PATRICK HALE Memorial Golf Tournament

Monday, June 7
Hillwood Country Club

Contact Presh Killebrew (presh.killebrew@montgomerybell.edu or 615-369-5364) for sponsorship and player information.

ALUMNI DAYS & REUNION WEEKEND

Classes of 1960 • 1965 • 1970 • 1975 • 1980 • 1985 • 1990 • 1995 • 2000 • 2005

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

APRIL 23-25
from the alumni office

Donut Day

When my oldest son Ben was about 18 months old, I decided that we needed something that was special for just us. In a busy world filled with meetings, appointments, practices, and games, we needed a time where we could just enjoy each other. Almost every Thursday morning since then has been “Donut Day,” where Ben and I share a donut (or two) before he goes to preschool and I head to MBA. Now his little brother Hank has joined us, although his lack of teeth has thus far prevented him from truly enjoying the outing. Donut Day has also become very popular with my advisees too, as they are treated to whatever remains of the buy-one-dozen, get-one-free deal the Donut Den provides through coupons in The Bell Ringer. This simple thing has now become a weekly tradition for my ten boys.

It is traditions, big and small, old and new, that make MBA such a special place – to work and attend school. This issue of The Hill is filled with wonderful MBA traditions - from community gatherings like the ever-expanding MBA Carnival, and the decades-old Spaghetti Supper; to the prestige and ceremony of the Totomoi tapping; to the sense of achievement and responsibility that comes with placing the MBA ring onto a finger for the first time; to the remarkable accomplishments of MBA students in the classroom, on the athletic fields, and in service to the world in which they live.

We celebrate the renewal of a rivalry that changed the face of Nashville, as the Big Red and Pearl-Cohn met on the football field once again, some 40 years after the two schools played the first integrated game in the city’s history. Mike Martin (’98) looks back at what those games meant to those involved, both then and now. Nina Thomas looks back to a school that has always forged ahead with programs and facilities to meet the needs of its students, and forward to how MBA plans to meet the challenges and possibilities the future holds.

So sit back and relax – grab a donut even - while you enjoy a glimpse of life on The Hill these past few months.

Chris Smith, Editor
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Samuel E. Jackson
Director of Finance & Operations

Virginia Maddux
Director of College Counseling

David Norton
Facility Manager

Scott O’Neal (’84)
Director of Athletics

Peter Thurmond
Director of the Junior School

James A. Tillman
Director of the High School

Beth Warner
Director of Guidance Counseling Services

Montgomery Bell Academy admits qualified students of any race, color, religion, national, or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school.

ON THE COVER
The 2009 Cross Country Team celebrates its state championship win.

Printed on recycled paper

Fall/Winter 2009-2010
Over the past several years, we have chosen an All-School Read to be part of the summer reading. This year’s choice was the National Public Radio series, later turned into a book of essays, entitled *This I Believe*. Dan Gediman’s compilation of essays has provided me with some good perspectives about the core values and sense of character I see most central at MBA. It is certainly meaningful and fulfilling to be a part of the growth of a great school like MBA. Our enhanced physical campus and important resources like endowment all fuel the school in a variety of ways. The core of MBA, however, continues to be its people and its mission. Great students and faculty and a focused and clear agenda will reinforce a school better than anything else. Our motto of Gentleman, Scholar, Athlete suggests the kind of balance and excellence that we strive to create within the MBA community. It is that essential focus that ultimately will make the greatest difference at MBA.

Thus far the 2009-2010 school year has been superb. Two speakers kicked off the year by giving us the kind of inspiration and substantive perspective that help strengthen our foundation of character and a well-balanced vision. Alumnus Deke Shearon (’02) inspired the faculty with his personal story and convictions about the values that he sees in an MBA education. Former Roxbury Latin Headmaster Rev. Tony Jarvis pushed us hard to see the kind of toughness, discipline, and love that makes a school great. You can watch both of these speeches in our Media Library on the MBA Web site — www.montgomerybell.edu.

MBA’s fall season of athletics was also inspiring. Our cross country team finished one of its best seasons ever. In addition to winning the State Championship by more than 40 points this year, they will be returning 11 of 12 runners for the next season. Coach Robert Pruitt was named by *The Tennessean* as Coach of the Year. Our football program also provided the school with much pride as it bounced back from serious injury and disappointment to make its way to the State Championship game. Other successes in rifle, golf, and crew (our new sport), the annual collaboration on a musical with Harpeth Hall, and our debate programs were also strong and meaningful.

Our seniors have provided some of the best leadership I have seen these past 16 years. Their affection for one another, their loyalty to the MBA community, and their good intentions in as many areas and realms as possible have all made a tremendous difference at MBA this fall. The large numbers of alumni who have attended our reunion gatherings in Washington, D.C., New York, Boston, Atlanta, and Charlotte has been gratifying. MBA admissions look strong for the future as hundreds of prospective families have visited the campus this fall and hope to enroll their sons here next year. The school’s commitment to service, both within and beyond Nashville, continues to amaze me. Each week young men shepherd new ideas and programs that are making a difference beyond MBA. Our exchange programs are among the strongest and most far-reaching of any other school I know. We have built great connections with schools in England, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, Greece, Germany, and China. In fact, this fall we hosted two gap-year students from Winchester College who worked with a variety of programs on campus and helped two of our seniors earn admission to Oxford University next fall. We also plan to send two seniors and a faculty member to a symposium at Winchester College next fall. Please check out the following Web site — http://www.winchestercollege.co.uk/international-links — for more information.

In spite of the economy and other concerns, both within Nashville and the larger world, MBA’s values and sense of character, principle, and balance continue to strengthen and embolden us in these challenging times. I remain immensely proud of the perspective I see in our young men. Families send their sons to MBA to help educate young boys into great men, and these boys gain an appreciation for hard work, strong balance in their lives, and most of all, a realization that strong character will help one live a wonderful life. MBA continues to provide that vision and reality.
In October 2, MBA once again opened up the campus to the community for the 65th annual Homecoming and Spaghetti Supper.

Alumni, friends, and neighbors numbering in the thousands returned to the school to be a part of MBA’s largest fund-raiser and community event.

With the help of the MBA Mothers Club and hundreds of individuals, under the direction of Co-Chairs Susan Campbell and Judi Smith, the Spaghetti Supper served nearly 5,000 helpings of pasta, sauce, salads, and desserts. The proceeds from the Spaghetti Supper, the Big Red raffle, and the MBA Fathers Club contributed close to $114,000 directly back to the school. The contributions will go towards more than 100 different projects and will benefit every facet of the school.
Homecoming
In what has become one of the largest events at the school, the MBA Carnival returned to campus in late August. Now in its second decade, the Carnival features rides and games for children of all ages, as well as face painting, a dunking booth, bluegrass music, and thousands of prizes. This year’s event also featured a children’s book sale. The Carnival is a free event hosted by the MBA students and faculty, and serves as a great kick-off to each school year.
The semester has been a busy one for the MBA Service Club, with more than 1,800 hours logged by members of the high school in projects ranging from tutoring, to Special Olympics, to Soup Kitchen, to planting trees in Nashville parks. The junior class led the way with more than 650 hours in service to the school and the community. The Class of 2010 is close behind with nearly 600 hours of their own.

In addition, The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation selected MBA as one of the 2009 Good Sports Always Recycle™ winners — one of ten winning schools in the State of Tennessee. The sponsors of the program awarded the school a $500 check, a commemorative plaque, and tickets to the UT vs. South Carolina football game. MBA was the only school in Nashville to be honored.

MBA is proud to honor 76 boys who have been recognized for their performance on Advanced Placement tests administered this spring, including seven National AP Scholars (an average of at least 4 on all AP exams taken, and grades of 4 or higher on eight or more of these exams).

The National AP Scholars (all from the Class of 2009) are: Daniel Green, Karl Mecklenborg, George Powell, Rahul Sastry, Connor Shope, Harrison Stringfellow, Brian Swenson, Perry Webb, Matt Wieck, Nick Williams, Hicks Woolwine.

Scholars with Distinction (an average grade of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and grades of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams) are:

Class of 2009:

Class of 2010:
Seth Akers-Campbell, Kevin Carr, Pat Killian, Fitz Lassing, Michael Seitz, Daniel Todd, Richard Wall.

Scholars with Honor (an average grade of at least 3.25 on all AP exams taken, and grades of 3 or higher on four or more exams) are:

Class of 2009:
In early November eight seniors were inducted into Totomoi, MBA’s honor society. Totomoi recognizes individuals who have shown outstanding leadership in 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. Current Totomoi members Seth Akers-Campbell, Campbell Haynes, Turner Henderson, Will Henry, Wiley Hunt, Pat Killian, Fitz Lassing, Aaron Latkowitz, Eric Mace, Matt Moynihan, Daniel Todd, and Michael Zienkiewicz conducted the ceremony by giving a brief history of Totomoi, tapping each new member, and providing a history of each new member’s accomplishments.

New inductees from the Class of 2010 include: (l-r) Matt Bellet, Tee Griscom, Jordan Herring, Joshua Liang, Aaron Latkowitz, Zachary Sternberg, Rob Higham, and Eric Mace.

