One of the MBA Service Club’s longest running programs, the monthly soup kitchen provides a free homemade meal to hundreds of Nashville’s needy and homeless men and women.
Classes of 1959 • 1964 • 1969 • 1974 • 1979 • 1984 • 1989 • 1994 • 1999 • 2004

For a complete rundown of all the reunion events, check out the Alumni Tab at www.montgomerybell.edu.

APRIL 24-26

ALUMNI DAYS

&

REUNION WEEKEND
“May you live interesting times.”

Alternately purported to be an ancient Chinese blessing, or perhaps a curse, this simple phrase encapsulates the first half of the school year quite well. With an historic Presidential Election, worldwide turmoil, and a volatile economy that has taken investors on a Wabash Cannonball-like (I still miss Opryland) roller coaster ride, some might believe that this has been the most interesting year in MBA’s storied history. Although in order to say that, you must remember that this institution has seen more than a dozen recessions and nearly as many wars in its 142-year history. Things have always been interesting on The Hill.

What makes this place so special, however, is the bond shared by each and every member of its alumni body. That connection is fully on display in a documentary “Generations of Brothers” produced by Ben Gregory (’09) as a part of his Eagle Scout project. Gregory spent more than 100 hours on the film that features MBA alums from four decades discussing the concepts of honor and integrity that the school has instilled in them, the importance of being a gentleman, the tremendous roles mentors from MBA have played, and the sense of achievement common to every graduate. Gregory’s film can be seen in the multimedia library at montgomerybell.edu.

The same connection and sense of place is also demonstrated by the number of alumni who return to campus to teach and coach. In “Prodigal Sons” Mike Martin (’98) examines what has drawn so many men, including himself, back to MBA.

From the perspective of someone who did not attend MBA, what makes the school such a compelling place is the quality of the boys we are privileged to work with every day. They are both fun-loving and studious, congenial and challenging. Their energy and enthusiasm helps keep us young, and makes our “work” very gratifying. Chinese philosophers aside, the interesting times that they create are indeed a blessing.

CHRISS SMITH, Editor
Nina Thomas looks into the important role faculty travel plays in bringing the curriculum to life in the classroom.

Mike Martin (’98) examines the path back to MBA for the 18 alumni serving on the faculty and staff.
ON THE COVER
Future MBA students enjoy the Homecoming festivities, the Friday night lights, and the Tommy Owen Memorial.

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

FROM THE HEADMASTER
BOARD NEWS
HOMECOMING & SPAGHETTI SUPPER
INTRODUCING: VIRGINIA MADDX
ON THE HILL
Debate
Academics
Music
Theater
Service
Sports
Ring Ceremony
Gentleman • Scholar • Athlete

FATHERS OF ALUMNI BREAKFAST
ALUMNI RECEPTIONS
COLLEGE ALUMNI LUNCH
CLASS NEWS

ADMINISTRATION
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Peter Thurmond
DIRECTOR OF THE JUNIOR SCHOOL
James A. Tillman
DIRECTOR OF THE HIGH SCHOOL
Beth Warner
COORDINATOR OF GUIDANCE COUNSELING SERVICES
This morning I enjoyed a great conversation with one of our faculty about his career and his work at MBA. After I distilled the comments from our discussion, I reflected on the focus we discussed of investing in young men. In spite of all the peripheral concerns I deal with at MBA and within the larger world, there is no doubt in my mind that the value and the rewards of investing in young men will serve me and my colleagues long after we finish our journeys at MBA as an experience and commitment that was fulfilling and worthwhile. When we talked this morning, he and I both agreed that there were many alternatives before us when we finished college, but none could probably offer us the benefits and fulfillment that teaching and working with young men have provided. Our work at MBA with these great young men is as meaningful an investment of time and energy and resource as we could ever find. I am profoundly grateful for this opportunity and would like to dedicate these few words to that perspective in this article for our midyear issue of The Hill magazine.

In so many respects we have enjoyed a great fall at MBA. We focused on the Presidential election through various speakers and programs in September and October. Our debate program led several initiatives in the fall including a public debate at the newly renovated Taylor Memorial area and an exciting evening in the Pfeffer Lecture Hall when a group of excited faculty and students watched and responded to the Presidential debate at Belmont University. I am proud of the work we continue to do in the classroom, on the athletics fields, and in a host of extracurricular activities. I am most excited, however, about the continued leadership I see from the students and faculty about the ways in which they care about this school’s motto and mission and education. I am surrounded by terrific students and teachers. I enjoy a history of individuals who have given of themselves to building a magnificent school and community. There are few places I know of in our country, or around the world for that matter, that have the kind of focus, care, and dedication that I see at MBA.

We have had an exciting array of speakers at MBA this fall, including Richard Glaubman, the author of a wonderful biography Life is So Good; Washington Post writer and author David Maraniss; alumnus William Collins; technology guru Rex Hammock; alumnus Madison Smartt Bell; and inventor Bill Lishman. We have also been entertained and instructed by some of MBA’s special friends and individuals like Joe Thompson, Tim Bryant, and Jon Neergaard.

I continue to marvel at the ways in which the school has expanded around the world. With exchange programs in England, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, Greece, Germany, and soon China, our students regularly make presentations about their experiences abroad, and we are sending almost 20 percent of our junior class to these regions around the globe. Programs like music, debate, theater, and art continue to soar at MBA. We are excited about the prospects for environmental developments and exploration at our Long Mountain property. The new observatory, a lake, and some cabins should be all finished by the summer of 2009. We also are finding ways to show some leadership within our city through our service programs and our interest in public-private partnerships. This fall MBA sponsored a citywide debate about the Presidential election for students in all schools, and next football season we will be a featured school in the new Clinic Bowl for a Saturday game on August 22, 2009, where we will play Pearl-Cohn High School. This special event will focus on the importance of public-private competition and relationships, as well as a historical perspective of the first two schools that played an integrated football game in Nashville.
**BOARDS OF TRUSTEES**

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**ADVISORY BOARD CHAIRMAN**

Mr. P. Rhoads Zimmerman (‘61)

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**BOARD NEWS**

**Renard Francois (‘90), Alumni Board President**

Renard Francois entered MBA in the ninth grade. As a student Francois was active in the Service Club, Student Council, Mock Trial, track, football, wrestling, and debate. He held several leadership positions, including serving as Vice President for the Student Council, Service Club, and his class, and was inducted into Totomi. After graduating from MBA, Francois went on to study history at the University of Pennsylvania, received his law degree from the George Washington University, and earned an LL.M in Information Technology and Privacy Law from the John Marshall Law School. From 2001 to 2003 he served as Staff Attorney for the Federal Trade Commission’s Bureau of Consumer Protection, specializing in Internet law and anti-spam legislation. Francois then became Attorney Advisor to the Bureau Director from 2003-2004. In 2004 Francois returned to his hometown as an Associate with Bass, Berry, & Sims, PLC, where he specialized in litigation and intellectual property for four years. Building on his area of expertise, Francois serves on the Department of Homeland Security’s Data Privacy and Integrity Advisory Committee and speaks throughout the country on issues related to privacy and data security. Francois recently moved to Peoria, Ill. where he serves as Data Privacy Counsel for Caterpillar Inc.

**John Thompson (‘99), Young Alumni Board Chairman**

John Thompson entered MBA in seventh grade. As a student Thompson was active in football, track, wrestling, soccer, and the Boys and Girls Club. The MBA Football team and Track team both won state championships in his senior year. Thompson also holds the current MBA record as part of the fastest 4x100 relay team in school history. After graduating from MBA, Thompson studied economics and human and organizational development at Vanderbilt University. He began his career in real estate at Covenant Capital Group as an Asset Manager where he managed the asset performance of multiple properties. Thompson currently serves as Marketing Director for Thompson Machinery Commerce Corporation. He oversees market share, new product integration, and alternative products such as GPS and laser-guided earthmoving equipment.

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**ANNUAL REPORT CORRECTIONS**

**Hunter Atkins (‘67)** should have been listed as co-owner of San Antonio Taco Company in the Spaghetti Supper section.

**Frank M. Bass, Sr. (‘64)** should have been listed under the Tribute for Mrs. June Bowen.

**Richard R. Jacques (‘04)** should have been listed under Mr. & Mrs. John F. Jacques in the Grandparent Giving category.

**Leigh and Warren Johnson (‘74)** should have been listed under the Louie M. & Betty M. Phillips Foundation in The Waffle Society.

**Wilbur Sensing, Sr.** was mistakenly listed as a 1919 Wallace Alum, rather than a MBA graduate.

**Mr. & Mrs. David F. Smith** should have been listed in the Headmaster’s Circle and the Francis E. Carter, Jr. Society donor category.
HOMECOMING

and SPAGHETTI SUPPER

9.29.08

FOR THE 64TH YEAR, THOUSANDS OF MBA FAMILIES, ALUMNI, AND FRIENDS RETURNED TO CAMPUS FOR THE FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP OF HOME-COMING AND THE SPAGHETTI SUPPER, THE SCHOOL’S LARGEST COMMUNITY EVENT AND FUND-RAISER.

This year’s celebration once again included an art show — with works by alums Paul Harmon (’57), Hal Pickel (’93), and KJ Schumacher (’97) among others — and a three-day bake sale featuring homemade goodies to delight the palate, if not the waistline.

The Spaghetti Supper this year served more than 5,000 heaping helpings of pasta and sauce, salad, bread, and cookies. The Big Red Raffle, annually held in conjunction with the Spaghetti Supper, offered a fantastic array of prizes from Beaman Automotive Group, SunTrust Bank, D-1 Sports, and Audio Video Excellence.

With more than 40 committees, 100 individuals, and 200 additional volunteers working tirelessly, the events were able to raise more than $92,000. The proceeds will be used to fund nearly 100 different projects, benefitting every department in the school, and providing a significant impact on every MBA student.

The Homecoming crowd was treated to halftime pageantry, highlighted by the annual fireworks show provided by Lee Beaman (’69).
The funds raised by the MBA mothers and fathers clubs benefitted more than 80 different departments and programs, from technology to the fishing club. Among the needs funded by the allocations are:

- Appreciation gifts for volunteers
- Astronomy guide and optical software
- Basketball height adjusters
- Bird feeder, sprinkler system
- Bus for Science Olympiad
- Calculators and books for Math Counts
- Camera supplies
- Candles, votive holders for events
- Canoe
- Charles Dickens conference in California
- Cheerleading supplies
- Chess clocks, sets, storage bags, supplies
- Class sets of Steinbeck and O'Connor
- Climb Nashville expenses
- Coaches Clinics, licenses, and dues
- Computer Science site license for Java
- Counseling Office speaker fees
- Cross Country measuring wheel and tent
- DVDs for Modern European History
- DVDs, Joy of Math
- Final draft scriptwriting software
- Fishing Club supplies
- Fitness & Weight Room supplies
- Flip video, underwater housing, steady cam
- Garmin GPS system
- German class video
- Golf bags, range finder
- Hockey equipment bags
- Intramural supplies
- Junior School baseball pullovers
- Junior School wrestling sweatshirts
- Kendo Club supplies
- Lacrosse bags, hoodies, and shirts
- Latin coins, dictionary, reader
- Lexis Nexis subscription
- Library computer, turntable, camera
- Luggage carts
- Mac Pro editing station
- Media Day funds
- Musical instruments
- Overhead projector
- Performance of Calculus: The Musical
- Photo & Design software
- Pictures for Admission Office
- Rifle team supplies
- Rosetta Stone software
- Scanner, copier, DVD duplicator supplies
- Skeleton, camera, posters, books
- Software for mapping
- Sporting clay memberships
- Summer Sports Camp equipment
- Teddy Roosevelt impersonator fee
- Teleconferencing system
- Tennis ball machine
- Theater stage fogger
- Track pole vault pit
- Track warm ups
- Training rehab supplies
- Turbostats software, Palm Pilot
- Ultimate Frisbee shirts, travel expenses
- Vernier lab quest sensor
- Wireless presentation mouse
The Davis Grant Professional Development Awards provide MBA teachers the opportunity for educational travel, which in turn, they pass along as a cultural experience to share with “the younger sort.” Teachers who travel bring qualities of worldliness, relevance, and authority into the classroom.

To apply for a Davis grant, teachers submit a proposal that outlines in detail how they plan to use their summer experience to enrich learning within the classroom. In fact the mere exercise of writing the proposal has a positive, almost therapeutic effect. Faculty members become energized by the innovative approaches that emerge as they brainstorm about ways to expand their students’ perspectives. It is said that enthusiasm is contagious; the travel bug is one microbe that MBA is willing to spread around, all in the interest of expanding global awareness.

Jim Womack, MBA teacher of 30 years and current chair of the Visual and Performing Arts Department, explains the process of translating travel experience into education: “We as teachers go out into the field and literally hunt and gather information, impressions, a perspective born of years of academic study meshed with travel experiences. We then package the information in a unique and personable way, creating a customized education for the students.” Having visited a place, teachers can talk about the people and culture as much as the art, science, language, or history. Human interest stories make the students sit up and take notice by bringing academic lectures to life.

Through stories I’ve developed a deeper bond and rapport with my students. Travel gives us a certain street credibility; our authority as teachers is given a boost by our travels. Students see that we’ve done more that merely studied history, theater, art, language, science, and architecture. We’ve been there and lived it.”

After hearing stories and seeing photographs of faraway places, students are often inspired to travel — to step outside of their comfort zones and embrace other cultures. They begin to see teachers as students like themselves; willing to take risks, continuing to learn, and open to viewing the world in a new way. 

In educational travel, the roles of teacher and student become blurred in a kind of identity jet lag; teachers who travel become students once again, and students on exchange assume the role of teacher when presenting their travel experiences to the school community.
As a student and teacher of art, architecture, and history, Womack benefits greatly from his travels in terms of professional development. “Teaching art history requires a body of knowledge about images, objects, and sites from around the globe, and that means that all of my travels are directly related to the classroom experience. What is often missing from textbooks is the nature of the culture that surrounds them. Travel allows us to be immersed in the culture, and enriched by it; students then benefit from a broader and more in-depth presentation of the work.”

European countries, steeped in culture and rich in art, architecture, and history, are fertile places in which to feed the mind and the soul. A person’s entire being is often affected by the experience of travel. As Mrs. Beatie O’Connell, faculty member in the department of foreign languages points out, “Travel adventures shape the whole person because the experience is with them for the rest of their lives. Ernest Hemingway said it best: ‘If you are lucky enough to have lived in Paris as a young man, then wherever you go for the rest of your life it stays with you, for Paris is a moveable feast.”’

“This past summer, I was able to go to Egypt, thanks to a Davis Grant, explains Womack. Finishing the section on Egypt in my class, I feel a bit wistful, like I’m closing a door on a chapter of my life, and leaving part of myself behind. I experienced an amazing country this summer, experienced it again through teaching this fall, and now it’s time to move on. At least I will have my memories until I can re-live it next semester, and students can experience it vicariously in my classroom.”

