As we put the finishing touches on the 2008-2009 school year, the Alumni and Development Office would like to let you know of some new "developments" on the top floor of the Ball Building.

**NEW FACES IN FAMILIAR PLACES**

Jenny Hannon has been named Director of Alumni and Development and began work in May. Jenny previously envisioned and spearheaded the successful $6.2M campaign to renovate Julia Green Elementary School. Prior to that, she established and managed the Nashville Predators Foundation, directed the successful TENNFL campaign to bring the Tennessee Titans to Nashville, and launched and managed the Nashville Sports Council. Jenny is the widow of Chris Hannon ('80). She has four daughters – Mary Kate (13), Halina (11), Caroline (9), and Megan (6).

Elijah Reynolds ('99) has been named Associate Director for the Annual Fund, replacing Kate Mosely, who is now heading up a development team at Belmont University after five years on The Hill. Elijah returned to MBA from California last summer. In addition to working on the annual fund, he has been heading up alumni relations, teaching English, and coaching cross country. Elijah and his wife Amanda have twin one-year-old girls – Sophia and Aida.

Jonas Rodriguez ('00) will serve as Assistant Director for Alumni Relations and Annual Fund. Jonas taught and coached at Franklin Road Academy and Ensworth before returning to MBA last fall. In addition to his work in our office, Jonas coaches football and basketball.

Presh Killebrew will step in for the departing Dessa Sutherland (who is leaving MBA to attend divinity school) and takes over as Associate Director for Events and Special Projects. Presh will plan and oversee the execution of all the events hosted by the A&D Office, from Reunion to out of town alumni events, to the Patrick Hale Memorial Golf Tournament. Presh comes to MBA following a year with the Belize Project, a non-profit dedicated to assist the needs of the Belizian people through education, health care, and micro-enterprises. Prior to that, she spent nine years with the law firm of Miller & Martin PLLC.

Mike Martin ('98), who joined our staff in July of 2008, continues in his role as Assistant Director for Alumni Relations and Communications. His role involves maintaining daily content of the Web site, contributions to the magazine, scholarship reporting, and sports information. Mike also coaches Junior School Basketball and Varsity Baseball.

Staff stalwarts Peggy Kirby (in her 16th year at MBA) and Vicki Mayhew (in her 13th year), along with Nina Thomas and Chris Smith, complete the A&D team. All of us are excited about what is happening in our office, as well as across the campus.

We also wanted to give you a general update about the financial health of the school, as well as the 2008-2009 admission season. Thanks to the overwhelming generosity of the MBA community, we had another successful Annual Fund campaign. The Annual Fund and endowment income contributes 13 percent of the school’s operating revenue.

In the fall, MBA will welcome 137 new students to campus (106 members of the Class of 2015, six from the Class of 2014, 24 from the Class of 2013, and one from the Class of 2011) from an applicant pool of more than 260. The boys come from 40 different schools – 18 independent, four parochial, 14 public, and four home schools, and 26 unique zip codes. These strong numbers show that even in uncertain economic times, MBA remains a solid and worthwhile investment.

**CHRIS SMITH, Editor**
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The 4’s and 9’s returned to The Hill in April to reminisce, catch up, and celebrate their years together at MBA.

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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
Reuniting classes enjoy a beautiful spring evening on the Gambill Quadrangle.

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER
O
n Thursday evening, May 28, 2009, MBA enjoyed one of the most beautiful graduations I have ever attended. The weather was delightful, and the parents, classmates, and underclassmen appreciated the beauty of this community—a great boys school. I have had a chance to reflect after commencement about the many special ways MBA provides the gift of an education and a lifetime of friendships. Rooted clearly in the comments at the graduation ceremony was a definite sense of appreciation of the many experiences enjoyed by these graduates and the friendships, education, and strong connections they have forged at MBA.

The Salutatorian, Brian Swenson, talked eloquently about the ways in which he realized the care and goodness of his friends when he and his classmate Connor Shope experienced a life-altering accident this past March. Brian told the story of his bicycle collision, but more importantly he reflected on the concern and goodness of his friends who took good care of him and Connor during this crisis. Valedictorian Rahul Sastry spoke about the importance of education and personal discovery. He urged his classmates never to stop learning and always to find ways to better the world for themselves and those around them. He also urged the entire community to work harder, to seek greater wisdom and betterment of the world by giving more to others.

The night before commencement, MBA awarded 30 new prizes given generously by Wallace graduate and long-term MBA Board member David K. (Pat) Wilson. Mr. Wilson profoundly expressed his gratitude for the education at MBA by investing in these special rewards for those students who have made a difference at MBA. At that same Honors Night ceremony we also recognized almost 20 students who in the 2009-2010 school year will be traveling abroad as ambassadors for MBA and seeking to discover new worlds of understanding about themselves and other cultures. Our exchange program is now thriving on almost every continent throughout the world.

The day after commencement several students led a group of eager volunteers to help students at the Tennessee School for the Blind. I am proud of the many ways in which the MBA community is serving others. Whether our students help the Soup Kitchen, or build a garden on campus or at an inner-city elementary school; or by working collaboratively with public schools or doing mission work within and beyond Nashville, we are trying to instill the value of helping others within the MBA community.

One of the great rewards of a teacher or a headmaster is to receive thanks and expressions of appreciation from former students and families. One of our parents wrote to me that his son did not just graduate from MBA, he became a shining star. His work ethic and resolve to learn touched everyone around him. He silenced the doubters. He showed everyone what determination and hard work can do, and he taught everyone around him lessons....but most of all he discovered what he could do. One of our students from China wrote to me about MBA after he traveled back to his home outside of Beijing. He expressed, “I always feel so honored because I am a member of the MBA community. I am happy that I can do my best to help the school by competing at the highest levels, helping the community through Soup Kitchens and building ramps for the elderly, being a senior shooter on the riflery team, and most importantly improving my overall personality and developing more and more intelligent perspectives. I am so grateful to have this opportunity to be part of The Hill.”

Recently I attended the funeral service of one of the great legends at MBA—Nelson Andrews. His son Carter expressed eloquently in his eulogy the many great ways in which Nelson lived his life. Nelson epitomized the special ways in which the MBA community strives to serve others, to learn, and to discover new and better things throughout one’s life, and to make this world better. I feel grateful to be a very small part of this special community, a place where there is much and many to appreciate. ■
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Mr. P. Rhoads Zimmerman ('61)

Walter Hale III ('61) has been selected to serve on the MBA Board of Trustees. Hale has been an extremely active member of the MBA community, spearheading the Patrick Hale Memorial Scholarship Fund in honor of his son Patrick ('92) who passed away in 2003.