These boys join the list of nearly 800 MBA students recognized by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation since 1981.

This year there are approximately 16,000 National Merit Semifinalists across the country chosen from the 1.5 million entrants in the competition. These high school seniors have an opportunity to continue for $34 million in National Merit Scholarships to be awarded in the spring of 2010. About 90 percent of the students selected as Semifinalists are selected as Finalists, and approximately half of that number attains the National Merit Scholar title.
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ON THE HILL

THEATER

Thespians at MBA and Harpeth Hall returned to school in early August to begin working on our twelfth collaboration — Irving Berlin’s Annie Get Your Gun. This Broadway classic, performed on the Harpeth Hall campus September 10–13, tells the comic story of Annie Oakley (played by senior Margaret Burrus), her rise to fame and fortune as a sharpshooter, and her long-time rivalry and romance with Frank Butler (played by senior Corbin Williams).

Ms. Janette Fox Klocko directed this theater revival, first produced at HH in 2001. She connects rehearsals to the play’s content: “In both its process and plot, theatre demonstrates positive ways that conflict can be resolved. Both on stage and backstage, actors and technicians must learn how to resolve their differences—to go on with the show.”

Likewise, in the story of this play, Frank and Annie must both learn to lasso their large egos, so their hearts can grow enough to include each other. Our rehearsals have been like Annie’s target practice, and these young men and women have aimed high and rarely lost focus when confronted by adversity.” One of the many joys of this production was the reunion of alumni from the 2001 production, including our original Frank and Annie — Hunter Mobley (’03) and Audrey Ball.

On November 19–22, the MBA Players presented Ray Bradbury’s Fahrenheit 451. The play examines a society in which reading literature is strictly forbidden. In this dramatic adaptation of this sci-fi thriller, Guy Montag, a fireman and everyman, burns books for the “good of humanity.” When he meets young Clarisse, however, she awakens his curiosity, and his whole world turns upside down.

The MBA stylish production featured stunning lighting, special effects, and films by Zach Sternberg (’09). Acting was strong throughout, including great performances by seniors Dalton Fouts as Montag, Matt Moynihan as Captain Beatty, and Daniel Smith as Professor Faber.

According to Dr. Cal Fuller, who directed the play: “Fahrenheit 451 is a testament to human resiliency when we risk sharing and debating ideas. It has been a great gift to work with this play and with these fine young actors and technical artists. To borrow an image from Clarisse, we have found the play like an onion, and peeling back the layers in rehearsals has been extraordinary. I applaud my cast and crews for their willingness to push forward, go further, delve deeper.”

Because Mrs. Libby Bourland taught several senior cast members when they first read Fahrenheit 451 in junior school, the production was dedicated to her beloved memory. The cast and crew also shared the special experience of corresponding with the playwright, Dr. Fuller sent photos, programs, and posters, and Mr. Bradbury sent them an autographed copy of his book, now on display in the library.

Fahrenheit 451
Annie Get Your Gun

Fahrenheit 451
The MBA Debate team is a tight-knit group of determined researchers, eloquent speakers, and keen critical thinkers. MBA’s team carries a reputation in the national debate circuit of consistently having powerful orators and incredibly smart minds. Nobody wants to endure a three-minute back-and-forth exchange with an MBA debater on any issue, and no speaker wants to follow an MBA debater after they’ve given an extemporaneous speech. Keeping with this tradition, this year’s team has had a stellar first semester, having balanced success across the squad, from Novice, JV, and Varsity Policy Debate to Novice and Varsity Extemporaneous Speaking.

The team had a monumental start to the year at tournaments in Mississippi and at Wake Forest University. At Wake Forest, MBA had teams advance to the final rounds in JV, Varsity, and Extemporaneous Speaking — an unprecedented feat. In JV, after besting local rival USN, the sophomore team of Zach Chen and Kelly Haselton reached finals while also earning third and eighth place speakers. In Varsity, seniors Hershel Mehta and Campbell Haynes put on a clinic, besting a field of over 150 teams by winning the tournament, with Campbell earning top speaker overall and Hershel getting fifth. In Extemporaneous Speaking, Karthik Sastry advanced to the final round, eventually finishing fifth overall. In Mississippi our elite crew of first-year debaters came away with victories in policy debate and extemporaneous speaking.

MBA then went to our nation’s capital and continued its winning streak. At the Georgetown Round Robin (an exclusive invitational of top teams from all around country), the MBA team of Campbell Haynes and Hershel Mehta won the elite event, with Campbell taking away first speaker and Hershel fifth. Joining them at the Georgetown Day Tournament, among a field of over 80 teams, were Matt Vanek and Wesley Wilson. Campbell and Hershel were third seed after seven preliminary rounds and Wesley and Matt also reached elimination rounds. Campbell received third overall speaker, Wesley 10th, and Hershel 12th. Wesley and Matt finished in ninth place, their best finish of the year, and amazing among so many teams. Finally, exhausted but determined to finish the job, Campbell and Hershel won all of their elimination rounds to become champions of the tournament, the third tournament in a row that they’ve won.

At the Yale University Invitational, a major tournament for extemporaneous speaking, senior Aaron Lutkowitz overwhelmed the entire field, placing first in the final round and winning the event, a superb performance that reflects the hard work that the whole team puts into preparing. With eerie quiet and tumbleweeds rolling by, the MBA Debate team then travelled to Dallas to take on the best teams in the nation in both policy debate and extemporaneous speaking. After the dust settled, the squad walked away with some very impressive accolades. In extemporaneous speaking, Aaron Lutkowitz and Karthik Sastry both reached Semifinals. In policy debate, the teams of Jesse Suh, Wesley Wilson, Hershel Mehta, and Campbell Haynes both finished in the top three, with Hershel and Campbell relenting after finishing in ninth place.

The team then travelled to the dry valleys of Los Angeles, Calif., where senior Campbell Haynes and junior Jesse Suh competed at the University of Southern California Invitational, taking on a determined group of outlaws from around the West. After earning a 5-1 preliminary record, Campbell, who also earned eighth overall speaker, finished in fifth place among a very competitive crew.
With big wins and new rivals, the team is looking forward to upcoming showdowns this spring in Massachusetts, Georgia, and California. Special congratulations to senior policy debater Wesley Wilson for being accepted to University of Oxford. We are proud of our fall performances so far, we’ve had fun, and we appreciate your support.

Aron Lutkowitz

Senior Aron Lutkowitz has zigzagged across the country in his four years with the MBA Debate team. In tournaments from Alabama to Texas, and Chicago to Washington, D.C., he has honed his skills as an extemporaneous speaker and he climbed to a number one national ranking in that category. A National Merit Semifinalist who has taken seven AP and 10 honors classes, Lutkowitz is also a member of Totomoi, a columnist for The Bell Ringer, and one of the founding members of MBA’s Multicultural Alliance. Lutkowitz credits the ideas he has been exposed to in debate for his interest in social justice. As he, “began to realize the immense problems in the world, I resolved to take action and actively participate in social justice programs at MBA. I became very active in service, receiving the most service hours in the grade my sophomore year.” He continued with a mission trip to New Orleans, peer tutoring, and numerous hours spent at MBA’s soup kitchen.

Campbell Haynes

Sometimes not making the basketball team can lead to great things. Campbell Haynes ’10) and Michael Jordan can both relate. While Jordan eventually turned things around on the hardwood, Haynes decided to shift his focus to policy debate, and has emerged as one of the nation’s top competitors. A National Merit Semifinalist and Advanced Placement Scholar, Haynes has immersed himself in the world of debate, notching first and second place finishes in tournaments at Wake Forest, Georgetown, and Vestavia Hills, Ala. He has also attended debate seminars at Georgetown, the University of Michigan, and Northwestern University, as well as earning the first speaker award at the prestigious Dartmouth Debate Institute. It’s the excitement of matching wits with the team across the table that drives the Dartmouth-bound Haynes, who “enjoys the thrill of arguing, the cross examinations — it’s not a sport, but the competitiveness is certainly there.”
GOLF Having spent the winter in the gym and the spring and early part of the summer on the golf course, the golf season got under way for MBA on August 6th with a match against Harpeth High School at Greystone Golf Course. Both teams played very well and MBA, breaking 300 for the first time in several years, squeaked in for the win by one stroke with a score of 299. Other highlights during the season included a good showing (third) at the competitive Stan McNabb Tournament in Tullahoma, wins against Father Ryan and BGA, and some great golf played throughout the season by some very talented and committed athletes. The roster of 10 boys was anchored by strong and talented senior leadership: Tyler LeRoy, Tyler Paslick, John Michael McGinn, Alex Snow, and Overton Thompson. Backing up this quintet were such talented players as Hayden Morgan (‘11), Brandon Sauermann (‘12), Austin Doebler (‘12), Roe Moore (‘12), and George Swenson (‘13). The team’s overall record for the season was 5-5 in dual match play and two top five performances in four tournaments.

CROSS COUNTRY The 2009 version of the Big Red Cross Country team was one of – if not the – most successful in the 50-year history of the sport at MBA. The team finished the year with both a state championship, and the distinction of never having lost to a team from Tennessee. The team owned victories over all other champions in all other classification levels.