Womack, by happenstance, assumed a role which would become a “part of who he is” – at least temporarily: “On a trip to France during the celebration of the Assumption of the Virgin, I was standing in front of the doors to Notre Dame de Paris. I was enthralled by the sculpture over the central portal, and lost all concept of time; suddenly the cathedral doors flew open and out marched bishops, priests, and nuns from all over the world, carrying a statuette and banners that were paraded throughout the Île de la Cité. As I tried to move back, I realized I was on the wrong side of a barricade designed to control the crowds. Dressed in school attire and without a camera, I passed for a policeman, rather than a tourist. What an unencumbered view I had and what a feeling of belonging! This is what I love about traveling.”
Robert Pruitt belongs at MBA, (and perhaps to MBA) where he has been teaching biology for 31 years. He is who he is — a straight-up scientist and a straight-talking teacher. While roaming the globe on several Davis Grant trips, Pruitt has assumed the role of resident biology teacher at a couple of different schools. In 2001 he visited the Southport School in Australia and in 2004, the Galapagos Islands. The summer of 2008 brought forth an opportunity to visit South Africa where Pruitt taught at the Michaelhouse School.

AN EXCERPT FROM PRUITT’S TRAVELOGUE

“My trip to South Africa began with a week at Michaelhouse in KwaZulu-Natal near Durban, an Anglican boys’ boarding school with which MBA has a student and teacher exchange for some years. In many ways the boys there are like MBA boys. They take academics seriously, they love their athletics, they are polite to visitors, and they love their school. They joyfully sing in Chapel, and they uproariously sing at varsity rugby matches. They are inquisitive in class, and they want to know about our school and our country. They have “tea” during the middle of the morning, as does the entire faculty. The dining hall is reminiscent of Hogwarts.” A sense of tradition in both a cultural and academic sense pervades the campus, but a change in curriculum was soon to take place.

MR. PRUITT STARTS AN EVOLUTION

During Pruitt’s stint as a visiting teacher, a biology class would itself be evolving. It is well understood that the relationship between scientific theory and religion is often a sensitive one — especially where the subject of creationism is concerned. The theories of Intelligent Design, Hindu creation myth, and Zulu creation myth were the primary topics covered by the South African curriculum. As an independent school, Michaelhouse decided to add organic evolution to the mix, and Pruitt was asked to present the theory of Darwinian evolution. He explains that, “I approached the subject in a direct and neutral manner: Here is what Darwin saw, and what he theorized from that. I had explored the Galapagos Islands on a previous trip and described the flora and fauna I saw there. It was interesting to get the reactions of kids from diverse backgrounds, including traditional English Anglicans, Afrikaaners, and Zulu students. I am sure they had heard of Darwin and evolution, but were leery of the topic because they had never had it presented to them. Any conflict came from their previous eight years of education. They had learned much about Genesis and of how God about 4,000 years ago had created the Earth in six days. They had never been told that organisms, particularly humans, had evolved. Genesis, and their previous teachers, had taught that species were specially created, not evolved. When lectured in assembly that week about how to reduce the likelihood of catching the flu, the students were later led into a discussion of why you don’t take antibiotics for the flu, and why you should always take the complete course of an antibiotic. If you don’t, you can cause evolution in antibiotic-resistant bacteria.” Personal beliefs aside, an integral part of a well-rounded education is to learn about a range of theories, and the students were able to understand and appreciate that philosophy.

To understand the Michaelhouse School’s sense of place is to envision a campus situated on the high veldt of southeastern South Africa at an elevation of 4400 feet. Having re-located in 1902, the campus buildings represent a range of architectural styles from Oxford/Cambridge gothic to modern red brick. Adjacent to the property are 500 acres adopted by the school as a reserve, thanks to a generous donation by a Michaelhouse alumnus. The area is being restored as it was 200 years ago — a high veldt maintained by native cattle and home to several species of antelope and predators — by the school’s biology department. Says Pruitt, “While enjoying a leisurely picnic in the reserve one Sunday afternoon, I watched a herd of cattle meandering down the mountain. That experience turned out to be a high point of my trip.” As Womack and Pruitt have expressed through their recollections, the most memorable travel moments are often triggered by a sense of belonging.
Some say the hyena’s scream could be heard down under by his wild dog cousin the dingo. Whether truth or myth, the legend segues nicely into the following story. Back in 2001 Pruitt taught biology classes in Australia at the Southport School, thanks to a trip sponsored by the Davis Foundation. He recalls that “the school is similar in rigor to MBA, but there are no academic requirements for admission — just a checkbook. Once the students matriculate, then it becomes a matter of survival of the fittest.” Having taught classes there on the human senses while (ironically) recovering from eye surgery, Pruitt was able to make some astute observations about the culture surrounding the school. “Students seem less class conscious and more egalitarian than American students. They are rabidly sports crazy, but are more passionate about Olympic sports like track and field and cross country than professional team sports.” As head coach for MBA’s Track and Cross Country teams, Pruitt must have given the students a verbal high-five — a cry of approval heard round The Hill.

While the ecosystems in South Africa are the last to contain big game mega fauna, those in Australia are equally unique in that they are comprised of marsupials rather than mammals. “For me, the opportunity to see different ecosystems that textbooks can only show in pictures is invaluable. Seeing kangaroos hop around in the bush, hearing kookaburras squeal, and looking a lion in the face in his own habitat brings biology to a level impossible to achieve in a classroom.” Through stories and photos from the wild, Pruitt is able to bring a bit of the animal kingdom back to his students by presenting his own version of Discovery Channel.

Flipping channels to another part of the world, Pruitt was able to explore the Galapagos Islands in 2004 on another Davis Grant trip. It seems fitting that a biology expert and enthusiast would benefit greatly from studying the area most closely associated with Charles Darwin and his theory of evolution. The Nashville community in turn reaped the benefits of his trip when Robert conducted an MBA evening class later that fall. He presented a fascinating slideshow and these little known facts: Galapago is an old Spanish word, meaning saddle, which describes the shell of the giant tortoise found only on the islands; the 13 volcanic islands that make up the Galapagos are owned by the country of Ecuador and were used as a penal colony until declared a national park in 1959; and the ecosystem, made up of giant tortoises, sea iguanas, blue footed boobies, and flightless cormorants (who demonstrate no fear of man), are unique to the archipelago. Such bits of factual and fascinating information are guaranteed to jump-start any conversation.

Malcolm Morrison reflects on his independent study

My wife Karen and I spent a month touring the ancient monuments, remote beaches, and local restaurants in Athens and Crete. Under perfect blue skies and in a tiny, battered Fiat we drove all over the most southerly island in the Mediterranean. Remarkably bereft of tourists we had high mountain passes with fantastic vistas and timeless village squares to ourselves. The tabernas welcomed us with rustic Cretan cooking and wines from the vineyards next door. My particular quest was to learn about Greek and Cretan cooking and to see the original theaters first hand; the architecture, history, food, sun, wine, and the fantastic people all melded together to make a huge impression on us both. Crete really is a unique island unlike any other I have visited in Europe. Upon returning to Nashville, I designed a four-week Greek cooking course for parents and alumni in September that was sold out immediately and was enormously successful. I regaled my classes with tales of huge octopi treading water in tanks for restaurant patrons and whole goats and sheep hanging in butcher’s freezers complete with head and feet. Fresh meat was plentiful, indeed!
ANA ANDERSON AND SARAH ELLERY: A TALE OF TWO TEACHERS

What do Ana Anderson and Sarah Ellery have in common? Both are young, avant-garde, female teachers in an established school for boys who share a passion for their respective disciplines of English and Latin. Taking an interdisciplinary approach to their joint Davis Grant application, the two built a compelling case for the concrete relationship between an ancient language and a modern one.

“When Chaucer’s pilgrims made their famous journey to the shrine of Thomas Becket in Canterbury, they followed the path of an old Roman road. We were struck by the resonance of that fact as a metaphor for illustrating the classical foundations of Western culture.” The people of Britain were literally using the infrastructure that the Romans built in the Middle Ages, which parallels the building of the English language from Latin roots.

“To help communicate our findings with our students and the larger MBA community, we will use the image of the physical road to illustrate the path of classical influence into the English-speaking world; to make a case for the connection between Latin and English literature.” Time and again, Anderson and Ellery would use the metaphor of the road as a “vehicle” to point to the many ways that Latin has influenced English language and literature.

Travel stories make great conversation starters, and provide interesting bits of information. For example, an intriguing notion could be deduced from this historical fact gleaned by Anderson and Ellery on their Canterbury trip: Chaucer’s pilgrims gathered in London and followed the old Roman Road to the shrine of St. Thomas Becket on Watling Road. The road parallels highway A-1 which leads to Worcestershire. Could that explain the origin of the brand name of the steak sauce? Whether it does or not is immaterial (it doesn’t); the importance lies in the lively discussion that such trivia can generate.

“We happened to walk into Canterbury just in time to go to the service at the cathedral. As I sat waiting for the service to begin, an usher inquired about my trip. She was amazed that we had made the pilgrimage on foot.

Minutes later my new friend re-appeared with the Dean of the Cathedral, The Very Reverend Robert Willis. I was awe-struck! It was like talking with St. Thomas Becket himself. We discovered that he knows a priest from my church in Nashville who takes student groups on pilgrimages there. When Dean Willis came out again to make announcements, he included a special welcome to me as ‘a pilgrim from Nashville, Tennessee,’ and invited me to participate in Communion service by carrying the bread forward. I could never have imagined a warmer welcome at Canterbury Cathedral.

Although the service was a deeply personal and moving end to our walk for me, my experience at the cathedral is also important for our project. I can assure my students firsthand that the tradition of Becket is very much alive and well in the spirit of the people who worship in his church today.” A sense of belonging while displaced makes for the best memories.

THERE’S AMERICAN ENGLISH AND THEN THERE’S BRITISH ENGLISH

“Sarah and I were puzzled by a sign outside a restaurant that said ‘Gentlemen Strictly: No Vests!’ Anderson explains. ‘What kind of an establishment is this, we thought, that doesn’t allow men to wear vests?’ It made sense later when we found out from some locals that vest is British for tank top.” Ellery adds, ‘Our guide Derek said, ‘Now be careful as you come out onto the highway here, or you’re likely to wind up on a bonnet.’ Bonnet? I realized near the end of the trip that a bonnet is like a hood, the hood of a car! There are multiple ways of saying ‘trail’—footpath, bridleway, trackway—and ‘gate’—gap, stile, kissing gate—and that each has a distinct meaning. Finally, when at last we had arrived at the home of our hostess Diana Paul, she laughed hysterically each time we mentioned her lovely ‘yard’ (as in Scotland Yard?). Perhaps ‘manor’ or ‘grounds’ or something out of a Jane Austen novel would have been more appropriate. Since language is exactly what lured us to take on this project in the first place, I suppose it’s only fitting that it played such a colorful role in our journey.”

In addition to the tales and trivia mentioned here, the reader may access an in-depth multimedia Web site replete with narratives, research sources, and beautiful photos of their pilgrimage. Simply type into the Web browser the following site: canterburyproject.wikispaces.com and enjoy their journey vicariously. >>>

“One of the best things about our trip was that Sarah and I got to be students again. Both of us are passionate about our disciplines, and so we prized the chance to immerse ourselves in research. Teaching is learning, of course, but this trip served as a reminder of that.” - Ana Anderson
When faculty members return from abroad, whether through grants or on their own, they find ways to share what they learned with the school community and beyond. After numerous trips to Greece, Jim Womack and Ed Gaffney (MBA professor of Greek and Latin) became docents at the Nashville Parthenon and have encouraged students to do the same. Sarah Ellery and Ana Anderson are offering an MBA evening class to the local community this winter on Chaucer and the Classical Tradition. Joan Li spoke to her colleagues about her trip to China, as did Jonathon Sawyer about his to Germany, and Cal Fuller. Dede Clements, Andrew Rozario, and Catharine Hollifield about their time in Prague. Malcolm Morrison, teacher of English and Theatre, was so inspired by his independent trip to Greece this summer that he taught an MBA evening class in Mediterranean cooking this past fall.

**MBA AS TRAVEL GUIDE AND MENTOR**

“In the summer of 2006, thanks to a Davis Grant, I went to St. Petersburg, Vienna, and Prague; the following year to Prague, Athens, and Istanbul. The upshot about all this travel is what it says about MBA; what we value and how we go about understanding our roles as teachers and educators in the broadest sense. In the long run, it’s not about us (those who travel), or even how we report back to the community (students primarily). It is about MBA and what it means to be a leader in education that has assumed a global voice.” - Jim Womack, Chair, Visual and Performing Arts

O’Connell discusses the benefits of travel from the many sources available through the school: “MBA offers so many opportunities to grow through travel — through the Davis Grants, International Exchange Program, Experiment in International Living, the ASSIST Program, and Sister Cities. Travel makes the students’ and teachers’ roots grow deeper and wider; the world becomes planted in our back yard.”

The 2007 Prague trip, on which Dr. Dede Clements and Dr. Cal Fuller joined Womack, was sponsored by the ASSIST Program — an acronym for American Secondary Schools for International Students and Teachers. Academicians throughout the country apply for grants to travel and study abroad, and to share teaching techniques with one another. Clements and Fuller point to the upside of collaboration: “A benefit of this trip is the companionship and insights of fellow enthusiasts,” says Clements. “Making the journey with MBA friends is a special treat; Jim, Cal, and I enjoyed working closely before, in a multi-disciplinary seminar that delved into the Renaissance. Meeting new colleagues with whom to experience the glories and traumas of Prague’s past was a wonderful exercise. All these collaborative experiences have enormously enriched my life, as well as my scholarship and teaching.”

Fuller agrees, “I loved meeting other high school teachers from all disciplines and from all over the U.S. and sharing ideas together. It was so stimulating to learning about Czech history and culture together, to discuss our findings, and share our perspectives.”

“Travel, in the younger sort, is a part of education; in the elder, a part of experience.”

- Francis Bacon
When embarking on a journey, Fuller is happy to trade a textbook for the novel kind. “One of the great joys of traveling is having the opportunity to read, particularly about the place I am planning to visit. On Father’s Day, the weekend before we left for Prague, I found a book on my shelf called I Am Snowing by the Czech writer Pavel Kohout. My wife had given me this book on Father’s Day ten years earlier, and her inscription read: For leisure reading whenever the time is right. Now, a decade later, the time was right. Filled with political intrigue, the novel takes place in Prague with references to specific streets and historical events that, prior to the trip, I knew nothing about. Being in Prague enriched my understanding and enjoyment of the novel immensely, and vice versa. Just as Ana and Sarah experienced on their pilgrimage, I walked the paths that the characters themselves did.”