Hale is a 1966 graduate of Princeton University, and received an M.B.A. from the Wharton School of Finance at the University of Pennsylvania. Between college and graduate school Hale served as a First Lieutenant in the United State Army, receiving two Bronze Stars for valor and meritorious service, as well as a Purple Heart in Vietnam.

Following business school, Hale began his career with Price Waterhouse & Company, working as a senior accountant until 1972. He joined Third National Corporation, now SunTrust Bank, as an Assistant Treasurer. During his career with the bank, he held a number of broad senior management responsibilities becoming Executive Vice President. He retired as the executive responsible for all Private Client Services in Tenn.

Hale serves on the Board of Directors of the YMCA Foundation of Middle Tennessee, is a member of the Exchange Club, and an alumnus of Leadership Nashville. He has held a number of past leadership roles, including the Board of the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce, a Director with the Salvation Army, and past president of the Nashville chapter of the Financial Executives Institute.

Hale and his wife Faye have three adult children.

Eighteen members of the Board of Trustees, along with Headmaster Brad Gioia and Rep. Jim Cooper at MBA's 2009 Commencement.
Alums from the distant and not-so-distant past convened on the hill as MBA played host to the Alumni Days and Reunion Weekend. The reuniting classes from 1959, 1964, 1969, 1974, 1979, 1984, 1989, 1994, 1999, and 2004 (along with a strong showing from non-reuniting classes) enjoyed an array of activities throughout the weekend delivered with true MBA hospitality.
DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS RECEPTION
CLASS COCKTAIL PARTIES
Ed Nelson ('48)

The year 1948 marked many historical events that occurred on the MBA campus and throughout the world. The Chicago Tribune would prematurely “elect” Thomas Dewey to the presidency, won by Harry S. Truman in a late-breaking upset; a solar heating system was first incorporated into a residence; Columbia Records introduced the 33 1/3-rpm, “long-playing” record at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York; and the future 2009 MBA Distinguished Alumnus, Edward G. Nelson, would graduate from high school.

After an illustrious MBA career in which he was challenged both in language study with Mrs. Lowry and on the football field with Bill Wade, Ed Nelson matriculated at the University of the South. “Nearing graduation from Sewanee, I was studying political science, reading novels, viewing all the many espionage movies of the day. I found myself keenly interested in international relations.” After graduation in 1952, he served as a resident agent in counterintelligence in Japan amid the Korean conflict. The relationships forged with Japan would influence the course of his career path.

Throughout his years in the financial services industry, Nelson has assisted Japanese corporations with their investments in Tennessee, including the Industrial Bank of Japan, Nissan, Bridgestone, and Daido Steel. He has also worked closely with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan. In fact, the Japanese government appointed him as Honorary Consul General in 1993. In May of 2008 Nelson was further honored with the Order of the Rising Sun, bestowed upon him by the Emperor of Japan.

Nelson has been married for nearly 50 years to the former Carole Minton with whom he has three daughters. Their three granddaughters, Callie and Sarah Kirkland and Sloane Baxter, attend Harpeth Hall. One grandson, Gage Baxter, is a member of MBA’s Class of 2011.

His reverence for words and his love of learning have had a panoramic influence on his family and friends. Nelson’s son-in-law Butch Baxter made this observation: “Ed has a unique love of all languages: from Latin to Arabic to Japanese, as well as English. He developed a passion for words during his days at MBA where Latin and English laid such a solid foundation for his lifelong interest.” Adds his daughter, Emme Baxter: “All three of us (daughters) are writers. I can remember sitting around the dining table with a stack of flash cards discussing vocabulary words; his grandchildren are getting the same treatment.”

In a reception held on April 24 in Mr. Nelson’s honor, Headmaster Gioia had this to say: “Ed truly personifies the MBA ideals of gentleman, scholar, athlete. Through his humility, good humor, friendship, and perseverance, he has become one of MBA’s great graduates. He brings a sense of dignity and honor to this distinction, and we are grateful to count him among the ranks.”

Nelson spent 20 years in the commercial banking business with Commerce Union Bank where he served as Chairman and CEO. In 1985 he formed Nelson Capital Corporation, a diversified merchant banking company of which he is currently Chairman and President.

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BREAKFAST
CAMPUS TOURS
JAZZ BAND CONCERT
GOLD LUNCH
THE FESTIVITIES CONTINUED ON SATURDAY MORNING WHEN A HEARTY SOUTHERN BREAKFAST, PROVIDED BY THE LOVELESS CAFÉ, WAS DELIVERED TO THE MBA CAMPUS. ALUMS WERE ABLE TO WORK OFF A BISCUIT OR TWO WITH A TOUR OF CAMPUS – HIGHLIGHTING CHANGES AND FUTURE PLANS – LED BY HEADMASTER GIOIA. THE MORNING ENDED ON A HIGH NOTE WITH A LIVELY PERFORMANCE BY THE MBA JAZZ BAND. THE CLASS OF 1959 HOSTED THE GOLD LUNCH, HONORING THOSE WHO GRADUATED 50 OR MORE YEARS AGO. JEFFREY BUNTIN ('59) REGALE THE CROWD WITH STORIES FROM HALF A CENTURY PAST. WHILE ALUMS AND STUDENTS MATCHED THEIR SKILLS ON THE BASEBALL FIELD, AN AFTERNOON TOUR OF THE FRIST CENTER LED BY MBA FINE ARTS CHAIR JIM WOMACK ADDED A CULTURAL EXPERIENCE TO THE DAY’S ACTIVITIES.
Rahul Sastry
VALEDICTORIAN
Brian Swenson
SALUTATORIAN
Will Overton
THE WILLIAM MARTIN AWARD
for the Best All-Around Boy in the School
Brian Swenson
THE WILLIAM BAILEY MEMORIAL AWARD
for Honor, Integrity, and Loyalty in the Senior Class
Kevin Wang
THE CUM LAUDE SOCIETY AWARD
for Academic Achievement in the Junior School
Jamie Cooper, Chunbum Park
THE MBA ART PURCHASE AWARD
Alex Martin
THE JAMES A. POSTON AWARD for Excellence in Theater
Will Holt
THE HONOR THESPIAN AWARD
Fiction - 1st Chris Goodrich; 2nd Ryan Hill; 3rd Ryan Shephard
Poetry - 1st Edward Powell; 2nd Ben Mecklenborg; 3rd Daniel Smith
Thomas Moore
THE JACK ZAGER POETRY AWARD
Sam Page
THE THOMAS H. MALONE, JR. AWARD
for Excellence in English Composition
Sam Page
THE EWING/RANDALL WRITING AWARD
Brian Swenson
THE MARSHALL AND VIRGINIA FraZER AWARD
for Excellence in Chemistry
Rahul Sastry
THE KIRBY E. AND MARGARET JACKSON AWARD
for Excellence in the Natural Sciences
Alex Apple
THE JOHN MOREHEAD DOBSON MEMORIAL AWARD
for the Best Sports Article
Kile Garrett
THE GARRETT FULTON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD
Spencer Wise
THE LINDSEY AWARD for the Outstanding Athlete
Curry Beeker, Bailey Brandon, Rylan Browner, Wesley Johnson, Logan Lechleiter, Reuben Thomas, Charlie Watkins
THE FRANCIS E. CARTER, JR. AWARD
for Perseverance and Achievement
Clark Benton, Scott Bubis, Sully Mehio, Fadi Pulous, Will Rowland, Hicks Woolwine
THE WIECK BIG RED SPIRIT AWARDS
Ian Preston
THE RUSSELL W. CARPENTER AWARD for Community Service
Nicholas Caprioli
THE H. LAIRD SMITH, JR. AWARD for Loyalty to MBA
Wade Longmire
THE FRANK ANDREWS BOOK AWARD
Quinton Burks, Andrew Fortugno, David Lee, Baker Swain, Daniel Todd
THE WALLACE LATIN BOOK AWARDS