After a season-opening win in the Drake Classic, the harriers finished runner-up in the Tennessee Classic, the largest meet in the state, losing to a team from St. Louis. The next week the monsoons came, and the varsity was rained out at McCallie while the JV placed fourth in the rain-shortened AF Bridges, running in the varsity race. The top 14 runners traveled to Cary, N.C., to defend its Great America Cross Country Festival title, and placed a commendable 14th place.

After a couple of weeks of rehab and training, the lads won the Metro Championship for the second year in a row, while the JV team captured the JV Metro for the 31st consecutive year. Taking off two weeks to sharpen, the Big Red crushed the competition in the State Meet, defeating McCallie and two-time champion Baylor by almost 50 points. After that meet, Michael Peters (‘11), Daniel Peters (‘12), Ryan Hill (‘11), and Hayes McCord (‘11) were named All-State.

In addition to the four All-State runners, Alex Smith (‘12), Andrew Powell (‘11), and David Dalton (‘10) were named to various Coaches All-Metro, All-Region, and All-Midstate teams, while Coach Robert Pruitt was named Midstate Coach of the Year by The Tennessean.

The team worked hard, ran smart, and overcame several injuries to post an outstanding season. Given the return of nine of the ten state runners, much is expected of the team to start the next decade of MBA Cross Country excellence.
The 2009 MBA Football team completed another outstanding season. Although the team did not come away with the State Championship, their runner-up finish is something to be very proud of. While not the most talented team in school history, this version of the MBA Football team showed as much heart as any previous group.

Following a grueling summer of preparation, the Big Red opened the season at home with an impressive 42-14 victory over Pearl Cohn in the Vanderbilt Clinic Bowl. This game gave the team momentum heading into a non-region showdown versus a very talented Maplewood team. After trading scores throughout the game, MBA needed an onside kick recovery and final touchdown drive to seal the 31-28 win. Unfortunately, starting linebacker Tee Griscom (’10) was lost for the year with a knee injury.

MBA faced a very talented Ensworth team in the third game. Starting quarterback Luke Colbert (’10) suffered a season-ending neck injury during the first half of the game. MBA could not recover and lost 50-21. The following week was just as tough as MBA lost to Independence 23-20 on the road. MBA found itself back on track after shutting out Baylor 17-0 in Tommy Owen Stadium. The defense was outstanding as the physical play that MBA has been known for finally showed up.

The one regular season road trip proved to be very exciting. MBA battled McCallie for three-and-a-half quarters, setting the stage for two dramatic Andrew Fletcher (’10) field goals. His 54 yarder tied the game late in the fourth quarter, while his 36 yarder, as time expired, put MBA in front for the 27-24 win. The next game, Homecoming, was a difficult 26-14 loss to BGA. The Big Red showed great character as the annual clash with Father Ryan awaited. A great week of practice preceded the first MBA-Ryan game played at Ryan’s new stadium. A hard fought 7-3 win in the rain set the tone for the rest of the season. This was MBA’s 14th win in a row over the Irish.

Despite a 26-7 loss to Brentwood Academy the next week, the team knew they were on the right track. In a driving rain storm, MBA pounded the ball and beat Pope John Paul II High School 35-7 in the regular season finale. A rematch with BGA awaited the Big Red in the first round of the playoffs. The game was a blowout from the beginning. With a 45-10 lead midway through the third quarter, MBA coasted to the win. QB Aaron Simonis (’12) played well, and senior William Tanner had a great game defensively. The second round of the playoffs was another rematch. MBA traveled to Ensworth and physically beat the Tigers. Another game-winning FG by Andrew Fletcher proved to be the difference in the 27-24 win. Seniors Fitz Lassing and Holden Mobley were too much for the Tigers to handle. For the third straight week MBA faced an opponent that defeated the Big Red in the regular season. MBA traveled to Brentwood Academy for the semifinals of the TSSAA play-offs. After back and forth scores, the game went to overtime. MBA prevailed 42-41 in the two OTs to beat BA on their field for the second year in a row. MBA has now beaten BA every year since 1997 with the exception of 2006.

After an incredible run in the play-offs, the team battled Memphis University School in the State Championship game in Cookeville. After closing the gap to 17-10 in the fourth, MBA could get no closer, falling 27-17.

Through the incredible job done by the coaching staff and the leadership of the seniors, MBA reached its full potential in 2009.
Learning new traditions, experiencing school life in other countries, and discovering the world were just a part of the fun for the 21 boys involved in the MBA International Exchange program — one of the only programs of its kind in the world. MBA currently sends boys to nine schools in England, Australia, Greece, New Zealand, South Africa, Greece, and China. The 2009 exchange began with Corbin Williams’ three-month stay at Eton College in England from January to March, followed by Thompson Barr and Matt Moynihan’s visit to Athens College in Greece during the spring. Seniors Matt Bellet, George Curtis, and Thomas Moore began the summer at Winchester College in England. Turner Henderson and Will Henry journeyed to Melbourne Grammar School in Australia, while Rob Higham and John Lowe attended that continent’s oldest independent school, The Kings School, near Sydney. Lewis Armistead, Daniel Todd, and Ben Sutter took in the incredible sights of New Zealand while studying at Lindisfarne College. Steven Gaittens and Nate Smith brought back some incredible stories and pictures from their stay at Michaelhouse in the heart of the KwaZulu-Natal Midlands in South Africa.

New to the exchange program this year was a cultural trip to China. MBA faculty members Dr. Jim Dickens, Ms. Joan Li, and Mr. Jim Womack took rising seniors Matt Bracy, Will Campbell, Mac Hudson, Joshua Liang, Austin Locke, and Daniel White to Beijing, Shanghai, and Suzhou. The students were provided with a unique opportunity to step into the heart of China, experience its multifaceted culture, learn its language, and uncover its ancient civilization.
The fall has been a time of tremendous achievement for the MBA Music Department. Events throughout the semester, including Admission Preview Day, Music in the Round, and the Holiday Concert, displayed the talents of the Jazz Band, Ellington Band, Orchestra, Headmaster’s Singers, and the MBA Chorus. Each Friday night home football game featured entertainment from the MBA Rock Band.

A number of MBA musicians were recognized for their abilities this fall. Senior Zach Sternberg was selected to the All-Middle Tennessee Jazz Band, and freshman Chris Hooks was chosen to be a part of the All-Middle Tennessee Junior High Jazz Band. Junior Jack Warne earned a spot on the All-Mid-State Band, while sophomore Preston Palm was selected as a member of the All-Mid-State Orchestra and the All-State Orchestra, while sophomore Karthik Sastry earned a spot in the All-Mid-State Orchestra. In the Junior School, seventh grader Wesley Tseng was been selected as first chair cello in the All-Mid-State Junior High Orchestra.
Undertaking a campaign to benefit the MBA community:

*a capital*

by Nina Thomas
Two centuries ago leaders with names like Robertson, Jackson, Polk, and Johnson saw a need to strengthen the education of young men in Nashville.

A half century later men named Bell, Lindsley, Fogg, and Weaver rose to the occasion by making the initial dream a reality. Montgomery Bell Academy was founded with 26 scholars as “a first-class grammar and high school for boys.”

Nearly a hundred years ago another vision for MBA emerged, thanks to the foresight of Ball, Ewing, Tillman, and Gallagher. The needs of an ever-increasing group of 103 scholars were met with a larger campus and access to athletic fields. A growing suburban constituency was needed to move MBA forward into the next century. “The Country School for the City Boy” was opened in 1915.

Close to a century later, at the dawn of the twenty-first century and a new decade, MBA is once again poised at a crossroads. The need to enhance and expand the school’s facilities to enrich the campus experience for students and teachers alike dovetails nicely with a positive political climate and supportive neighbors. The leadership of the school feels that the timing is right for a capital campaign.

How does MBA continue to be the premier college preparatory institution for young men in the country? Attracting and retaining the best students and young men from Tennessee will remain a top priority. MBA will continue to emphasize and expand upon the search for and retention of the finest educators from across the country. MBA also plans to improve the physical facilities in order to provide the place where the people will flourish and the programs will continue to expand. Additionally, the school will stay true to the vision of founder Montgomery Bell by keeping an MBA education affordable to all qualified students.

How does MBA put such ideals into action? Every five to ten years the Board of Trustees develops a strategic plan for the school. They look at past goals and accomplishments when setting the course for the future.
In establishing the objectives of the current campaign, the Board considers first and foremost the mission of the school:

Montgomery Bell Academy offers young men an exemplary college preparatory experience, assisting them to be gentlemen, scholars, and athletes and young men of wisdom and moral integrity who will make significant contributions to society.

Board members then map out a plan for the future while keeping in mind the core values of the school. The ideals of “honor” and “balance” are put to work every day as MBA strives to help each gentleman, scholar, and athlete reach his full potential in the areas of character development, academics, athletics, service, and the arts.

Using these ideals as a compass, the board then sets concrete objectives to facilitate the plan and ultimately to turn vision into reality. Following is the plan they have outlined.

