the desk of author **Gene Dattel '62**, and you'll find a dog-eared copy of *English Literature and Its Backgrounds*, a textbook that dates to the scholar's Upper School days and one that remains a touchstone in his life. The anthology contains works by great men and women of letters – Milton and Browning, Wordsworth and Swift – that Dattel frequently reads for inspiration as he pens his own thoughts on current affairs.

A cultural and economic historian who resides in New York City and Connecticut, Dattel has weighed in on the thorny issues of race and economics for *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times*, and *The New Criterion*. His latest book, *Reckoning with Race: America's Failure* (2017), is a sweeping historical examination of race and its impact on American society.

Following MUS, Dattel graduated Yale in 1966 with a history degree and went on to earn a law degree at Vanderbilt University Law School in 1969. He then dove headlong into the world of finance, joining the investment firm of Salomon Brothers where he enjoyed a 20-year career in financial capital markets as a managing director. His position took him to London, Hong Kong, and finally to Tokyo, where Dattel became intimately familiar with Japan's troubled economic systems.

"I was intellectually curious about Japan and was seeing the cultural impact on finance. The question was how to best fulfill that," he says. So Dattel left Salomon and after a brief tenure with Morgan Stanley, wrote about Japan's financial challenges in *The Sun That Never Rose*, published in 1994. That book successfully

launched the next chapter of his career, opening doors as an advisor to financial institutions and the Pentagon while writing and lecturing.

ROOTED IN THE SOUTH

Dattel's subject matter often reflects the inspiration he derives from his Southern roots. A son of the Delta, Gene Dattel was born in Greenwood, MS, and reared in nearby Ruleville. His Jewish family settled in the region in 1900, living and working as merchants and cotton farmers while steadily gaining prominence as town leaders. The Dattels were part of a larger group of Jewish families who flourished in the Delta during the early 20th century.

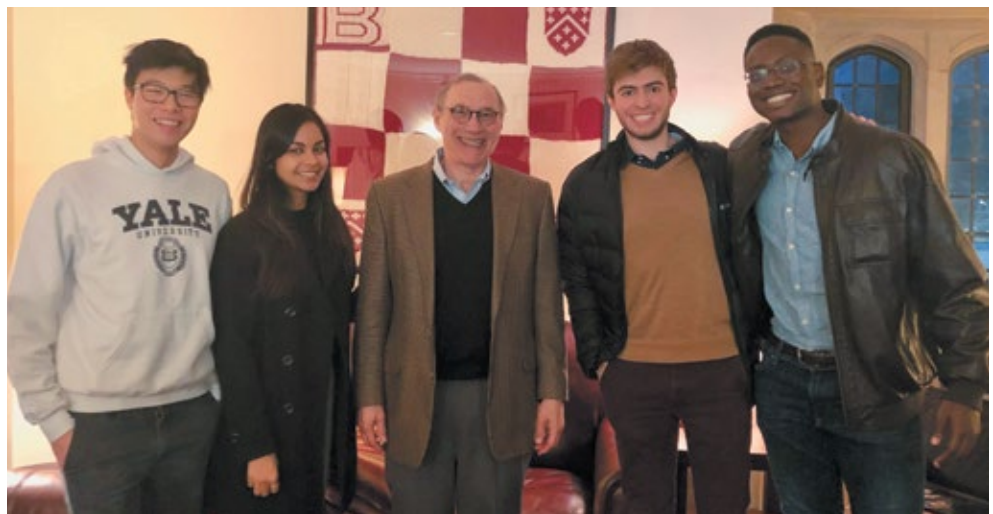
By the time Dattel was coming of age in the 1950s, the interconnectedness of small-town life provided an intriguing world that fostered his intellectual

curiosity. The dry-goods store owned by his parents exposed him to economics on a micro level. On Saturdays families would shop and Dattel would observe their habits as they made their way through the store.

"I became quickly aware of how poor people shopped and was privy to their wants and dreams. It's not difficult to develop sensitivity in that situation," he told writer Helen Watkins Norman for an MUS profile that appeared in 2001.

It also gave him insight into the larger economic factors that shaped the region. His second book, *Cotton and Race in the Making of America* (2009), describes the African-American experience with the powerful cotton industry and race in the North.

"Being in a farm community with cotton as an export crop, you gained an understanding of risk and international trade," Dattel says. "Growing up in the



As a Yale Berkeley College Associate Fellow, Dattel, center, appreciates the opportunity to hold what he terms "conversation" seminars with students.

business gave me an understanding of the complexities of the cotton market.”

Another pivotal experience was summer camp, spent in the northern woods of Wisconsin. For eight weeks over eight summers, Dattel was a camper and counselor at Camp Nebagamon, a rustic retreat 30 miles southeast of Duluth, MN. There he learned the value of living independently while building friendships with boys from different backgrounds than his own. As those friendships matured, he visited friends and their schools in Clayton, MO, (a suburb of St. Louis) and Cincinnati, OH, where he discovered the academic rigor he hungered for.

PURSUING SCHOLARSHIP

Dattel’s parents understood their son’s intellectual drive. “Dattels debate rather than hunt,” Gene says with a laugh. His parents and Gene realized he needed a more stimulating environment than the local public schools could provide. Since another Ruleville teen, **Gene Stansel ’60**, was attending MUS at the time, they decided to make application.

Once accepted, Dattel boarded with relatives Ann and Sidney Dattel in Memphis. His high school years brought him closer to the couple, particularly his cousin, a learned man who spoke six languages and had been a physics professor in Prague before becoming injured while serving in the U.S. army during World War II. The event left him a paraplegic. With vigor, he tutored young Gene, sharing his knowledge of physics.

Entering MUS as a second-semester junior, Dattel quickly fell into step with his classmates, starting that first day

of school flanked by students from his neighborhood, **Jody Brown ’61**, **Robert Ray ’61**, and **Stewart Austin ’62**. “There was no transition,” he notes with satisfaction, and those friendships sustained him.

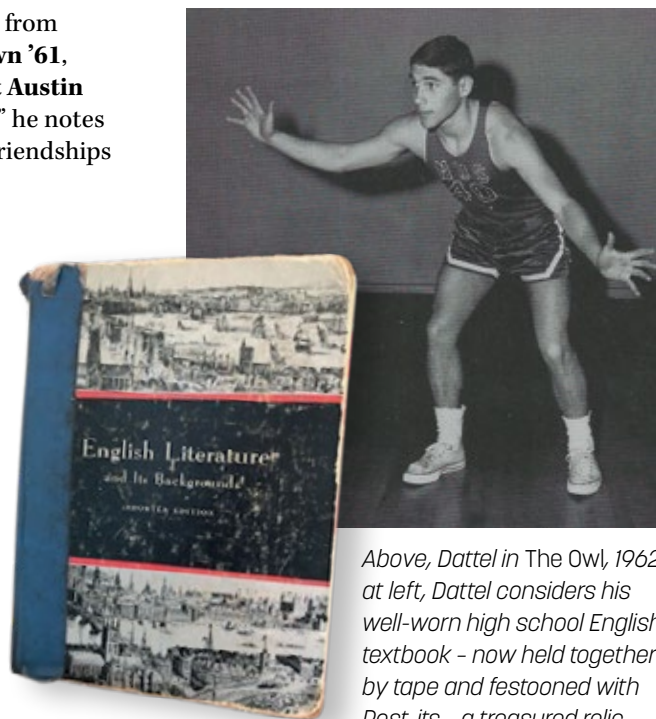
His time there proved intellectually inspiring, too. Most notable was English teacher **Bill Hatchett** who challenged him to think analytically. Fittingly, Dattel won the History Award his junior year and earned the school’s two highest English awards at graduation. Always, his parents were there to lend a guiding hand, even as he went on to Yale.

“In college, my father would take me around to his friends – politicians, business people, professors, and farmers – to get me accustomed to participating in those conversations,” remembers Dattel.

MENTORING THE NEXT GENERATION

Now the author has reached that time in life when he can do the same for others.

Dattel and his wife, Licia Hahn, the CEO of Licia Hahn and Co., a New York management advisory firm, enjoy mentoring Yale students by occasionally hosting intimate dinners for them. Both are Yale’s Berkeley College fellows and, as facilitators of the group, they enjoy engaging students in a range of subjects while discussing their intellectual interests, personal challenges and professional



Above, Dattel in The Owl, 1962; at left, Dattel considers his well-worn high school English textbook - now held together by tape and festooned with Post-its - a treasured relic from his days as an Owl: “I take it everywhere!”

pursuits. Some participants have become long-term mentees, drawing upon Dattel’s and Hahn’s experience for guidance and advice.

From Gene Dattel’s simple Southern upbringing has sprung a curiosity about the world that has taken him far. As for the future, “I may write a topical memoir with an emphasis on small-town life.”

A life that continues to be anything but small. ■

Jane Schneider is a freelance writer based in Memphis - janemschneider.com.



ITALIAN SOUL FOOD, MEMPHIS-STYLE

Restaurateur Miles Tamboli builds
something new from scratch

BY MARCI WOODMANSEE



Despite what you may presume upon hearing his last name, there was no quintessential, “Italian grandmother teaching me to make pasta” moment that led to the opening of Tamboli’s Pasta and Pizza, according to proprietor **Miles Tamboli ’07.**



Photos by Alan Howell



Tamboli's Pasta & Pizza. >
 1761 Madison. (901) 410-8866
 Hours: Tues.-Thurs. 5-10 p.m.;
 Fri.-Sat. 5-11 p.m. Lunch hours
 coming in February.



^
 Tamboli's twist on a
 popular Italian dessert:
 Tiramisu Truffles



^
 Tamboli can be found wherever he's
 needed on a busy night, whether front of
 house or in the kitchen. "I've worked pretty
 much every role in a restaurant," he says.

< Butternut squash gets fire-roasted
 in the pizza oven for a bisque.

There was, however, an eye-opening trip to Italy – specifically, the small coastal town of Marzocca, the Tamboli ancestral home – that would eventually land him back in his own kitchen, developing his pasta-making A-game.

Because real homemade pasta, as Tamboli discovered in Italy, is really, really good.

“I had never cooked pasta at home,” Tamboli says. “I prefer to eat minimally processed stuff, so I didn’t ever consider pasta part of my diet. The drying process we are accustomed to here has changed the nature of it. But in Italy, it’s a real ingredient in and of itself, and the sauce with pasta works together to create a filling, delicious, pleasant meal. And I just thought, this is something I’d love to eat at home.”

So when Tamboli returned from that family trip, he started reading every book he could find and studying YouTube videos to teach himself how to make pasta.

“I was compulsive about it – I wanted to get it right! – and at some point you’ve invested so much, it can’t be a hobby anymore,” he says with a laugh. “That’s why I started selling it.”

Truth be told, making what he calls Italy’s “soul food,” at least on a small scale, doesn’t have to be that difficult or expensive. “Ingredients are cheap – flour and water – and you don’t even need a rolling pin. You can use a wine bottle and a knife to make pasta.”

Tamboli’s aim in showing people what fresh pasta tastes like ties neatly into the philosophy that has driven his career path to date: feeding people well. There’s a natural trajectory from his earlier years traveling and working farming jobs, to his stints as youth farm manager at Girls Inc. and agri-STEM teacher at Bolton High School, to his newest venture. “The reason I spent so much time farming was to provide people access to good food. I approached my goal by providing an opportunity for young people to

engage in the process of growing food and to make money while doing it.”

Still, there’s a leap from growing your own food to opening your own restaurant. Tamboli describes the Memphis Farmers Market as the bridge that made that leap possible. Tamboli has kept a garden in the Binghampton neighborhood for some time, and he sold his produce at the market. But when he started making pasta and selling that as well, he found that his customer base grew dramatically.

“Not everyone knows what to do with fresh produce,” he explains. “But pasta – you take it home, you boil it three minutes, you add sauce, and it’s good. People are able to have a nice dinner date at home – a more food-centered experience with high-quality ingredients – and that’s really important to me. Not only that people eat good food, but that they have a good time.”

The successful response to his pasta led him to do some restaurant pop-up events that he really enjoyed. Then a permanent space became available that happened to be owned by his father and stepmother, Memphis artists Roy Tamboli and Carol Buchman. His father’s studio space was adjacent to the property, and so opening a restaurant of his own next door started to seem like the most obvious thing in the world.

“Having grown up right there, working in the shop with my dad, I’ve watched him wholeheartedly pursue the thing that makes him happy,” Tamboli says. “And success follows because he enjoys himself. So I think I got that idea from him. I had to [try] it!”

Getting the space ready proved challenging but fun. The 100-year-old building is the former site of Hattley’s Garage and more recently, Fuel Café. “It’s a weird shape,” Miles Tamboli says. “No straight lines!”

Because they cared about the investment and wanted to take the time to do it right, Tamboli and his dad

Miles Tamboli offers these simple recipes featuring some of his favorite ingredients – farm-fresh produce and pasta, pesto, mozzarella, and ricotta made at Tamboli’s Pasta and Pizza.

CAPRESE SALAD

- 1 ball Tamboli’s fresh mozzarella
- Small handful of fresh basil
- 1 large ripe heirloom tomato
- Good olive oil
- Salt (preferably flaky salt or Maldon salt)
- Freshly ground black pepper

Slice mozzarella and tomato 1/8- to 1/4-inch thick and lay across a plate, alternating layers. Sprinkle with salt and pepper to taste. Toss on some basil, and drizzle with olive oil.

RICOTTA CROSTINI

- 1 loaf good crusty bread
- Good olive oil
- Tamboli’s fresh ricotta
- Fresh pesto
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper

Slice bread into rounds and brush lightly with olive oil. Toast bread. Spread about 1 tablespoon of ricotta on each round. Top with a pea-sized amount of basil pesto and a light sprinkle of salt and pepper

LAZY LASAGNA

- Tamboli’s casarecce pasta
- Fresh mozzarella, shredded
- Marinara or bacon gravy
- Shaved Parmesan cheese
- Pinch of dried oregano

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Mix all the ingredients in a bowl, then pour into a cast-iron skillet or cooking dish. Cover and bake for 1 hour. Let sit at room temperature for about 10 minutes before serving.

did much of the renovation themselves. The light-filled space has been transformed and now features a bigger, more open area for seating – looking fresh and new but fitting perfectly among its Midtown neighbors. Sculptures and paintings by Tamboli's father adorn the walls, alongside artwork by Buchman. And on a recent night in December, the place was packed with customers enjoying good food and having a great time. Just like Tamboli had envisioned.