Trey Howard
THE PROFESSOR C.B. WALLACE SCHOLARSHIP AWARD
Lewis Armistead, Thompson Barr, Matthew Bellet, George Curtis, Steven Gaittens, Turner Henderson, Will Henry, Rob Higham, John Lowe, Thomas Moore, Matthew Maysjian, Nate Smith, Ben Sutter, Daniel Todd, Corbin Williams
THE BETH AND DUDLEY WARNER INTERNATIONAL STUDENT EXCHANGE
Coleman Breland, Jeff Francis, Michael Nunan, Houston Oldham, Edward Powell
THE PATRICK HALE AWARDS
Paschall Davis, Ben Gregory, Alex Martin, Robert McNeilly, Baker Mulherin, Bradford Norton
THE PASCHALL AWARDS FOR SPECIAL CONTRIBUTION TO MBA
Jeff Francis
THE JEFFREY BUNTIN ART SCHOLARSHIP AWARD
Hershel Mehta, Sam Page, Jesse Suh
THE ZAGER DEBATE SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS
THE P.M. ESTES SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS
Ninth Grade - David Arteaga, John Mark Bellet
Tenth Grade - Connor Caldwell, Ian Sharbel
Eleventh Grade - Kevin Carr, Pat Killian
Twelfth Grade - Rahul Sastry, Connor Shope
Libby Bourland, Carole Pettus
DEDICATION OF THE BELL

Thomas Wims
THE WALTER ROBINSON MATH AWARD
Gaines Garrett
THE FRANCES E. CARTER AWARD for the Outstanding Boy in the Seventh Grade
Will Campbell
THE WALTER NOEL, JR. AWARD for the Outstanding Boy in the Eighth Grade
Jack Whitson
THE DONALD ROSS AWARD to the Outstanding Freshman
Chase Owen
THE HENRY W. BOYD, JR. AWARD to the Outstanding Sophomore
Matthew Bellet
THE LINDSEY RUTH AWARD to the Outstanding Junior
THE GENTLEMAN, SCHOLAR, ATHLETE AWARDS
for the Junior School - Hayden Deakins
for the High School - Reggie Ford
Thank you, Headmaster Gioia, Chairman Webb, generous members of the Board of Trustees, learned faculty, proud parents and friends, and above all to the distinguished graduating Class of 2009. Thank you—not for allowing me to speak at graduation (that’s an honor that others deserve far more)—but for giving my son Jamie, and all our sons a great high school experience. I think that I speak on behalf of all the parents here tonight when I say that MBA really knows how to educate young men, from Microbes to Swine ’09. Every penny of tuition has been worth it, even during these tough economic times. After all, MBA doesn’t just teach our sons—it transforms them. It’s very, very difficult to take young men full of adrenalin, sweat, and testosterone and turn them into gentlemen, scholars, and athletes. MBA is the keeper of a special alchemy.

I also want to thank personally the many parents of the Class of 2009 who have allowed Jamie and other classmates to spend so many weekends at your homes, sleeping on your floors, eating your food, and playing videogames. When the tribe would occasionally wander by our house, they reminded me of young Indian braves, hunter/gatherers finding their way in the modern wilderness. My wife Martha and I have spent countless anxious moments, as you have, waiting for the cell phone call before curfew (and sometimes after curfew) to say where they were and what (at least what they wanted us to think) they were doing. And yet soon, too soon, our sons will be on their next adventure, scattered among the great colleges and universities of America. Our
final MBA memory will be of this summer evening and how loud your classmates and friends cheer when Mr. Gioia reads your name.

I want to tell a few stories tonight. If you remember nothing about my speech, just remember to write down your own family’s stories. Do it tonight. You’ll be tired, and proud, and thinking of bed, but take a few moments to preserve the memories that led up to this magical evening. If you tell your stories well, it’ll be like catching a firefly in a jar, or even a bee in amber.

When Jamie was just four or five years old, he wanted to shoot one of his uncles with a water pistol. I remember wanting to discourage him, but not come down too hard, so I said something like, “Isn’t it too cold to shoot anyone with water pistols?” Jamie thought for a few seconds and asked, “Dad, what if I put hot water in the gun?”

Fast forward to this spring when Jamie was preparing to speak at the Father/Son Dinner at MBA. Jamie was in our kitchen, typing on his laptop, with about an hour to go before the speech. He was frustrated, very frustrated. In our kitchen we have a bobble-head Barack Obama doll that says “Yes We Can!” at the slightest vibration. With every keystroke of Jamie’s laptop, the Obama doll was saying, “Yes We Can! Yes We Can!” Suddenly, Jamie got up, grabbed it and literally ripped its head off, silencing it forever. My youngest son Hayes and I looked at each other wide-eyed, without saying a word. Jamie calmly went back to work and within the hour gave a confident and courageous talk before a record crowd in the gym.

The reason his speech worked so well is that he told stories about himself, about me, and our whole family; stories that were not easy to hear, but that had the bell-like ring of truth. (And just to set the record straight, torturing our children today is a violation of the Geneva Conventions; I’ve checked.)