The mission of the campaign is to raise funds that will benefit the entire Montgomery Bell Academy community in the following areas:

- **Endowment.** MBA was founded with the belief that all qualified applicants, regardless of their financial situation, should have an opportunity to attend the school. This conviction drives the goal to increase the endowment in order to provide financial aid for qualified students, as well as develop and retain faculty.

- **Capital Projects.** Bricks and mortar will literally lay the foundation for an even greater MBA experience in terms of learning and community. The plan is to provide a classroom for every teacher, ample parking for all, an expanded dining hall, a visible and centrally located music department, and an open-space building designed to enhance student-teacher interactions and to support the debate program.

With the addition of a garage, MBA’s parking needs will become nearly self-sustaining and improve its relationship with the neighbors. On top of that (literally) the proposed soccer field will enhance the school’s athletic facilities while creating an

A Balanced Vision: MBA Capital Campaign
eco-friendly roof. Closing Brighton Road will offer additional parking and a much needed buffer for the neighbors, while the construction of eight new tennis courts will provide an important upgrade for the program. A new classroom building will give each of our superb faculty a room of one’s own while also providing customized space for the school’s nationally-recognized debate and mock trial programs. A new dining hall will provide a gorgeous two-story space for family-style lunches, will serve as an anchor to the Sloan Quad, and will also provide a perfect backdrop for commencement exercises.

Over the last six years the capital campaign has been building momentum, leading to substantial gains in the endowment. The beginning of a new year marks a renewed effort to achieve the financial goals by kicking off the final phase of the campaign. Should the government approvals and adequate funding materialize as expected, the school will launch a ceremonial groundbreaking in June.
Jenny M B A’s Capital Campaign is highly organized, ambitious within reason, and extremely thoughtful: words that aptly describe Ms. Jenny Hannon, the newly appointed director of Alumni and Development — and the woman who leads the charge.

Why would a single mother of four girls want to take on a job of this magnitude in the midst of a capital campaign and an uncertain economic climate? What drives her to trade the comfort of a corporate environment for the unknowns of academia in an all-boys school?

Hannon enjoys a challenge, has a genuine interest in educating youth in general, and loves to interact with people of all ages and backgrounds. She spearheaded a campaign that raised over six million dollars to renovate Julia Green Elementary School; proof positive of her dedication and her ability to get results.

A male-dominated environment does not intimidate Hannon; in fact she enjoys negotiating with her male peers. Her experience with professional sports is a case in point. In establishing the Nashville Predators Foundation, Jenny called upon her ability to manage and motivate people, and ultimately to generate funds. In its inaugural year, the foundation raised nearly $200,000 to benefit Nashville charities. She is the former executive director of the TENNFL campaign, which brought the Tennessee Titans to Nashville. She coordinated the efforts of the Mayor’s office and the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce to raise funds to move the Houston Oilers to town through suite and PSL sales. With hardhat in hand, she helped to facilitate the building of the arena and stadium to house the Predators and the Titans in Nashville.
Jenny’s love for ideas, education, and community make working with her an inspiration.

— Brad Gioia

At the heart of Hannon’s extensive list of accomplishments is a natural ability to develop deep friendships and build connections among people. Through her commitment to schools, the sports industry, and charitable foundations, she has developed a web of support and consequently an extensive list of contacts upon which she can draw at a moment’s notice.

MBA has quickly become a way of life for Hannon and her girls, where her personal friendships and professional relationships are seamlessly intertwined. There is an emotional tie that binds her to The Hill as well: her husband, Chris Hannon, graduated from MBA in 1980 and died in September of 2006.

Hannon has a disarmingly positive attitude and an infectious laugh with which she reassures the community that she is moving forward with her life—a life that is centered around her four girls and the 700 boys at MBA.

MBA Headmaster Bradford Gioia is confident in what she brings to her new role. He adds that, “Jenny’s love for ideas, education, and community make working with her an inspiration. Her experience with the sports council, the Titans, the Predators, and Julia Green School have demonstrated her innate love and passion for providing people with opportunity. Her care, focus, and determination will help MBA meet and exceed its goals. I have confidence that Jenny will help transform MBA into an even greater school by providing this community with the resources needed to embrace the twenty-first century.”

She has also had her hand in the arena of amateur sports. Having launched the Nashville Sports Council as executive director, Hannon grew a loyal and efficient staff and achieved financial stability for the organization, all while recruiting over a dozen amateur sporting events to the city.

Hannon has been involved extensively in community initiatives as well, having served as a member of Leadership Nashville, and on the Metro Parks and Recreation board for over 12 years. Add head of household, mother of four, dog owner, and “go-to gal” for friends and family to her professional profile and you have one busy lady.
This fall MBA brought to campus a number of speakers from the worlds of astronomy, literature, the arts, and the natural world to share their insights and experiences with the school community. In early September, Bill Lishman, renowned inventor, scientist, and inspiration for the movie *Fly Away Home*, returned to campus to visit with the MBA student body. Lishman recounted his educational career, starting with a small schoolhouse in Canada, and then detailed his fascination with flight. It was that interest that led him into the world of ultra light aviation, and eventually the study of migratory birds in flight. Lishman marveled at the continual evolution of technology, the ever-changing world around him, and the creative forces of nature.

A few days later, Dan Gediman, co-editor of *This I Believe*, MBA’s 2009 All-School Read, shared his thoughts on the popular book and radio series. Gediman revived the series in 2005 after a chance reading of the original collection of *This I Believe* essays. Unlike the 1950s series, the National Public Radio (NPR) version offers essays from people from all walks of life. Gediman appreciated the fact that each student at MBA had written his or her own ‘This I Believe’ essay to start the school year.

Brother Guy Consolmagno, astronomer to the Pope and planetary scientist at the Vatican Observatory, traveled to Nashville from the Vatican. Brother Consolmagno spoke of his interest in space and noted how science and religion do get along. He explained how he ended up in Rome — a result of joining the Jesuit Order and taking a vow of obedience. He has spent time on all seven continents, including gathering meteorites in the most remote parts of Antarctica.

As the fall leaves began to change color, acclaimed master artist, teacher, and author Quang Ho visited the campus from his studio in Denver, Colo. Ho displayed some of his work, discussed the artistic process, and shared some of his experiences as an immigrant from Vietnam.

Right before Thanksgiving, MBA had the privilege of welcoming to campus wildlife conservationists and documentary filmmakers Jamie and Jim Dutcher. The Dutchers have spent the past 15 years bringing the story of the Sawtooth wolf of Idaho to many educational institutions, museums, clubs (Explorers), zoos, and the media such as the *Today Show*, *Good Morning America*, *Dateline NBC*, NPR, BBC, *People Magazine*, and the *New York Times* to name a few. They have won two Primetime Emmy Awards for their wildlife documentaries.
Since arriving at MBA in the ninth grade, senior David Dalton has wasted little time becoming a part of the MBA community. Dalton has performed very well in the classroom while taking a majority of honors and AP courses. He has also been a member of the Honor Council for the past two years, serving as co-vice president this year. He is the president of the school’s Stock Market Club, and is an officer in the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. His commitment to service is evidenced by numerous mission trips, and the creation of a project that raised funds to allow five underprivileged boys to attend MBA summer programs. Dalton sold cookies and provided recycling services to MBA neighbors to earn the money necessary to provide the boys with the “essential life lessons from the coaches that still remain with me today, the exposure to great role models in the MBA students that lead the groups, and the enjoyment that might otherwise be unavailable to them.”

In the realm of athletics, Dalton has few peers for involvement and productivity. By the time he has finished his MBA career, Dalton will have earned 13 varsity letters. A four-year letter winner in Cross Country, he captained the Big Red in their 2009 state championship season. He has also lettered all four years in hockey, serving as assistant captain last year, and captain in his senior season. Dalton earned the team MVP for the 2008-09 season, and has been a two-time league All-Star. While playing lacrosse his freshman and sophomore years, he was Freshman City Meet champion in the pole vault, and was part of the 4 x 800 m relay that set a new record for freshman events. Switching to track full-time in his junior year, Dalton competed in the pole vault, 800 m run, and 4 x 800 m team relay.
If there is an event on the MBA campus, odds are that Zach Sternberg is there. An outstanding student with membership in the Junior Honor Society and Summa Cum Laude awards on three National Latin Exams, Sternberg is also a member of Totomol, serves as president of the MBA Jewish Advisory Group, and is co-founder of the school’s Multi-Cultural Alliance.

Although not the most athletic member of his class, his leadership in the MBA Rock Band has assured his attendance at every Big Red home game in football and basketball since the eighth grade. Sternberg’s musical ability has also earned him places on the 2009 All-State Jazz Band, the 2009 All Mid-State First Jazz Band, and the 2008 All Mid-State Second Jazz Band for Baritone Saxophone. His strength as a clarinetist earned him 2007 All Mid-State First Concert Band, and 2006 All Mid-State Middle Concert Band. He has been a major contributor to the MBA Ellington Band, the Orchestra and Chamber Ensembles, as well as the Vanderbilt University Blair School of Music Blair Big Band.