In addition to his father, stepmother, and other mentors such as local restaurateur Mac Edwards (“He’s been helping me out for years!”), Tamboli credits the staff he hired for the restaurant’s successful start.

“My sous chef built these chairs, and my bartender helped design the bar. It was amazing to see the place coming to life. And it’s a result of a whole bunch of people who have the same philosophy about feeding people well. It’s all a group effort. I feel very fortunate.”

The two-part menu at Tamboli’s has offerings that will stay virtually the same year-round (“short and sweet, like a greatest-hits menu”), plus a seasonal board that will change based on what fresh local produce is available. “I have a network of

some inexplicable reason, the restaurant venture ever falters, the former urban farmer has another idea in his back pocket. “You’ve heard of CrossFit?” he asks. “My million-dollar idea is FarmFit. When I lived in LA, I passed an exercise studio once

“YOU CAN USE A WINE BOTTLE AND A KNIFE TO MAKE PASTA.”

growers we’re working with. We’ll check in to see what they’re harvesting and excited about, what’s at its absolute peak, so we can design menu items based on that. That’s exciting for us, and food is better when it’s got that excitement behind it.”

Customers lining up for tables seem to have caught that excitement. But if for

where people were working out by stacking bales of hay,” he says with amusement. “I wanted to tell them, ‘You know, there are places you can get paid for doing that!’”

Judging by the enthusiastic response to his food, Tamboli can probably shelve that idea and keep making pasta. ■

Volunteer chef's apprentice >
Catalina de Armas and
Tamboli prep homemade
dough for the dinner rush.





HOME
COMING
2019

Homecoming Festivities

It's all about the U! We had a fantastic homecoming weekend in September with activities ranging from a kickoff dinner and gridiron action to the golf scramble, reunion parties, a memorial polo match, and much more. Lest you were worried, the Owls defeated Fairley, 45-0, and a great time was had by all.

We loved celebrating all our alumni, and we look forward to seeing you on campus again soon! Go, Owls!!!



1 Class of 2014 alumni, front row from left, Alec Carro, Renn Eason, Reed Harrison, Will Ansbro; back row, Salman Haque, Tucker Fox, and Hayden Combs **2** Jeff Engelberg '94 and son Charlie Engelberg '25 with Trent Benitone '94 **3** Class of 1974 alumni Jeff Upshaw, Frank Crawford, Dennis Rasche, and Cooper Sandusky **4** Fiftieth reunion honorees from the Class of 1969 had a special luncheon at school on Saturday during Homecoming weekend. Front row, from left, Angus McPhaul, Bruce Minkin, Trip Farnsworth; back rows, Paul McClure, William Fones, Dick Cowan, Bill Rachels, Phillip Crawford, Holmes Pettey, Barney Gordon, Scott Wellford, Joel Bailey, David Dow, and John Keesee

For more photos, see Alumni Album photo galleries on our website at musowls.org/photo-gallery or on our Alumni Facebook page at facebook.com/pg/MUS.Alumni/photos. Selected photos by Gerald Gallik Photography.



HOME
COMING
2019



1 Cal Edge '14 and Chris Galvin '14 2 Class of 2014 alumni Reed Harrison, Francis Carlota, Trey Moore, Tucker Fox, David Blankenship, and Malik Smith 3 John Rutledge '09, Thomas Ivy '09, Science Instructor Rosalyn Croce, and Robert Vestal '09 4 The Class of 1959 watched the action from a Stokes Stadium skybox; from left, Bryan Nearn, Bill Simmons, Ted Bailey, Frank Smith, Don Austin, Allen Malone, T.L. Stebbins, Landon Butler, and Howard Ellis 5 The Class of 1964 had a great time catching up in their stadium skybox. From left, Bill Quinlen, Tim Treadwell, Sandy Lynn, Van Spear, Greg Warren, Frank Tenent, and Dick Doughtie



HOME
COMING
2019



Roderic Lewis '21



1 Brothers John Monaghan '85 and Tim Monaghan '79 **2** Members of the 2009 State Championship football team were celebrated on the field during halftime. From left, Barry Hillyer, Taylor Reed, Joel Moss, Buddy Morrison, Michael Folk, Austin Smith, Kimbrough Taylor, Dylan Cunningham, Jack Steffner, David Tillman, Roy Fox, Cliff Jones, George Coors, and Rhobb Hunter **3** Class of 1994 alumni Kirby May, Cole Whitaker, and Pat Hickman **4** Tucker Dewey '79 and Jim Johnson '79



HOME
COMING
2019



1 A little friendly competition took place during Homecoming weekend at Dunavant-Wellford Tennis Center. From left, John Wepfer '74, Walker Sims '74, Austin Smith '09, Tom Preston '74, Mark Ruleman '74, and Alec Carro '14. **2** Alumni gathered for a new event to close out Homecoming weekend – a church service in Hyde Chapel that included a performance by Beg To Differ and a memorial recognition of alumni from the Class of 1974. Pictured from left are Chuck Day, Mack Ray, Jeff Upshaw, Mark Ruleman, Frank Crawford (who led the service), Ben Adams, and Dennis Rasche. **3** Fiftieth reunion honorees from the Class of 1969 enjoyed a reception in the recently renovated Wiener Hospitality Room. From left, Paul McClure '69; Chris Craft '69 and his wife, Susie; and Bill Rachels '69 **4** Alumni friends and family of Edward Atkinson '73 gathered at the Memphis Polo Club in Rossville, TN, for a polo tournament in his memory during Homecoming. Proceeds benefited MUS.



HOME
COMING
2019

Reunion Terrace Party Winners

The Development Office holds an annual competition among reunion-year classes as a challenge to increase participation. For Homecoming 2019, the classes ending in 4s and 9s, which represent over 800 alumni, were competing for those bragging rights in support of the school.

Class of 1989

Greatest Total Raised
for Annual Fund:

\$33,557

Class of 1999

Greatest Percentage
Increase in Participation:

375%

Greatest Percentage
Increase in Total Class Gift

147%



1 Paul Barcroft '89 with Sam Nickey '89 and his wife, Caydie **2** Class of 1999 alumni Lee Grimm, Mac McFarland, Chip Campbell, and Richard Burt **3** Class of 1999 alumni Ben James, Mason Cousins, and Wilson Baird



HOME
COMING
2019

Golf Scramble



Celebrating their 20th reunion, the Class of 1999 had a great showing for the golf scramble. Front row, from left, Robert Richards, Conley Patton, Josh Winters, Andrew Steffens; back row, David Willson, Wilson Baird, Ben James, David Forsythe, Richard Burt, Chip Campbell, Hunter Hasen, and William Gates



William Wunderlich '89, Matthew Crosby '89, and Ben Clanton '94



Mark Ruleman '74, Cooper Sandusky '74, Tommy Peters '73, and Angus McPhaul '69



HOME
COMING
2019



First-place Scramble winners, from left, Eric Beaty '01, John Summers '05, Michael Murphy '03, and Clay Chapman '03



Second place, from left, Courtnay Rudolph '77, Bo Briggs '74, Bob Bools '79, and Henry Caldwell '79



Individual winners: Longest drive, Alex Snyder '06;
Closest to the pin, Horace Carter '89 and Ben Clanton '94



Andy Wright '86 and Rob Preston '78



HOME
COMING
2019

Many thanks to our 2019 Golf Scramble Sponsors

Abbey's Restaurants

Adams Keegan

Armstrong Relocation

Champion Promotion

City Silo

Crosstown Brewery

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Financial Federal Bank

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LPI Memphis
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South of Beale

Staks Pancake Kitchen

Swanky's Taco Shop

The Crump Firm

Thrifty Building Supply

TOOF American Digital Printing



Class of 2009 foursome Will Carter, George Coors, Michael Folk, Jack Steffner



Scott Anderson '92, Alex Snyder '06, Sam Nickey '89, and Jason Fair '89

Still partying like it's 1999, below, classmates William Gates, David Forsythe, Ben James, and Richard Burt





HOME
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At left, Ted Bailey, Allen Malone, Henry Turley, and Bryan Nearn recreate a photo from the Senior Commons, as featured in *The Owl*, 1959, with Turley filling in for the late Fowler Cooper.



Reunion Year Parties!

Tall tales were recounted and many laughs shared as alumni classes ending in 4s and 9s gathered to reconnect at their special reunion parties.



"59

The Class of 1959 gathered at the home of Anne and Tommy Keesee to celebrate their 60th reunion.



HOME
COMING
2019



"64

Members of the Class of 1964 reconnected at Owen Brennan's.



"69

Alumni from the Class of 1969 held their 50th reunion party at the home of John Keesee.



"74

The Class of 1974 met at the home of Kathy and Ben Adams.



"79

The Class of 1979 gathered at the home of Michelle and Arthur Fulmer.



"84

Pete and Sam's welcomed the Class of 1984.



"89

The Class of 1989 met at Lofin Yard.



HOME
COMING
2019



"94

The Class of 1994 met at the home of Lala and Hunt Taylor.



"99

The Class of 1999 met at the home of Palmer and Richard Burt.



"04

The Class of 2004 reconnected at Loflin Yard.



"09

The Class of 2009 caught up at Railgarten.



"14

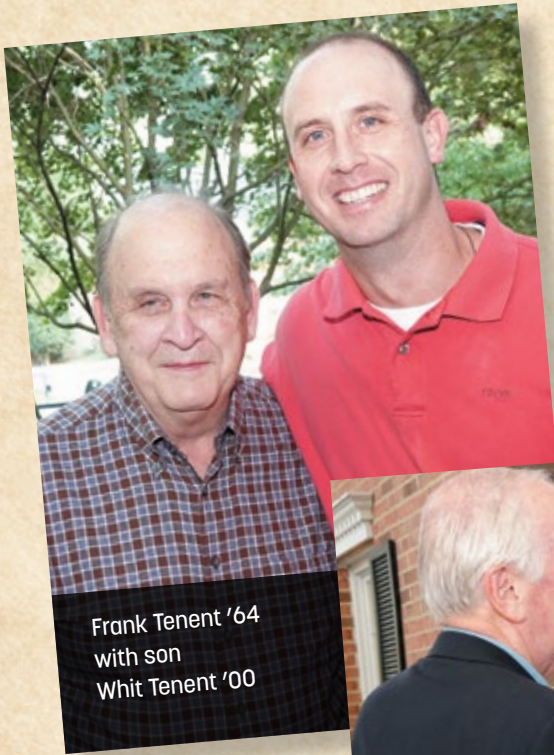
The Class of 2014 gathered for ribs and barbecue at the Rendezvous.



HOME
COMING
2019

Golden Owls Reception

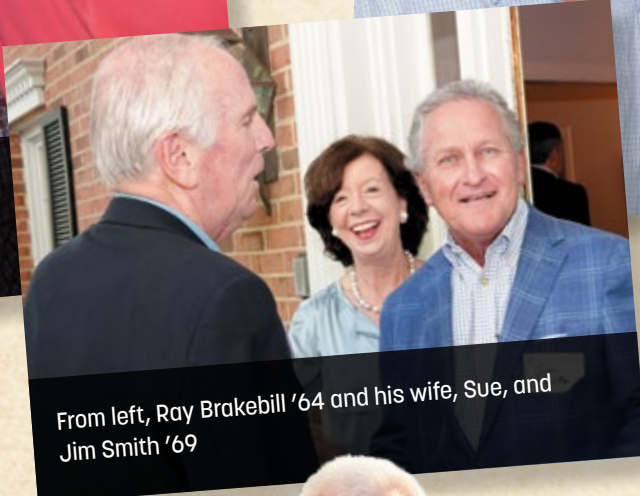
Alumni who graduated in 1969 or earlier were celebrated at a special reception hosted by Headmaster Pete Sanders and his wife, Tracey, at their home before the game.



Frank Tenent '64
with son
Whit Tenent '00



Sam Rembert '60 and his wife, Tonya



From left, Ray Brakebill '64 and his wife, Sue, and
Jim Smith '69

Below, Scott Wellford '69, Mary Ann
and Bruce Minkin '69, and Allyson and
Angus McPhaul '69





HOME
COMING
2019



Steve Keltner '65 and Fred Toma '65



Ray Gill '69 and his wife, Betha



Van Spear '64 and his wife, Julie, with Wende and Sandy Lynn '64



Met Crump '60 and Headmaster Pete Sanders



Frank Smith '59 and Don Austin '59



Wise Young Owls Earn National Merit Honors

Fifteen members of the Class of 2020 were honored this fall with recognition by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC).

Eight Owls were named National Merit Semifinalists, indicating they scored in the highest ranks on the PSAT, taken when they were juniors. Pictured above, from left, are **Gregory Guo, Reid Chandler, Parth Dahima, Rob McFadden, Churchill**

Akhigbe, Arjun Puri, Seth Richey, and Kyle Koester. They are among 305 Semifinalists in Tennessee and 16,000 Semifinalists across the nation, competing for some 7,600 National Merit Scholarships worth more than \$31 million that will be offered this spring.

Seven seniors were named National Merit Commended students, indicating excellent scores on the PSAT: **Ben Cramer, Jacob Curlin, Charlie Eason,**

John Henley, Jonathan Huang, Drew Rakers, and Jack Wellford.

According to Assistant Headmaster **Barry Ray**, the Semifinalist selection index for Tennessee this year was 219. "I can't recall it being any higher than this," he said.

Established in 1955, the NMSC conducts the annual scholarship program to honor the nation's scholastic champions and encourage the pursuit of academic excellence. ■

Fencers Qualify for Junior Olympics

In competition in Nashville this fall, five fencers – **Kyan Ramsay '23, Dex Jack '22, Akbar Latif '21, Samuel Lim '22, and Johnathan Ray '22** – qualified for the Junior Olympics, held in Columbus, OH, in February. ■



Photos by Grant Burke



Marcus Henderson '20 and Athletic Director Bobby Alston

Henderson Named Under Armour All-American

Senior offensive lineman **Marcus Henderson** was selected to participate in the 2020 Under Armour All-America High-School Football Game. Athletic Director and Football Head Coach **Bobby Alston** presented Henderson with his official jersey commemorating the honor in an all-school assembly in the fall.