The urge to pack a bag and get ready to go is indeed flying high all around The Hill; MBA is becoming a community of frequent flyers. In addition to the many sponsored opportunities for faculty travel, others explore the world independently and return to campus a bit more worldly themselves. Combine those opportunities with an ever-increasing number of students participating in the MBA International Exchange Program and the result is a school community focused on horizons at home and far beyond The Hill. ■
“I am so blessed to work with a group of colleagues (faculty, administrators, and support staff) who put the needs of these boys first and who push them to expand their horizons, to hone their skills, and to set high standards for themselves in all facets of their lives.”
“You must walk a mile in my shoes to gain an understanding of my journey.” I have been thinking about this often quoted sentiment since I was given the assignment of writing a short piece for The Hill to introduce myself to the MBA community. This task, something that should be easy to someone who has spent 18 years helping students identify their strengths and find ways to communicate those strengths with admissions offices, has been as daunting to me as writing a personal statement for their college applications is to most seniors. This experience has affirmed for me the important role that I and my colleagues have in helping students to find their voice and to recognize the many positive attributes they possess. Like most students who engage in this process of reflecting upon their life experiences as they determine what they will write, I have found the opportunity to reflect upon my career and my presence in the MBA community to be affirming.

My professional career began when I graduated from Dickinson College in 1990 and chose to accept a position as an Admission Counselor for the Admissions Office. Having self-financed my education through a great financial aid package and many jobs on campus, I decided to go to work for the college rather than accept another job offer from Pepsi Co. because I wanted to give something back to the school that had given me so much. Every aspect of the job was rewarding and satisfying. Interviewing students, traveling to high schools and college fairs across the country helped me to understand that while the nightly news was rarely positive, the youth of our country is impressive and inspiring. While I had thought that I would leave education and go to work in business, I was hooked and wanted to find a job where I could interact with high school students over a longer period of time.

A fellow Dickinson graduate called me from The Webb School in Bell Buckle, Tenn. to let me know that they needed a college counselor. While I knew I was ready to switch to the other side of the desk, I had never heard of Bell Buckle and to my good fortune my friend convinced me to come and interview. In the summer of 1995 I moved into the younger girls’ dorm where I lived for my three years at Webb. Working closely each day with students in college counseling and the boarding proved to be incredibly challenging, rewarding, and informative, and affirmed my belief that every young person has wonderful gifts that need to be celebrated. Living with 20 teenage girls enabled me to see the strengths and struggles that the girls faced and prepared me well for my next job at Harpeth Hall, where single gender education enabled each of us to focus on helping to prepare young girls to be leaders. It was during these years that we began to form a stronger partnership with MBA, helping to draw upon the strengths of each school, and providing our students with greater opportunities whenever possible. The college counseling offices of Harpeth Hall and MBA began to offer joint college trips and to sponsor evening programs on financial aid, and the value of the arts and athletics in admissions. My interactions with the boys during these joint ventures were wonderful — they were the gentlemen, scholars, and athletes that MBA strives to produce.

During my time at Harpeth Hall, I met and married my husband Dan Maddux, a BGA graduate and Nashville native. When we were expecting our first child, I was given the opportunity to return to my hometown of Pittsburgh, Pa. to become the Director of College Counseling at Shady Side Academy. Since we were embarking on the adventure of our lifetime — parenthood — my husband decided that this was a good time to embark on other adventures and agreed to move to the Arctic Circle, or Pittsburgh. We joined the five day boarding school program, our family grew, and my appreciation for working with students from many different backgrounds and experiences helped me to grow as a professional. We were blessed to have my mother and siblings close to us, but Dan missed his hometown and we were thrilled when the opportunity to move back to Nashville became possible last May.

My journey to MBA has provided me with a wealth of experience to draw upon as I work with these amazing young men each day. I join a team in the college counseling office that is eager to help each boy find a place where they can continue their education and continue to grow as gentlemen, scholars, and athletes at the collegiate level. I am so blessed to work with a group of colleagues (faculty, administrators, and support staff) who put the needs of these boys first and who push them to expand their horizons, to hone their skills, and to set high standards for themselves in all facets of their lives. I look forward to learning the strengths of the younger boys and to finding ways to enhance the strong college counseling program that I inherited to insure that boys find the support, guidance, and encouragement they need to find a college or university that is a perfect fit.
The MBA Debate team brought wit and tenacity to all of its fall semester competitions in both policy debate and impromptu speaking. The impromptu speaking team competed all over the country and earned some impressive accolades. While the novice speakers were logging some impressive performances in regional tournaments at Samford University and Vestavia Hills in Birmingham, junior Aron Lutkowitz won the Patriot Classic at George Mason University, besting over 100 entries. He also won Samford University’s invitational, reached the finals at the university’s Early Bird tournament, and cleared to the elimination rounds at major national tournaments at the St. Marks School and The Glenbrooks School. In policy debate, the team met expectations for the year in dramatic fashion. Novice freshmen Kelly Haselton, Zach Chen, Robert Hoover, and Preston Palm took on national foes like an elite group of veterans. Haselton went undefeated at the Vestavia Hills tournament while Hoover earned third speaker. At Samford University, Hoover and Chen broke even in a competitive field while Haselton earned fifth speaker. In Junior Varsity, sophomores Max Werthan and Jesse Suh notched some impressive wins at the national-level Glenbrooks tournament. In the Varsity division, MBA once again contributed to its tradition of debate excellence in competitions across the nation. At the Wake Forest Tournament, the three teams of Samershel Mehta (‘10), 89, Rahul Sastri (‘09), 10, and Wesley Wilson (‘10) earned a 16–6 overall record and all cleared to the elimination rounds in the top ten of over 100 teams. At the Samford University tournament, the team of Pulous and Sastri defended their first place finish last year by again besting the field. At tough competition in Michigan, Illinois, Texas, and Minneapolis, these teams consistently ranked at least among the top 20 teams, usually among fields of over 100 teams and often as large as 200 teams.

The competition heats up again in early January and runs endlessly until early March, and the entire MBA Debate team hopes to continue its fall success at tournaments in Boston and Birmingham, and at Emory University, University of California-Berkeley, Harvard University, University of Georgia, and the University of Kentucky. Wish us luck, and a gifted tongue.
In October MBA served as host of a Presidential debate for high school seniors in both public and non-public schools at the Parthenon. Moderated by John Seigenthaler and led by Congressman Jim Cooper and Knoxville Mayor Bill Haslam, the debate focused on the issues before the American people leading up to the election of our 44th President.

The event provided an opportunity for the youth of Nashville to take part in the important political process that is the foundation of democracy. Not only were students given the opportunity to attend the event, but they also were involved in selecting the issues that were addressed during the debate.
In early November, three students joined the ranks of Totomoi, MBA’s most prestigious honor society. Twice a year the school recognizes individuals who have shown outstanding academics, athletics, service to the school, community service, and appreciation for the arts. Induction into Totomoi is the highest honor an MBA student, alumnus, or faculty member can receive. Class of 2009 members Wade Longmire, Will Overton, and Brian Swenson conducted the ceremony by giving a brief history of Totomoi, tapping each new member, and providing a summary of each new member’s accomplishments.

New inductees from the Class of 2009 are (above) Perry Webb, Rahul Sastry, and Connor Shope.

MERIT SCHOLARS

results of the 2008 PSAT/NMSQT, seven National Merit Semifinalists, from the Class of 2009 are Paschall Davis, Sam Page, Edward Powell, Rahul Sastry, and Matt Weik. Approximately 16,000 National Merit Semifinalists are selected from across the country. They are the top two percent of students taking the PSAT. The commended students for the Class of 2009 are James Anderson, Jimmy Balser, Clark Benton, Patrick Hallahan, Alex Martin, Will Mecklenborg, Sulley Mehio, Allen Miller, Will Overton, Caldwell Ritter, Harrison Stringfellow. The more than 1,000 MBA students recognized by the National Merit Scholarship program since its inception.

AP SCHOLARS

MBA students taking Advanced Placement exams in the spring of 2008 once again enjoyed tremendous success. With boys taking exams in 21 different subjects, the school is proud to announce that the College Board Advanced Placement Program has honored 76 MBA students. Ten members of the Class of 2008 were selected as National AP Scholars, an award given to students who receive an average grade of at least 4 on all AP exams taken. The students are Daniel Arteaga, Robert Awh, Austin Branstetter, Alexander Martin, Corey Metzman, William Orman, Tyler Ramsden, Andrew Snow, Robert Weikert, and Krzysztof Zienkiewich.

In addition to the National AP Scholars, 35 boys were named AP Scholar with Distinction, which is granted to students with an average grade of at least 3.5 on all exams taken. Fourteen students received recognition as AP Scholar with Honor, which goes to students with an average of at least 3.25 on all exams taken. Seventeen boys were named AP Scholar, each with an average of 3 or higher on three or more AP exams.
MBA’s busy musical season began before the first day of school and hit its stride with a September performance by the Ellington Band as a part of the school’s appearance on WSMV’s Cool Schools telecast. The band performed several segments before sunrise on the newly renovated Taylor Memorial. The Jazz Band entertained Homecoming guests at the Spaghetti Supper on September 26, while the annual Music in the Round concert on October 5 featured performances by the school’s chamber groups and the Junior School Singers.

MBA’s Admission Open House featured outstanding performances by the High School Jazz Band, the High School Chorus, and the Orchestra. Throughout the semester, nearly every event on campus and off featured a musical component, from the Rock Band playing at football games, to the Chorus performing at assembly, to Headmaster’s Singers entertaining the residents of Richland Place during their Veterans Day commemoration. The November Jazz Concert offered tunes from the Seventh Grade, Eighth Grade, and High School Jazz Band, as well as the Ellington Band.

As the winter break neared, a quartet of Headmasters Singers performed the National Anthem at a Nashville Predators game. They were joined by the MBA Rock Band, which served as between period entertainment. The last major performance of the year was the annual Holiday Concert, which featured performances by the Chamber Orchestra, the Junior School Singers, and the Chorus.

MBA would like to offer special congratulations to juniors Andrew Holmgren and Zach Sternberg on their selection to the All Middle Tennessee Jazz Band, as well as senior Michael Nunan (Second All Mid-State Concert Band) and sophomore Jack Warne (alternate). In the Junior High competition, freshmen Preston Palm and Karthik Sastry were selected for the All Mid-State Junior High Orchestra, while freshman Zach Chen was selected for the First All Mid-State Junior High Band.

MUSIC

Junior Alvin Kim entertains the crowd at the Fathers of Alumni Breakfast in November.
The MBA fall theater season began during the dog days of summer with rehearsals for the school’s eleventh collaboration with Harpeth Hall, the girl meets ghoul musical *Zombie Prom*. The atomic 1950s at Enrico Fermi High set the scene for Dana Rowe and John Dempsey’s tale of heroine Toffee, who falls for class rebel Jonny. When Toffee’s parents force her to break up with Jonny, he throws himself into a nuclear reactor and comes back to haunt the school as a zombie. The wacky musical had much to offer, including love, rebellion, and nuclear monsters. Junior Corbin Williams starred as Jonny and Margaret Burrus played the role of Toffee. Alex Martin (’09), Ford Altenbern (’11), Aaron Ardisson (’12), Austin Archer (’09), Gage Baxter (’11), Ben Gregory (’09), John Lowe (’10), Ryan Penney (’09), Andrew Wright (’11), and the entire technical crew turned in strong performances.

MBA and Harpeth Hall collaborated again in late September as a part of the Tennessee Theater Association’s One-Act Play Competition. Under the direction of Foreign Language Department Chair Rick Seay (’79), their production of *The Insanity of Mary Girard* advanced the group to state level from the Middle Tennessee qualifying competition. On October 24 the team won the state title. Willa Fitzgerald from Harpeth Hall won Best Actress for the entire competition and Will Holt (’09) of MBA was on the All Star Cast List. Other MBA participants were Carter Callaway (’11), Dalton Fouts (’10), Tommy Harless (’10), Will Lee (’11), Tom Markham (’11), Ben Mecklenborg (’10), Matt Moynihan (’10), Daniel Smith (’10), and Zach Sternberg (’10). The show will now represent the entire state of

ON THE HILL
Tennessee at the Southeastern Theater Conference in Birmingham, Ala. at the beginning of March. The team will compete there against state winners from 12 southeastern states.

In October MBA welcomed Artist-in-Residence Steve Maler ('83) for a very special Readers Theater production of William Shakespeare’s Romeo and Juliet. Maler is currently Artistic Director of Boston’s famed Commonwealth Shakespeare Company. Students, along with professional actors from the community, participated in this thrilling event.

The Artist-in-Residence Program enables MBA to invite a professional currently working as a visual artist, musician, or theater practitioner to be at the school for a week, attend classes and rehearsals, lecture and answer questions, and offer workshops or demonstrations in certain areas of specialty.

The fall season closed with a performance of Christopher Marlowe’s classic Doctor Faustus. In the original play that introduces us to the good and bad angels guiding our conscience, Marlowe shows how boredom and ambition can have devilish results. Faustus achieves power through knowledge, but his thirst for power pushes him to sell his soul to the devil for greater knowledge and the wealth and notoriety they bring him. He imagines piling up great riches, but he also aspires to plumb the mysteries of the universe and remake the map of Europe. Alex Martin shined in the title role, with Will Holt, Chris Goodrich ('11), Ryan Penney, and Ford Altenbern rounding out the all-star cast. Dr. Cal Fuller directed this classic Elizabethan tragedy that has influenced so many modern retellings.
MBA students apparently see the “writing on the wall” when it comes to giving of themselves through community service. With nearly 2,000 volunteer hours logged during just the first half of the school year, MBA boys are well on their way to setting new records in terms of commitment to serving the community.

**Autism Speaks**

is an organization “dedicated to funding global biomedical research into the causes, prevention, treatments, and cure for autism; to raising public awareness about autism and its effects on individuals, families, and society; and to bringing hope to all who deal with the hardships of this disorder.” They aspire to accomplish their goals by raising funds to support these efforts. The walks, organized throughout the country, directly benefit the organization.

Annie B. Williams, MBA history teacher, gave an account of the event: “Early on the morning of September 13, 2008, a group of enthusiastic and dedicated young men left MBA for the Nashville Super Speedway. More than 30 MBA volunteers, fueled by McDonald’s biscuits and orange juice, were on their way to volunteer at the Autism Speaks Walk in Lebanon. While walk events have been held many times nationwide, the 2008 walk was Middle Tennessee’s first; MBA was a huge part of its success.

The Middle Tennessee event planners were looking for volunteers to work the walk and to raise money prior to the event. The MBA Service Club, under the leadership of President Ian Preston, answered the call. After several meetings and with precise planning, Ian and the other officers organized a group of volunteers and raised nearly $400. The contribution from the MBA community helped Autism Speaks far exceed its goal of $100,000, which in fact brought in well over $200,000. While at the walk, the boys helped set up tables, served snacks, manned an inflatable jumping castle, and even fit in a game of chess. According to the event organizers, the MBA service team was the backbone of the volunteer effort; they were most impressed with the students’ good attitudes and ability to self-start, and their hard work played a major role in the event’s success. The Autism Speaks volunteers truly embody the best of MBA — honor, service, respect, and kindness.”