While his achievements in front of a crowd are certainly laudable, what Sternberg has accomplished behind the scenes sets him apart. He has provided lighting design and technical direction for nearly a dozen MBA Theater productions, including the state-champion One-Act show in 2008, and the groundbreaking performance of Fahrenheit 451 this year. In addition, Sternberg provides lighting and technical assistance for nearly every concert, speaker, and assembly in the MBA theater.
Tee Griscom’s six years at MBA are marked by tremendous achievement, service, and perseverance. An accomplished student with 15 honors and AP courses taken; Griscom is a member of both Totomoi and the King Society, as well as the recipient of the P.M. Estes Award in 2008. Griscom has also excelled athletically, lettering in football, basketball, and track. Slated to play a major role on the 2009 Big Red Football team, Griscom suffered a season-ending knee injury during the second game. Rather than give up on the season, he demonstrated tremendous leadership, and helped push his teammates to the state championship game. He plans to continue his football career at Furman University next year.

Griscom’s injury also intensified his focus on service, particularly his involvement with Mobile Loaves & Fishes, a social outreach ministry for the homeless and indigent working poor that provides food and clothing to people in need. The ministry was brought to Nashville by MBA Alums Rob Barrick (‘70), Gordon Peerman (‘69), and Bill Peerman (‘71). Griscom helped found the MBA group that helps prepare and distribute meals on Mobile Loaves & Fishes catering trucks each month. The response to the program has been overwhelming, quickly becoming one of the most popular service organizations at the school.
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:

Walton Macey (’11) receives his ring from his father John (’77). In a surprise, Macey in turn presented his father with a ring he did not receive while at MBA.
In a tradition that began more than a decade ago with a procession of juniors filing into the high school office in Ball Hall, members of the Class of 2011 and their families, as well as many alumni, attended the annual ring ceremony. Following a warm breakfast on a cold December morning, senior Alvin Kim began the program with a cello performance. Senior class president Drew Danieley shared his memories of receiving his ring, and about the simplicity of the ring and “that the MBA ring does not need to be flashy. It’s not worn to boast that you went to one of the finest institutions in the nation, it’s not worn to show to others that your high school experience was harder than theirs. You wear that ring as a reminder of the lessons you learned and the people you met.” He continued with a reminder to the juniors that the ring, “is your connection to an incredible group of people, a group of people who believe in the ideal of Gentleman, Scholar, and Athlete, who work hard to lead a good life, and who strive to make a difference regardless of the challenges they may face.”

Senior Roger Briggs then introduced his grandfather, MBA Trustee Brownlee O. Currey, Jr. (’45). Currey paid tribute to his father, who served as Chairman of the Board of Trust while he was in school. He also affirmed Danieley’s assertion that the friendships formed at MBA last a lifetime.

After senior David Dalton offered instructions on how the ring should be worn, members of the Class of 2010 Jackson Roberts, Alex Karpos, Nate Smith, Will Henry, Matt Bellett, Denzel Caldwell, and Daniel Todd presented each junior with his class ring, or if the student is the son of an alumnus, then his father presented the ring.

Sophomores Mattison Hamilton and Preston Palm entertained the assembled with a Celtic piece on the violin, and then senior Fitz Lassing offered reflections on his time at MBA and challenged the junior class to embrace their remaining 18 months on campus, step outside their comfort zones, and make the most of their MBA experience. He urged them not to, “take the time you have left at MBA for granted. As your freedom and influence on this campus increase, so too do your responsibilities and your ability to make an impact on this school and on those around you. Consider not only the contributions that you make now, but also how you will be remembered. Your legacy, like your ring, will remain with you for the rest of your life.”
MBA began its inaugural school year on September 9th of 1867. Pearl High opened in 1883. Exactly 99 years after MBA opened its doors, the two schools played each other for the first time in football on September 9, 1966.

Why did it take so long for two of Nashville’s oldest schools to meet on the football field? The biggest reason — it was not allowed. MBA was an all-white private school while Pearl was an all-black public school.

The Civil Rights Movement began to get some momentum in the mid 1950s and the Civil Rights Act of 1964 outlawed racial segregation in schools. Even though schools in Nashville had begun integration in 1958, Pearl remained an all-black school and MBA all-white.

For years MBA competed in the Nashville Interscholastic League (N.I.L.), and that league would make history in 1966. The N.I.L. realigned to form an 18-team division made up of two nine-team leagues. Joining MBA for the first time in the new N.I.L. were Pearl High and Cameron High, two predominately African-American schools.

When the schedules were formed, teams selected opponents by pulling numbers out of a hat. It is only fitting that legendary MBA Coach Tommy Owen pulled Pearl High to open the 1966 season.

On September 9, MBA and Pearl High would play the first ever integrated high school football game in Tennessee and perhaps the whole South. An all-black school would play an all-white school and the only thing known headed into that game was there was so much unknown. How would the two schools respond? How would the city of Nashville respond?

John Bracewell (’67) played guard on both sides of the ball for the Big Red and co-captained the ’66 team. “It was hard to prepare for them because we knew virtually nothing about them, and if you knew Coach Owen, that was something he was not used to.” Bracewell remembered the only film they had on Pearl was of a night game that looked like a home movie. “All we could see was the football being thrown one way and the football being thrown the other. Coach Owen looked at us and said ‘we’re not gonna learn much from this.’”

Because of the poor quality of Pearl’s game film, Coach Owen would have to have his team better prepared in other ways. Sandy Haury (’68), a junior on the 1966 team who played center and defensive tackle, remembers, “back then we didn’t have organized workouts. It was an unwritten rule come the 15th of June, you better be running or doing something to be ready. Coach Owen used to say ‘if you sit at home in the air conditioning all summer, I’m gonna know it.’” In the summer, MBA would practice in the middle of the day. Being acclimated to the heat would pay off for the Big Red as the Pearl game drew nearer.

In the wake of a series of race riots and civil disorder throughout the U.S., MBA Headmaster Francis Carter moved the kickoff time to the afternoon to combat any potential incidents. September 9 turned out to be a very hot day.

According to Haury, “The heat suited Coach Owen just fine, he knew we would be in better shape and it would work to our advantage.” Bracewell adds, “The Pearl guys couldn’t practice much during the day because a lot of them had summer jobs. They had to practice a lot at night, so you can imagine a 95 degree day was not what the doctor ordered for them.”

A big crowd showed up at MBA to witness the game not only to watch two good teams square off, but also because their curiosity had been piqued.

Haury was curious and apprehensive heading into the game. “I had never competed against any team that had black players. It was all new…nobody really knew what was going to happen.”

One thing John Bracewell knew, Pearl had a big team. “My most vivid memory of them was their size. I’ve never seen as many big people on a team,” said Bracewell. Pearl had a big size advantage in this game. Fortunately for the Big Red, size didn’t play a factor.

Pearl returned a punt in the first quarter for a touchdown that was called back for multiple clipping penalties and could not muster any offense as MBA’s Bill Blair scored four touchdowns in the game, as the Big Red cruised to an easy 53–0 victory.

Pearl’s quarterback for the 1966 team was “Jefferson Street” Joe Gilliam. Gilliam would become one of the greatest football players in Nashville history, leading Tennessee State University to back-to-back black college National Championships in 1970–71. From there, Gilliam...
played in the NFL for the Pittsburgh Steelers, becoming one of the first African American quarterbacks to start in the NFL when he supplanted future Hall of Famer Terry Bradshaw.

Gilliam, however, threw five interceptions against an MBA defense that allowed only 16 points all season.

Gilliam’s teammate, and future Pearl quarterback, Walter Overton remembers his teammate fondly. “Joey was a phenomenal athlete. I was blessed to have played on the same high school team he played on. He was a gifted thrower in high school and became a gifted passer as his career developed.”

As important as the win was for MBA, it was more significant for one big reason.

“There were no problems, no incidents, no issues — it was a clean game,” says Haury.

MBA quarterback Tom Roday (’68) had a similar view. “It could have been an explosive environment but it wasn’t — the whole race issue was overblown.”

In a time where (according to Haury) “life as we knew it was changing,” one thing remained the same. Football was football. Despite the difference in color during a time period of increasing racial tensions, an all-white team and an all-black team simply played football.

Bracewell adds, “As players we didn’t think much about the black/white issue — but I have no doubt our parents and others did.”

Bracewell, Haury, Roday, and the other players were 16-, 17-, and 18-year-old boys playing a game in a time when the United States was changing completely. Had there been incidents, tension, or worse no one knows what would have happened the rest of the season.

Howard Gentry, Jr., former Nashville Vice-Mayor and Pearl football player from ’67–’69, notes “I was proud to be in that moment of history. The standard was set in ’66 for other schools that had to play in an integrated situation.”

There would be another MBA versus Pearl game in 1967 and many more would follow.

The 1967 game was a lot like the ’66 game, except that it was played at Pearl High. Joe Gilliam struggled again; this time throwing seven interceptions.

MBA senior Tom Roday returned the opening kickoff 81 yards for a touchdown, and the Big Red never looked back. MBA would win round two 42–0 paving the way for a perfect 10–0 season. In a bit of MBA Football history, Frank Drowota (’56) returned the season-opening kickoff 78 yards for a touchdown against East High in 1955. Both the ’55 and ’67 teams would go on to win the state championships.

Howard Gentry was a young sophomore playing guard and linebacker for Pearl in 1967. “The opportunity to play MBA was exciting, but there was some uncertainty. I wasn’t scared — it was just another football game — but it was an odd feeling getting ready to hit a white kid.”