My point is not my stories, but yours. Every family has stories like these, dozens and dozens of them; in fact, families are little more than bundles of stories. As obvious and indelible as they are, families are all so busy that sit-down family meals are rare, making it harder to refresh our stories. We are all so busy that we are drowning in spin stories. It’s been many generations since our nation was founded, since the Civil War, or even since World War II. Wasn’t it interesting last night to be reminded of the General Frank Andrews story and the naming of Andrews Air Force Base? The Greatest Generation is leaving us too quickly, before we’ve learned all that men like Joe Thompson have to teach us.

The media are supposed to help us learn and remember our stories. As Thomas Jefferson said, “Given the choice between government without newspapers, or newspapers without government, I would unhesitatingly choose the latter.” Soon we may be living Jefferson’s nightmare: a nation without newspapers. They are already dumbed-down. The Wall Street Journal and New York Times used to be written at the eleventh grade level but are now at the eighth grade level and sinking.

Isn’t it ironic that with 500 channels on our TV, we are getting less news than when we had only three channels, but had great truth-tellers like Walter Cronkite, and Huntley-Brinkley?

Today we tune in to Fox and MSNBC, channels that agree with what we already think, which (by definition) prevents us from learning much. CNN is apparently having ratings problems because it tries to report the news straight. To make matters worse, much of our so-called news is really entertainment. One all-news channel boasts that its anchors look like members of the Swedish bikini team (and, no, I will not tell the MBA boys which one this is). True, there is a History Channel but it captures 0.2 percent of our attention. We may be doomed to repeat history, but as Mark Twain said, sometimes it does rhyme.

Mark Twain also said, “When I was 14, I thought my father was a fool. When I turned 21, I was proud to see how much he had learned in seven short years.” Growing up is hard and sometimes it is hard on everybody. But we are, in fact, the most fortunate people to have ever walked the earth. Our sons face the greatest opportunities and challenges that any generation has ever faced. No empire in history has had the reach of our non-empire; no country has been as vital to the health of the planet and the hope of its people. As the poet said, “Bliss was it in that dawn to be alive; but to be young was very heaven.” If I am ever reincarnated, I want to come back as an American teenager, circa 2009, or at least as a proud parent here tonight.

We’ve all learned so much from the MBA experience. Let’s take these lessons, these lifelong friendships, these years of homework and sports, and make ourselves and our nation stronger by keeping our family’s — and our nation’s — stories fresh. Let’s go on to college thankful for the big head start that MBA has given us, and set new records of excellence. Carpe diem. Seize the day.
It was four years ago when we set foot on these very grounds as freshmen, ready to embark on our high school careers. Our time on The Hill, it seems, has passed quickly. Today, we are gathered here to celebrate the hard work and many accomplishments of the senior class and yet, in a few months, we will all become freshmen again. Such is the nature of our educational journey.

But there is something special about this particular journey that we have just completed, something distinct from any we have undertaken before or will after. We, like the 141 classes of MBA seniors before us, have had the opportunity to spend our most formative years here on The Hill. Our years here should and will be the most memorable of all.

It is as members of this community that we have shared these experiences. MBA has been our meeting place — during advisory sessions before school, lunch periods in the quad, or any number of extracurricular activities. MBA also represents our common traditions — assemblies on Mondays, pep rallies on Fridays, or (most importantly) fresh donuts in Ms. Lechleiter’s office on Wednesdays (to the underclassmen – get there early). MBA has been our family away from home — our friends and teachers, coaches and mentors. Our experiences in this community have been memorable and I would like to relate just a few that I have been a part of, knowing well that each of you have had similar experiences. A few quick lessons, if you will.

NUMBER ONE
On the first day of freshman biology class, Mr. Pruitt made a startling proclamation: “Fire is alive.” And as much as I knew that simply wasn’t true, the argument was somewhat convincing. It moves. It reacts to the environment. It can even reproduce, if given an ample supply of candles. Our homework assignment that night was to make an argument for fire one way or another. I think the majority of us came to the conclusion that fire was, in fact, alive.

So what did we learn from this episode? It’s probably not a good idea to take things for granted. Take Mr. Lester’s ninth grade history class, for example. As we learned, the root of the term “history” is the Greek “istoriai” — translated: inquiries; asking questions. The process never ends, and it has no bounds. For history — in what manner and to what extent was Alexander the Great truly great? In debate — what is the best way to provide health care for all? Or during lunch — how many days late can you turn in a chemistry homework assignment and still pass?

You can never go wrong asking questions — even if asking did result in the gong treatment.

NUMBER TWO
Some parts of high school really stand out to me; for example, finding the holy grail of any MBA math student — Coach Lanier’s entirely silent lecture. Or perhaps launching a carbide cannon indoors in chemistry class this year. Or spitting and flicking sunflower seeds in statistics to help demonstrate statistical significance. What stands out about events like these is that they were fun. Learning can, and should, be fun.

NUMBER THREE
At MBA, we like to point out that we have a student to teacher ratio of 8:1, but I think it is more appropriately 1:1. We all have things that we can learn from our friends, and in that sense we are all teachers and students. We are also teammates; some of you have excelled in drama, sports, band, chorus — the list goes on. Throughout my time as a member of our Debate and Science Olympiad teams, I have learned many things from my teammates, such as how to identify Tennessee’s trees, or tell the difference between similar compounds in a chemistry lab. I’ve also learned important life skills, like how to eat with chopsticks, or balance a fork on two toothpicks. Perhaps most importantly, I have learned to be a better friend and a better classmate. We can learn things from everyone.

Today I speak to a class whose members will soon leave these grounds and begin to forge their own new paths in the world of college and beyond. The Class of 2009 is one of diverse passions and goals, yet now and always we will share the learning experiences that we enjoyed here. Just as we have left an impact on MBA, MBA has forever left an impression on us.

As we begin new journeys in college next year and careers after that, let us pledge ourselves to uphold the traditions of MBA and in doing so, involve ourselves in good deeds that can bring peace and prosperity to mankind. In all of our pursuits, let us keep in mind the words of that great saint Mahatma Gandhi who said it so simply — “Earth provides enough to satisfy every man’s need, but not every man’s greed.”
“Perhaps most importantly, I have learned to be a better friend and a better classmate. We can learn things from everyone.”