Emblazoned on a mural in the weight room is this reminder: “For those to whom much is given, much is required.” —John Fitzgerald Kennedy
SUSAN G. KOMEN RACE FOR THE CURE celebrates its 25th anniversary as the largest series of 5K runs/fitness walks in the world, with well over one million participants since 2005. The Komen Race for the Cure Series raises significant funds and awareness for the fight against breast cancer, while celebrating breast cancer survivors and remembering those who have lost their battle with the disease.

For a series of weeks this fall, the entire MBA community held the flag in the fight against breast cancer for the Susan G. Komen Foundation. The kick-off for the fund-raising effort occurred during an assembly in September. Students, faculty, and staff were asked to raise their hands if their lives have been affected by breast cancer. It was a moving sight to witness the number of young men and faculty and staff who acknowledged their relationship with the disease.

The drive — led by Beth Warner, John Harvey, and Zac Hood — more than tripled the fund-raising goal by reaching a total of $9,460. Part of the money came from a first-ever Pink Day where students donated money and wore pink to support the cause. The total amount raised made MBA one of the top five fund-raisers among all of Nashville.

HABITAT BLITZ BUILD was held on September 27th and 28th. A group of MBA alumni, students, and faculty picked up their tool belts in service to a Habitat for Humanity Blitz Build. As part of a team organized by Brandon Shea (’94), the MBA contingent helped build a three bedroom house from slab to shingles in about two days. Brandon, who spearheaded the project along with his wife Liz, raised nearly $20,000 for this house by running a triathlon earlier in the year. It was an honor for the MBA community to participate in such a worthy project.

OPERATION SMILE is an international medical mission that serves 27 different countries, and specializes in the repair of facial deformities in children in developing nations. High school and college students throughout the world attend international leadership conferences where they learn how to raise funds and awareness for the organization; a select few are chosen to serve on the medical missions. In years past, MBA alumni Kevin Seitz (’06) and Kevin Thomas (’07) were chosen as team members and traveled to Kenya and Jordan respectively. Their roles were to check in the patients, to educate the families about oral hygiene, and to comfort the young patients before and after their surgeries.

MBA students Michael Seitz (’10) and Cooper Thomas (’11) are following in the footsteps of their older brothers by carrying on fund-raising efforts for the MBA Operation Smile Student Association. In collaboration with students from University School of Nashville, they helped to organize a benefit concert held at the home of MBA alumnus Frank Garrison (’73) and featured legendary roadhouse rocker Delbert McClinton and Friends. MBA student musicians and club members Cooper Thomas and Ryan Hill (’11) provided background music in an event that raised nearly $10,000.

AN INTERVIEW WITH
Ian Preston (’09)
MBA SERVICE CLUB PRESIDENT

WHAT HAS FUELED YOUR PASSION FOR SERVICE HERE AT MBA?
Ever since my freshman year when MBA welcomed me after I evacuated from Hurricane Katrina, I have felt it is my sincere duty to give back to the school and the community in every way possible. In my earlier years here, I volunteered for that purpose. But now, as Service Club President and an aspiring leader, I enjoy every minute of service and love getting my peers excited about serving the community even more.

WHAT HAVE YOU AND THE OTHER OFFICERS ADDED TO THE CLUB THIS YEAR?
This year we have collaborated with Harpeth Hall on many more projects than in the past: Grafitti Paintouts, Invisible Children, and a Dodge Ball Tournament, among others.

Also, thanks to numerous leaders from the eleventh grade class this year, we have added some new projects: Rob Higham’s Burundi Refugee Tutoring, Michael Seitz and Cooper Thomas’ Operation Smile benefit concert, and Ben Sutter’s Special Olympics Swimming.

WHAT DIRECTION WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE SERVICE AT MBA MOVE TOWARDS, LONG AFTER YOU HAVE GRADUATED AND MOVED ON?
In the future, I would very much like to see the Junior School collaborating with the High School on all service projects.

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“When the students from Tennessee School for the Blind came to our campus, I noticed that they had very acute senses of hearing and touch, which helps to make up for their lack of sight,” junior Seth Akers-Campbell reports. “Each completely blind student was paired with a student with only limited sight loss so that they collaborated wherever they went. In my class, we were reading Shakespearean sonnets and they listened attentively and even commented on the imagery of the poem during class. I think they really benefited from attending our assembly because we had many speakers that day that showed them MBA’s diversity. They listened to a song from the chorus, announcements about service opportunities, and a presentation on an exchange trip to Australia. They were just as interested in the Australia presentation as any of the MBA students, even though the presentation consisted mostly of images on a PowerPoint slide. Many of the MBA students to whom I talked were amazed by their mobility and impressed with their attitude towards their condition. I am currently trying to set up a date for when MBA students can go to TSB and see the school. We are most likely going to attend one of their sports events, like a wrestling match.”

EDITORS NOTE

In light of the school’s involvement with the Tennessee School for the Blind, it is noteworthy that an MBA alumnus established the seeing eye dog program in the United States. The organization, called the Seeing Eye, traces its roots to Nashville and the initiative of Morris Frank, a Nashville native and MBA alumnus. In 1927, Frank, blind since the age of 16, learned about a German program which used shepherd dogs as eyes for the blind. The idea of service dogs sharing space with humans in public places first gained social acceptance on the streets of Nashville. As the oldest guide dog school in the nation, Seeing Eye has matched more than 11,000 trained guide dogs with blind men and women, giving them newfound freedom, confidence, and independence.
SCOTT O’NEAL (’84)

WELCOME TO THE 2008 FALL SEMESTER OF BIG RED ATHLETICS – A SEMESTER THAT MARKS A FEW YEARS OF BOWLING, A DECADE OR BETTER OF SWIMMING AND HOCKEY, OVER 40 YEARS OF WRESTLING AND CROSS COUNTRY, 80+ YEARS OF GOLF, 100+ YEARS OF BASKETBALL, AND 110 YEARS OF FOOTBALL...AND MY FIRST AS ATHLETICS DIRECTOR. IT IS A TREMENDOUS PROGRAM, AND I WILL DO EVERYTHING IN MY POWER TO ENSURE ITS CONTINUED SUCCESS AND GROWTH IN EVERY WAY; I AM HUMBLED BY THIS OPPORTUNITY.

Our athletes have been hard at work all summer and fall preparing for these sports (and others, of course). Their drive, determination, and most of all, commitment to excellence are inspiring to every one of us who are in contact with these young men every day. The coaches that work with our athletes are no less determined or passionate about our boys’ successes; they are incredibly dedicated and hard working! I am so proud to be associated with both of these groups.

At MBA, we expect our young men to bolster this work ethic and competitive spirit with a sense of fair play and gentlemanliness – and they do so in so many great ways. We have had tremendous successes this year: from Microbe Golf, Cross Country, and Soccer winning HVAC Championships to the Varsity Cross Country’s championship at the Great American Cross Country Festival in Alabama and State Runner-up finish; from the 75 member strong Seventh Grade Football team’s winning season to Varsity Football’s win over Moeller in the Herbstreit Classic; from Hockey’s six straight wins to start the season to Swimming’s undefeated start; and so much more. Highlights are updated regularly on the athletics Web pages, so please visit the Web site often to keep up with all of our great teams.

I would like to thank everyone involved with Big Red athletics that help create such success. I hope you will attend our athletic contests and visit The Hill as often as possible to enjoy the competition and camaraderie…but mostly, the commitment exhibited by these fine young men.

ROLL RED ROLL!
GOLF The 2008 MBA Golf team won three, lost five, and tied two in dual matches. In four tournaments they finished fifth (The Preview), third (Stan McNabb), third (Father Ryan Tournament), and sixth (Regional Tournament). To win the state title award, the team scored a season average of 76 and a record score of 68. The first week of training began in the heat of summer and November afternoon. The harriers finished second in a field of 28 teams to eventual state champion Baylor in the Drake Memorial Classic. A week later, the harriers finished second (in a field of 16 teams) to eventual state champion Baylor in the AF Bridges.

CROSS COUNTRY The 2008 cross country team was MBA's most talented and most competitive since its State Championship team of 1999. Led by seniors Baker Mulherin, Matt Racliff, and Taylor Land, the harriers began training in the heat of summer and finished as State Runner-up in an unseasonably warm November afternoon. Following weeks of summer running and the annual cross country camp at Sewanee, the team swept to victory against a ten-team field in the Drake Memorial the day after Labor Day. The first day of major competition saw MBA field two teams in two different competitive meets. The Varsity placed third out of six teams in a small, elite meet in Chattanooga and the JV placed sixth of 34 teams running in the varsity race of the Tennessee Classic. A week later, the harriers finished second (in a field of 28 teams) to eventual state champion Baylor in the AF Bridges.

Two quality weeks of training highlighted by the return of the Tour de Pants and a sub-seven-minute paced run of the 11.2 mile loop in Percy Warner Park prepped the runners for the high point of the season, the Great America Cross Country Festival in Hoover, Ala. Running in the Race of Champions against a field that included state champions from Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, and Florida, MBA placed first out of 16 teams. Even though MBA did not place a single runner in the top ten, team depth and solid performances from all seven varsity runners proved a winning formula. Returning from Alabama, MBA turned around less than a week later and defended its Metro title, winning handily against 19 local schools.

Although the team had high hopes of returning the state championship trophy to MBA, Baylor was victorious at the State meet. Team MVP Michael Peters earned all-state honors for the second consecutive year and was joined on the podium by fellow sophomores Ryan Hill and Hayes McCord who each earned all-state recognition. Looking towards next fall, junior David Dalton and the three returning all-state sophomores will be joined by an unusually large number of young, talented, hard-working harriers; their common goal will be a state title in 2009!

FOOTBALL The 2008 MBA Football team completed another tremendous season. Although the team did not come away with a state championship, they delivered historic victories for a program with more tradition than any school in the state. The team was lead by a talented group of seniors that compiled a 23-2 record in their final two years for the Big Red.

Following a grueling summer of preparation, the Big Red opened the season at home with an impressive 45-19 victory over Antioch. This win gave the team momentum into perhaps their most exciting challenge of the season. The Big Red traveled to Cincinnati, Ohio to play in the illustrious Kirk Herbstreit Varsity Football Series on national television. The series matches up the top high school teams from Ohio against the best high school teams in the country. MBA was matched against national power Moeller High School in Paul Brown Stadium. After an impressive first half by the defense, the Big Red held a 7-6 halftime lead. The offense broke the game open in the second half with Coach McGugin's patented hook and ladder play. Spencer Wise ('09) completed a pass to Hooper Paty ('09), who then pitched the ball to Patrick Crum ('09) racing down the sideline for a 60-yard touchdown. Wise finished the day with 244 yards passing and the Big Red rolled to a 21-6 victory in an historic game for the school.

Following a week of only three days of practice, The Big Red traveled to Chattanooga and defeated a strong Baylor team 14-3. The next week, the team traveled a shorter distance to play eventual 4A state champion
Hillsboro. In one of the most exciting environments of the season, the Big Red jumped on the Burros early. Senior Reggie Ford blocked a field goal attempt and Perry Webb ('09) recovered and returned the length of the field for a touchdown. Loaded with Division I talent, Hillsboro did not give in easily, but the Big Red defense stepped up in the fourth quarter. Junior Jeff Nutkis intercepted a pass in the end zone preventing a touchdown, and then sophomore Joe Reigle intercepted another Burros pass with only a few seconds remaining, preserving a monumental 19-14 victory.

The team improved to 5-0 the following week by thrashing under-matched Pope John Paul II 51-7. Patrick Crum led the way with 134 yards rushing. The Big Red then faced 5A power Ravenwood for Homecoming. Behind an excellent performance in the trenches from senior captains Scott Bubis and Wesley Johnson, the Big Red pleased the large Homecoming crowd with a 24-21 victory.

Following a difficult loss to a talented Ensworth team, the Big Red traveled to Brentwood Academy. On the heels of a great week of practice, the team came out focused and took an early 7-0 lead on the opening drive. The defense then took over, and with the help of two Andrew Fletcher ('10) field goals, the Big Red led 13-7 nearing the end of the fourth quarter. Brentwood Academy then drove down to the MBA ten-yard line with only a minute remaining in the game. After three straight unsuccessful running plays, BA faced fourth and goal from the six-yard line with only a few seconds on the clock. BA’s pass was knocked away in the end zone by safety Reggie Ford and the celebration began on the MBA sideline. The Big Red came away victorious at Brentwood Academy for only the second time in school history.

The team used the momentum of the Brentwood Academy game to put together three of their most impressive performances of the season. The streak began by defeating bitter rival Father Ryan 45-0. Junior William Tanner caught six balls for 127 yards and a touchdown, leading the team to the greatest margin of victory ever recorded in the rivalry. Junior Linebacker Fitz Lassing added six tackles and three sacks to preserve the shutout.

The following week the offense lit up the scoreboard again with a 35-16 victory over McCallie. The Big Red displayed its creativity on the offensive end in this matchup. Spencer Wise hit Hooper Paty on a 37-yard flea-flicker play for a touchdown, and Reggie Ford delivered on a fake punt for a 58-yard touchdown run.

The Big Red finished the regular season 9-1 and was rewarded an opening round home playoff game against Christian Brothers from Memphis. In a total team effort, the Big Red crushed Christian Brothers 34-0. Luke Colbert ('10) and Spencer Wise combined for five touchdown passes. The defense added three interceptions enroute to their second shutout of the season.

The following week, on a stormy night in Memphis, the Big Red’s season came to an end at the hands of MUS. Five turnovers were too much to overcome in a 35-7 loss to the eventual state champion Owls.

Despite the way the season ended, this senior class of football players accomplished an astounding amount during their careers, including three historic victories over Moeller, Brentwood Academy, and Father Ryan. Even more importantly, through their leadership, these seniors set a high standard of excellent discipline, attitude, and effort that will benefit the school for many years to come. >>>

![Brentwood Academy cross country runners](image)
MICROBE HIGHLIGHTS
Following a season that included a 6-1 dual match record and a team victory in the mid-season tournament, the golfin’ Microbes lived up to the expectations and completely obliterated the competition in the HVAC Tournament. The five players who represented MBA won the team competition with a combined total of 140 – 14 shots better than the second place team. Seventh graders Cal Fisher and Chase Mathews took first and second place respectively in individual competition. Coach Gabe Carro remarked that in his five years of coaching the team, he had never seen such a lopsided victory, or a team with such depth.

The 2008 Microbe Cross Country team passed an unprecedented milestone September 25, 2008 by winning its fourth consecutive HVAC Championship at the Vaughn’s Creek course. MBA’s top seven runners included Tate Ramsden – first with a time of 7:49; Alex Smith – second with a time of 8:26; John Higham – fifth overall; Hayden Deakins – ninth overall; Madison Rieke – tenth overall; Henry Lynch – 13th overall; and Eric Anderson – 17th overall.
Ramsden’s time of 7:49 broke the old HVAC record by six seconds. He is one of only two people to ever run under eight minutes on Vaughn’s Creek one-and-a-half-mile course.