Although Gentry doesn’t have fond memories of the game itself, he adds “nobody mistreated us — we just couldn’t stop MBA. Our coach practiced us hard after that game. He worked us to death. That set the goal in motion from that day. Our goal was to beat MBA.”

While Pearl fell short in their initial goal, the hard work paid off as Pearl went to the Strawberry Bowl at the end of the year.

In 1968, Walter Overton became the full-time quarterback for Pearl High. Overton later would play quarterback on Vanderbilt’s freshman team before becoming a star wide receiver for the Commodores.

As a sophomore, Overton had actually started at quarterback in the ’67 game. He recalls being, “…just so nervous. I was 15 years old going against perennial power MBA. I had never played at the high school level,” Overton played in two series before giving way to Gilliam.

The ’68 game was played at MBA. According to Overton, “We felt we had a better team. We had a chance to win that game but had a couple of turnovers. I believe it was the only game we lost that year.”

In a much closer game, MBA pulled out a 20–7 win en route to a second straight state championship that season.

For more information on the history of Montgomery Bell Academy Football, check out these sources:

Hit the Red Gate Running: The Tommy Owen Story
Gentleman, Scholar, Athlete: The History of Montgomery Bell Academy
www.hsfdatabase.com – A Web site devoted to the compilation of historical scores and information on Tennessee high school football.
Gentry said, “We were confident. We got beat, but it was so much closer. I don’t remember a police car or a bad word. It was a great experience.”

Pearl defeated Cumberland in the Metro Bowl to close out a successful ’68 season.

In 1969, Pearl would get revenge on MBA winning 34–8. The ’69 Pearl team had 13 seniors who received college football scholarships.

Gentry recalls that, “the tide had turned and we were a very experienced team. We wanted to run up the score as payback, but our coach called it off.”

Coach James Armstrong, according to Gentry “was a disciplinarian — hard, but with a soft side that made him human. He did what he had to do to make us succeed. He could take a group of kids and either influence us, or scare us, whatever it took to do the right thing.”

Gentry was also quick to point out that Armstrong used MBA as the benchmark for his players. “MBA was disciplined, well-coached, and had great sportsmanship. They commanded respect. Coach Armstrong was using MBA as a model.”

Led by a strong group of players, including Overton, Gentry, and Porter Williams — the first 1,000 yard receiver in Western Kentucky University football history — Pearl became the first black school to play in the Clinic Bowl, defeating Maplewood 6–0.

Starting with the 1966 game, MBA and Pearl played each other in 13 straight seasons with MBA winning 12 of those games. However, in 1982 Pearl would win the last game in the series before merging with Cohn High School in 1983.

Except for a four-year gap in the 90s, MBA and Pearl Cohn continued to play every year until 2000. Following the 2000 game, the series went on its longest hiatus and finally resumed this year.

On August 22, 2009, MBA and Pearl Cohn faced off in the season opening Clinic Bowl at MBA. Although the outcome resembled the first meeting between the two schools, the game became more about reliving the success of the games in the 60s.

The night before the game, MBA hosted a kickoff dinner honoring alumni of both teams from the ’66–’69 era. Players from both teams reminisced about their experiences in the games. They told stories, and they laughed a lot. They rekindled friendships that first developed on the football field.

According to Bracewell, “The best thing was them sharing the memories of the game from their perspective and us sharing ours.”

Gentry adds, “I remember how warm everybody was to each other and how everyone remembered each other.”

Overton expressed how thankful he was for that event.

The ’69 game was just the beginning of Walter Overton’s and Howard Gentry’s relationship with MBA.

“I played at Vandy with Tate Rich, Fred Fisher, Sandy Haury, and others. We all became friends and teammates. My acquaintances with guys at MBA continued as we moved to our professional years.”

Gentry recalled a flag football game involving MBA alums when he worked at First American Bank and they squared off against a local mortgage company. “Sam Bartholomew got Vandy jerseys and I got TSU jerseys. Fred Fisher was our quarterback.”

Howard Gentry would later become CEO of Backfield in Motion and bring the kids in the program to MBA.

In an era of uncertainty and turmoil, with a potential for a host of problems, good came out of the MBA and Pearl series. It was about football, building relationships, and making memories.

Unfortunately, MBA and Pearl Cohn no longer compete in the same league. High school athletic barriers were broken down in 1966 thanks to the success of the MBA Pearl series; but a new set of boundaries arose over 30 years later. In 1997, the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association (TSSAA) formed a financial aid division sending a handful of great schools to compete in their own division. Neighborhood rivalries and community — building events like the MBA-Pearl series have given way to interstate travel and eight separate classifications. No longer can MBA and Pearl compete for the same state championship as they did in 1966 — when it was just a game.
Out of Town Events

The MBA Alumni Association made its way up and down the East Coast this fall, visiting MBA Alums in Boston, New York City, Washington, DC, Charlotte, and Atlanta. Headmaster Brad Gioia, members of the Alumni Office, as well as faculty members brought news from The Hill, and provided Alums a venue to catch up and meet fellow MBA graduates in their area.
A hungry crowd of college-age alumni packed the Anne Potter Wilson room in the library on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving for the annual College Alumni Lunch. Old friends had a chance to catch up, hear the latest news from The Hill, and enjoy some good Southern cooking from Ms. Edith and the food service staff. Headmaster Brad Gioia welcomed the crowd back to campus and showed some brief video clips highlighting the 2009 school year. Jonas Rodriguez (’00), Assistant Director for Alumni Relations, shared some ways that alums just out of school can get involved and remain connected with their alma mater.
In what has become an annual event, MBA played host to more than 100 alumni and their fathers on the morning before Thanksgiving for the Fathers of Alumni Breakfast. Following a hearty meal and fellowship, Scott Hearon and Teddy Christenberry, both Class of 2006, spoke passionately about their recent visit to Cambodia and Vietnam, where they worked with an organization that is attempting to put an end to human trafficking. Both men were shocked by the prevalence of the problem in Southeast Asia – and around the globe – and challenged people in this country to use their power to fight it.
Graduating from MBA in 1991, Benton Brown had to make a choice: head east to the College of Charleston or take that other fork in the road and catch Route 66 to the College of Santa Fe. The decision to venture west—more or less made by beloved art teacher Rosie Paschall—was the right one for Benton.

Brown’s passion for sculpting, metal fabrication, and architecture would draw him to New York City. Armed with degrees in social science and fine arts would not, however, prepare him for what would come next.

Benton was living in New York for just a few years when he launched into a real estate venture of epic proportion, and garnered considerable media attention for his progressive thinking.
It Grows in Brooklyn: It’s Not a Tree, but It’s Green
By PENOLEPE GREEN
Published: Sunday, August 22, 2004

For nearly a year, they owned a full city block in Brooklyn: 135,000 square feet in seven buildings on three tax lots from Franklin Avenue to the elevated Franklin Avenue Shuttle, and from Dean to Bergen Streets. It’s an awkwardly beautiful landscape of steel and brick, concrete and cobblestone; a one-story garage is topped by a large, lovely rusted hopper, and other buildings line up at different heights, like jagged teeth in a hobo’s mouth. Even the el is poetic, a rough river melody rolling through masonry pastures.

Still, Susan Boyle and Benton Brown did not aspire to such vast holdings. Ms. Boyle, who has a degree in environmental studies and economics, and Mr. Brown, a sculptor with degrees in fine arts and political science, had an idea about renovating an abandoned building into a live-work space, using green technologies and their own sweat equity. A small building, that is, with maybe a little extra space for one tenant. Their renovation has wound up being considerably larger, though not 135,000 square feet. Mr. Brown had already domesticated a loft near the Brooklyn Navy Yard, and as the son of an architect with Ms. Boyle was working for Transportation Alternatives, a citizens’ group working for better public transit, and was eager to investigate green building practices and sustainable energy sources.

But after a year of chasing properties throughout Brooklyn — one step behind the developers, or a bid too low in the case of a carriage house they loved and lost — they found themselves facing an elegant, though pigeon-infested, former ice house that, at 14,000 square feet, was somewhat bigger than their idea of home sweet home. And, as comely as it was, its owner, the principal of a moving and storage company, had an idea about renovating an abandoned building into a live-work space, using green technologies that Mr. Brown and Ms. Boyle researched. (The renovation of the second building, into commercial space, is just beginning.)

After demolishing the insides of both buildings, all the way to the brick walls, the construction was precise and sometimes high-tech, to create six lofty apartments and one-ground floor studio in the ice house using as much recycled material as possible, and employing green technologies that Mr. Brown and Ms. Boyle researched. (The renovation of the second building, into commercial space, is just beginning.)

Mr. Brown drew the plans, which were edited and stamped by an engineer. The apartments, some on two levels, range between 1,100 and 1,450 square feet, and will rent for $1,650 to $1,950 a month starting in October. Their own apartment, as modestly gritty as the others, a play of steel and brick and encompassing the roof addition, is about 3,000 square feet.