SALUTATORY SPEECH
Brian Swenson (’09)

Good evening. To Chairman Webb, Headmaster Gioia, Congressman Cooper, Members of the Board of Trustees, administration and faculty, families, and guests, welcome to Montgomery Bell Academy’s 142nd Commencement exercises. To the Class of 2009 – congratulations! Throughout our time on The Hill, we have bonded, studied, sweated, laughed, and wept. The strong link that we have developed has caused the need for revision of two famous lines of Ella Wheeler’s Solitude: “Laugh, and our class laughs with you; weep, and our class weeps with you.” When we look back on these years of our lives, I doubt that we will recall individual assignments as our first memories; rather, the experiences here will evoke an appreciation of and a longing for the memories; rather, the experiences here will evoke an appreciation of and a longing for the memories; rather, the experiences here will evoke an appreciation of and a longing for the

As human beings, we all inevitably undergo life-altering experiences at some point. I have already experienced one. In March of this year, another student, Connor Shope, and I were involved in a harrowing bicycle accident in Florida. I suffered a seizure, a concussion, brain hemorrhaging, and a basilar skull fracture. I was life-flighted to Pensacola, and I remember little from the time of the accident until the next day. Although I was dreaming of floating peacefully in Heaven, my body was experiencing a hellish scenario. My only recollections of waking up are seeing the blurred visions of the many people who visited me and watching an animated Kanye West dance in front of the Jetsons in a music video.

It is not the pain of accidents that makes undergoing them worthwhile. We must strive to gain knowledge from problems and failures. As Epictetus said, “On the occasion of every accident that befalls you, remember to turn to yourself and inquire what power you have for turning it to use.” Heeding this sentiment throughout my still-continuing recovery process, I have learned to appreciate the people, both friends and strangers, who expressed their care for me. Since we are gregarious creatures by nature, I advise all of you to realize what I have come to accept: true individuality does not exist. A human being is the product of every person, every success, and every misfortune he has encountered. Therefore, success is an impossibility without the support of others fostering characteristics concealed within another. In my case, were it not for the help of Will Overton, Will’s parents, Wade Longmire, and Will Andrews, I would not be standing here today.

Another invaluable life lesson that this situation has afforded me is to show empathy for others in dire conditions. As callous and cynical as high school boys can be at times, having sincere understanding of other people’s problems allows us the unique opportunity of being subjected to life from different perspectives. Just as one cannot comprehend the ocean simply by looking at one fish in it, one cannot understand himself until he broadens his outlook on the world. We should not confine ourselves to certain comfort zones and seek to remain there forever. We should let exploration be the epitome of our lives. There is no greater pleasure than discovering and learning to appreciate a new environment. Remember what Alfred, Lord Tennyson penned in his Ulysses—“[e]very hour is saved from that eternal silence, something more. / A bringer of new things.”

Allow me to emphasize one more idea: let us not be afraid of making mistakes. This tried and true concept allows us to transform many ostensibly negative circumstances into lessons that will last forever. One of these occurrences could be worth more than a thousand successes. In these quick two months, I have discovered how much my friends, family, this faculty and staff, and the lessons I have learned at MBA all mean to me.

I will cherish the time that I have spent at MBA with my classmates and my teachers. Attending school here for six years is easily the best decision I have ever made. I owe a debt of gratitude that I can never repay to my family, my teachers, and the other members of the Class of 2009 for motivating me to do better every day.

Thank you, and welcome again to Montgomery Bell Academy’s 142nd Commencement exercises.

THE DAVID K. WILSON AWARDS

The David K. Wilson Faculty and Student Awards recognize students and faculty members for excellence at MBA. Five students from each class were awarded $5,000 scholarships while two faculty members were awarded $20,000 for personal and professional development. The students must be in the top 20 percent of their class. The following students and faculty members were this year’s winners:

Seventh - Taylor Adams, Christopher Burns, Brandon Carpenter, Kalyan Chadalavada, Sam Hurd
Eighth - Tom Bu, Hayden Deakins, McLean Hudson, Lucas Littlejohn, Kevin Wang
Ninth - David Arteaga, John Mark Bellet, Austin Doebler, Rob Edwards, Bryan Oslin
Tenth - Connor Caldwell, Van East, Tom Markham, Andrew Powell, Paul Van Pernis
Eleventh - Seth Akers-Campbell, Naveen Chadalavada, Pat Killian, Joshua Liang, Aaron Lukowitz
Twelfth - Reggie Ford, Houston Oldham, Rahul Sastry, Connor Shope, Brian Swenson
Faculty - Anderson Gaither, Dick Klausner (’73)

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SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Robbie Alsentzer
Southern Methodist University
Bobby B. Lyce School of Engineering Scholarship

Chris Anderson
Tennessee Hope Scholarship

Jimmy Balser
Tulane Honors Program and Distinguished Scholar Award

Leland Bandlow
University of Georgia Charter Scholarship & Regents Waiver

Aaron Barrett
Tennessee Hope Scholarship

Curry Beeker
Tennessee Hope Scholarship

Luke Cole
Tennessee Hope Scholarship

Grant Cothron
Tennessee Hope Scholarship

Patrick Crum
Tennessee Hope Scholarship

Paschall Davis
National Merit Scholarship at the University of Tennessee
Tennessee Hope Scholarship
Tennessee General Assembly Merit Scholarship
University of Tennessee President’s Scholarship

Brandon Dockery
Tennessee Hope Scholarship

John Floyd
Tennessee Hope Scholarship

Reggie Ford
Nashville Predators Jack Diller Education Award
National Football Foundation Scholarship
Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship Program
Sponsors Program Scholarship
Tennessee Aspire Scholarship
Tennessee Hope Scholarship
Tennessee Student Assist Award
U.S. Marine Student Athlete for the Rivalry Series

J.B. Hardin
Warren Wilson Sutton Honor Scholarship
Warren Wilson National Presbyterian Scholarship

Leland Howe
Louisiana State University
Academic Common Market Scholarship

Davis Hunt
Auburn University Spirit Foundation Scholarship

Barrett Jacques
Tennessee Hope Scholarship

Wesley Johnson
Vanderbilt University Athletic Grant-in-aid Scholarship
Tennessee Hope Scholarship

Taylor Land
Tennessee Hope Scholarship

Harding McCall
Ohio Wesleyan Trustee Scholarship

Robert McNellly
Tennessee General Assembly Merit Scholarship
Tennessee Hope Scholarship

Clayton McQuiddy
High Point University Leadership Fellows Scholarship

Karl Mecklenborg
Tennessee Hope Scholarship

Suhayl Mehio
Tennessee Hope Scholarship

David Mills
Tennessee Hope Scholarship

Michael Moore
University of Mississippi Academic Excellence

Wade Nelson
Auburn University Academic Charter Scholarship
Auburn University Greater Nashville Auburn Club Scholarship

Bradford Norton
Middle Tennessee State University Chancellor Scholarship
Tennessee General Assembly Merit Scholarship
Tennessee Hope Scholarship

Houston Oldham
University of Richmond Soccer Athletics Grant-in-aid

Hooper Paty
University of Mississippi Academic Excellence
University of Mississippi Academic Excellence
Nonresident