The Seventh Grade MBA Football team had a great season, finishing with a 6-2 record. The highlight of the year occurred at the conclusion of the Brentwood Academy game. With the ball at midfield and tied at eight with 31 seconds remaining in the game, DJ Clark ran a sweep to the left and was tackled inbounds at the 26 yard line. MBA used it’s second timeout to stop the clock at :18, and set up the next play. The BA defense hit on a middle screen to Jay Robertson, who was tackled inbounds at the nine yard line. MBA took it’s final timeout to stop the clock at :07. On the final play of the game, Tucker Vogess took the snap and rolled out to the right and fired a pass to Vinny Gaglione, who out jumped his defender and came down with the ball in the corner of the endzone to give the Big Red a 14 - 8 victory with no time remaining on the clock. With 76 of the 114 seventh graders playing this fall, the future of MBA football is strong!

The MBA Eighth Grade Football team finished a successful 2008 season with a 4-4 record. This gritty 53-player roster faced the most challenging schedule that any Microbe team has ever seen, and they persevered through the long practices and tough competition. The record does not truly reflect the effort and character of the boys, as losses to perennial powers Springfield Middle, Whithorne Middle, and Brentwood Academy all came within the last minute of play. Highlights of the season included a thrilling last second triumph to open the season at Dickson Middle, an electrifying overtime win at BGA, a 29-0 shutout at neighborhood rival Ensworth, and a victory over previously undefeated CPA to end the season in the annual Big Red Bowl. The memories gained and lessons learned by this talented group go far beyond the records, though. The future of Big Red Football looks bright as these Microbes embark upon their high school careers. This class combines an enormous amount of skill on the field with strong leadership off the field. Special thanks also go to the four selfless and dedicated managers of the team: Parrish Preston, Bo Griswold, Clay McLemore, and Reed Cothron.

The Big Red Microbe Soccer program continued its tradition of excellence this year. Because 60 soccer players tried out for the team, Coach Klausner decided to field A, B, and C teams. Mr. Cole Eppstein coached the C team with the help of several former players, and the team went 4-0 for the season. The B team proved to be an outstanding group of soccer players whose highlight was winning the First Annual B Team tournament. The team was coached by Daniel Paolicchi and Cole Eppstein, both newcomers to MBA, who did a tremendous job of teaching the young men the MBA system of play.

As for the A team, they played to their potential and went 10-0, outscoring their opponents 41-2 for the season. The team played beautiful and powerful soccer as they won the HVAC championship for the fifth season in a row. The team was coached by Varsity coach Giles Cheever, Junior Varsity coach Dick Klausner, and alum Jake Lawrence ’04; all three coaches felt this team was one of the best middle school teams MBA has ever had as the boys played such good soccer. The team was led by eighth grade co-captains Trey Gill (All-HVAC) and Hayden Deakins (All-HVAC), striker Jack Emerson, and defender Henry Lynch (All-HVAC), who organized and ran the powerful defense that only surrendered two goals for the entire season. In the HVAC championship game, the Big Red faced USN whom they had only beaten 1-0 during the regular season, the Tigers’ only loss. Even though the Big Red came into the game undefeated, they were aware of the strength of USN. Jonah Rappuhn (All-HVAC) was assigned to mark their best player, and he did an unbelievable job by holding him scoreless. Lynch and Landon Bullock played tremendously in the defensive third to preserve the shutout. Gill, Andrew Karpos, and Sam Smith dominated the midfield with their fierce defensive play and their effort in transition. Deakins and Emerson harassed the USN defense the entire game, setting up the goals. The first goal was scored by Deakins who fired a loose ball into the back of the net. Gill scored the second goal when he received a ball at the top of the box and hit a blistering shot past the keeper. The final goal came when Gil hit a beautiful pass to Colton Black who sprinted past the USN defense and buried the shot.

Microbe Wrestling finished an outstanding season with a second place finish at the very tough regional Cleveland Duals tournament and a second place finish in the HVAC. The JV Microbes had a strong finish as well by placing third in a tough Varsity tournament of 12 teams at the Harpeth Indian Classic. After a slow start to the season with a close victory against Ensworth and a loss against Harding, the Microbes had such considerable improvement by the end of the season that the other coaches were asking whether this was the same team that wrestled at the beginning of the season. The difference was that all 55 members of the team committed to improve, and the result was outstanding practices and practice partners which translated into tremendous results in some of the most challenging tournaments in the Southeast.

Led by Captains George Swenson and Franklin Garstin, the team had outstanding individual performances throughout the year. Of note, Franklin Garstin not only won the HVAC championship, but was also awarded the HVAC Tournament Best Wrestler unanimously by the coaches that participated. Tyler Forcum also won the HVAC championship. Whit Emerson, John Tulley, Hunter Tidwell, and Frank Vest placed second in their weight classes at the HVAC and all were integral to the success at the Cleveland duals where the team defeated Baylor for the first time in over a decade. Third place finishers at the HVAC were George Swenson, Davidson White, Jody Gorham, Jetari Donald, Joe Richardson, and Todd Baker. At the end of the HVAC tournament the MBA wrestlers placed in the top three in 12 of the 14 weight classes.
On December 5 the Class of 2010, their families, friends, and alumni took part in MBA’s annual ring ceremony. A senior schoolmate presented each junior with his class ring, or if the student is the son of an alumnus, then his father presented the ring. The ceremony, now in its 14th year, is an event honoring the tremendous ring tradition at MBA.

The event began with a welcome from Jim Chandler (’75). Ryan Penney, a member of the Class of 2009, shared the details of his MBA journey, from a child looking at the campus and deciding that MBA was the place for him, to the perseverance required in the classroom, to the pride of and sense of accomplishment that awaits at graduation. Fellow senior Curry Beeker offered his thoughts on what it means to be an MBA student. Following his speech, Beeker was presented his ring by Headmaster Brad Gioia.

MBA Board of Trust member Dudley Warner (’61) followed with reflections on his time on The Hill and the profound impact that men and women like Francis Carter, Mary Helen Lowry, and Tommy Owen have had on his life. The following are Warner’s remarks.
To the Class of 2010, I know you’re anticipating the Ring Ceremony, but I want to tell you why my ring means so much to me. I remember vividly the day I received my ring 48 years ago. I’ve worn this simple, almost sacred symbol virtually every day since. My 1961 class numerals and the MBA waffle are practically worn smooth. My ring represents all my experiences since I first arrived on The Hill and signed the book. What I remember most is the relationship that I had with the teachers and the headmaster — what I learned apart from the textbooks.

In my family we didn’t have many formal conversations about personal virtue. At MBA it was an everyday discussion. Chapel, like your Assembly, was a continuous forum about values, character, integrity, and personal trust. For me, it was a daily dose of how to become a better person. It was such a stimulating environment with a tremendous emphasis on personal honor and the Honor System. You wanted to measure up to the ideal. You wanted to have the “right stuff.” The difficulty at MBA was the constant grind of classes, always pushing yourself to keep up; every hour of every day was filled with additional requirements, challenges, and expectations. Classes were so small you couldn’t mangle. My classmates were smart and motivated; the competition was fierce. Our teachers were dynamic and inundated us with homework. The atmosphere was so compelling, and sometimes it seemed overwhelming. Each of you boys know the drill… you live it every day. Eventually, you get used to it — you get better — you learn how to use your time more effectively. You learn to be independent and make your own decisions, to keep your own counsel. You learn the value of perseverance. You learn how to survive the regimen… and you become stronger because of it.

Let me tell you about my headmaster, with whom most of us had a fear/respect relationship. He came to MBA with instructions to make the school equal to the great prep schools in the East and he took his charge seriously. While some thought he was tyrannical, I thought he was strict, but ultimately fair. He was a Thomas Jefferson man, University of Virginia through and through. He subscribed to the theory that every MBA boy should seek to be a renaissance man — courteous, articulate, and competitive. He was demanding of every boy and every teacher. He had more rules than the Marines. He absolutely believed he knew how to educate boys — he suffered no excuses or marginal effort. The attrition rate was such that only 39 boys made it to graduation. We learned more self-discipline from Mr. Carter’s leadership than we would have believed possible. He changed the culture of the school by his own willpower. As rigorous as he was, I often...
FOR A PRETTY AVERAGE STUDENT, I’VE HAD SOME SENSATIONAL EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES, BUT THE BEST WAS MBA. IT WAS HERE THAT THE TEACHERS LED ME TO DISCOVER THAT I WAS CURIOUS — AND THAT CURIOUSITY HAS LASTED MY ENTIRE LIFE. I REMEMBER THE NAMES OF JUST A FEW OF MY PROFESSORS IN COLLEGE AND GRAD SCHOOL; BUT I REMEMBER THE NAME OF EVERY TEACHER I HAD AT MBA AND MOST OF THEIR QUIRKS AND IDIOSYNCRASIES.

saw how understanding he was, how noble his goals, and how much he cared about each boy. Believe me, when you received your ring in 1960, you knew you had earned it — just as each of you will know in a few minutes when you receive your ring. After your graduation, I hope each of you will feel you were as challenged by Mr. Gioia and your faculty as I did by Mr. Carter and our teachers.

Twenty years ago when my son had been at MBA for four months, I asked him how he liked it. When he said he loved it, I asked why? He immediately replied that “everyone was treated the same… there were no teacher favorites… you could be president of the class or captain of the football team…if you fouled up or misbehaved, you got demerits.” He loved the discipline and equality of the school.

In my day, all the teachers used to share their personal secrets of success: Coach Owen would say “nothing good happens after midnight.” Mrs. Lowry, used to say “30 minutes of focused effort is better than two hours of daydreaming.” Mr. Rule would tell us “every hour of sleep before 12 o’clock is worth two hours after.” Dr. Sager advised us “every President ought to follow Harry Truman’s example,” whatever that meant (we never knew for sure). All that great advice would really make your day!

I thought I was a pretty good writer when I was here; but no matter how much time I spent on a theme, the best grade I got from Mrs. Lowry was a 76. I simply couldn’t please her. After I received an “A” on every essay the next year in my college freshman English class, I was still chapped that Mrs. Lowry hadn’t recognized my talent. One day I couldn’t stand it any longer and I went to MBA and walked into Mrs. Lowry’s room during the class changeover. I spread the essays on her desk and enthusiastically requested her appraisal. I don’t know what I expected, but her response was pure music to my ears… she wrapped her arms around me and said, “Class, you remember Dudley from last year. Look at all these wonderful themes… I’m so proud of him!” Needless to say, I melted, no longer able to muster any anger.

All our relationships with faculty weren’t quite so pleasant. Sometimes one of us would fall asleep in Mr. Mirriwether’s chemistry class. His corrective teaching technique was to bang his meter stick down on your desktop. You’d wake up in a fog, eyes blinking, ears ringing — not very nice, but very effective. All the boys knew Coach Owen didn’t give demerits, but if you misbehaved and he heard about it, you’d run laps until you dropped. Sometimes you got demerits and still ran laps. We respected him so much we’d never consider disobeying him. When I attend MBA football games, I always stop by his bronze statue before kickoff and touch his hand for good luck.

I was an average student at MBA: the truth is I was near the bottom of my graduating class. We called ourselves the Fabulous Class of 1961. I almost didn’t make it. My first day, I received five demerits for talking back to the Latin teacher. I decided to go over the teacher’s head to the Headmaster to “appeal” my punishment. Boy, was that stupid. Let’s just say, I was unceremoniously escorted out the door. I thought at the time that I was treated unfairly, but I got the message, the very first harsh lesson. I, not Mother, not Dad, just little old me was solely accountable for my actions. Later in my career I discovered how valuable this lesson would be.

One day the Headmaster was walking by the tennis courts and saw me throw my racquet at the back fence in frustration. He called me over and told me if he ever saw me throw my racquet again, I would never play another point for MBA. Without thinking, I impetuously said, “Wait a second! Mr. Rule is the tennis coach.” “I know,” he said, “I sign his check!” It has never occurred to me since then to throw my racquet or my golf club, no matter how poorly I’m playing. Some lessons you just never forget.

One morning, Mr. Carter, aware that I was struggling in my studies, handed me his personal dog-eared edition of a book entitled “How To Study and Improve Your Grades.” He told me to return it when I had mastered the techniques in the book. That book resides today on my bookshelf… and I still occasionally refer to it.

It was in college that I realized how much I appreciated the extra time MBA teachers had spent with me. It was at Vanderbilt that I also realized MBA had prepared me to compete at any level I might elect to pursue. I just had to get motivated to get off my duff and spend the energy to perform.

I can’t tell you how often in my life when I have faced tough times — trying to prepare for an exam, trying to negotiate a deal, trying to win an argument, trying to comprehend my children’s behavior — that I haven’t looked at my right hand and touched my MBA ring and suddenly felt a catharsis of confidence and understanding. MBA prepared me to deal with adversity. I believe it will do the same for you.

For a pretty average student, I’ve had some sensational educational experiences, but the best was MBA. It was here that the teachers led me to discover that I was curious — and that curiosity has lasted my entire life. I remember the names of just a few of my professors in college and grad school; but I remember the name of every teacher I had at MBA and most of their quirks and idiosyncrasies. That’s why ten years ago I chose to get so involved with the International Student Exchange Program. It’s another special MBA opportunity that I hope each of you juniors will explore.

Thank you for listening to my nostalgic trip down Memory Lane. Your MBA ring symbolizes the completion of the circle from the first day you and your family made the MBA commitment and you set foot on the campus as a new student to the day you walk across the lawn and receive your diploma. All these experiences are encircled within your MBA ring. I congratulate you. Wear your ring knowing that you earned it. Keep working hard and I’m sure you’ll appreciate, as I have over the years, the value of your MBA experience.
Curry
Beeker

often called the “happiest boy at MBA,” curry beeker arrived on The Hill his junior year. a transfer from mobile, ala., beeker didn’t waste any time becoming a part of the school community. in addition to a course load that includes several AP and honors classes, he immersed himself in activities as far ranging as science olympiad, soup kitchen, special olympics, and varsity basketball. when asked about his transition, beeker remarked, “it’s easy to enjoy school where the students are so outgoing and willing to make new friends. on my first day people i had never seen before knew my name, and were willing to help with anything i needed. i love that students strive to excel in the classroom and the playing fields, but remain normal high schoolers who just want to enjoy life.”
Bailey Brandon’s MBA story is one of perseverance. Arriving on campus as a freshman, Brandon initially struggled to find balance between his myriad interests and the school’s academic rigors. A star hockey and lacrosse player, avid musician, and very involved church member, he had to “…learn how to manage tests and exams when there were games or activities the night before. If it were not for the support and help of my family, teachers, and friends, I don’t know if I would have learned the valuable concepts of success that will always be with me.” Looking back, Brandon reflects, “Being a part of the MBA community is a gift that was never taken for granted. I am thankful every single day that I get to spend my high school career at MBA. Without a doubt, this place has had a significant impact on my life that I know no other school could have done.”
(l to r)
SCOTT O’NEAL ‘’84
MIKE ANDERSON ‘’93
DICK KLAUSNER ‘’73
EMMETT RUSSELL ‘’88
RICK SEAY ‘’79
prodigal sons
by: MIKE MARTIN ('98)
Chris Smith approached me six weeks ago about writing a story for *The Hill* about the many MBA alums who work at the school. Being the “new guy” in the office, my natural reaction was “absolutely, I’d love to”; although deep down inside, doubt immediately crept in. Was this something I could do? When was the last time I wrote anything longer than a few paragraphs? Will this feel like writing a term paper? I did not have much of a plan of attack for this story. Basically, I would interview the different alums and see if I could pull something from these conversations. It did not seem like a great plan, but it turned out to be the perfect plan.