A 4-star prospect as rated by ESPN, Henderson was ranked as the No. 160 player in the country in the ESPN Top-300 this fall, including as the No. 5 offensive guard and the No. 6 player in the state of Tennessee.

Henderson is a four-year letterman for the Owls and has started on the offensive line each of the past three seasons. This year, he also played extensive snaps on the defensive line and amassed 22 total tackles, including 6 tackles-for-loss for 19 yards, 2 sacks for a loss of 11 yards, 3 quarterback hurries, 1 forced fumble, and 1 safety.

Henderson said the honor was especially meaningful to him.

“Ever since I was a young kid, I wanted to play in the Under Armour All-America Game,” Henderson said. “So, it’s exciting living out my dreams and knowing that everything I worked so hard for is paying off.”

Henderson is the fourth Owl football player to be named an Under Armour All-American. **Gary Wunderlich '14**, **Drew Richmond '15**, and **Maurice Hampton '19** also received this honor. The Under Armour All-America game took place January 2 in Orlando, FL. ■



Get Your Owl Gear Here:
store.musowls.org





Four Alumni Honored by Executive Board

BY MARCI WOODMANSEE

Every year the Alumni Executive Board honors alumni for their outstanding service to the community and the school. This September at the board’s annual luncheon at the Crescent Club, President **Andy McArtor ’86** recognized former Lynn Society President **Johnny Crews ’84** as the Volunteer of the Year and Crosstown Concourse leaders **Brett Grinder ’91**, **Gil Uhlhorn ’93**, and **McLean Wilson ’96** as Alumni of the Year.

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

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

An active and involved member of MUS as a student, an alumnus, a parent, and a volunteer, **Johnny Crews ’84** has made a lasting difference in the community. During his school days, the four-year Owl football player was a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, the Civic Service Organization, the U-Club, and the Outdoors Club before graduating and heading off to the University of Mississippi to earn his B.B.A.

He received his MBA in finance from the University of Memphis and went on to become a vice president at National Bank of Commerce before eventually joining Burleigh Consulting Group, where he is a pension consultant and qualified pension administrator.

Describing Crews’ volunteer service to the school, Alumni Executive Board President **Andy McArtor ’86** said he had worn two hats – serving on the Executive Board and as Lynn Society President. Crews’ commitment and financial expertise in both areas proved invaluable. During his leadership of the Lynn Society – the donor society for gifts over \$5,000 to the school’s Annual Fund – the group reached a record-high 77 members with gifts totaling over \$1.1 million, the most raised by any Lynn Society president to date.



From left, Michelle and Johnny Crews ’84 attended the annual Alumni Awards luncheon with his parents, Kaki and John Crews, and their son Tripp Crews ’13.

Crews and his wife, Michelle, an English and music instructor at MUS since 2012, have two sons who graduated from the school, **Tripp Crews ’13** and **George Crews ’17**. At the awards ceremony, he cited his parents as role models and expressed admiration for the culture of giving instilled at MUS, recognizing his fellow alumni who have given of their time, talent, and treasure to initiatives such as

Memphis Gridiron Ministries, Service Over Self, and Streets Ministries.

“It has been great to see how MUS has made service a priority and emphasized giving back in so many ways, and to see how students, faculty, and alumni have responded to this call. It is great to be a part of MUS and even better to see how the spirit of giving back is alive and well at MUS today.” ■



ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR

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

While it is not uncommon for multiple alumni to play significant roles in a community initiative, this year three men stood out as particularly deserving of Alumnus of the Year honors due to their recent transformative work on one of the city's largest redevelopment projects – Crosstown Concourse. In different ways, each was involved in bringing the formerly shuttered Sears distribution center back to life, creating a vibrant new urban village that has become a community hub for the city.

“No doubt each of these alums would tell you that the Crosstown Concourse project was supported by countless people on top of their game, working together for a common goal,” said Alumni Executive Board President **Andy McArtor '86**. “Many of those people were, in fact, fellow MUS alumni. However today we recognize **Brett Grinder '91**, **Gil Uhlhorn '93**, and **McLean Wilson '96** for the leadership roles they played.”

Brett Grinder '91

At MUS, Brett Grinder was a National Merit Commended student and active participant in Youth Legislature and Model UN, while also writing for *The Owl's Hoot*. After high school he went on to attend the Georgia Institute of Technology, graduating cum laude with a bachelor's degree in civil engineering. He eventually returned home to join the family firm of Grinder, Taber & Grinder.

For the Crosstown undertaking, GTG filled the role of general contractor, responsible for executing the overall vision. Under Grinder's leadership, his team handled preliminary estimations, subcontractor management, and

construction. In an earlier story for *MUS Today* (Summer 2018), Grinder said this about the project: “It was a great vision ... Everyone had the singular focus and attitude of getting this project done for the community in the most efficient way possible.”

Calling the alumni award a humbling and surprising honor, Grinder said he was grateful to be recognized alongside Uhlhorn, with whom he had worked during Uhlhorn's tenure as president of the University Club; and Wilson, whom he had not met until taking the Crosstown contract. “McLean and I became pretty fast friends through this process and quickly built a trust between us.”

In considering the long list of past Alumnus of the Year awardees, Grinder realized that the last time the board honored a group of three was in 2002, when the honorees were **Pitt Hyde '61**, **Staley Cates '82**, and **Andy Cates '89**. “We are in pretty good company,” Grinder said with a smile.

Grinder expressed gratitude to his wife, Megan; to his in-laws, the Wellfords and Tabors; to his brother and business partner, **Justin Grinder '97**; and to his parents, Brenda and Fred Grinder. “The construction business was in a recession back in the '80s when we first got to MUS,” he said. “But my parents never wavered on their commitment to an MUS education and made all the financial sacrifices necessary to allow the wonderful experiences my brother and I had there.

“I am really grateful to each of you in this room, and grateful to be a small part of MUS's ongoing success.” ■

Gil Uhlhorn '93

As an attorney with Bass, Berry & Sims, Gil Uhlhorn was involved with the Crosstown project from the get-go, starting with the acquisition of the property. His background in real estate transactions provided the trusted insight needed for the financing piece of the project. His experience taking care of others as Commissioner of Student Welfare at MUS might also have come into play as he worked to problem-solve



Pictured at the Alumni Awards reception, from left, Justin Grinder '97, Alex Wellford '89, Karen and Alex Wellford '60, Megan and Brett Grinder '91, and Brenda and Fred Grinder



From left, Bob and Pam Van Doren, Worrick Uhlhorn '24, Kathy-Gale and Gil Uhlhorn '93, Garner Uhlhorn '22, and Grace and Gil Uhlhorn

throughout the long negotiations.

"I vividly remember sitting in my office on December 26, 2014, with McLean and reflecting on how neither one of us could imagine working again on a project with so many moving parts that had to come together just right. It was a multi-year journey!"

Uhlhorn recounted several near-catastrophes – including an intense meeting that required the help of a riled-up Mayor A C Wharton ("He slammed his hand on the table!" Uhlhorn said), and "Appraisal Gate" on Christmas Eve 2014, when a SunTrust credit executive in Atlanta almost derailed the closing ("Everyone involved was plotting his demise.").

There were also welcome funny moments, like during one of the weekly conference calls that included a whopping 70 participants. "One of the DC lawyers generally started with a roll call," Uhlhorn said. "After about the third call, when the lawyer said, 'Let's get started with our roll

call,' McLean nonchalantly responded, 'Roll-call, shaboom, sha sha shaboom.' There was complete silence on the call – all 70 people thought that McLean had truly broken up – the pressure had gotten to him. After a few awkward seconds, McLean piped back in, 'I guess only Gil and I get that!'"

With a project like Crosstown, Uhlhorn emphasized, a sense of humor and confidence amongst the entire team goes a long way. Collaborating with alumni who have the same shared background based on truth and honor helps as well. "When you work with fellow MUS alums, there is a baseline of trust and integrity that you rely on without a second thought," he said.

"Beyond classroom skills, MUS teaches the importance of integrity, the importance of community, and the value of giving back. That is the true education I know my boys [**Garner '22** and **Worrick '24**] are getting at MUS and the legacy that they will inherit and will be expected to continue." ■



Libby and McLean Wilson '96 with Wilson's mother, Norma

McLean Wilson '96

The leader of the development team to transform Crosstown Concourse into an urban village, McLean Wilson said he was grateful that the partnerships involved in Crosstown were all Memphis-based. He expressed appreciation for the dedication and commitment of Gil Uhlhorn and the Grinder family to serve Memphis well.

"If you take anyone out of the mix, it doesn't happen," he said. "It was really, one, that complicated and two, that intense and that necessary to have dedicated people and skilled people, focused, each and every day."

Wilson has been a team player since his MUS days, when he ran track and played football, serving as co-captain his senior year, in addition to participating in Student Council and the Civic Service Organization. He earned a bachelor's degree in commerce from the McIntire School of Commerce at the University of Virginia and went on to Dartmouth College to earn his MBA. Today he serves as CIO of the Kemmons Wilson Hospitality Partners and president of Valor Hospitality, and he



oversees Kemmons Wilson Companies' real estate activities.

"For Memphis, By Memphis," was a mantra throughout the project, and Wilson said project leaders were committed to having a high percent of women- and minority-owned businesses participate. "Hats off to the Grinder team – they broke our building up into eight different projects to make sure there were contracts of the size that could allow for minority and

women-owned businesses to participate. And Gil and his team – there's no way in the world anyone would've been able to figure out how to put all the pieces together if there [had not been] a lot of dedication, a lot of research, a lot of time and energy and effort."

The development group stayed focused on the future during the project, Wilson said. "Getting to the closing table is not success, even getting open is not success,

but there have been glimmers of success. Going into this project, we had a dream to create a community and an idea that would better the city that we live in."

Engendering hope was the underlying theme, he said. "We would love to do something that gives our city hope. And I think, through a lot of sheer will, we accomplished that, and hopefully we can push that forward." ■

To read more about Wilson's, Uhlhorn's, and Grinder's work on the project, read "Creating Crosstown" in the Summer 2018 issue of MUS Today: bit.ly/MUSTodayCrosstown.

Watch the video of the 2019 Alumni Awards luncheon at bit.ly/OwlAlumAwards.



Alumni Board Transitions

The following Alumni Executive Board members rotated off the board this year after serving their three-year terms: **Johnny Crews '84, Jason Fair '89, Walker Hays '84, Brig Klyce '66, Worth Morgan '05, Matt Saenger '98, Bo Summers '94, and Brandon Westbrook '92.** Alumni Executive Board President **Andy McArtor '86** commended them for the time, leadership, and support they gave MUS. He also welcomed 10 new members to the board in their place: **Scott Anderson '92, Albo Carruthers '78, George Coors '09, Rob Heard '76, K.C. Horne '92, Ben James '99, Trey Jordan '83, Jay McDonald '00, Jazz Singh '12, and Alex Snyder '06.** ■

Coming Soon!

March 15 - April 6, 2020

This event offers alumni opportunities to connect with their classmates, to contribute to MUS, and to compete for March Madness bragging rights against their peers from other classes. All proceeds will be applied as Annual Fund donations from each participant and will be listed in the Annual Report.

Visit musowls.org/buzzard-battle to join the fun!

FOR MORE INFO

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Bakke Enters Rhodes College Hall of Fame

For his accomplishments as the star point guard for a nationally ranked men's basketball team at Rhodes College (1979-81), Assistant Athletic Director **Matt Bakke** was honored in November with induction into the Rhodes College Athletics Hall of Fame.

Bakke led two of the best teams in men's basketball history at Rhodes, then known as Southwestern at Memphis. During the 1979-80 and 1980-81 seasons, the Lynx won the conference and played in the NCAA Tournament, achieving national rankings and climbing as high as seventh in the nation. Bakke led the team in assists and minutes played, while scoring eight points per game and guarding the best guards on opposing teams. According to Rhodes College Hall of Fame coach Herb Hilgeman, "Bakke was a competitor who could do it all – lead, pass, shoot, play defense, and make clutch plays. He was the coach on the court."

Bakke was inducted into the Rhodes Hall of Fame two years ago as a member of the 1980-81 men's basketball team. He was inducted into the Southwest Tennessee Community College Saluqis Hall of Fame in 2004 in recognition of his playing



Colleagues from the MUS Athletics Department joined Matt Bakke to celebrate at the Rhodes Athletics 2019 Hall of Fame luncheon. Back row, from left, David Willson '99, John Jarnagin, Bakke, Joe Tyler, Kyle Finney; front row, Bobby Alston, Mark Counce '77, and Mark Chubb

days there (1977-79) before joining the Southwestern squad.

Bakke eventually made coaching his profession, serving Rhodes as an assistant coach for eight years before going on to Millington Central and then to MUS, where

he has coached basketball, cross country, and track. He served 13 years as assistant coach under Head Coach **Jerry Peters** until Peters' retirement. As head coach from 2012 to 2019, he recorded 109 wins. ■



Celebrating The Voice of the Owls

Fans in Stokes Stadium on Oct. 25 paused at halftime to honor The Voice of the Owls, Stormin' **Norman Thompson**. Instructor in English Norman Thompson has been the Owls' play-by-play announcer since Coach **Jake Rudolph** drafted him in 1985 – never missing a single home game in 35 years. During halftime Thompson was surprised with a cake in the press box. After a tribute from the field by fellow English Instructor **Tim Greer**, fans turned around to salute Thompson, pictured at left, in the press box, where he was working the game with longtime spotter Coach **Bill Taylor** and statistician **Dax Torrey '94**. The Owls enjoyed a come-from-behind 21-13 victory that night over the White Station Spartans. ■



Hickman Assists Development Office



As a force to be reckoned with on the basketball court, **Steve Hickman '76** stood out as an excellent ball-handler and playmaker (see photo at left), shattering the school career-assist record set earlier by **Jimmy Ogle '70** by earning 361 assists in two years.

The former president and head of Collegiate School in Richmond, VA, Hickman is now assisting the Advancement team and making plays for MUS again, this time as a leadership gifts officer for the Development Office.

Hickman has a strong financial and fundraising background, serving as vice-president, corporate secretary, and director of strategic planning for the Nasdaq Stock Market and National Association of Securities Dealers for 15 years before beginning a career in education administration.