The building’s own timber, harvested from 300 massive beams, was repurposed for flooring, shelves, and door and window frames, and an 11-by-5-foot island in their own open kitchen. They bought recycled claw-foot bathtubs and pedestal sinks from a local architectural salvage company.

Radiant heat fixtures are laid under glazed concrete floors constructed from fly ash (a byproduct of burning coal); solar panels on the new roof provide as much as 50 percent of the building’s energy.

As cities grapple with the benefits of green building, state and federal agencies have begun offering incentives. Mr. Brown and Ms. Boyle have been awarded a $75,000 Keyspan “Cinderella” grant for green technologies, a $2,500 award from the New York City Green Building Design Competition, and a $28,000 grant from the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority. They are awaiting certification from the United States Green Buildings Council and have begun work as consultants on other green-building projects.

The only consultant they called on was Katrin Scholz-Barth, a specialist in planting green roofs. These are a delight, planted with alpine sedum and, on the topmost roof, interspersed with lavender, chives and thyme. Their moisture-holding leaves, which make them nearly maintenance free, save sewers from being overtaxed by the run-off of new developments: the spiky carpets can lower the temperature of a building, and a neighborhood, by seven degrees or more.

The couple agreed early on to hash out every construction detail, aspiring to an aesthetic and marital democracy. Their living quarters flaunt casement windows on one side and double-hung millioned ones on the other: his and her windows. “I’m the casement guy,” Mr. Brown said.
An interview with Benton Brown

Nina: I must admit, I did a bit of snooping through the ’91 yearbook in preparation for this interview, and a couple things jumped off your senior page. A flowing head of hair, and a Ben Franklin aphorism that reads: Three can keep a secret if two of them are dead. Is there an inside joke behind that quote you’d care to share?

Benton: There is absolutely no story to share on that one, but thanks for the reminder. I’m going to try to use that quote more often.

What teachers and classes at MBA made an impression on you?

Benton: Definitely Rosie (Paschall) and Jim (Womack) were my big influences. AP Art History was a hard one, but it was taught in a way that kept your interest. Down the road that knowledge comes into play more than you think.

Rosie sent me to the College of Santa Fe which was a great place for me. I was on my way to the College of Charleston and changed at the last minute. She really pushed and supported my sculpting designs. Without her, I don’t know where I would be.

Benton: Bachelor of Fine Arts and a BA in Social Science.

Nina: What degrees did you earn at the College of Santa Fe?

Benton: A flowing head of hair, and a Ben Franklin aphorism that reads: Three can keep a secret if two of them are dead. Is there an inside joke behind that quote you’d care to share?

Benton: There is absolutely no story to share on that one, but thanks for the reminder. I’m going to try to use that quote more often.

An idea comes to life

Two years remained on the lease and the neighborhood had changed dramatically so the landlord wasn’t about to renew our lease. I had met Susan in 1998 right after I moved to New York and we had a similar vision of bringing an old building back to life. She came to the table with an environmental angle while I came with a construction angle. We both wanted to find a building that had studio space and the option to have some rentals. We searched and made offers on burned out roofless buildings, but the competition was incredible.

Brewery Escapades on Ice

We finally came across the brewery complex that was just overwhelming and no one could figure out what to do with the buildings. It was a sea of buildings all interconnected. We only wanted one of the buildings (the ice house) but the owner wouldn’t break up the property. Maps date some of the buildings to 1849. The property consisted of 140,000 sf.

Let’s Make a Deal

We put together a plan for the property and secured investors to make a deal. The deal was complex with “options” and “extended options” and the contract lasted almost a year. During that period Sept 11th happened. This brought a lot of uncertainty to the deal. We ended up closing in November 2001. We sold half the property in 2002 for the price we paid for all the buildings. This was a turning point.
1970

Fred Guttman received the 2009 Brotherhood/Sisterhood Citation Award from the National Conference for Community and Justice of the Piedmont Triad in Greensboro, N.C. The Award recognizes individuals who live NCCJ’s vision by fighting bias, bigotry, and racism.

Since coming to Greensboro in 1995, Rabbi Guttman has organized and led efforts to improve race relations, foster better understanding between different faith communities, advocate for more widespread inclusiveness for gays and lesbians and special needs populations, eliminate homelessness, and provide help for the economically disadvantaged. He is a passionate advocate for social justice within Greensboro. Given his commitment to interfaith and interracial understanding, Rabbi Guttman recently led an Interfaith Clergy Trip to Israel for 23 members of the Greensboro Clergy Community. Under his leadership, Temple Emanuel has organized activities for dialogue and education with a variety of faith traditions and is known for its annual Martin Luther King Shabbat Service, which has become an opportunity to highlight relations between Jews and African-Americans and to facilitate community dialogue.

On to the next project

We finally finished the Ice House project in 2005. We then started the larger Monti Building project. The Monti Building project is housed in the main brewery section of the buildings. It consists of 27 commercial units.

We used our knowledge from the ice house and applied it on a larger scale. We installed a 39kW solar array, 4000 sf green roof with over 10,000 sedum plants, three rooftop honey bee colonies, radiant heat, and separate piping to toilets for rainwater catchment. The solar generates 50 percent of the building’s electrical loads. We sell electricity to tenants at a lower rate than the utility and act as a small power plant. This project was completed in 2007. We rent to artists, architects, welders, wood shops, print shops, film editors, etc.

You have nailed down two ambitious projects in a short amount of time. In terms of new ventures, what are you working on now?

Benton: The list is endless. We are constantly making improvements and trying to take advantage of state and federal “green” incentives, etc. We have installed a massive urban garden. The buildings also house gigantic cellar tunnels which have yet to be utilized.

Benton’s creative energy is as renewable as that which his buildings generate. With all the green goodness he is producing, it’s only a matter of time before some of that green makes it way back to him. Benton Brown’s future looks bright.

Benton Brown (MBA ’91)
www.bigsuellc.com

CORRECTIONS

A birth announcement for Ross Johnson (’02) was submitted and mistakenly printed in the Spring/Summer issue of The Hill. The announcement came as a complete surprise to Ross, as he has no children. We regret the error.
1977

Dr. Charles L. Sawyers was presented with a Lasker Award on October 2 for his work on cancer research. Sawyers’ partners developed Gleevec, a drug that kills abnormal cells and converts chronic myeloid leukemia (CML) from a fatal cancer to a manageable condition. Sawyers’ research spearheaded efforts toward combating the resistance to Gleevec that arises in some patients. In an unprecedented approach for the field, he ferreted out the molecular basis of resistance and conceived ways to strangle the cancer cells that no longer succumb to Gleevec. Sawyers and his partners radically no longer succumb to Gleevec.

1978

Jack Mitchell recently celebrated his 25th anniversary at his company, OFS FITEL, spending the entire time at the same location in Norcross, Ga. He had four different company names on his badge over that 25-year span — Western Electric, AT&T, Lucent, and OFS. Mitchell is currently a Distinguished Member of the Technical Staff, with a functional role as the Global Network Architect for the company covering seven manufacturing locations in the US and Europe.

1980

Larry Klein is happily married to his new wife, Kathy. They were married the day after Thanksgiving and are living in beautiful, sunny St. Petersburg, Fla.

1984

About 20 years ago, Gil Lackey, Currey Hall, and Marvin Morris made a bet as to who would be the last bachelor standing. Currey was the first to succumb to marital bliss in 2005 when he wed Haylee Waddey.

On July 18 of ‘09, Gil happily dropped out of the wager by marrying Elizabeth Ross of Savannah, Tenn. The couple is living in Nashville where Gil is an outdoor writer, editor, and photographer.

Having already won the bet, Marvin recently got engaged and will spend his winnings in Italy where he is to be married in the coming year. Marvin and his future bride Jennifer Fredette will live in Houston, Tex., where he is partner with Morris Hullinger Design Build, an architecture and construction firm specializing in luxury residential projects.

Commander David Wood retired from the United States Navy on December 5, 2009. Wood was commissioned in May 1988, and designated a Naval Flight Officer in 1989. He conducted operations all over the world, including serving in the Persian Gulf War. In his civilian career, Wood has been employed since 1998 with Cognos Corporation. He holds a Masters of Business Administration from Wake Forest University. Wood, his wife Regina, and children David III (Tripp), Rex, and Reeves, reside in Atlanta.

1990

Andrew Duthie and his father sold their e-learning business to Bytes of Knowledge in September. Andrew is assisting with the transition and considering what he wants to be when he grows up. He hopes to combine his love for motorcycles (and cars), engineering, and technology somehow; his list of ideas is extensive and growing. Andrew and his wife Peg have lived in East Nashville for ten years and recently celebrated their 15th wedding anniversary.

1992

Tom Lawrence was named executive director of the Leon Levine Foundation in Charlotte, N.C. Lawrence, who holds CPA and CFA designations, oversees a five-employee staff and a $335 million endowment that has been instrumental in aiding a number of notable causes, from the beleaguered United Way of Central Carolinas Inc., to a fund launched to cope with the surging need for food and shelter and growing unemployment in the Charlotte area. The Foundation recently committed to fund a newly created $9.3 million scholars program at UNC Charlotte.

In addition, the Charlotte Observer has named Lawrence “One of Seven to Watch In 2010.” He is married to Gina Peters Lawrence, and the couple has two children — Sydney (4), and Wright (2).