I first spoke with Dr. Rick Seay, a 1979 graduate who currently serves as Chair of the Foreign Languages Department. Right away my conversation with Rick gave me hope. He mentioned how the “writing program at MBA is structured so perfectly that I’ve never had to think about writing ever since - it’s second nature.” Hearing Rick say this made me realize that maybe I could write this story. Even though we attended MBA in different decades, the writing program was still the same. However, I still needed to find a theme.

Rick would go on to tell me that this was his second teaching stint at MBA. He first started working for MBA as a fill-in English teacher soon after he graduated from college. Unfortunately, English was not the subject he wanted to teach. Rick developed a passion for Latin while a student — a passion that did not come immediately. After two sub-par years of taking the language, Rick signed up for Latin III “sort of as a joke.” Failing to take the class off of his schedule, Rick would instead develop a new found love for the language thanks to a couple of influential teachers — Andy Gaither and Ed Gaffney.

After teaching English at MBA, Rick taught at Hillwood High School for 17 years before becoming the Headmaster at East Academy in Nashville. When a job teaching Latin opened up at MBA, “I pretty much jumped at the chance, knowing this would be a wonderful place to teach...it just made sense at the time.” Rick also made the point of saying he would not have taken this opportunity at another school because he really enjoyed his time as a headmaster. Hearing him tell me this was impressive. He had a great job as a headmaster at a school he really liked, but he left there so he could teach a subject he was passionate about at a school he loved.

Dr. Seay was a great first person to talk to because he said the things I was hoping to hear. My next interview would give me the excitement I was looking for when I first agreed to write this piece. Dick Klausner ('73) first came to MBA as a student under unusual circumstances. Halfway into his seventh-grade year he moved from Delaware with his family to Nashville and enrolled at Hillwood. Partly because he did not feel challenged, he “got in a lot of trouble at Hillwood.” One day in eighth grade he rode the bus to school but didn’t actually attend class, opting to hang out at a friend’s house and play electric football instead. “I got busted and to stay out of trouble said ‘how about we try to get into MBA?’” His father called his bluff and Dick enrolled at MBA for his freshman year.

He loved MBA. Klausner joined the freshman football team coached by Jamie Tillman and promptly broke four vertebrae in the first quarter of the first game and landed in the hospital for a week. “Mr. Tillman checked on me every day in the hospital and it helped me realize I was at a really cool place.”
MBA was also where Dick developed his love for soccer and where he earned all-state honors in the Big Red’s first year of soccer. He would go on to make the team at Vanderbilt, but soon ended up in Colorado playing soccer for renowned coach Kjel Van Hagen. It was around this time that Dick started to develop aspirations to coach. He remembers, “The way that Mr. Tillman, Coach Owen, Mr. Drake, and Coach Bennett treated me as a player got me excited to be a coach. I started thinking this is something I could do.”

Before his junior year in college, Klausner would be selected to be the women’s coach of a team in Aspen, Colo.

From there, he would go on to teach at schools in Colorado and California, before coming back to Nashville in 1996. “I didn’t willingly come back to Tennessee, but my will made me choose MBA because of my love for the school.” That is a decision he has never regretted. “A lot of what I learned in other jobs prepared me for the seriousness of MBA. I’ve never had a more demanding and time-consuming job than I have had here, but because of my love for the school, I’m glad to do it.”

Klausner can tell stories about MBA all day. He can talk about his relationship with two of his first Microbe soccer players, Corey Burton (’04) and Jake Lawrence (’04), who now help him coach his middle school teams. He can talk about his English classes and the students he teaches. He can talk about the mission work he sees every day on campus. And personally, he can talk about “one of the greatest things for me is the fact that my mother is so proud to introduce me as a teacher at MBA; it has made my life’s work worthwhile.” Hearing him say that was a really poignant moment, because I could tell it meant a lot to him.

After talking with Seay and Klausner, that was the moment I got fired up to do this story. I wanted to hear other great stories about the alums’ path back to MBA. I would come to find out that each story would be different.

I met with Will McMurray (’99) next, a contemporary of mine who graduated a year after me. Will talked about some of the teachers that impacted his life and how “besides honor,
MBA HAS GIVEN ME A LOT, AND IN RETURN I TRY TO GIVE A LOT BACK TO MBA.

— ROBERT SAWYER (’98)
(l to r)
ZAC HOOD ('01)
JONAS RODRIGUEZ ('09)
SAM GARNER ('03)
MATTHEW JACQUES ('04)
learning how to write is the most important thing at MBA.” Will excelled at football at MBA and would play collegiately at Davidson. Upon returning to Nashville, Will was faced with the decision of “What next?”

“I had no idea what I wanted to do. I desperately missed football and wanted to find a way back into coaching.” He took a job at MBA as an intern and found that teaching exceeded his expectations. “I started out wanting to give back mostly through football. I looked forward to teaching, but didn’t realize I’d enjoy it this much. I love seeing these 13-14 year old kids and hope that I have the same impact on them that my teachers had on me.”

Will’s love of football led him back to MBA where he developed a passion for teaching. McMurray also told me the story of how his first date with his fiancé was Homecoming of 1996. Their next date was 11 years later.

Emmett Russell (’88) was next on my list. He talked about many of his favorite teachers who would later become great friends. “I can remember going to Mrs. Bowen when I knew I wanted to teach and sitting in her living room. She said ‘just be fair.’”

Emmett’s early career included time teaching at Memphis University School and Rabun Gap-Nacoochee School. “I had a great experience at MUS, but I was ready to come home and be around familiarity. A lot of that was MBA. I felt I was a product of that environment…all the people I wanted to surround myself with and create a community with were in Nashville – the alumni and the support system.”

Of course wanting to come back to MBA and actually coming back can potentially be a problem. “The timing was an act of God. Tom Harwell, a friend of mine, was leaving MBA to go to Landscape Architecture School. I applied for his job, got it, and within two years met my wife and got married.”

Emmett realized that Nashville was home and MBA was a big part. His journey would lead him to a couple of schools, but ultimately back to MBA.

Zac Hood (‘01) enjoyed his time as a student because of his friends and teachers and the camaraderie. “It felt like a sports team.” Zac was a stand-out tennis player while at MBA and played a few years collegiately at Colorado and The University of Miami (FL), before returning to Vanderbilt for his junior year after an injury ended his career. He volunteered as an MBA Tennis coach while at Vanderbilt. The idea of becoming a good influence and mentor motivated him.

“The beginning of spring semester of my senior year at Vandy, I knew I wanted to come back to MBA, so I pursued the idea of being here full-time.”

His time spent as a volunteer coach laid the foundation for his return to MBA. To him, the MBA Tennis team felt like a brotherhood. “The moments of great joy or great pain on the court – those are the real moments that bring you together as a team.”

Hood has taken the idea of team one step further by founding the Sports Servants – a non-profit group that teaches soccer skills to coaches and children in Belize. He often brings MBA faculty members and students to assist.

One of those faculty members who has spent time in Belize with Zac is Andrew Rozario, one of the five MBA graduates from the Class of 1999 now working at the school.

“I vowed that I would never teach because I had a lot of teachers in my family.”

Most people who know Andrew know that he has a talent for film and production. This talent brought him back to MBA. “A donor and Mr. Gioia approached me, recognized my talent, and offered me a job.” Andrew would be hired to spearhead the Audio/Visual Department for MBA. Because he had an English degree, he would eventually move into a teaching role despite his earlier vow.

One of his favorite moments comes from his first year back at MBA. He spent a lot of his time working in the video department assisting students. At the end of the year he got a letter saying that money had been donated to MBA in his honor.

It is relationships like these that make MBA feel like home to Andrew; relationships that first started for him as a student. “The love the teachers have for each student is truly unique. People in college gave me blank stares when I said I wanted to go back to my high school to visit. The reason we want to come back is that we have individual compassion for each teacher.”

The theme of relationships kept resonating from Andrew’s answers to my questions. A lot of his greatest relationships were a direct result of his time at MBA. He even featured one of his favorite teachers in one of his short films.

Another one of Andrew’s classmates, Robbie Quinn, would be the next alum I talked with about his journey back to MBA. Among other things, Robbie was a champion debater at MBA. After college, he coached debate and was a substitute teacher at a public school near Chicago.

Nicole Serrano, a current teacher and debate coach, planted the seed for Robbie’s return to MBA. During debate tournaments “Nicole kept hounding me about coming back to MBA.” The realization really set in while judging debate rounds at the Southern Bell Forum. MBA’s prestigious debate invitational.

“Being in the classrooms, I realized I wanted to come back.” He was hired soon after. Robbie returned to the two things he wanted to do – teach and coach debate. >>>

**THE WAY THAT MR. TILLMAN, COACH OWEN, MR. DRAKE, AND COACH BENNETT TREATED ME AS A PLAYER GOT ME EXCITED TO BE A COACH. I STARTED THINKING THIS IS SOMETHING I COULD DO.** – DICK KLAUSNER (‘73)
At MBA I saw people who worked very hard and made us work hard because they were passionate about their subject or about their sport, and they were passionate about the boys here. — Scott O’Neal ('84)

Although not new to working at MBA, Scott O’Neal ('84) is in a completely different role. The former Director of Alumni and Development now serves as the school’s Athletics Director. “I came back because this place was so important to me. I wanted to be around highly-motivated and highly-talented people working with kids of the same ability.”

Scott’s journey back to MBA was not immediate, though. “The spring semester of my senior year of college I saw Coach Owen and told him I wanted to come back and work here. I’ll never forget what he said – ‘That’s great. Now go out and get some experience and then we’ll hire you.’”

At the time, that was not the answer Scott was looking for, but he knew it made sense. As a result, he spent a number of years working for the family business, but eventually made his way back to MBA. “When the time was right and better, it made me that much better at it. I knew that’s what my calling was.”

Initially, he volunteered coaching track and substitute teaching. He was then hired as the Director of Annual Giving and quickly moved into the role as Director of Alumni and Development midway through his second year back at MBA.

This past fall, Scott made the switch to Athletics Director. “I felt like the move from Director of Alumni and Development to Director of Athletics got me closer to the kids. My interactions with students are far greater now.”

Throughout my interview with Scott, he stressed the importance of putting the students first. “More than anything, what I keep coming back to is how the people on this campus care about the students. It would be easy to teach four classes a day, do your afternoon requirement, and then go home. But to a person, the work hard because they were passionate about their subject or about their sport, and they were passionate about the boys here.”

This statement fits Robert Sawyer to a tee. Robert and I both graduated from MBA in 1998 and continue to be good friends. I witnessed firsthand the work and time he invested in MBA. “The school is obviously very important to me. My senior year here I won the Laird Smith Award for loyalty to the school. I took a lot of pride in that award because MBA has given me a lot, and in return I try to give a lot back to MBA.”

Like Will McMurray, Sawyer also started as an intern. “The intern program allowed me to get my feet wet teaching and coaching.”

One current faculty member has taken a less traditional route in becoming a first year intern at MBA. Will Norton ('99) attended Wake Forest on an ROTC scholarship, and did two tours in Iraq as an officer in the Army. Although a history major at Wake Forest, Will relied heavily on his writing background from MBA to help him in his duties.

“My last deployment in Iraq, I was an intelligence officer and would work with the police during the day to develop their systems of intelligence. The next morning my commander required an assessment of the previous day’s events. I would have to express my thoughts on how I saw the insurgency in Iraq. Most of the time expressing that was very complicated. What I learned at MBA helped me to effectively communicate my thoughts. My commander gave me comments on how I must have been an English major.”

Despite his involvement in the Army, Norton knew he did not want to make it a career choice. “I’ve always wanted to teach because a lot of my big role models throughout life were teachers.” Norton uses similar methods in the classroom as he did leading his units in the Army. “A lot of my experiences with developing soldiers, which I enjoyed a lot, I felt I would get a very similar experience on a secondary education level here.”

However, it was a chance meeting that allowed Will to come back. “Mr Gioia ran into my mother and she said I was interested in education. He contacted me in Iraq and presented me with the opportunity. At that point, I knew this is what I wanted to do.”

It was another meeting that got KJ Schumacher ('97) back on MBA’s campus working as an art teacher. This meeting came during KJ’s ten-year reunion. “Talking to Jim and I have always been very appreciative of what MBA gave me. While I never stopped loving MBA, it held a lesser importance while I was away. I see this as a full-circle relationship. I have never been as enthusiastic about MBA as I am now.”

This statement holds a lot of truth. Like KJ, I’ve always been very appreciative of MBA, but it held different degrees of importance. In college, I would keep up with MBA, but it was not at the top of my list. I was given the opportunity in 2003 to come back and volunteer coach with the Varsity Baseball team. I have not been able to stay away since that time, joining the Office of Alumni and Development staff full-time in the summer of 2008.

Writing this story helps me to dig deeper into the importance of MBA to others and me. It’s more than just a school I attended for six years. It’s a lifestyle; and more importantly, it’s about the people. It’s about the people who were your teachers that are now your colleagues and friends. It’s about the people who coached you that you now assist on the athletic field. It’s about the relationships.

There are the people like Robert Sawyer, who has been a lifelong friend, and Mike Anderson ('93), who I remember leading the Big Red to a state baseball championship when I was in seventh grade, both of whom would be in my wedding. There are the people like Daniel McGugin ('96) and KJ Schumacher ('97) whom I remember seeing daily on campus as a student and now consider friends.

There are the people like Elijah Reynolds ('99). Even though he was only a year behind me in school, I do not recall ever speaking to him while we were students. After working with him for six months, I consider him a really good friend. There are the people like Matthew Jacques ('04), who I coached when he was a student, and now returns as a friend and colleague.

And there are people like Dick Klausner who taught at MBA while I was student and bleeds MBA red. He said one of my favorite quotes during this journey. “If you are here and you stay here, it’s because you love the place. It’s why you work so hard here.”
A GLIMPSE AT FACULTY AS STUDENTS ON THE HILL

1 SCOTT O’NEAL (’84) | 2 MIKE ANDERSON (’93) | 3 DICK KLAUSNER (’73) | 4 EMMETT RUSSELL (’88) | 5 RICK SEAY (’79)
6 WILL McMURRAY (’99) | 7 ANDREW ROZARIO (’99) | 8 ROBBIE QUINN (’99) | 9 WILL NORTON (’99) | 10 ELIjah REYNOLDS (’99)
1 Zac Hood ('01)
2 Jonas Rodriguez ('00)
3 Sam Garner ('03)
4 Matthew Jacques ('04)
5 Kj Schumacher ('97)
6 Mike Martin ('98)
7 Daniel McGugin ('96)
8 Robert Sawyer ('98)

looking back
On the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, MBA welcomed more than 200 alumni and their fathers to the third annual Fathers of Alumni Breakfast. The event, held in the Paschall Theater, featured a chance to reconnect with each other and the school. The program was highlighted by R.A. Dickey (’93), who shared some of the challenges he faces as a dedicated father combined with the schedule of his 13-year career in professional baseball.