In addition to the educational leadership and innovation he provided for schools,

Hickman brought financial acumen. As assistant headmaster of Lakeview Academy in Gainesville, GA, from 1997-2000, he coordinated the completion of a \$6 million capital campaign, the largest in school history. He repeated the process as head of school for Heathwood Hall Episcopal School in Columbia, SC, from 2000-08, completing the school's largest capital campaign, \$11 million, and securing two \$1 million gifts. While he was head of school at Episcopal Collegiate School in Little Rock, AR, from 2008-14, the school's endowment increased by \$23 million. During his time there, the school raised approximately \$20 million to support capital and endowment initiatives.

Hickman holds an M.Ed. from Brenau University, an M.S. from Johns Hopkins University, a J.D. from George Mason University, and a B.S.S. from Loyola University. He will remain based in Richmond in this new part-time role. ■

Smythe Completes Citizens' Police Academy



Memphis University School Instructor in Religion **Clay Smythe '85**, pictured with Memphis Police Director Michael Rallings, is the most recent MUS graduate of the Citizens' Police Academy. (Director of Facilities **Willie Hollinger** completed the course in 2018.) Smythe

is one of 130 graduates of the nine-week course, which was launched in 1993 to give citizens a better understanding of police operations. ■

Fowlkes a Finalist in CFO of Year Awards



Director of Business Operations **Rankin Fowlkes** was a finalist in the large nonprofit category in the *Memphis Business Journal's* 10th Annual CFO of the Year awards. Fellow Owls, including Headmaster Emeritus **Ellis Haguewood**, Athletics Director **Bobby Alston**, and Assistant Headmaster **Barry Ray**, joined Fowlkes and his family members

at the Hilton Memphis in October for a special reception recognizing the honorees. ■



Fifteenth Faculty Portrait Honors Reginald Dalle

Faculty Emeritus and enthusiastic ambassador for *la culture française* Dr. **Reginald Dalle** became the 15th honoree last fall in the Faculty Portrait Series. Created in 2005 by the Alumni Executive Board, the series of portraits lining the Dining Hall honors faculty members who have given much of their lives in service to the school.

Dr. Dalle taught French at MUS for 30 years, from 1981-2011, but he left lifelong impressions on students and faculty alike. In addition to teaching all levels of the language, he coached junior varsity soccer, advised the French Club, and chaperoned trips to Latin tournaments, Model U.N., and Youth Legislature. He served as chairman of the Foreign Language Department from 1992-2009 and received the 1999 Distinguished Teaching Award. Along the way, he also founded and managed La Baguette bakery in Memphis.

Perhaps Dalle’s most enduring school legacy began in the summer of 1999, when he opened his family home in France’s Loire Valley for MUS in Europe – the program he helped found

with Ruth McCaughan Morrison Chair of Science and longtime Tennis Head Coach **Bill Taylor**. Chateau de la Giraudière served as home base for many unforgettable trips thereafter.

Alumni Executive Board President **Andy McArtor ’86** served as emcee for the portrait unveiling and reception in Dalle’s honor, which included tributes from former student **Preston Battle ’07** and from Taylor, who ended his remarks by asking well-wishers to stand up and parade around the room, a la Giraudière celebratory tradition.

Expressing gratitude for the MUS community and recognizing two faculty members he considered mentors, **John Springfield** and **Leigh MacQueen**, and his “two dear headmasters,” **Gene Thorn** and **Ellis Haguewood**, Dalle said: “For me, besides teaching French, my goal was to open all students’ eyes to the world beyond Shelby County and the USA. Today, what an opportunity is offered to the students to travel to MUS in Europe! I feel privileged to have been part of this program. Thank you for making me a part of the MUS legacy, and long live MUS!” ■

An excerpt of Preston Battle’s tribute to Reginald Dalle

A French Cultural Force

BY PRESTON BATTLE ’07

A well-known proverb by Marcel Proust is translated: “Let us be grateful for the people who give us joy; they are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom.”

I give these remarks to honor one of the most important “gardeners” in my life and the lives of generations of MUS alumni, Dr. **Reginald Dalle**.

As any parent or teacher knows, when it comes to young people, you can plant seeds, but “you won’t know just what you’ve sown until the seed is nearly grown.” The last part of that sentence comes from the musical *The Fantasticks*, in which **Flip Eikner ’77** – another of my gardeners – directed me during my senior

year at MUS. However, the principle also goes the other way: In growing up, you don’t know which people or experiences ... are going to shape you into the adult you will become. For me, four years of French class and a trip to France with Beg To Differ just so happened to be two of the most formative experiences in my life.

French was by far my favorite class at MUS because it was the only class in which I could run my mouth the entire time and it actually be a productive exercise. Dr. Dalle was the perfect combination of being an effective, animated educator and being completely and utterly silly at times. This was perhaps best reflected in the educational television series, *French in Action*, that

Dr. Dalle used to teach us French – a kind of surreal, absurd romantic comedy that followed the fictional relationship of Robert, an American exchange student, and Mireille, the crush of just about every MUS French student in those years. Dr. Dalle did a remarkable job immersing us in French language and culture: He had French culture magazines delivered to the school, he taught us about French society and government, and he introduced us to cult classics in French cinema, including my all-time favorite French film, *Le Dîner de cons*.

Of course, no day in French class was more highly anticipated than the day on which Dr. Dalle taught us *des gros mots*, or curse words, in French, which is an



Dr. Reginald Dalle, center, was joined by family and friends at MUS for the unveiling of a portrait in his honor. From left are Dalle's son, Dr. Eric Dalle '93, with wife, Anissa, and daughter, Leonie; Dalle and his wife, Teresa; and Dalle's daughter Emilie Wetick and husband, Stephen, with their daughters, Sophie and Claire. Dalle's portrait was created by artist Grace DeVito.

important lesson in learning about any language – especially *la langue française*. Perhaps Dr. Dalle understood that the most effective way to plant seeds in the minds of young men is never to refrain from injecting a moment of levity into any given situation.

I will never forget the “Freedom fries” movement, during which many Americans renamed French fries in response to the late Jacques Chirac’s famous opposition to the U.S. invasion of Iraq. Mr. **Bill Matthews**, a former MUS science instructor, screamed to everyone as he was leaving Upper School lunch in the Dining Hall: “AND REMEMBER KIDS, THEY’RE NOT FRENCH FRIES, THEY’RE FREEDOM FRIES!” Everyone froze, staring at Mr. Matthews, then slowly turned around to look at Dr. Dalle, who, without missing a beat, stood up from the faculty lunch table and gave Mr. Matthews the *bras d’honneur*, which of course made

the Dining Hall erupt in laughter.

The point is that Dr. Dalle’s impact on the lives of generations of students extends far beyond the French classroom tucked away in the sophomore hallway. One of his greatest gifts to the MUS community was *la Giraudière*. As everyone who stayed there can tell you, the first morning was both disorienting and magical. Everyone was lying sound asleep when *la Réveille* came blasting through our bedrooms. I remember running out to see who or what could be possibly making this much noise to find that it was Dr. Dalle at the bottom of the stairwell. Then he turned to his record player and put on Harry Belafonte’s song *Angelina*, which filled the house with energy and made everyone come down the stairs in a kind of trance ... to find him slicing baguettes for us and putting the last touches on breakfast ... which we ate in a room with French doors and shutters that

opened to the gorgeous, picturesque view of the countryside in the distance.

Many years later, after I had obtained my B.A. in French Language and Literature from the University of Tennessee and was working in the South of France as an elementary school English teacher, I attended Bruno Dalle’s funeral at the Père Lachaise Cemetery in Paris. On my way back to Nîmes on the TGV [high-speed train], with the rolling hills of the French countryside whizzing by me at 180 miles an hour, I meditated on just how grateful I was to have taken French at MUS, to have spent that summer in France with Beg To Differ, that Reginald Dalle has enriched my life by cultivating in me a love of seeing the world through another language and culture, and on the friendships I’ve made thanks to him. ■



An excerpt of Bill Taylor's tribute to Reginald Dalle

A Man with a Certain *Je Ne Sais Quoi*

BY BILL TAYLOR

Reginald Dalle is one of the great, legendary MUS teachers. When Reginald joined the faculty, some viewed him as a type of French knight, a Lancelot, because of his civility. Others saw Reginald as a James Bond figure, a man of mystery who had flown in from the Mediterranean. He was worldly. He carried himself differently. He could wear an ascot and get away with it. He seemed to have diplomatic immunity when he would unleash his signature blend of the French, English, and sign languages to emphatically drive home a point of contention with a student. And others would see the character Luke, from the movie *Cool Hand Luke*. All knew that Reginald was special, that he had a certain “something something,” a certain *je ne sais quoi*.

The reality is that Reginald Dalle was a hard-working, charismatic, and proud French immigrant who had earned a Ph.D. in French Literature here in the United States, and who would eventually teach at the University of Memphis, and then later, luckily for us, would land on the shores of Memphis University School and become one of the school's most respected and beloved teachers.

Reginald Dalle is part of a large interesting family from the north of France where his father was the mayor of a small town and owned a paper mill. Reginald had 12 siblings, and he was the seventh son. His brothers and sisters would become famous Parisian psychiatrists, inventors; one would become the president of L'Oreal in Canada. Another, Bruno, whom many of you know, became a journalist who interviewed the likes of Churchill, de Gaulle, and Nixon. Bruno would later become the director of the Tour de France bicycle race. More important, Bruno would team up with Reginald, and the two would serve as

quintessential hosts and guardians for the MUS in Europe family of students and faculty living and studying at la Giraudière in France's Loire Valley.

Of course, Reginald is known for his pivotal role in the MUS in Europe program which is in its 21st year. The program is designed to expose MUS students to European culture, give them the chance to earn academic credit, and allow interested faculty the opportunity to generate and develop creative courses that could be taught abroad. To date, 32 faculty members and more than 500 students have participated in the program while visiting 13 countries. This past summer **Eric Dalle**, Dr. Dalle the younger, led a group of 26 students to Germany and France to study the Origins of Cinema.

In 1999 Reginald Dalle opened the doors to la Giraudière, and with the strong support and encouragement of **Ellis Haguwood**, the seed for the MUS in Europe program was planted.

La Giraudière has a yellow kitchen with a large oak table in the center. The table is where every guest was made welcome. It was where strategy was discussed. It was where homeostasis could be re-established. **Trey Suddarth** believed that the *axis mundi* passed through the middle of the table because of all the activity revolving around it.

Reginald worked tirelessly to make the MUS in Europe experience the best. He would be the first one up in the morning preparing breakfast for 20-plus people. He would then stand at the bottom of the spiral staircase and blow his French horn to “call the hounds” to eat. Some version of this would occur for every meal on every day.

If a boy had a birthday while at la Giraudière, a spectacular-tasting cake would always appear, followed by a celebration with Reginald leading a conga line snaking its way through the barn

and out onto the grounds. Requests from the boys for guitars, bikes, soccer fields, basketballs, Frisbees, a badminton court, a beach volleyball court, a barbecue, along with requests from teachers for meals outside the barn, in the back of the barn under the grape vines, by the chapel, in front of the house, in the back of house, or by a bed of red poppies were all graciously accepted.

La Giraudière worked its way into the imagination of those who had stayed there as part of the MUS in Europe program.

The Genius of the Place, **Flip Eikner's** 2008 MUS in Europe course, explored the Roman idea that each physical place is the outward manifestation of some presiding spirit or guardian deity that inspires and animates. Reginald has been that spirit for la Giraudière. He has inspired and animated all of us, students, faculty, friends, and fellow inmates.

Reginald is the magic that made staying at the chateau a unique and memorable experience.

He is part of the MUS pantheon of talented and dedicated teachers who have made this school one of the special places, especially for boys.

Trey Suddarth said that Reginald Dalle was the “window to the world” for him and others.

I agree. Reginald is the one who suggested to me just how good a radish on a piece of French bread with sea salt and butter could be.

Reginald loves the circus, and one of the things that he wanted to do when he retired was to have the experience of traveling with a circus for a whole year. I told Reginald, if the circus idea falls through, he is always welcome to visit my Friday-afternoon, seventh-period Biology class.

Reginald is special. We are lucky to have had him as a teacher, or as a friend, or both. ■



Photo by Albn Howell



At right, former MUS Board Chairman Bob Loeb is pictured at the unveiling of his portrait with his wife, Mary, and stepdaughter Clementine. At left is Loeb's first cousin Marc Shea, who painted the portrait.

Portrait Honors Former Board Chairman Bob Loeb

Friends and family gathered to celebrate **Bob Loeb '73** as his Board of Trustees chair portrait was unveiled November 13 in the Wunderlich Lobby of the Sue H. Hyde Sports and Physical Education Center. He had requested this setting so guests could experience the renovated space, which pays tribute to his basketball coach, the late **Jerry Peters**, and great athletic teams and players through the years.

Established in 2006, the Chairman Portrait Series honors the school leaders who have created and sustained the tradition of excellence at MUS. Loeb's portrait, painted by his first cousin Marc Shea, now hangs in the Loeb Conference Room of the Campus

Center along with paintings of the seven preceding chairmen.

Loeb served as chair from 2008-13 and as a member of the board from 1999-2017. Headmaster **Pete Sanders**, Headmaster Emeritus **Ellis Haguewood**, and current Board Chair **Sam Graham '80** paid tribute to Loeb, highlighting his many contributions to MUS and the City of Memphis.

Graham, who succeeded Loeb as chair in 2013, said Loeb represented the characteristics of the Community Creed, pointing out the tenets emblazoned along the lobby ceiling – Truth and Honor, Service, Respect, Humility, Scholarship, Involvement, Accountability. “This is the yardstick by which students and alumni are measured.”



Loeb often takes a road less traveled, Graham said. “In the years ahead, when a student from the Class of 2073 walks by this portrait, I hope they see your adventuresome and service-oriented spirit.”

Illustrating the influence MUS has had on his life, Loeb described some early clashes with school rules. Through strong role models, including Col. **Ross Lynn**, Coach **Gene Thorn**, and Coach **Jerry Peters**, he said, “I learned to control my behavior. MUS taught me a lot about personal responsibility. As a freshman at SMU, I had a 4.0 – all because of MUS preparation.”

Loeb called his tenure as chairman of the board the honor of his civic service career. Turning to Haguewood, he said, “Ellis,

I really value our time together. When issues came up, you were always on top of it, and you would have a solution for it. You ran this school flawlessly. I worked with so many passionate trustees, it was a pleasure, and it made my job easy.”