Ryan Penney
Sanford University School of the Arts Scholarship
Sanford University University Scholarship

Edward Powell
National Merit Scholarship at the University of Chicago

Ian Preston
Tennessee Aspire Scholarship
Tennessee Hope Scholarship

Fadi Pulous
Tennessee Hope Scholarship

Scott Ramsey
University of Mississippi Academic Excellence

Matt Raclitiffe
Tennessee Hope Scholarship

Caldwell Ritter
University of Southern California University Scholarship
University of Southern California Global Leadership at the Marshall School of Business
University of Southern California Associated Endowed Scholarships in Business Administration

Will Rowland
Tennessee Hope Scholarship

Rahul Sastry
National Merit Scholarship
MBA Merit Scholarship

Connor Shoppe
Ned McWherter Scholars Program

Harrison Stringfellow
University of Tennessee College of Engineering Scholarship
University of Tennessee Materials Science and Engineering Scholarship
University of Tennessee Volunteer Scholarship
Tennessee Hope Scholarship
Tennessee General Assembly Merit Scholarship

Brian Swenson
National Merit Scholarship
MBA Merit Scholarship

Graham Taylor
Tennessee Hope Scholarship

Reuben Thomas
Tennessee Hope Scholarship

Christopher Whitlock
Tennessee Hope Scholarship

Spencer Wise
Tennessee Hope Scholarship

Hicks Woolwine
University of the South President’s Scholarship
The trustees, faculty, and staff of MBA proudly recognize the 99 graduates of the class of 2009. They were accepted to 106 different colleges and universities and will attend 48 different schools in 20 states and the District of Columbia.
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“I was the kid that never had his homework. That’s probably why I’m in this industry.”

Ben Hickerson ('01)
Ben Hickerson (’01) is honest when it comes to why he is in culinary school. After spending six great years at MBA, Hickerson figured he would follow in his father’s footsteps and become an architect. After a semester in architecture school at Ohio State he realized one thing – “It wasn’t my cup of tea.”

This turned out to be a successful realization. While trying to figure out his next major, Hickerson took a job at a restaurant where he really enjoyed cooking. “I used to skip class to go to work. I loved the restaurant and the people.” By his junior year at OSU, Hickerson began to entertain the idea of attending culinary school. One book, Kitchen Confidential, would give Ben the push he needed. “I was given a book by Anthony Bourdain from my dad, who also bought a copy for himself. He finished reading it before I even started it. It was originally meant to discourage me from wanting to go to culinary school. But after reading it, dad realized he wanted to be a chef. I realized I didn’t want to do anything else.”

Currently Hickerson is in an advanced cooking program at the renowned Culinary Institute of America (CIA) whose motto is “The World’s Premier Culinary College.” Ben recently completed the 21-month Associates Program that includes a six-month internship at any of the 1,200 restaurants accredited by the CIA. Hickerson chose any golfer’s dream - Pebble Beach, where the CIA’s reputation didn’t make things easy. “We were held to a higher standard than students of other culinary schools.” This higher standard just adds to the enjoyment of cooking for Ben. “At the end of the night, no matter how hard it was, you still have a sense of accomplishment because you gave 250 people dinner. The diners are having fun because of something we are doing.”

by: MIKE MARTIN (’98)
Ben continues to have fun and keep his options open. Whether his future is opening a steakhouse, cooking at a highly-rated restaurant, writing for a food magazine, or catering, Hickerson just needs to find his niche.

Tom Gutow ('88) has found his niche. He and his wife Amy have owned and operated The Castine Inn (a bed and breakfast in Castine, Maine) since 1997. Gutow grew up cooking. His mom was a great cook who taught herself and liked to experiment; and she had a son that liked to do the same. “By the time I was 12, I was cooking crepes for breakfast.” By his junior year in high school, he was cooking for Tapawingo, a top U.S. restaurant in Michigan during his summer. The Gutows were originally from Ann Arbor before moving to Nashville. Tom did not want to attend MBA, but ended up loving it.

After college, he went to New England Culinary Institute for one term before deciding he’d be better off training under some of the world’s best chefs. Gutow spent time in Manhattan apprenticing under highly acclaimed chef David Bouley. From there Tom spent time in France cooking with Michelin Guide three-star chefs Michel Guérard and Bernard Loiseau.

Tom eventually made it back to New York and spent time cooking while Amy worked as an attorney. However, they decided they wanted a change of pace. “We knew we wanted to move to and live in a small place and raise a family in that setting.” In 1997 they purchased The Castine Inn. The 17-room inn stands one block from the harbor overlooking the Penobscot Bay. The inn’s Web site contains a quote from Gutow:

“The Castine Inn is the evolving fulfillment of Amy’s and my vision that someday we would create a country hotel in which our guests would discover outstanding food and gracious service in a warm and welcoming atmosphere.”

According to reviews, the Gutows have lived up to their own expectations. The restaurant in the inn was named Food & Wine Magazine’s 50 Great Hotel Restaurants for 2002, was featured in the New York Times, won Wine & Spectator Awards, and was awarded four diamonds from AAA.

While running the restaurant, Tom focused on naturally-produced and sustainable ingredients, developing relationships with farmers and fishermen. “I love supporting the local economy.” Running a successful restaurant can have its problems. Gutow slept four-hour nights and was always on the move. “I never saw my children.” As the economy slowed down, Tom decided to close the restaurant. “I can now go on bike rides with my girls and sail.” In fact, with the extra free time, Gutow has found ways to stay busy. He still owns and operates the inn with Amy, and cooks breakfast for the guests. He also works as a volunteer firefighter and EMT, serves on the school board, and coaches a local high school sailing team.

Joe Davis ('80) coaches too. When he’s not tending to his restaurants, he can be seen on the campus of MBA helping with the Varsity Football team. Davis played football under legendary MBA Coach Tommy Owen. “I was very lucky to be around someone of that magnitude and caliber.”
"Anytime you get a chance to hire an MBA kid, I want to hire them. What MBA builds character wise, you can’t beat it.”

Like Joe Davis, Nathaniel Beaver (’99) does his part to support the MBA community and in return feels the support reciprocated. For two and a half years Beaver and his partner/chef Gary Cormann have owned Whitfield’s Restaurant & Bar, a fine dining establishment on the corner of Harding Place and Harding Road.

At MBA, Beaver was known as a good golfer and an even bigger personality — owning a restaurant wasn’t even on his radar. Describing his time after MBA as filled with “lots of education,” Nathaniel got a degree in legal studies, a Master’s in K-6 education, and then a Master’s in paralegal studies. While in grad school, Beaver started working at Whitfield’s...
to help a friend. Six months later, he was the general manager. When the opportunity arose, Beaver and Cormann jumped at the opportunity to purchase the restaurant.