1994

Erik Daugherty has launched E3 INNOVATE, LLC [www.E3innovate.com] in Nashville. E3 is the city’s only Comprehensive Home Energy Efficiency company.

1995

Charlie Malone and his wife Sara welcomed daughter Adah on October 29, 2009. She weighed 7 lbs, 5-½ oz, and measured 20 inches.

On August of 2009, Freddie O’Connell founded a new inbound marketing agency, SearchViz, which focuses on search engine optimization and modern Web design. He was recently asked to serve on a Citizens Advisory Committee for a Long-Term Control Plan for Metro Water Services. He was also recently elected Vice Chair of the board of directors of Nashville MTA, as well as Vice Chair of the board of directors of Nashville Global Academy, which is completing its first year as one of Nashville’s newest charter schools. He was elected to a second term as President of Walk/Bike Nashville, and a third term as President of the Salemtown Neighbors Neighborhood Association for 2010. His long-time partner, Whitney Boon, is mid-way through her third year of medical school at Meharry Medical College, where she recently received the Outstanding Student Award in Behavioral Science. The two recently celebrated 10 years together.
1996
David McDowell has been named a member of the law firm of Gearhiser, Peters, Lockaby, Cavett, and Elliott, PLLC located in Chattanooga, Tenn. David and his wife Wendy live in Hixson, Tenn. with their son Graham.

1997
Hutton Edie and his wife Garen spent six months in Huanchaco, Peru, a small town outside of Trujillo, on the northern coast of Peru. They were volunteering at a local school for underprivileged children. Garen taught reading and English to first, second, and third graders. Edie worked on various construction projects and helped with PE classes. They have enjoyed their time in Peru and look forward to continuing their volunteer work.

Patrick Hit graduated in December 2009 from University of Memphis Fogelman College of Business and Economics with a Masters in Business Administration and a concentration in Professionalism. He graduated as a member of the Golden Key International Honour Society. He is now back in Nashville, living with his wife Katie. The couple was married in November of 2008.

Patrick is currently job hunting, looking to transition into health care administration. Previously he has been in the residential real estate industry, acquiring a brokers license and Silver Award of Excellence in sales. He also was the 2008 Chair of the Membership Board for the Greater Nashville Association of Realtors, and served as the Web site manager for Zeitlin and Company, Realtors.

1998
Chris Callister wrote and directed a music video for the band The Killers, starring Luke Perry, for their Christmas single “Happy Birthday Guadalupe.” The video was made in conjunction with the (RED) charity, so all the proceeds of the song and the video go to the (RED) charity to help fight AIDS and malaria in Africa.

2000
James Pittman and Katherine Crews were married on June 27, 2009. Fellow MBA Class of 2000 members — Taylor Sutherland, Jay Webb, Jeff Krones, Chris Camp, Bryan Fisher, and Robert Womack — were part of the wedding party. Andrew Pitman ’05 was also in the wedding party. The couple resides in Nashville.

2004
Jeff Ewers graduated from Vanderbilt University last May with honors in Neuroscience, having done his research in the genetic basis of neuro-degenerative disease. While there, he was awarded the Henrietta Morgan Award for Writing and co-chaired the 31st annual Holocaust Lecture Series. Jeff is now pursuing a combined M.D. / M.B.A. degree at Vanderbilt and conducting bioinformatics research with the Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center.

Andrew Mills graduated Magna Cum Laude from Belmont University in the spring of 2009. He is currently enrolled at the University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law in Memphis, Tenn.

Christopher Schuller will start in February 2010 as a junior researcher at the Centre for British Studies of the Humboldt University of Berlin, where he will do coordinating work for a three-year research project on English and German contract law conducted jointly with the Institute of European and Comparative Law at the University of Oxford.

2007
Wes McKeithan secured a summer internship at the Burnham Institute, one of the top Biotech firms in the United States. He worked with post-doctoral fellows in their specific research and was given some independent research latitude.

Kevin Thomas is in his third year as a DJ for Furman University’s radio station WPLS. Thomas’ weekly show features a wide variety of music, from classic rock to electronic, so that listeners can find something they like and discover something new that they had never heard before.

2009
Houston Oldham, a freshman at the University of Richmond, was selected to the Atlantic 10 All Rookie Soccer Team. Oldham led the Spiders with five goals and one assist for 11 points. He had one game-winning goal and started 17 of the 18 games for the Spiders.

“Houston was a wonderful surprise for us this season,” Richmond Head Coach Clint Peay said. “Physically, technically, and mentally Houston was able to step in right away without any difficulty. As a starting center back he showed a knack for scoring goals at clutch moments in games. We believe he is going to make a big impact in our conference over the next several years.”
Samuel M. Glasgow, Jr. (W’34) 1916 - 2009

Samuel Glasgow passed away in December 2009 at age 93. Glasgow graduated from the Wallace School, winning the Math Award his senior year. He received his BA degree from Vanderbilt University, where he was President of the Student Union, and his LLB degree from the University of Washington. He served in the United States Army in World War II in the Field Artillery, attending Officer Candidate School, and was released as a Captain in the Judge Advocate General’s Department in 1946.

Glasgow practiced law in Nashville for over 60 years, associated in civil suits with and against many outstanding attorneys; he retired in 2003 from the firm of Glasgow and Veazey. He was a fellow of the Tennessee Supreme Court and the Supreme Court of the United States. Mr. Glasgow served as Chairman of the Davidson County Election Commission for 16 years and President of the Junior Chamber of Commerce, at which time the first Clinic Bowl was held as a benefit for the national drive for the eradication of polio. He led the groundbreaking and served as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Oak Hill School for its first six years. In 1999 he received the Distinguished Alumnus Award of Wallace School.

He is survived by his wife of 70 years, Susan Barbara Leake (Bobbie) Glasgow; sons – Samuel Glasgow III (Diane), Bryant “Bim” Glasgow (Candace); daughters – Susan Glasgow Brown (Allen) and Emily Glasgow Bruno (John).

William T. Calton (*47) 1929-2009

William Calton died on August 2, 2009 after a short illness. Following MBA, he graduated from Vanderbilt University School of Engineering, and then went on active duty in the United States Navy. Calton served on the USS Kula Gulf and the USS Saipan for three years with the rank of Lieutenant (JG). After the Navy, he was President of C.W. Kempkau Inc., a local building supply company, until 1990. He then started Calton Tile & Stone Inc., which catered to tile and stone showrooms throughout the Southeast.

Calton is survived by his wife of 23 years, Theresa Richards Calton; his children – William Calton, Jr. (*’78), Catherine Calton Wrenn (John), and John Andrew Calton (Anne); and his grandchildren – Kristen Wrenn, Patrick Wrenn, Graham Wrenn, Elizabeth Calton, and Andrew Calton.

James C. Dale III (*’53) 1936-2009

James Dale passed away July 10, 2009 after an extended illness. At MBA Dale was on the Varsity Basketball team, editor of The Bell, a member of the National Honor Society and the Key Club, as well as class Valedictorian. He attended Vanderbilt on a full naval scholarship, where he graduated Cum Laude. After serving three years in the Navy, he attended Vanderbilt Law School, and received his Doctorate of Juris Prudence.

Dale served as an attorney for the State of Tennessee before he joined his father at the firm of Goodpasture, Carpenter, and Dale. A practicing lawyer and member of the Nashville Bar and Tennessee Bar for over 45 years, his specialty was Corporate and Partnership law. The pleasure of learning and teaching led him to the Nashville School of Law, where he taught 13 years.

Dale is survived by his wife of over 50 years, Helen Harris Dale; sons – Jeffrey Dale, Robert Dale (*’79) (Jan); and grandchildren – Stuart, Rachel, and Nathan Dale.

Turner P. Williams (*’54) 1936-2009

Turner Williams died November 19, 2009 after a brief illness. Following MBA, he graduated from Bowling Green Business University in Kentucky. After leaving the U.S. Army, Turner began a life-long career as an insurance executive. He began his career at Richard M. Miller and Company, and continued at Synercon & Caroon and Black. He then started his own agency, Turner P. Williams and Associates, which focused on voluntary employee benefit plans. He was known nationwide for being a worksite-marketing pioneer and many consider him the “founding father” of that concept. Two major insurance company presidents called him one of the “greatest insurance salesmen.”

His wife of 22 years, Kathy Howell, and his stepson Cameron Weilof survive him.

Thomas C. Howell (*’65) 1947-2009

Tom Howell passed away on November 10. Howell graduated from Williams College in 1969 and Stanford Business School in 1974. Between college and business school, he served in the US Navy as a lieutenant. Howell started his business career on the West Coast, working for the recording division of CBS in the Bay Area. In the mid 1970s, he returned to Nashville and founded Tennessee Hardwood, a furniture manufacturing company located in Woodbury, Tenn. The company produced high quality workbenches, tables, and specialty craft items. Howell later served as a consultant and advisor to other furniture companies located mainly in North Carolina and Mississippi.

His wife of 22 years, Kathy Howell, and his stepson Cameron Weilof survive him.
For a complete rundown of all the reunion events, check out the Alumni Tab at www.montgomerybell.edu.