He thanked Graham for succeeding him as chair. “I told you I thought there would be a transition under your tenure, and you handled that so amazingly well. Kudos to you, and congratulations on the coach following you up. **Jim [Burnett ’83]** is going to do a great job. Pete, thank you for what you’re doing now. And I want to thank everybody for being here tonight,” he said.

“What an honor! Go, Owls!” ■

An excerpt from Headmaster Emeritus Ellis Haguewood’s tribute to Bob Loeb

A Leader with Heart

BY ELLIS HAGUEWOOD

Forty-six years ago, in 1973, **Bob Loeb** was a senior here at MUS. It was the year of *American Graffiti*, *The Godfather*, Don McLean’s *American Pie* ... and a record-breaking 27-2 season for the Owl basketball team.

Using the legendary 1-3-1 zone defense, which the yearbook described as “coordinated as a machine but as adaptable as an organism,” the ’73 team compiled the most wins, most consecutive wins (24), and fewest losses in MUS basketball history up to that point, earning a district championship. Bob Loeb, No. 54 in your program, No. 1 in our hearts today, was named the Most Valuable Player of that district tournament.

Teammate **Jim Varner ’73** reminisced: “Bob was recruited out of the lunchtime basketball crowd by Coach Peters in the 10th grade. He had never been on an organized basketball team before suiting up for the B-team. Fast forward to his senior season ... MVP of a

very competitive district tourney. Pretty heady stuff!”

From lunch-bucket pickup basketball to the sports divider in the ’73 yearbook featuring a full-page picture of his short-range jump shot!

Cecil Humphreys ’73 wrote, “Bob and I first became friends in seventh grade at MUS. It didn’t take long to see that Bob was very smart, funny, and a good athlete. He also had more than a little of the iconoclast in him. In short, he had all the makings of a popular guy – someone you wanted to be friends with. Those same characteristics made Bob a natural leader.”

He chose SMU, majored in history, and would later return to earn an MBA there. Cecil, who roomed with Bob along with **Ed Atkinson ’73**, added, “In spite of the total freedom presented to freshmen in college, the lessons of MUS followed us. The first week of school, on a Monday night, dorm mates came to our room asking if we wanted to go out and get a beer. We got a few strange looks when we

responded that it was a school night, and we needed to study.”

When he returned to Memphis, Bob and brother **Lou Loeb ’71** developed a restaurant/bar concept, London Transport (Bob calls it a saloon), at the corner of Park Avenue and Loeb Street, and would later open a second in the Memphis State area. But his fourth-generation family business – originally comprising laundry, barbecue, and convenience stores, plus real estate enterprises – would call him, and he would answer.

As a child, one of nine born to Bill and Mimi Loeb, he had already worked as an unpaid employee marketing the Loeb businesses. Every Thursday after school, he and his eight siblings were photographed for page-2 advertisements in *The Commercial Appeal* and the *Memphis Press-Scimitar*.

As the years passed, Bob navigated the family business to its present iteration: investment, development, and management of commercial



real estate, including more than 100 properties, ranging from retail and office to industrial and multifamily. Most people in Memphis know Bob best now, I suppose, as the tenacious visionary behind the revitalization of Overton Square; MUS students appreciate him for bringing Park Place (across the street) back to life and securing a Five Guys franchise for them. For his transformational leadership in the city, he was named Memphian of the Year by *Memphis* magazine and inducted into the Society of Entrepreneurs.

Active in the community, he has served as a board member at Memphis College of Art, Playhouse on the Square, and Youth Villages, among other organizations. St. Mary's Episcopal School knows him as a board member and chair of the successful \$26 million "For Girls, For Life, For Generations" capital campaign, and PDS knows him as its 2015 Distinguished Alumnus of the Year.

At MUS we have known him as a wonderfully generous student, parent, and 18-year trustee. He was a significant member of the steering committees of both the Doors to New Opportunities Campaign and the Multi-Sports Stadium Campaign, the successful completions of which transformed the physical facilities of this campus. Bob was a founding member of the D. Eugene Thorn Society, its president from 1998-2000. He is a member of the Ross M. Lynn Society and the Crest and Cornerstone Society, and he was recognized as our Alumnus of the Year in 2014. And from my point of view, one of his most substantial contributions to MUS was introducing us in 2003 to **Willie Hollinger**, now our superb director of facilities.

We gather this evening, however, to honor him as the school's chairman of the Board of Trustees from 2008-2013, our eighth board chairman, following **Alex Wellford '30, Bobby Snowden, Roy Bell, Buddy Morrison, Kent Wunderlich '66, Ben Adams '74, and Trow Gillespie '65**. Under his leadership as chairman, the

board developed a strategic plan and reviewed and fine-tuned the school's Mission Statement and Philosophy. The Field House and the Thorn Field baseball grandstand were constructed. Always exceptionally generous whenever the school called on him for support of bricks and mortar, Bob has also been exceptionally generous to the school's academic program. In 2003 he established the Loeb Endowment for Academic Support, the income of which is used by the Academic Dean to develop and fund programs that provide academic support.

As headmaster during his years as chairman, I had the good pleasure of working with Bob and getting to know and appreciate him personally and professionally. I would describe his personality and management style as strength under control. He was always unpretentious and true, a man of unmitigated integrity. There was never any affectation, always the self-discipline of a man who knew who he was and who wanted the very best for MUS. He has many God-given gifts, and I saw them over the years.

I saw his gift of leadership: his ability to stand before people and call them with care and diligence to accomplish goals.

I saw his gift of administration: his ability to steer a group toward the achievement of goals by planning, organizing, and supervising.

I saw many times his gift of giving: his willingness to share the material resources he had with liberality and cheerfulness without thought of return.

I saw his gift of perseverance: In a *Memphis* magazine article in 2014, his brother Lou commented: "He worked on the acquisition and development of Overton Square for almost 15 years and went to countless public and private meetings to convince the community that we not only had the best intentions but that with their blessing, cooperation, and patience, we could deliver something they

would be very pleased with."

I saw his gift of encouragement: his ability to lift up, to console, to build up others. Cecil wrote, "Over the last 50 or so years, I have seen that underlying the still smart and still funny, popular guy is a loyal and caring friend. When my mom died a few years ago ... Bob called a few days later (it was a cold December day) and suggested we take a walk. Just to talk if I wanted. Or just to take a quiet walk with a friend. Interactions with friend Bob are often on the surface full of the sarcastic bantering that guys do. But I know that there is a loyal, caring heart underlying all that. And I remember that walk on a cold December day."

What he has done and what he continues to do for MUS springs from a genuine love for the school and a deep appreciation of his experience here. He understands that some of the better parts of his character were shaped and sharpened at 6191 Park Avenue in the classrooms and on the hardwood floor of the Todd-Snowden Gymnasium.

His predecessor as chairman of the Board of Trustees, Trow Gillespie, wrote, "Bob exemplified his passion in every endeavor he undertook. His extraordinary leadership qualities coupled with a savvy business acumen and strategic vision were cornerstones of his tenure. ... Bob's term as board chair elevated the school to new heights of achievement."

We owe Bob Loeb a great debt of gratitude for his leadership. His honesty, his ability, his commitment, his patience, his wisdom, and his humility – all these characteristics conspired to make him an effective and unselfish leader. His obvious affection for the school, his belief in the good, and his sense of personal responsibility inspired and encouraged all of us. Bob, we will always be grateful for you, and we will never forget what you mean to all of us who love MUS. ■



Retiring Trustee Carson Commended for Work

An extraordinary civic leader and contributor to the MUS community, **Suki S. Carson** stepped down last May after 11 years of service on the Board of Trustees.

Carson, a member of the Ross M. Lynn Society and Crest & Cornerstone Society, was chair of the Strategic Planning committee and a member of the Finance/Endowment and Headmaster Search committees during her tenure on the board. She holds a B.A. and MBA from the University of Virginia and is a graduate of Leadership Memphis, former board member of the Foundation for the Library, and former board member and past president of the Junior League of Memphis.

At Carson's final board meeting, Board Chairman **Sam Graham '80** commended her for her many contributions, most recently for the network of resources

from the East Coast to West Coast that she was able to share in her role on the Headmaster Search Committee. He noted that a defining and invaluable aspect of her tenure was her willingness to challenge conventional thinking.

"Suki has been a champion of our school's pursuit of best practices among independent schools nationally, and she always provided a voice of caution that we never rest on our laurels or coast due to previous successes," Graham said. "I thank Suki for challenging me and other trustees when she sensed we may have imbibed too deeply of the MUS Kool-Aid! She has been a wonderful source of trustee sobriety in that respect ... always advocating for what is best for our great school."

Carson and her husband, John, have four sons who attended MUS: **Johnny '09**, an associate with Sandler O'Neill + Partners in San Francisco; **Cale '11**, a



Board Chairman Sam Graham and Suki Carson

research associate with Exiger Diligence in Washington, DC; **Seth '13**, a marketing analyst with American Express in New York City; and **Jared '13**, a second lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps. ■



Jack Kerner, Photographer

2019-20 Board of Trustees: front row, from left, Jim Barton, '85, Margaret McLean, Chris Sanders, Steve Morrow '71 (treasurer), Mark Halperin '67, Trow Gillespie '65; second row, Earl Blankenship, Jim Burnett '83 (secretary), Phillip Wunderlich '90, Sam Graham '80 (chairman), Bill Dunavant '78, Johnny Moore; back row, Fred Schaeffer '88, Richard Moore '98, Will Thompson '95, Brett Grinder '91, Edward Dobbs '89, Joe Morrison '78, Bob Fockler '77, Rob Hussey '81. Not pictured: Glenn Crosby '77 (vice chairman), Andy Cates '89, Jeff Meskin, Billy Orgel '81, and Wiley Robinson '75



Jack Kenner, Photographer



McLean Joins Board of Trustees

Nonprofit and volunteer work has been part of **Margaret C. McLean's** life for years. As the newest member of the Board of Trustees, she adds MUS to a list of board appointments that includes Metropolitan Inter-Faith Association (MIFA), New Ballet Ensemble, Grace-St. Luke's Episcopal School, and the Memphis Library Foundation.

A Memphis native and St. Mary's Episcopal School alumna, McLean graduated from the University of Virginia with a degree in finance. After a career in investment banking and venture capital, she chose to devote her time to her community and the City of Memphis. Community service is in her blood: She grew up serving several organizations, including delivering meals for MIFA with her parents, Margaret and Bill Craddock, and sisters, Maysey and Louisa. She continues to volunteer regularly for MIFA, which her mother led as executive director from 1997-2010.

Today, along with MIFA, McLean's volunteer rounds include service with Grizzlies Prep Academy, Calvary Episcopal Church, the Episcopal Diocese of West Tennessee, and Room in the Inn. She is a past board member for the Overton Park Conservancy, the Riverfront Development Corporation, and Girls, Inc.

She and her husband, Alec, a vice president at NewSouth Capital Management, have four children: **Duncan '20**, Meriwether (11th grade at St. Mary's), Virginia (seventh grade at Grace-St. Luke's), and Campbell (fourth grade at Grace-St. Luke's).

McLean has instilled a belief in the power of community service in her children, especially her eldest. Elected co-president of the MUS Civic Service Organization last spring, Duncan has logged more than 600 hours of volunteer work since joining MUS in ninth grade.

Giving back to the community is a family tradition. ■



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.



Extra! Extra! CLASS NEWS

'61

On his blog **John Bell** tells an old story about a close call and a crazy landing: bit.ly/FlyingJohnBell

'62

From **Jerry Bradfield**: Special thanks to **Pete Shearon** for continuing to volunteer for the

Phonathon each year, especially since he is still working full-time and is supporting his youngest daughter in Tulane Law School. Elizabeth hopes to land a job with the Shelby County Public Defender. His other daughter, Laura, just ascended the bench for a state criminal court judgeship in Miami. However, his biggest impediment to helping this year was a recent knee injury that has severely limited his mobility.

He is sidelined from his favorite pastime – running!

We split the calling, and he got the classmates we haven't been able to reach for several years. I took the ones who participate and usually supply Class News, which is an ongoing challenge in this era of dropped landlines and cell numbers known only to robo-callers!

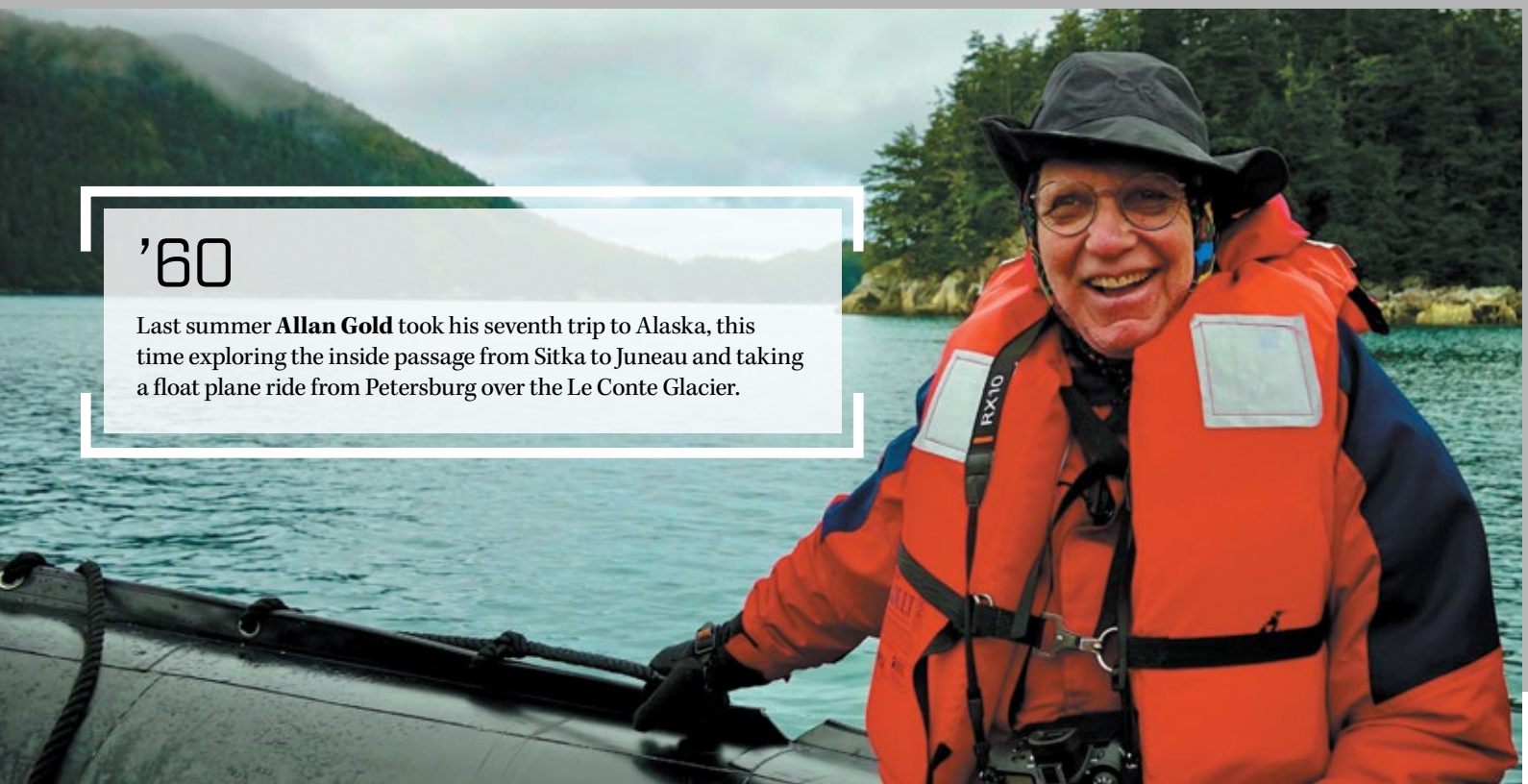
Pete did reach **Philip Crump**, who is planning a trip to Japan

to join his architect wife, Beverley. He will also visit with his grandsons, age 2 and 5, in Los Angeles, where his stepdaughter and her husband recently moved.