Dickey discussed the ups and downs associated with life on the road, changing teams, relocating (more than 90 times in his career), and moving on for the good of his family after a bad day at the office — when that bad day is on display for millions of people.

Fathers of Alumni Breakfast

ALUMNI GATHERINGS

The MBA alumni association once again travelled across the country to offer news and happenings from campus. With stops in Atlanta, Manhattan, Washington, D.C., and North Carolina, the gatherings allowed hundreds of MBA alums the opportunity to reconnect with classmates, as well as meet others in their area.

(clockwise from top left) Tricia Patterson, Andy Patterson (’89), John Robbins (’85), and Suzanne Robbins enjoy the summer sun at the Atlanta Braves tailgate; Bill Cockrill (’66) catches up with host Billy Wade Wood (’39) at the Charlotte Alumni gathering; New York alums gather in the offices of Ben Gambill III (’97); Ray Brooks (’92) and Eric Womack (’95) at the Washington, D.C. event.

Cooper Samuels (’99) and his father Ron

R.A. Dickey (’93)
Dozens of college-age alumni packed the Gibbs Room on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving to enjoy a home-cooked meal and to catch up on news from campuses across the country. Brad Gioia welcomed the young men back to The Hill and shared some of the events of the past semester. New faculty member Matthew Jacques (’04) also welcomed the group and offered his thoughts on the transition from college to the work place.
1960
Thirty-one members of the Class of 1960 gathered for a retreat at the farms of Jimmy Pickel and Eslick Daniel 30 miles south of Nashville on the weekend of September 26. They enjoyed activities ranging from fishing and shooting to riding ATVs and watching football games and political debates. The classmates, some from out of state, savored country breakfasts, a barbecue dinner, and especially the opportunity to visit and reconnect with one another.

1964
On leave for a year from the University of Massachusetts, John Stifler spent the fall semester teaching British and Indian literature to American high school students in the new School Year Abroad program in Visakhapatnam, India. Beginning in January, he will be a Fulbright Scholar in Sri Lanka, lecturing on American literature and society at Peradeniya University in Kandy.

On an unrelated note, Stifler just published Reliable Heat, an institutional history of a nineteenth century cast-iron boiler company in Massachusetts that is still in existence.

1969
Gordon Peerman recently had his book Blessed Relief: What Christians Can Learn From Buddhists About Suffering published by Skylight Paths Publishing. The book takes the reader on a lively, sometimes light-hearted, journey through nine Buddhist practices that can bring “blessed relief” to a wide range of human suffering, and teaches the skills to reduce suffering.

1975
George Hicks and his wife Susanne are proud to have welcomed Thomas Ervin into their lives on June 8, 2007. The accompanying picture is from a recent adventure in the Teton. Thomas has also ventured onto the Appalachian Trail and into Rocky Mountain National Park. George reports that at this point in his life, Thomas seems to like pretty much everything.

1978
Will Akers’ book Your Screen Play Sucks has just been published. The book is a comprehensive checklist of fatal errors that most screenwriters fall into. A 20-year veteran of the craft, Akers has had three of his feature film scripts produced, and has worked on numerous television productions.

1979
Kelly Woodruff was in Nashville for Labor Day, and took the MBA spirit bus to Cincinnati to see the Big Red take on Archbishop Moeller. He had a great time with the MBA parents on the bus and met Josh Easter (’86) at the game. Kelly spent a big part of the last year assisting in editing the newest version of Florida’s Basic Police Recruit Training Program, and instructing trainers in the design, implementation, and debriefing of deadly force scenario based training. The accompanying picture was taken when his hockey team played in the Office Depot Center, home of the NHL Florida Panthers.

1982
Gil Graham and his wife Michelle welcomed a son, Briggs Davis Graham, into the world July 15, 2008. He reports that the late night theme writing at MBA has prepared him well for the current lack of sleep associated with babies. The Graham’s also have a seven-year-old son Robbie. Gil is a bridge engineer and President of Bailey Bridges, Inc. in Fort Payne, Ala.

1986
Chuck Brandon and family moved to the Orlando area in September. After three years as CEO of HCA’s Englewood Community Hospital, Chuck’s wife Wendy has been appointed to Central Florida Regional Hospital in Sanford. Chuck will continue to work as a CPA and business valuator in addition to other transitional household (i.e., Mr. Mom) responsibilities. Winn (5) and Annabelle (3) are excited to be closer to Mickey Mouse.

Dave Claunck was recently elected Mayor of the City of West Lake Hills, Tex., a small suburban community next door to Austin. Liaison Resources, the marketing and creative services company he started 17 years ago, now has operations in five cities including (ironically) Nashville. He and his wife Susan have two boys, Will (age 7) and Alex (age 3).

1988
Rob Archer, who has been teaching high school English for 12 years, recently published a book related to his experiences in public schools entitled The Journal of a Mad, Infuriated, Soon-To-Be-Clinically-Insane High School English Teacher. It is a humorous, >>>
In high school, a student navigates a path that resembles a one-way street. MBA in particular provides a focused, interdisciplinary curriculum that builds a strong foundation for whatever comes next... like college and a career. When the academic training wheels finally do come off and it’s time to go to work, every student wrestles with the same question: “Which way do I go now?”

A career decision is often made up of a series of smaller choices, of opportunities embraced or eschewed. Many careers evolve rather than just happen, much to the chagrin of friends and family. With regard to your life’s calling, loved ones want you to give them straight answers. To declare a career as a doctor, lawyer, accountant, teacher, or engineer is sure to elicit a nod of approval. Fortunate are the few who can proclaim such a clear-cut career path. What if you admit a passion for working with sewage disposal or have a desire to pursue an advanced degree in social thought? When a career choice is yet-to-be-defined, losing one’s way for a bit can often invite opportunities that will one day make all the difference.

As was the case with Ewan Leslie (’83), opting to use his head to follow his heart. After law school, he took a detour which was, as Frost says, “the one less traveled by.”

“I knew my last year of Pepperdine Law School that I didn’t want to practice law. Subconsciously I wanted to work in the film industry which was why I chose a Los Angeles school. I did a clerkship in law school working for Roger Corman’s company. Corman is famous in Hollywood for making loads of low-budget horror films and discovering talent such as Jack Nicholson and Francis Ford Coppola. Even though I was doing legal work, I got a taste of the creative process there.

“After passing the bar, I started the long interview process to get into the William Morris mailroom. It took six months! The saying “it’s whom you know” is definitely true in Hollywood. A friend of a friend from law school got me in the door there — otherwise I would never have had the chance. Although I like to think I was over-qualified to deliver mail, truthfully, I was pushing mail carts with men and women with Harvard MBAs and the like. Hollywood is such an odd business, one has to learn it from the ground up, and I definitely learned a lot about the inner sanctum of Hollywood through my stint in the mailroom.

“I then worked as an assistant to an agent, with clients such as Robert Duvall, Billy Bob Thornton, and Stephen Sommers (director of The Mummy). Although the agency offered to promote me to an agent, I opted to leave and work for a vice president at Fox 2000, a fairly new division of 20th Century Fox (run at that time by Spiderman producer, Laura Ziskin). After being promoted to executive there, I worked on such films as Never Been Kissed with Drew Barrymore (the first movie from her production company), Soul Food, and later, Best Laid Plans.

“I left Fox 2000 to work for John Wells (ER, The West Wing) but returned to Fox 2000 a year later. There I set up and developed a variety of projects including Fever Pitch, Dragon Ball Z, The A-Team, Aquamarine, and Flicka.

“I then went to work for The Donners’ Company in 2004, a production company owned by the husband/wife team of Richard Donner (director of Superman, Lethal Weapon, The Omen) and Lauren Shuler Donner (producer of the X-Men movies, You’ve Got Mail, Pretty in Pink, Free Willy, etc.).

“Since working for the Donners, I wrote and produced She’s the Man, a modern update of Twelfth Night; (I want my English teachers who taught me Shakespeare at MBA to know that something actually did sink in.) I also produced Hotel for Dogs, starring Emma Roberts, Don Cheadle, and Lisa Kudrow, and I co-produced The Secret Life of Bees, based on the best-seller by Sue Monk Kidd.

“This last year was busy since Hotel for Dogs, Secret Life of Bees, Cirque du Freak, and Lauren’s other movie, Wolverine, all shot at the same time in four different cities—one of which was in Australia. After Hotel wrapped, I had a week before leaving for New Orleans where we shot Cirque.

“Some other projects we are developing include The Pony Express, a TV show starring Robert Duvall for AMC; a Broadway version of the movie Dave, which Lauren produced; and a remake of a Dutch movie called Science Fiction about a kid who discovers his parents are aliens.”

Thanks to the nature of the film industry, Ewan’s career path over the last 18 years has been marked by numerous forks in the road. He has made shrewd decisions, navigating his way through the (Hollywood)woods nimbly by using an internal compass that seems to be driven by a combination of objective data and gut-level intuition.

The Road Less Traveled:  

“ I SHALL BE TELLING THIS WITH A SIGN  
SOMEBODY AGES AND AGES HENCE:  
TWO ROADS DIVERGED IN A WOOD, AND I —  
I TOOK THE ONE LESS TRAVELED BY,  
AND THAT HAS MADE ALL THE DIFFERENCE.”  

FROM THE ROAD NOT TAKEN BY ROBERT FROST, 1920

Ewan co-produced the recently-released movie, The Secret Life of Bees, based on the best-seller by Sue Monk Kidd.

Keep your eyes on Hollywood; Ewan Leslie is not done yet.

We would like to develop the idea of the road less traveled into a series of personal career stories. If your career path has taken a detour or two, please contact our office at alumni@montgomery-bell.edu or phone 615-369-5360.
sarcastic romp through the imbecilic idiocies of secondary public education. Rob posts weekly at http://themisanthropesjournal.blogspot.com/

Trey Harwell is currently serving as president of the Nashville Bar Association. He joins his father Aubrey (’60) who served in the same capacity in 1994. The Harwells are only the third father-son duo to serve as president of the association. They both practice at Neal & Harwell in Nashville.

In July, Bill Hitt coached the Goodlettsville American ‘A’ all stars to the 2008 Dixie Youth state championship. Bill’s son Harrison batted leadoff and was the shortstop for the victorious team which went 17-1 during the three-week run. This achievement marked consecutive state championships that Bill and Harrison have earned together in baseball.

1988

Jeff Joe worked on the animation of Melman the giraffe in the recently released Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa. He was responsible for making the character act, sing, and dance to the voice of David Schwimmer. Joe credits his art teachers in Nashville, particularly Jim Womack, with helping prepare him for a career in animation. His previous work includes animation of Donkey for Shrek 2 and 3.

1991

Rob Lance is currently completing a residency in anesthesiology in the Iowa City Hospitals in Iowa City, Iowa. He and his wife Bonnie, a jewelry designer from Dallas, Tex., were married in 2006. Their ever-ready backpacker, Hewes Seaborn Lance, is shown here immediately before hiking through the Stone Door in Monteagle, Tenn. in 2008.

1993

Last spring Clint Russell and his wife Shannon had their second child — Elizabeth Kathleen Russell. She weighed 7 pounds 9 ounces and was born on March 27, 2008. They also have a three-year-old son, Ryan William, and reside together in Nashville.

Glen Gaston and his wife Krissa are enjoying life in Charlotte, N.C. with their two sons, McLean and Myers. On Glenn’s birthday, October 13, 2008 they welcomed a daughter, Virginia Cherrington, to their family. On a professional note, Glenn joined OrthoCarolina last year as an Orthopedic Hand Surgeon and was appointed Chief of Hand Surgery for Carolinas Medical Center in July.

1994

In June of this year, John Sisco received his MBA from the Jack C. Massey School of Business at Belmont University and was awarded the Massey ETS Top 10% Award for outstanding performance (90th Percentile) on the Educational Testing Service’s Major Field Test in Business. He and Jennifer Elizabeth Grogan were married on October 4 at Lille Belle’s in downtown Franklin. They honeymooned in Italy and are currently enjoying married life.

On September 27 and 28 a group of MBA alumni, students, and faculty picked up their tool belts in a Habitat for Humanity Blitz Build. As part of a team put together by Brandon Shea, the MBA contingent helped build a three-bedroom house from slab to shingles in about two days. Brandon, who spearheaded the project along with his wife Liz, raised nearly $20,000 for this house by running a triathlon earlier in the year.

1995

Ted Callahan and his wife Ashley are excited to share news of the arrival of their second boy, Lachlan James Callahan.

Charlie Malone and his wife Sara welcomed their first child, Ingram Blair Malone (‘Gram’), on November 29, 2007 in Nashville, Tenn. >>>

Tom Hamling has written Celebrity Vinyl, a satirical coffee table book on famous actors and athletes who have recorded awful musical albums. The book launched in June and is currently available in 35 countries around the world. A large portion of the proceeds will be donated to 826LA — a non-profit after school program that helps kids with their creative writing skills. Tom and his wife Carlisle live with their son William in Venice Beach, Calif.
1996

**Dave Morgan** and his wife Leah had their third child this summer. His name is Coleman Thomas Morgan and he was born on June 27, 2008.

1998

**Michael Eskind** is currently an assistant track coach at Boston University. He served as personal coach to Shani Marks, who competed in the women’s triple jump at the Beijing Olympics. His blog about his amazing experiences at the Olympics can be found at operationbeijing.blogspot.com.

1999

**Dan Estes** finished his Ph.D. in Biomedical Engineering at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. His dissertation was on a new method to diagnose multiple sclerosis. He has relocated to San Francisco and works for McKinsey & Co. in healthcare consulting.

**Paymon Rouhanifard** graduated from UNC-Chapel Hill in 2003. He spent two years teaching sixth grade in New York City with Teach for America and is currently working at a New York City-based private equity firm.

2000

After his undergraduate studies at Duke, **Brad McDowell** went on to the Brite Divinity School at TCU and in August was ordained at his childhood church, Woodmont Christian. Brad is working at Rhett Avenue Christian Church in North Charleston, S.C.

**Doug Holliday** married Katie Liveoak on July 26. They currently reside in Nashville.

2001

**Britt Grooms** recently passed the CPA exam and is working for Deloitte in Nashville.

**Carlton Stewart** is president/operator of a new company in Nashville called Zingo. Zingo is a designated driver service that drives clients and their cars home when they are out and have had too much to drink. Once called, a fully-insured Zingo driver arrives on a folding gas-powered scooter and stows it in the trunk of the car. The Zingo driver drives the customer home in his/her car and once they arrive safely, the Zingo driver takes the scooter out of the trunk and then proceeds to the next pick-up location. Zingo’s goal is to reduce drinking and driving by attacking the number one reason people drive drunk — they don’t want to leave their cars behind and be left with the hassle of getting it the next day.