With a great location, Nathaniel can feel the support. “The best thing about Whitfield’s is that it’s in the epicenter of where I grew up. Half my clientele is associated with my high school, my college, or my childhood. When I come to work, I never know which friend or acquaintance I’m going to see. I get a lot of support from the MBA community.”

In return, Beaver continues to support the Big Red. He is an annual donor and a participant in the Patrick Hale Golf Tournament. When MBA Academic Dean Alan Coverstone was elected to the Metro School Board last year, Beaver hosted a celebratory party at the restaurant. “He was a great teacher and it was nice to be able to do something like that.”

One of Nathaniel’s favorite moments came the night MBA’s football team won the state championship capping a perfect 13-0 season. “The McGugins called me from Murfreesboro and they wanted to celebrate. We kept the kitchen open. We had the coaches and the families; they brought the trophy in. For them to pick my place was really cool. From an MBA standpoint, it’s one of the cooler things I’ve ever had happen.”

Scott Portis (’84) didn’t plan on getting into the restaurant business either. “Restaurants were the furthest thing from my mind.” After graduating from Auburn University with a degree in computer engineering, Portis worked for Electronic Data Systems in Detroit before making his way back to Nashville to work for HealthStream.

While at HealthStream, Scott was looking into making a passive investment. “That led me to discover Moe’s.” Today Portis and his wife Carol Len own five Moe’s Southwest Grills in Middle Tennessee with plans to open seven more stores. The decision to franchise the Atlanta-based company was an easy one when researching his future investment. “I loved the energy of the place, loved the atmosphere of the place, and the food. Those three really sold me.” The idea of franchising has sold Portis, too. “I’ve really come to believe in franchising. Franchises completely make sense if they have a good system.”

Scott is glad he has been able to tie his most recent Moe’s to the Harding Road area near MBA. “I love the history of MBA. I’ve had an opportunity to compare MBA students to others and I’m always impressed by the level of maturity, extreme politeness, and awareness.”

To kick off the opening of this Moe’s, he held a free burrito promotion. The first 50 customers through the door received one free burrito a week for a whole year. The next 50 received a free burrito for six months. Anyone from college kids, to 20-somethings, to a father and his two kids, to entrepreneurial types arrived as early as 6 p.m. the night before to camp out.” I really didn’t think we were going to get such a mix.” And it’s this mix of people that Scott Portis has really enjoyed meeting and one of his favorite parts about being in the restaurant business.

Tom Loventhal (’73) knows his customers well too. The creator and owner of Noshville Delicatessen has “…customers that come in seven to eight times a week, three to four times for breakfast and three to four times for lunch. They’re regular guys that sit at the same place and order the same thing almost every time.” Loventhal must be doing something right because of a big and loyal fan base that frequent his restaurants.

Tom first got in the restaurant business in 1985 with The Cakewalk, which later turned into Restaurant Zola. He is also the lead investor with two other popular independent restaurants in Nashville — Tin Angel and Mirror.

But it’s at Noshville that Loventhal is most hands-on. “I’ve always wanted to own a delicatessen, because most of us eat short order food. Have it made your way, the way you like it.” The restaurant has had a great deal of success since the doors opened for the first time in Midtown in 1996. Loventhal has added a store in Green Hills, Cool Springs, and the Nashville International Airport. Owning four locations would keep anyone busy, but Loventhal also finds time to work in the family insurance business, which has been around since 1889. He also serves on three boards: the Special Olympics of Tenn., the Nashville Zoo at Grassmere, and InsBank. He is past chair of the Special Olympics, as well as the Patrick Hale Golf Tournament at MBA. He credits MBA with giving him the discipline to “…do the things I do. I wouldn’t have gotten that anywhere else but here.”

There are many more alums who currently work or aspire to work in the restaurant business. Some do it for their love of cooking, like Tom Gutow and Ben Hickerson. Some see it as a business opportunity, like Nathaniel Beaver, Scott Portis, and Joe Davis. Others, like Tom Loventhal, have always wanted to own a restaurant that they would want to frequent on a regular basis. But all six of these will be the first to admit that it’s hard work. Hours can be long, critics can be many, and quality employees can be scarce. Nevertheless, each has found something they enjoy doing, at which they are successful, and each would credit MBA with laying the early foundation for where they are today.
“I LOVE THE HISTORY OF MBA. I’VE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO COMPARE MBA STUDENTS TO OTHERS AND I’M ALWAYS IMPRESSED BY THE LEVEL OF MATURITY, EXTREME POLITENESS, AND AWARENESS.”

“THE BEST THING ABOUT WHITFIELD’S IS THAT IT’S IN THE EPICENTER OF WHERE I GREW UP. HALF MY CLIENTELE IS ASSOCIATED WITH MY HIGH SCHOOL, MY COLLEGE, OR MY CHILDHOOD.”
One of the largest crowds ever gathered in Currey Gymnasium for MBA's Father-Son Breakfast. Jim and Nick's Bar-B-Q once again provided food for hundreds of students and their fathers. Following dinner, MBA Fathers Club president Chuck Lassing presented the Milton Maxwell Award to Doug Brandon for his years of service to the school. MBA teachers Julian Jones and Frank Simpson were also recognized for their contributions on campus. The MBA Jazz band offered rousing renditions of *Live and Let Die* and *James Brown*, with Daniel White ('10) on lead vocals.

In addition to the musical entertainment, MBA seniors Jamie Cooper, Fadi Pulous, Kile Garrett, Taylor Land, and Sam Page offered stories and reflections on their relationships with their fathers. The evening closed with a visit from bestselling author and sports columnist John Feinstein, who shared his unlikely journey from the son of a musician to one of the preeminent sports writers and commentators in America.
Father Son Dinner

Grandparents Day

D.J. Clark ('14) & Barbara Palmer
Bruce Johnson, William Johnson ('14) & Ann Carrell
**ON THE HILL • LANGUAGE AWARDS**

**FRENCH**

- **Level 1**
  - Sam Denney: 4th
  - Bennett Cain: 10th
  - Noah Fardon: 11th
  - Drew Daniely: 12th
  - Paul Baker: 13th

- **Level 2**
  - Ford Altenbern: 3rd
  - Sam Berklacich: 17th

- **Level 3**
  - Lewis Armistead: 12th
  - Michael Nunan: 12th
  - Will Holt: 13th
  - George Curtis: 15th