I had a lengthy call with **Cole Wilder**, who still sees many of you. I'm convinced that the key to keeping in touch with everyone is mutual friends. Cole mentioned he used to visit **John Fry** when he operated a studio

'60

Last summer **Allan Gold** took his seventh trip to Alaska, this time exploring the inside passage from Sitka to Juneau and taking a float plane ride from Petersburg over the Le Conte Glacier.



out of his garage on Grandview. Cole said John produced the first album by the “Ole Miss Down Beats” with the song, “The Hucklebuck.” Does anyone else remember that era? If so, we’d like to hear from you.

Cole sees many class members, including **Newt Metcalf** and **Sam Gary** (and of course, **Barney Witherington**, up until his death last summer). He used to hang out at the P&H Cafe on Madison. His sister is married to Hal Boyd who grew up across the street from Barney on Belvedere. Cole was on a team for 20+ years at the Memphis in May Barbecue Cooking Contest and also attends the Italian Festival. He often sees **Stewart Austin**, who lives two doors down from a very good friend of his. He mentioned how several classmates used to go dove hunting on **Scott May’s ’61** farm near West Memphis. A follow-up call to Scott revealed mutual farming interests in Arkansas. In the future, I will need to ask him the secret of getting 100 percent class participation over the years!

It is always a pleasure to visit with **Jim Garner**, who is so supportive of all things related to MUS. He still works part-time with his business, Garner Financial in Dallas.

Another successful call found **Russell Patterson** in town. He has purchased a condo near Sandestin where he and Sandy go several times a year, and he still occasionally rides his motorcycle on out-of-town adventures.

Tom Shipmon has a son and daughter and now five grandchildren, all of whom live in the Memphis area. He continues to visit Peru – as he has for 30 years – to treat the indigenous people in remote villages where the only access is by float plane or boat! He gave a fascinating account of helping others desperately in need of basic medical and dental services. Primitive huts serve as infirmaries where utensils are sterilized in Clorox and river water! This has led his team to start working on providing water purification in many of these areas. He said **Johnny Dobbs** and Calvin Ozier used to accompany him on these trips to assist. Kathy and I occasionally see Calvin’s sister, Patty Ozier Riffle and her husband, a judge in Pocahontas, AR. She was in the St. Mary’s Class of ’63 with Canon Thomas, wife of **Jamie Hall**, who has hosted several of our MUS and Rhodes reunions over the years.

If any of you have not shared your cell numbers or updated addresses, please do that with the Development Office (901) 260-1358 so we will not lose contact with you.

Fred Smith was named to the inaugural class of the Memphis Sports Hall of Fame.

'67

McClain Gordon is raising capital with Global Capital Group and is the chairman of the Wharton MBA Crandall Challenge.

Mark Halperin was recently named by the *Memphis Business Journal* to its Power 100 list.

'68

Dan Fisher has been honored by the Erlanger Health System Foundation as a Distinguished Physician for 2020.

In July **Bruce Hopkins** was featured on the cover of the *Memphis Business Journal*, which published a feature on his nearly 34-year career with First Tennessee. Hopkins retired July 12.

'69

Webster McDonald finished the Leadville Trail 100 bike race at the age of 68. WOW! An old man in a young man’s event – lots of hills and mountains.

'70



Mac Cone, second from right, and his teammates were inducted into the Jump Canada Hall of Fame in November for winning the 2008 Olympic silver medal in team show jumping.

Hunter Humphreys received a 2019 Pillar of Excellence Award from the University of Memphis

Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law.

Joe Lovejoy retired from FedEx after 36 years, sold the farm, and moved to the golf course in Savannah Lakes Village, McCormick, SC.

'71

Philip Gould was named chairman of the board of the Orpheum Theatre Group.

John Trezevant has eight grandchildren – two girls and six boys. He suggests MUS add classrooms and Hutchison add fencing, barricades, and locks for the next Trezevant invasion.

'73

Wise Jones’ last child is a freshman at Clemson. Wise is enjoying life with two grandchildren and two more on the way.

Bob Lafferty and his wife, Vicki, have six grandchildren between the ages of 4 months and 12, but none are in Memphis.

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



California Stars

The Alumni Office took the show on the road in October to hold two parties for Owls on the West Coast. Headmaster Pete Sanders and his wife, Tracey, welcomed alumni to parties in both West Hollywood and San Francisco. Science Instructor and Tennis Head Coach Bill Taylor was the celebrity guest. California hosts were Will Newbern '72, Robert Davis '82, Bo Hyde '92, Harrison Ford '01, John Marcom '75, John Kremer '83, David Sacks '90, and Sam Sawyer '05.



1 John Marcom '75, Arif Hasyim, Rachel Smith, and Ben Waller '07 **2** Johnny Carson '09, Bill Taylor, and Ross Warner '12 **3** From left, Bill Townsend '78, Temple Brown '81, Jamey Howdeshell '83, Headmaster Pete Sanders, and Michael Eason-Garcia '03 **4** Ryan Foley '07 and Jim Burnett '83 **5** Blake Cowan '07, Chris Mullins '07, West Askew '07, and Sam Sawyer '05 **6** Amy Felsenthal, Chrissie Kremer, John Kremer '83, and Marty Felsenthal '87 **7** Philip Kirsch '98 and his wife, Ali



Buck Lewis of Baker Donelson, pictured here with American Bar Association President Bob Carlson, was recognized by the ABA with a Presidential Citation.

Tommy Peters opened a new restaurant, Moondance, in Germantown's Thornwood development. (See story page 6.)

'74

Chuck Day is still singing in the Chancel Choir at Decatur First UMC in Georgia. Trade

shows have taken him to some odd places, but **Dolph Belton** has him beaten by visiting the Arctic region, the Azores, and the Andes! Day continues to "live the food service dream" – he recently equipped UGA's Sanford Stadium and will complete its Stegeman Coliseum this year.

'75

Dave Malone is back in Memphis to spend time with his mom and enjoy his new granddaughter. After being in South Dakota, he was glad to put that weather behind him.

'76

From **Cage Carruthers**: After graduating in 1980 and being commissioned an ensign, I spent the '80s as a naval officer. I had



Alumni from the Class of 1976 got together at Pete & Sam's over Thanksgiving week. From left, **Bob Halle, Bob Ruch, Hugh Holt, Steve Barton, Mark Mitchell, John Peebles, Nap Overton, and Billy Fisher.**

seven years active duty with two seven-month deployments – one in the Nimitz and one in the Enterprise carrier battle groups, then three years at the Naval Air Technical Training Center, and two years in the Naval Air

Reserves. For the past four years I've been back in uniform with the "reserves for teenagers" – the U.S. Sea Cadet Corps – as an instructor and operations officer.



'74

Mark Ruleman, Snowden Todd '70, and Leon Bell '73 enjoyed a very successful quail hunt in south Texas in October.



Rollin Riggs '78 has started a new entertainment services company. He is providing entertainment to private clients, festivals, and organizations like Graceland and the Grizzlies. He is also managing acts, including the Justus Brothers, the Beale Street Flippers, and the 901 Heavy Hitters. (Visit RiggsTalent.com for information.) Riggs' son **Dylan '17** is now a junior at Mizzou and president of his fraternity, while **Caleb '19** is a freshman at Case Western Reserve University and is surviving his first winter in Cleveland. In other news, Riggs made a small guest appearance on an episode of the new made-in-Memphis series, *Bluff City Law*, playing Judge Bertram Phelan (see photo above). "The whole experience was terrific! Watch the show on Monday nights on NBC; it's a great portrayal of modern Memphis."



Steve Hickman, former president and head of school at Collegiate School in Richmond, VA, from 2014-19, joined the MUS Advancement team in November as leadership gifts officer. (See announcement page 41.) He visited campus last summer to speak at faculty in-service; pictured from left, **Sam Graham '80**, **Pete Sanders**, Hickman, and **Glenn Crosby '77**.

'80

Buckman Labs named **Jonathan Scharff** its first chief administrative officer. He assumes new duties in addition to his role as general counsel for the company.

'81

Mark Frazier celebrated the launch of a new book in October: *The Power of Place: Contentious Politics in Twentieth-Century Shanghai and Bombay*. Frazier is a professor of politics at The New School in New York and co-director of its India China Institute.



Jeff Harris traveled to New York City for Fall Break and had a chance to catch up with **Parker Phillips '85** at the famed Sparks Steak House.

Billy Orgel is in the 2019-20 class of Leadership Tennessee, a group that collaborates and engages in nonpartisan dialogue on issues of importance throughout the state.



A photo from the archives of **Boyd Wade**: Early '80s guys during MUS years; back row, from left, **Jay Good '80**, **Gibby Gibson '82**, **Trip Monger '81**, **Jim Crews '81**, **Allen Hughes '81**, **Thad Carlile '81**, **Rick Ferguson '65** (faculty member from 1974-79); middle row, Wade, **Mark Frazier '81**; front right, **Rob Hussey '81**. "This is either the Gila Wilderness in New Mexico or Magazine Mountain in Arkansas. Rick would line these types of trips up once a year to really cool places. He was a big outdoorsman and fun to hang out with."



Wise Owls: Great legal minds making a difference at Burch, Porter & Johnson: front row, from left, **Ryan Saharovich '10, Nathan Bicks '74, William Payne '07, Josh Lawhead '91**; back, **Mac McCarroll '83, Scott Crosby '82, and Porter Feild '83**. McCarroll said, "Josh called this shot 'Owls on the Stoop.'"

'83

Wyatt Isbell has taken a new position as business development manager for 850 Enterprises Inc.

Trey Jordan has opened a second location of his popular restaurant, Pimentos Kitchen + Market, in Collierville.



Owl Power: Eleven alumni made the Memphis Business Journal's inaugural Power 100 list this summer: **Chance Carlisle '01, Andy Cates '89, Staley Cates '82, Mark Halperin '67, Bruce Hopkins '68, Pitt Hyde '61, Bob Loeb '73, Tom Marshall '77, Billy Orgel '81, Fred Smith '62, and Henry Turley '59**.

'84

Troy Benitone is the executive director of the Hands of Hope Foundation and the directing pastor and elder of Community of Faith Church in Marion, IL (hohfoundation.org and cofchurch.org). He also serves in the Southern Illinois Fellowship of Christian Athletes and the Herrin House of Hope in Herrin, IL.

Johnny Crews was named Volunteer of the Year at the annual Alumni Awards luncheon (see story page 36).



Edward Felsenthal, editor-in-chief and CEO of Time, appeared on MSNBC in December to announce Swedish climate crisis

activist Greta Thunberg as the magazine's 2019 Person of the Year. bit.ly/Felsenthal-MSNBC

Cliff Winnig has a story in a recently released anthology of weird Wild West tales, titled *Straight Outta Deadwood*.

'85

Instructor in Religion **Clay Smythe** graduated from the 2019 Citizens' Police Academy.

Moore Tech Board of Trustees members **Dede Malmo** and **Clay Smythe** celebrated the opening of the vocational college's new automotive tech training facility in September.

'86

Cliff Goldmacher wasn't ever going to attend the Grammys unless he had a compelling reason. Now he does. Goldmacher is a composer lyricist on Keb' Mo's Grammy-nominated album *Oklahoma*.

'87

The October 20, 2019, tornado in Dallas went directly over **Chris Joe's** house, interrupting what would have otherwise been a great night to watch the Cowboys beat the Giants: "Huge trees snapped like toothpicks. Fortunately, no one was seriously injured."

Keith Woodbury recently moved from Atlanta to Sarasota, FL – his family loves living the coastal life on Siesta Key: "Kids had been doing junior sailing racing on Lake Lanier outside Atlanta for a few years, and they were enjoying it so much, we decided it was time for a long-dreamed-about life change of living on the water. They can now sail and race year-round with Sarasota Youth Sailing. They're in fifth, sixth, and eighth grades. Catherine is teaching at the middle school where the girls are, so that makes life a bit easier. I'm still CTO/co-founder of SurePay Financial Services



A bunch of music-loving Owls were spotted at the third annual MemphisFest in October: from left, **Hays Hutton '88, Robert Sharp '88, Alex Wellford '89, Steve Sands '88, Albert Alexander '84, Bailey Wiener '88, and Wren Greene '88**. **Diego Winegardner '87** founded MemphisFest in 2017.



Class Reps Kick Off New Year

Homecoming 2019 wrapped up at the end of September, and on October 1 your class representatives gathered to begin plans for Homecoming 2020 and another year of fundraising. Be on the lookout for our first-ever March Madness Brackets!