**Roddy Story** recently received an MA from UNC’s School of Education and will be teaching social studies at Northwood High School in the Chapel Hill area.

**Matt Neal** graduated from the University of Tennessee College of Medicine in May. He was married in June to Grace Mitchell of Memphis, Tenn. on the Biltmore Estate in Asheville, N.C. They are currently living in Winston-Salem. Matt is a resident in neurological surgery at the Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center.

**Shira and Andy Gryll** announce the birth of a daughter, Chava Miriam Gryll, on October 23. The Grylls currently live in Baltimore where Andy is completing a Masters in Jewish Communal Service from Baltimore Hebrew University and an MBA from University of Baltimore and Towson University. He
current interns at THE ASSOCIATED: Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore. Shira works at THE ASSOCIATED as a graphic designer in the marketing department.

After two-and-a-half great years working in branch management and equity lending for Regions Bank, William Liles has gone back to school to pursue an MBA at the Owen Graduate School of Management at Vanderbilt University, where he is concentrating on finance and accounting. He will graduate from Owen in May of 2010.

Will Tate was married to his college sweetheart Amanda Lewis of Richmond, Va. on September 27 in Crescent Beach, Maine. The couple resides in Washington, D.C. where Will is a consultant with Bear- ingPoint, Inc. specializing in customer relationship management for hospitality and gaming clients. Amanda is the Corporate Donations Manager at the National Building Museum.

James Sehrt graduated from the University of Mississippi in 2007 with a B.S. in Business Administration-Management. He is currently pursuing a B.A. in Culinary Arts at Nicholls State University in Thibodaux, La.

Corey Burton graduated from Xavier University in May with a Political Science degree. While a senior, he served as the President of the Sigma Gamma Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., President of the Black Greek Council, Financial Affairs Chair of the Student Government Association, and Chair of the Leadership Committee of the Black Student Association. He is now working at the Northwestern Mutual Financial Network as a Financial Representative in the Insurance and Financial Services sector here in Nashville.

Christopher Schuller completed his law degree at Oxford this June, receiving upper second-class honours and the university prize for the highest mark in family law. In July he was appointed Lecturer in English Law under the auspices of the European Legal Studies Institute at the University of Osnabruck, Germany.

2005

Adams Carroll is in his final year at Reed College in Portland, Oreg. A Russian major, he has been on the Dean’s list every semester. Adams mentors Russian school children in Portland and is involved in several campus activities, including the school radio station. He spent the summer in Saint Petersburg, Russia studying Russian Literature at the Smolni Institute at the University of Saint Petersburg, where he had to sign a pledge that he would only speak Russian during the course of his stay.

Richard Greathouse is now a student at The Florence Academy of Art in Florence, Italy.

Jonathan Ray was awarded a Boren Scholarship from the National Security Education Program, which allowed him to study Chinese for the summer in Harbin and then at Beijing University for the fall semester. ■

ERIC BADER ('06)

“I have been studying with Syracuse University’s London Program and I am sad to say that it is almost over. I have been studying art in some of the most famous galleries in the world and have been able to see works that I have studied only in books. I’ve been able to complete many classes for my Art Major, as well as my two Minors in Entrepreneurship and Communication. In fact, this semester for an entrepreneurship project, I created an original comic book and sold many copies to fellow students, faculty, and local Brits!

Studying in London has also allowed me to travel throughout Europe and it has been the greatest experience of my life. I have visited more destinations than I could have imagined and have seen great places that are so different from Nashville. My first trip was to Istanbul, Turkey where I was able to see the city that was once the center of the world. The history there is incredible and seeing buildings and ruins that predate anything here in London was amazing. I saw the Hagia Sophia, the Blue Mosque, the Grand Bazaar, and so much more. Istanbul was such a different place than anything I have ever experienced and I feel so fortunate to have seen the place that links Europe to Asia.

After Istanbul, I was off to Munich, Germany for the world’s most famous beer festival, Oktoberfest. While the excitement lay in Munich, I flew to and from Augsburg, Austria, where I also found this quaint little town to be very charming. Situated at the foothills of the Alps, this city was very beautiful and presented not only scenery but small buildings rich in character, too.

All of my trips leading up to Oktoberfest were just weekend trips, but my big fall break was still ahead — a grand adventure to Scandinavia to see the fjords, the Vikings, and beautiful blonde women. My first stop was Stockhom, Sweden, which was my favorite city in Scandinavia. Nicknamed “the Venice of the North” and the host city for the Nobel Peace prize, Stockholm lived up to expectations with beautiful architecture situated near and with the water. Next on my journey was a very, very long train ride to Oslo, Norway. I stayed there for a day enroute to my big destination which was even farther north — Bergen, the gateway to Norway’s famous fjords. Bergen is situated right on the water and is a small but beautiful city. There, I took a fjord tour, traveling on the world’s steepest train ride to get to a cruise of the Sognafjord,…”

>>>
Europe’s deepest and longest fjord. Although it was extremely cold and snowing, the fjord was one of the most beautiful natural formations I have ever seen. After Bergen I headed back to Oslo to see the city and tour the sites. Oslo is a modern city, but still has some cool sights including the oldest Viking ships that still exist.

My final destination was Copenhagen, Denmark. I took a night cruise there and arrived very early in the morning to begin my sightseeing. Copenhagen is a very unique city where there are more bikes than cars. I ate great seafood and saw the sights, including the famous “little mermaid” statue.

My last two trips were to Edinburgh, Scotland, and Ireland. In Edinburgh, one of the most beautiful cities I have ever seen. I toured and even played a round of golf. Ireland was a chance for me to visit my friends from the Ulster Project, a program in which I was a participant. I flew into Dublin where I met up with Dermott, my Irish friend, where we saw the sights and drank some Guinness beer. We then went north, visiting many castles and even touching the mighty stone that crowned Irish kings as far back as 2000 B.C. After our sightseeing, we went to Dermott’s home in Enniskillen where I was reunited with many others from the Ulster Project.

Speaking of reconnecting with old friends, a friend of mine from MBA, Nick Power (’06), is here with Notre Dame University. Nick and I have been together several times while both of us are studying abroad this semester. It seems like the MBA connection remains strong no matter where in the world I go.

My experience abroad has been outstanding. I cannot wait to see you and tell you more about my adventures. Although my stay in London is almost over, my time in Europe is not. I am meeting my sister Jill in Paris where we will do one final tour of Europe before flying back home for the holidays. We will tour Paris, Hungary, Poland, Prague, Vienna, Amsterdam, Brussels, and then end our journey back in Paris for Christmas with Jill’s friend Geraldine and her family, for a truly French Christmas. We will spend Christmas Eve and Christmas morning in Paris before flying back to Nashville on December 26 for a Tennessee Christmas. I miss all of you at home and will be back soon.

I know this is a long e-mail, but I hope you enjoyed it and I can’t wait to hear country music back home, or see our Tennessee Titans play back in Nashville. I will then return to Wake Forest University to finish my junior year, and start seeking an internship for this summer. I hope I hear from all of you soon, and as the Brits would say, Cheers!"

Sincerely,
Eric Bader
Andrew Bell Benedict, Jr.
(Wallace ’31)
1914-2008
Andrew Benedict passed away December 15, 2008. Following his graduation from the Wallace University School, he attended Vanderbilt University, where he was a proud and dedicated member of Phi Delta Theta Fraternity. In 1935, Benedict went to work for what was then the American National Bank, beginning a 73-year banking career. By 1960, he had worked his way up to the Office of President of First American National Bank. In 1971, he became Chairman of the Board, retiring from day to day management in 1979. Mr. Benedict remained Senior Chairman of the Board of First American, a position he held with AmSouth Bank and Regions Bank. Over the years, Mr. Benedict gave leadership to a number of banking organizations, serving as President of the Tennessee Bankers Association, Association of Reserve City Bankers, and an organization limited to 400 CEOs and senior bankers of the largest banks in the country. Benedict served as President of the Middle Tennessee Council of the Boy Scouts of America, receiving the Silver Beaver Award. He served as President of the Vanderbilt Alumni Association and was a Life Member of the Vanderbilt Board of Trust. Among his many community activities, Mr. Benedict was President of Big Brothers of Nashville, President of the Downtown Nashville Rotary Club, and Chairman of the Board of Stewards of West End United Methodist Church. In 1998 Benedict was named the Wallace School’s Distinguished Alumnus. His two children, Hennie Benedict Morris and Andrew Bell Benedict III, seven grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren survive Benedict.

Paul R. Startup (’33)
1914-2008

Joseph Jasper Crane (’35)
1916-2008
Joseph Crane passed away on April 16, 2008. Following MBA, he served in the U.S. Navy for four years. Crane owned and operated Inglewood Hardware for 31 years, and was a 50-year Mason Member and long-time Shriner. He was also a member of Hendersonville Church of Christ. Crane is survived by sons J. Michael Crane, M.D. and Brian Crane; grandchildren Becky Scanlan, Cindi McGaughan, Mary Crane, Andrew Crane, Joseph Crane, Jr. (’00), Derek Detring, Lessa Crane, Brad Crane, and Abby Crane; and four great-grandchildren.

Nathan Burch Tucker (’35)
1918-2008
Nathan Burch passed away on December 3, 2008 in Nashville. Tucker is survived by his sons Eugene Peery Tucker (Susan) and Thomas Edward Tucker (Alyce); his sister Alma Wilson; his grandchildren Phillip Burch Tucker, Christy Bethel (Doug), Gene Tucker (Heather), Meg Smedley (Chad), Kat Tucker, Sharon Vue, Maggie, Betsy and Logan Tucker; and his great-grandchildren Ani and Raiden Vu, Sally Smedley, and Daniel Evan Tucker.

Connell Edward Horn (’37)
1920-2008
Connell Horn died July 17, 2008. After graduating from MBA, Horn attended Vanderbilt University. He served in the Army Air Corps in the Pacific during World War II. Upon returning home, he joined the Tenn. Air National Guard, serving many terms as President until his retirement in 1992. Carpenter graduated from Vanderbilt University in 1952. He received his medical degree from the University of Tennessee at Memphis in 1955, and was a 50-year Mason Member and long-time Shriner. He was also a member of Hendersonville Church of Christ. Crane is survived by sons J. Michael Crane, M.D. and Brian Crane; grandchildren Becky Scanlan, Cindi McGaughan, Mary Crane, Andrew Crane, Joseph Crane, Jr. (’00), Derek Detring, Lessa Crane, Brad Crane, and Abby Crane; and four great-grandchildren.

Edward Inman Fox (’50)
1934-2008
Inman Fox died at home July 27, 2008 after an extended illness. Fox received his Bachelor’s degree from Vanderbilt University, where he was a member of Phi Beta Kappa, Omicron Delta Kappa, and Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity, and graduated magna cum laude. Upon graduation, he joined the Naval Reserve, and served 20 years, retiring with the rank of Captain. An avid athlete who excelled in basketball and tennis, he was captain of the tennis teams at MBA and Vanderbilt. He won the Southern Juniors title and the Tennessee Juniors Championship. His academic career included being a Fulbright Scholar, studying at the University of Montpellier in France, and winning Woodrow Wilson, Herbert Bergan Montgomery, and Owen D. Young fellowships and grants. Later, he was the recipient of three Vanderbilt research grants, two in Spain and a Guggenheim Fellowship. In addition to a Masters degree from Princeton and another from Vanderbilt, he also earned a Ph.D. in romance languages in 1960. He began teaching at Vanderbilt that same year, also serving as Acting Director of Admissions. Dr. Fox’s publications include 15 books and dozens of scholarly journal articles and reviews. In a long teaching career, he taught at Vanderbilt, Princeton, the University of Massachusetts, Vassar, and Northwestern, and lectured at universities throughout the U.S., Spain, Mexico, and the British Isles, teaching the culture and literature of...
of Spain. In 1965, he was appointed the John Guy Vassar Chair of Modern Languages at Vassar College, where he also served as Dean of Faculty and Director of Long Range Planning. In 1974, Dr. Fox was named President of Knox College in Galesburg, Ill. From Knox College, he assumed the chairmanship of the Hispanic Studies Program at Northwestern University. He later lent his expertise as an academic consultant to undergraduate colleges in the U.S., South America, and the Middle East. The State Department enlisted his help at the National University of Uruguay in 1988. Requests from Brazil, Chile, Colombia, and Ecuador soon followed. He subsequently responded to requests to advise the University of Jordan in Amman and other universities in the Middle East. He was the first American to visit Syria’s Advanced Institute of Political Studies. An internationally-recognized authority on nineteenth and twentieth century Spanish literature, he was a world authority on the Spanish novelist and poet, Don Miguel de Unamuno. In 1985, Juan Carlos, King of Spain, awarded him The Cross of the Order of Queen Isabella the Catholic for his contribution to Spanish literature and culture.

Again, in 1993, King Juan Carlos awarded him the highest honor given by the Spanish government, Medallo de Oro al Merito en las Bellas Artes (the Gold Medal of Fine Arts) at a grand reception in the Canary Islands. In 1998, he retired and returned to Nashville. He received MBA’s Distinguished Alumnus Award in 1999. Dr. Fox served on the boards of the Patterson School of International Diplomacy (at the University of Kentucky) and the Department of Romance Languages at Princeton.

Harold C. Lowe, Jr. (‘51) 1933-2008
Harold Lowe died August 27, 2008 at his home. Following MBA, Lowe attended Vanderbilt University and the University of the South. Lowe was an accomplished photojournalist, having used his talents to photograph the struggles of the Civil Rights movement and numerous other historical events. Locally he was associated with the Tennesseean, the Nashville Banner, WKRN, WSMV, and WTVF. Mr. Lowe was a 32nd Degree Scottish Rite Mason and a 52-year member of the Corinthian Lodge No. 414, F. &A.M. He is survived by his wife of 32 years, Linda Brown Lowe.

Willoughby Overton Rhodes, Jr. (‘52) 1934-2008
Willoughby Rhodes died suddenly at his home in Grosse Pointe, Mich. on September 19th. Following graduation from MBA, Rhodes went to the General Motors Institute in Michigan and then worked happily for the Cadillac Division of General Motors for most of his life. He retired from GM twice, having been called back by them after his first retirement.

Ellsworth P. Scales (‘55) 1937-2008
Peter Scales died May 15 in Mobile, Ala. Scales was a graduate of Vanderbilt University where he double majored in business and English. Following graduation, Mr. Scales served as a pilot in the United States Air Force attaining the rank of Captain. After his discharge, Scales attended the Tulane School of Law, earning his Juris Doctorate in 1984. He practiced law in Mobile for 24 years. He is survived by his wife Kristen B. Scales Johnson, Emily Bailey Scales, Robin Ciriello, and Stacie Scales, with their children – Simon, Michael, Hal, Megan, Seth, Sarah, Serena, Lily, and Connor; and his great-grandchildren – Addison, Collin, Kaitlyn, Connor, and Cameron.
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