Class rep meeting attendees included, front row from left, Mel Payne '80, Bryan Jones '80, Bill Quinlen '64, Gib Wilson '76; back row, Justin Grinder '97 and Trey Jones '97.

Church Health Founder Speaks to Emerging Leaders

Dr. Scott Morris, founder and CEO of Church Health, spoke to the Emerging Leaders group in November about the organization's efforts to help the working poor, the move to Crosstown Concourse in 2017, and the need for more volunteer doctors.



From left, Reid Wesson '06, Edward Francis '12, Preston Roberts '15, Will Carter '09, Will Carruthers '10, Michael Brennan '09, Janie Lowery, Dr. Scott Morris, Connell Hall '08, Carl Krausnick '09, Austin Smith '09, Jazz Singh '12, and Andrew Miller '13

in charge of the technology end for our payment disbursement software suite that helps companies make payments.”

'88

Franklin Adams continues his career at NPR; his daughter recently met Taylor Swift at an NPR function.

Frank Colvett was re-elected to the Memphis City Council.

Musician **Marc Gurley** opened a third School of Rock location in the Memphis area this fall.

Libby and **Gary Wunderlich** welcomed a beautiful baby girl, Bonnie, earlier this year. Gary is looking forward to the free meal Bonnie's sorority will give him for being the oldest dad.

'89

The Orpheum Theatre Group named **Jim Gilliland** to its board of directors.

Roc Johnson is director of digital services with inferno in Memphis.

Class of 1989 alumni who have boys at MUS: **Horace Carter (Gus '20)**, **Peter Monaghan (Tom '20)**, **Kyle Smith (Edward '20)**, **Andy Cates (Stephen '21)**, **Jason Fair (Judson '21)**, **Hunter '25)**, **Sam Nickey (Henry '21, Brown '23)**, **Ceylon Blackwell (Jack '23)**, **Miles Fortas (Jack '23)**, **Paul Barcroft (Mac '24)**, **Tommy Byrnes (Thomas '25)**, and **Jim Gilliland (Evan '25)**. This post sponsored by *The Daily Memphian* at dailymemphian.com, thanks to Andy Cates.

Alex Wellford works at RKA, a Memphis-based custom home builder.

'90

CBS Sports veteran producer **Sellers Shy** will succeed long-time producer Lance Barrow as the network's lead golf producer at the end of the 2020 season.



Richard Vining opened the Edge Motor Museum in Memphis. He's pictured above, center, with **Alexander Goodwin '18** and **Sonny Charbonnet '19** who interned at the museum over the summer.

'91

Trey Block is now serving as chief financial officer at OrbiMed.

Darrell Cobbins is chapter president for the 30-year-old Memphis chapter of 100 Black Men of Memphis. In other news, **Ellis Haddad** has replaced Cobbins as class representative. Thanks for your service to the Class of 1991, Darrell!

Brett Grinder was named Alumnus of the Year for his work on the Crosstown Concourse project. (See story page 37.)

When not making commercial real estate deals in Nashville, **Whit McCrary** is leading the Fort Campbell Patriot Foundation helping our military and their families who have experienced injury or loss.

'92

Alan Florendo appeared on *Jeopardy!* in February and finished in second place.

Frank White has been promoted to senior counsel at Proskauer Rose as a member of the private investment funds group. Other than that, he still has not appeared on *Jeopardy!*, and his art collection sucks.

'93

Jon-Paul Hickey has a new job as market executive for Fifth Third Bank; he will lead the commercial banking efforts in Memphis.



Kenneth Koley and **Malcolm Saxon** remind us all that getting old, while better than the alternative, is never pretty.

Thomas Quinlen is now serving as senior counsel at FedEx Logistics.

Gil Uhlhorn was named Alumnus of the Year for his work

on the Crosstown Concourse project. (See story page 37.)

'94

John Houseal is in the process of donating a taxidermy great horned owl to MUS. After completing significant paperwork at the state and federal levels, the owl will be prepared and presented to the school to add to its mascot collection.



In July **Willie Mays** and family (seen here with the trophy snook) set a new Clearwater, FL, record for most money spent on a fishing trip / pounds of fish caught – a ratio certified by the Florida Dept. of Game and Fisheries.

Paul Novarese is now employed with Sysdig.



MUS English Instructor **Spencer Reese**, pictured here with G.K. Chesterton Society President Dale Ahlquist, attended the 38th annual American Chesterton

Conference in Kansas City last summer and gave a paper on “Chesterton, Thursday, and the Sacrament of Marriage.”

Hunt Taylor is an account executive with Mathis, Tibbets & Massey. When he’s not selling insurance, he coaches Lower School baseball at MUS.

'96

Jon Daly is a partner with the Houston law firm Sidley Austin. His principal area of practice is corporate and securities law with an emphasis on mergers and acquisitions.

Wilson Moore has been promoted to managing director, investments at Raymond James.

McLean Wilson was named Alumnus of the Year for his work on the Crosstown Concourse project. (See story page 37.)

'97



Where to begin? After spending much of his career as a teacher and school administrator (most recently as director of upper school at The Stony Brook School in New York), **Richard Cowan** returned to Nashville this summer with his wife, Katie, and three daughters (Jane, Ousey, and Charlotte) to begin his

career as a professional counselor working primarily with couples, men, and boys. Highlights from the past decade or two include completing a handful of home renovations; earning two master’s degrees (theology and counseling); raising backyard chickens; constructing a woodworking shop; successfully brewing a triple batch (about 60 gallons) of a 90-minute IPA; starting to teach his girls to camp, canoe, fish, and shoot; taking on the adventure of relocating his family to New York (and back); and building meaningful friendships with his neighbors and church community. He currently works with Come Alive Counseling, is the incoming board chair for the Nashville Psychotherapy Institute, and is happy to be settled back into his community in Crieve Hall.

Classmates **Trey Jones, Matt Stemmler, Jason Wheat, John Scruggs**, and **Will McDonald** were all part of an 11-man team that competed against 400 other 12-person teams on the 200+ mile Ragnar Bourbon Chase relay race through the rolling hills of Kentucky. They started on October 18 and crossed the finish line 32 grueling hours later.

Brent Morris currently practices law in Nashville. When he is not busy writing 200-page briefs, he is helping run a dog shelter with his wife, Amanda.

Michael Thompson has been named deputy athletic director for external relations and business development at Texas A&M. He will provide oversight

BIRTHS

Libby and **Gary Wunderlich '88**, a daughter, Bonnie Ware, born July 15, 2019

Amanda and **Brian Kelsey '96**, a daughter, Reagan Marie, born July 8, 2019

Kit and **David Bowlin '97**, a son, Thomas Bradley, born February 12, 2019

Jennifer and **Byron Brown '97**, a son, Byron Norman V "Penn," born September 6, 2019

Hadley and **Ryan Miller '00**, a daughter, Genevieve Isla, born July 18, 2019

Amy and **Eric Beaty '01**, a son, James Stewart, born August 24, 2019

Paige and **Paul Gillespie '01**, a daughter, Grace Hastings, born July 14, 2019

Brokke and **Josh Hall '05**, a son, James Rogers IV, born June 7, 2019

Katelyn and **Warner Russell '05**, a son, Robert Graves, born September 29, 2019

Carly and **Hunter Adams '06**, a son, Louis Mooring, born October 12, 2019

Elizabeth and **Connor Robinson '07**, a daughter, Phoebe Noelle, born September 10, 2019

MARRIAGES

Kevin Schubert '00 to Jennifer Sasso on June 22, 2019

Preston Battle '07 to Allie Olson on October 5, 2019

Watson George '08 to Miranda Parks on November 9, 2019

Stuart McClure '08 to Natalie Baskin on June 10, 2017

William McGehee '08 to Lilian Schiffer on June 29, 2019

Will Taylor '10 to Rachel Pedersen on July 20, 2019

Britt Colcolough '12 to Kalen Sumnicht on August 3, 2019

Daniel Camuti '13 to Kate Jamison on August 10, 2019

James Sexton '14 to Sarah Hearn on July 27, 2019

Jack Christenbury '15 to Cara Sharpe on June 15, 2019

and leadership of Texas A&M athletics interests to maximize revenue potential, expand the brand both nationally and globally, and further enhance opportunities for engagement.

'98

Jason Colgate is now serving as advisory board director at Wunderfund.

'99

Frazier Baker has started a new position as transaction manager at Amazon Web Services.

Craig Walzer, who traveled to Greece during college and later opened a small bookstore overlooking the Aegean Sea, continues to receive media attention for Atlantis Books, which has become a destination. Read all about it in this October 27 article from the *New York Times*: bit.ly/WalzerStore.

'00

Brian Bailey and his wife, Katie, are living in Dallas with their 1-year-old son, Banks.

Steven Campbell was recently named partner in the New York office of Alston & Bird, an international law firm.

Zach Dailey lives in Houston with his wife, Mandy and their two children. Zach enjoys weekends outdoors and recently started a squirrel hunting club.

Ryan Miller has been with First Horizon Advisors since May 2018 as the senior investment

portfolio strategist for First Horizon's Trust Division. He and his wife, Hadley, recently welcomed their first child, Genevieve Isla.

Kevin Schubert married Jennifer Sasso in Tampa, FL, in June. The two met at the University of Pennsylvania Law School in 2006 when they were randomly assigned to be moot court partners. They now reside in NYC.

'01

Chance Carlisle, CEO of Carlisle Corp., made the *Memphis Business Journal's* 2019 Top 40 Under 40 list.

Bond Hopkins has been promoted to director for strategic planning and analysis at Crestwood Midstream Partners in Houston, TX.

After four years as principal of Resurrection Catholic School, **James Shelton** is now the founding principal of Compass Community Schools, Hickory Hill campus. He is completing his second master's degree at Christian Brothers University.

Scott Vogel has been promoted to athletic director at Evangelical Christian School.

'02

Scott Adams was elected to the board of directors of the Memphis Botanic Garden Foundation.

Will Shirey is the art director at On Track Themes in Burbank, CA, specializing in the creation,



design, and production of themed attractions and technically complex out-of-home entertainment.

'03

Chase Carlisle was elected to the Memphis City Council.



Certified Financial Planner **Jeff Grimm** has joined Memphis Planning and Wealth as a private wealth advisor.

'04

Tyler Beard is a financial analyst at West Cancer Center.



Capt. **Christopher Cole**, pictured with his wife, Jessica, graduated from U.S. Air Force Weapons School last summer.

'05

Ethan Knight, vice president of development for DSG, made the *Memphis Business Journal's* 2019 Top 40 Under 40 list.

J.D. Lawhorn has been promoted to director of facility operations at HCA Healthcare in Nashville.

Andrew Manugian lives in Bangkok, Thailand, where he is head of gaming operations for Tencent Thailand. Tencent is the world's leading and largest game studio and China's largest online gaming service provider.

Worth Morgan was re-elected to the Memphis City Council.



Warner Russell, Joey Friend, Rob Baird, and Phillip Flinn got a photo at Baird's September concert at the Levitt Shell. Baird recently released his fourth album, *After All*. He also performed in Hyde Chapel and was interviewed onstage by Instructor in History **Patrick McCarroll '92**.

'06

Drew Davenport has taken a position as senior due diligence and investment analyst/independent financial advisor at ProEquities.

Owls Watching Tigers

In September the Emerging Leaders toured the spectacular Laurie-Walton Family Basketball Center at the University of Memphis, guided by basketball manager David Price and Linkous Construction President Rusty Linkous.



1 From left, Jay Edwards '07, Connell Hall '08, Will Carruthers '10, Trevor Skelley '05, Paul Stephens '10, Edward Francis '12, Jazz Singh '12, and George Coors '09 **2** Sporting just the right UM swag, Connell Hall '08 admires the Tigers' uniforms and shoes.



Still Shooting Hoops

Congratulations to the winners of the 2019 (and 39th Annual) Alumni Basketball League Championships last August: The TAMs (B League) and the Jets (C League). The Commissioner thanks you for your participation in a great Owl tradition!



The TAMs - B League Champs: From left, Will Adams '93, Taylor Reed '09, Will Thompson '95, Richard Burt '99, Morrow Bailey, Paul Gillespie '01, Michael McLaren '01, and Clint Dowdle

Notes from a B League Champ's Special Season

In American sports, a "three-peat" is winning three consecutive championships. This accomplishment is often the culmination of an athlete's career, highlighting one's dedication to his/her craft. After the 2019 ABL season, the Memphis TAMs reached that pinnacle with the first ever three-peat in the illustrious league's history. When asked how the TAMs continue to put championship teams on the court year after year, team leader **Richard Burt '99** said, *"Each off-season, we scour the free agent market for younger players that can come in and complement our seasoned but very high IQ veterans. We play selfless, disciplined basketball the way Coach Peters taught us, and it's been a recipe for success. We're a family, and we play like there's no tomorrow."*



The Jets - C League Champs: From left, Faris Haykal '03, Austin Alexander '08, Zane Haykal '06, Jake Rudolph '10, Zak Mozjeko, Tom Duck and son Holt Duck, Peter Rainer '10, and Fred Foster; not pictured, Geer Alexander '03

Brian Evans is an adjunct assistant professor of biomedical engineering at Vanderbilt University as well as a research scientist for Cumberland Pharmaceuticals. He was recently published in the journal *Nature* for his article titled "An Anionic, Endosome-Escaping Polymer to Potentiate Intracellular Delivery of Cationic Peptides, Biomacromolecules, and Nanoparticles" ([nature.com/articles/s41467-019-12906-y](https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-019-12906-y)).

Peter Zanca took home first prize in the 2019 NBA Hackathon, an annual event that challenges teams of students, statisticians, developers, and engineers to build tools to solve challenging data problems faced by the NBA. He was a basketball analytics intern last summer at Pacers Sports and Entertainment and is enrolled in a dual-degree program at Notre Dame to pursue an MBA and master's in business analytics. See more about his summer here: bit.ly/ZancaInternship.

'07



These U.S. Army Owls were based in Kuwait at the same time last summer. From left, Lt. Col. **Rob Edwards '89**, Capt. **Drew Alston** and former

volunteer coach Maj. **Burton Milnor**.

Lee Moore is a Cornea Fellow at the Dean McGee Eye Institute in Oklahoma City, OK.

Chris Summerlin was named Air Force Special Operations Command Pilot of the Year for 2018. He currently flies the MC-130 Combat Talon II and is stationed in Florida.

Miles Tamboli recently opened his own restaurant in Midtown - Tamboli's Pasta and Pizza. (See U Plate Special page 16). **Jonny Ballinger '87** tried out Tamboli's wares at the Memphis Farmers Market last summer: "If you haven't tried the pasta, sauces, and pesto Miles creates from scratch, do yourselves a favor and check them out - they are amazing!"

'08



William McGehee and his wife, Lilian, were married last summer and are living in Munich, where he works as a data scientist for Amazon Web Services.

Jack Montgomery is the director of operations at a startup called Catalant, which helps businesses (primarily large

enterprises) go from strategy to execution faster by facilitating the organization, staffing, and results-tracking of major initiatives and their underlying workstreams and projects.

Scott McClintock was named chief of staff for Governor Phil Bryant of Mississippi in September.

'09

Michael Brennan is a loan officer with Crump Mortgage in Memphis.

Colin McDonald is strategic projects manager for Orion Federal Credit Union.

'10

Edward Cates is the chief technology officer for Austin-based startup Popsots, a company that shows video ads to grocery store shoppers while they wait in the checkout lane.

Michael Wilder is a formally trained gunsmith, earning his credentials from the prestigious gunsmithing program at the Colorado School of Trades. His shop, Wilder Gunsmithing, is open in Midtown Memphis.

Parker Wilson ended his tenure at J.B. Hunt. While he will miss the challenges of that

job, he looks forward to the new ones at FedEx in the associate analyst role he accepted at world headquarters.

'11

Terrence Cole is no longer overseeing intercontinental ballistic missiles for the Air Force in Wyoming. He has relocated to Dallas where he is a consultant and physician recruiter at Merritt Hawkins.

Richard Twardzik is director of client success at Health Here in Nashville.

'12

Toby Baker has taken a new position as an analyst at Tenney Group in Nashville.

Britt Colcolough is an account executive with Rubrik in Austin, TX.

Joe Morrison is a business development manager at Adams Keegan.

'13

Pete Abston has taken a position as a financial advisor with First Horizon.



'10

Will Taylor and his wife, Rachel Pedersen, now reside in Milton, MA, where she teaches high school physics and chemistry and coaches sailing and swimming. Will commutes to Brown University where he is completing his Ph.D. in astrophysics. At their wedding last summer, three Owl classmates served as groomsmen – **John Michael Hoyle** (fourth from left), **Colin Thomas** (third from right), and **Andrew Chinn** (second from right).



Math Instructor **Darin Clift**, left, and son, **Aaron Clift '13**, right, attended Memphis Comic Expo in October and ran into Owls **Jeffrey Shulkin '20**, **Harry White '20**, and **Andrew Bragorgos '20**.

Derrick Baber has joined Poolhouse advertising agency in Atlanta.

Hall Ballinger is a financial advisor with Benchmark Wealth Management in Memphis.

Charlie Goodfellow is an infantry platoon leader at Fort Campbell in Clarksville, TN.

Andrew Plunkett is an agent with Berkshire Hathaway Commercial Real Estate in Greenville, SC. He also is the head varsity baseball coach at Christ Church Episcopal School.

A Minor League baseball player for the Florida Fire Frogs,

Jordan Rodgers attended the Owls' football game against MBA in September and was interviewed by **William Patteson '21** for our sports Instagram feed, @mus_athletics.

Mac Trammell is assistant director of admissions at Rhodes College. His territory includes Pennsylvania, West Virginia,

Virginia, Delaware, Maryland, Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Washington, DC.

'14



Matthew Gayoso recently had his white coat ceremony. He's attending Vanderbilt College of Medicine.

Leshan Moodley is a junior analyst with Valedor Partners, a venture capital/private equity startup in Houston. Outside of work he is involved with the YES Prep program mentoring middle school students.

Sam Ostrow is a second-year law student at Florida State University. He serves as an extern at the Florida Commission on Human Relations, working in employment law.



Harrison Williams finished third in the decathlon at the USA Track and Field Outdoor Championships last summer and went on to represent the U.S. at the 2019 IAAF World Championships in Doha, Qatar, in October.

'15

Patrick Demere graduated from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville with a degree in supply chain management. He now works at Walmart headquarters in Bentonville, AR, as a supply chain transportation analyst.

Kamar Mack is the founder and CEO of Autoplay Technologies, an initiative focused on augmented reality as it is integrated in all modern smartphones and poised to play a critical role in wearable technology in the coming decade.

Preston Roberts earned a B.A. in economics from Washington and Lee University and is back in Memphis where he's a health

care and risk management consultant with Collier Insurance.

Sherman Tabor is living in New York City where he is an analyst with Farient Advisors, an independent executive compensation consulting firm.

Eason Taylor accepted a full-time professional research associate position in the Brain and Body Lab at UCLA, researching how the gut biome impacts the development of anxiety disorders in children and adolescents.

Connor Truitt graduated from the University of Arkansas Sam Walton Business School in May 2019 and started his career with Prudential PGIM in Dallas.



Christian Yarwood has just finished his four-year integrated master's degree in mechanical engineering at the University of Southampton, UK. He is traveling to Spain and Portugal to do volunteer work before applying for a job.

'16

Will Buser has accepted a full-time position with Raymond James at their corporate headquarters in St. Petersburg, FL. He will join the Accelerated Development Program (ADP) as

an analyst within the investment research, consulting, and wealth management track after graduating from Birmingham-Southern College in the spring of 2020.

Jackson Dickinson was a finance department intern at MHC Financial Services.

Tom Fowlkes was selected to represent the Stamps Foundation at the 71st Annual Student Conference on U.S. Affairs (SCUSA), hosted by the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, NY, last fall. Some 200 undergraduate students from over 100 universities and 20-30 countries attend SCUSA each year.

Henry Keel was a business analyst intern with CarMax in Richmond, VA, last summer.

Trammel Robinson interned at ETF Global last summer and is a senior at the University of Lynchburg, where he is majoring in business administration with a minor in management. This will also be his last year playing lacrosse. "We are hoping to make another strong run in the tournament – junior year Sweet 16, sophomore year Second Round, freshman year Elite 8!"

University of North Carolina midfielder **Jack Skahan** was the 27th overall pick in the 2020 MLS SuperDraft in January. A UNC business major graduate, Skahan will move to California to join the San Jose Earthquakes. See some of his college highlights here: bit.ly/SkahanSoccer.

'17

Bradley Foley, a junior running back for Belhaven University, was the C Spire Athlete of the Week for

a two-touchdown performance for the Blazers last fall.



Charlie Gilliland is a computer science major at Ole Miss and works part-time at Lost Dog Coffee in Taylor, MS. Headmaster

Pete Sanders was there and captured this shot of Charlie on the job.

Sloan Schreiter is a junior finance major at Southern Methodist University. He was a public finance intern with Raymond James last summer.

'18

Hayden Stark is a sophomore at the University of Missouri and made the Dean's List.

'19



Maurice Hampton earned SEC Freshman of the Week for his six-tackle game against Arkansas, the first start of his career as an LSU Tiger, and also saw action when the Tigers

won the National Championship. He was invited to the White House (see above) along with his teammates after the win.

IN MEMORY



Hugh Humphreys Bosworth '67
April 26, 2019



Malcolm Barboro Wood '71
November 2, 2019



Claude Frank Yates '68
December 30, 2019



John Robert "Jay" Dunlap, Jr. '77
November 5, 2019



Lawrence Houston Keesee '69
July 30, 2019

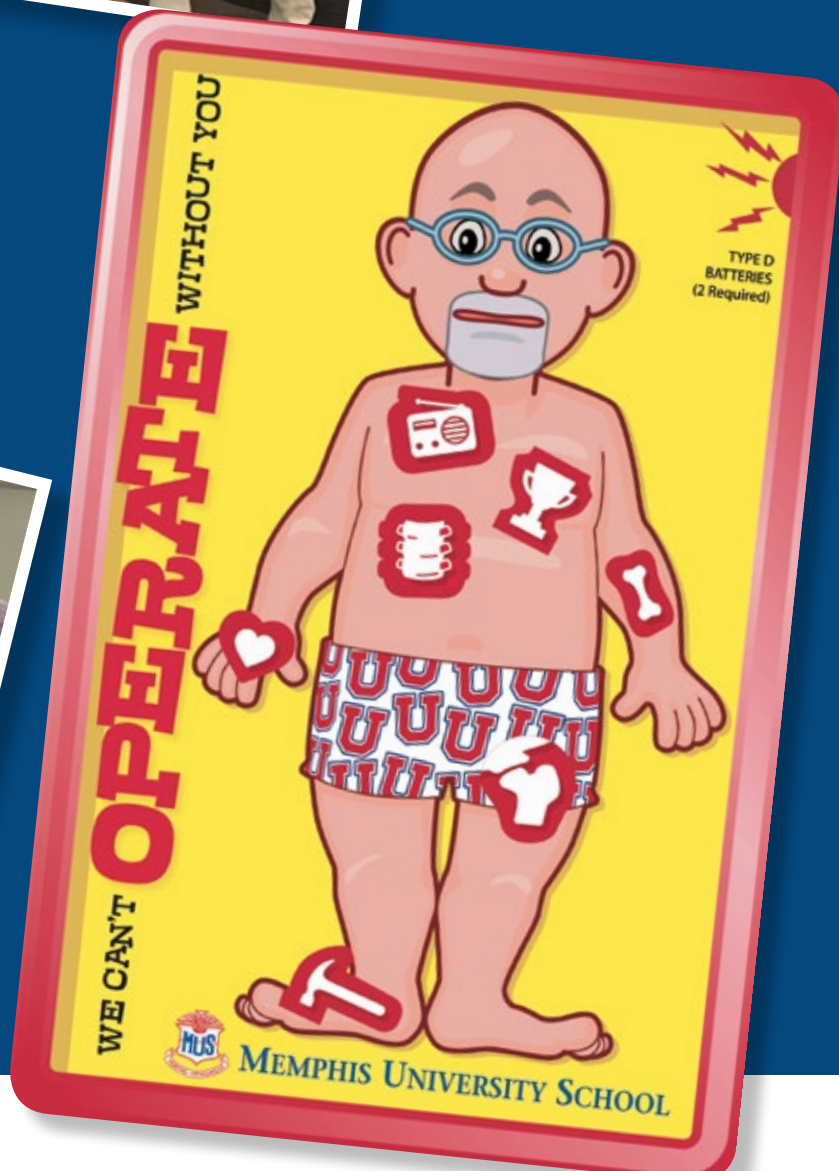


Graham Russell Stewart '10
September 6, 2019



Phonathon Volunteers Rally Alumni

Assistant Headmaster Barry Ray loaned his image to the cause this year, proving that we can't "operate" without him or without the generous philanthropic contributions of our many donors. Alumni called former classmates in the fall to help raise dollars for the cause.



1 Class of 2014 alumni Cal Edge, Tucker Fox, and James Sexton
 2 Rick Miller '65 and Bob Heller '65 3 Fred Schaeffer '88 and Max Painter '88
 4 Alex Snyder '06, Reid Wesson '06, and Hunter Adams '06
 5 Cecil Humphreys '73 and Wise Jones '73 6 Craig Christenbury '83 and Bruce Moore '77

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

- '58 **Claude Crawford:** grill17@yahoo.com
'59 **To be named**
'60 **Metcalf Crump:** metcrump@crumpfirm.com
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'63 **Doug Ferris:** dferris@ffcfuelcells.com
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'66 **Chuck Smith:** duckhead50@aol.com
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'68 **Terry Wilson:** theactor@cypressusa.com
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'19 **William Quinlen:** wquinlen@gmail.com



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Thomas B. Preston MUS Board of Trustees, 1974-1979

University of Memphis Emeritus Professor of Law **Thomas B. Preston**, a former member of the Board of Trustees, died August 20, 2019, in Memphis. He was 88 years old. A native of Bartlesville, OK, Preston graduated from College High School in Bartlesville and Oklahoma State University before serving his country as an Army lieutenant in Korea. After returning home he graduated from University of Oklahoma College of Law and practiced law for a decade in his hometown.

In 1967 he moved with his family

to Memphis and began teaching at then-Memphis State University Law School, a position he held until 1979. His obituary noted that he was considered an extraordinarily effective teacher and that an endowed professorship was established in his name at the law school: "He was beloved and honored by his students, many of whom told his sons over the years, 'Your dad was the best professor I ever had.'"

Preston served on the MUS Board of Trustees from 1974-1979 and sent his three sons to MUS: **Tom Preston '74**, **David Preston '76**, and **Rob Preston '78**. He resigned from the



Thomas B. Preston

board in 1979 to return to Bartlesville and take a position as general counsel to Foster Petroleum Company. In 2003 he moved back to

Memphis for good. He was a member of Independent Presbyterian Church, a devoted and capable golfer, and a diehard fan of the Oklahoma Sooners, the Oklahoma State Cowboys, the Memphis Tigers, and the MUS Owls. Preston was a founding member of the Thorn Society at MUS and remained a faithful and generous donor to the school for years, making numerous leadership gifts, including contributions to the campaign to build the Sue H. Hyde Sports and Physical Education Center as well as the Doors to New Opportunities capital campaign.

Preston was predeceased by his parents and by his wife, childhood classmate Ann Marie (Ami) Doornbos Preston, who died in 2008. He is survived by his brother, Joe, and Joe's wife, Rosetta, of Bartlesville, and by his three sons and daughters-in-law: Tom and his wife, Kara, of Memphis; David and his wife, Shelley, of Prairie Village, KS; and Rob and his wife, Suzanne, of Memphis. He is also survived by eight grandchildren, including Owls **Matthew Preston '09**, **Joseph Preston '15**, and **Thomas Preston '23**; and four great-grandchildren. ■



From the Harkins Archives, circa 1974: Three of the new members of the school Board of Trustees exchange greetings: Roy Bell, John Dobbs, and Thomas Preston.

In his first full year as Head Basketball Coach at MUS, David Willson '99 celebrates with his varsity team after a win against Lipscomb Academy January 14, in a game that was held at the FedEx Forum. The Owls overcame a 10-point second-half deficit to defeat the Mustangs, 47-44.





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At Homecoming, the Alumni Terrace is reserved for the classes that do the best job meeting fundraising goals before the event. (The greenspace below the terrace is anyone's game.) For 2019, the terrace party winners were the Classes of 1989 and 1999. Go, Owls!