- **Level 4 AP**
  - Connor Shope: 12th
  - Ben Gregory: 18th

**GERMAN**

- Twenty of 22 were at or above the national 70th percentile
- Nineteen of 22 were at or above the national 80th percentile
- Eighteen of 22 were at or above the national 85th percentile
- Sixteen of 22 were at or above the national 90th percentile
- Twelve of 22 were at or above the national 95th percentile

**Level 2 Examinations**

- Will McCaskill: national 99th percentile
- Max Werthan: national 98th percentile
- Matt Vanek: national 97th percentile
- Alexander Hornbuckle: national 96th percentile
- Lee Grubbs: national 93rd percentile

**Level 3 Examinations**

- Patrick Clarke: national 99th percentile
- David Horak: national 99th percentile
- Pat Killian: national 99th percentile
- Sam Denney: national 97th percentile
- Harding McCay: national 97th percentile
- Thomas Moore: national 96th percentile
- Wesley Wilson: national 95th percentile
- Michal Zienkiewicz: national 95th percentile
- Alex Martin: national 93rd percentile
- Gaige Bolden: national 92nd percentile
- Sam Page: national 90th percentile

**GREEK**

- **High Honors (Maxima Cum Laude)**
  - Brian Swenson, Will Overton

- **Citations of Merit (Magna Cum Laude)**
  - Wade Longmire & Matt Wieck

- **Classical Association of the Middle West and South Translation Competition**
  - Thompson Barr, Quinton Burks — Book Awards
  - Matt Bellet, Pat Killian — Letters of Commendation

- **Fox Classical Writing Competition**
  - Tom Markham (National Runner-Up)

- **Classical Association of the Middle West and South Institutional Award**
  - Brian Swenson

**SPANISH**

**State Rankings**

- **Level 1**
  - Cullen Moran: 3rd
  - Edward Wilson: 5th
  - Scott Blackwell: 6th

- **Level 2**
  - Paul Van Pernis: 1st (outside experience)
  - Eric Mace: 8th
  - Ryan Hill: 9th

- **Level 3**
  - Fitz Lassing: 5th

**National Rankings**

- 12 Oro (95 – 100 percent in nation)
- 29 Plata (85 – 94 percent in nation)
- 28 Bronce (75 – 84 percent in nation)
- 39 Premio (50 – 74 percent in nation)

**LATIN**

**National Latin Exam**

- 318 students took the exam
- 277 students earned awards — 87 percent of all our students taking the exam
- 148 Gold Medals (Summa Cum Laude) — 53 percent of our total awards
- 21 perfect papers — 7 percent of our total taking the exam

- **Latin I**
  - Alexander Abdo, Colin Caldwell, Will Campbell, Jackson Crook, Nathan Fouts, Thomas Kaiser, Andrew Karpos, Lucas Littlejohn, Bradley Long, David Maynard, McKay Proctor, Tate Ramsden, Karthik Sastry, John Tully, Kevin Wang

- **Latin II**
  - Holt Akers-Campbell, Joe Scherrer

- **Latin III**
  - Carter Callaway

- **AP Latin Vergil**
  - Daniel Todd, Kevin Carr

- **AP Latin Lyric**
  - Patrick Killian

Over 11 percent of the eighth grade class wrote perfect papers.

**Four-year Gold Medal Winners**

- Thomas Moore, Kevin Carr, Will Henry, Seth Akers-Campbell, John Lowe, Pat Killian, Quinton Burks, Matt Moynihan, Richard Wall, Michael Seitz, Jacob Hymes, and Daniel Todd
In a special ceremony on January 20, 15 young men were inducted into MBA’s King Society. Founded by Edwin Conley (’04) and Ben Pote (’04) in January 2003, the Society honors the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King’s work towards equality, justice, freedom, and peace. John Seigenthaler, Chairman Emeritus of The Tennessean and founder of the First Amendment Center, spoke at assembly. The civil rights titan, who served as the U.S. Department of Justice’s chief negotiator with the governor of Alabama during the Freedom Rides of the 1960s, reflected on the segregated Nashville of his youth and the blind eye that many turned to racial injustice. He closed by challenging the assembled to strive to make our Union more perfect.

Membership in the King Society is comprised of juniors and seniors within the student body. A maximum number of ten students in each class are eligible for membership. To be considered for membership, students must meet the minimum criteria for membership that includes:

1. Leadership in organizations or projects that benefit humankind. MBA (as well as organizations such as the Boy Scouts, churches, synagogues, and charitable organizations) may sponsor these service opportunities.
2. Ten hours given toward projects sponsored by the MBA Service Club in the year prior to making application.
3. Evidence of sound character.
4. Completion of a 300-500 word essay describing how the applicant has attempted to incorporate the ideals of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in his life.
5. Evidence of integrity and solid academics.

The students who were inducted far surpassed the minimum requirements for membership. Their list of accomplishments and works for others in the community was varied and significant. They are more than deserving of their new membership status. Congratulations to seniors Coleman Breland, Jeff Francis, Michael Moore, Michael Nunan, and Ian Preston; and juniors Matt Bracy, Kyle Brantley, Denzel Caldwell, Nathan Dewitt, Tee Griscom, Rob Higham, John Lowe, Michael Sietz, Ben Sutter, and Daniel Todd.
As a way to ease back into the school week after prom weekend, the Class of 2009 was given a break from normal classroom activities on Monday, April 8. More than 50 alumni and friends of the school came to campus as part of MBA’s annual Career Day. These professionals (representing many different disciplines and fields) talked with students about how to blaze their own career paths.

The day began with a breakfast for the seniors followed by a Career Day Panel. The Panel consisted of Josh Rosenblatt (’01) — a graduate student in business and law at Vanderbilt, Will Norton (’99) — who served in Iraq and now works at MBA, Anna McCoy — a recruiter for Northwestern Mutual, and Lacy Nelson — a professional career counselor who works at
Vanderbilt. Differing from past years, this panel focused on how to prepare for a career while in college and how to land that first job after graduation. The panelists also discussed many considerations when choosing a career that best suits the interest and ability of each person.

In a special Career Day assembly, William Hastings ('90) and Doug Oliver ('98) spoke to the entire student body about their respective career paths. Hastings is a principal with Hastings Architecture Associates in Nashville. The MBA campus master plan is just one among many other high profile projects on which his firm is currently working. Oliver is the general manager at Pioneer Bus Company, whose clients include many in the music industry and other celebrities.

After assembly the seniors broke out into small career affinity groups based on the subjects they enjoy in school. This Career Day aimed to bridge the gap from schoolwork to real work, giving students an idea of how their current skills and interests would translate into a fulfilling career. For instance, students who knew they had an interest in science heard from engineers, doctors, and architects all in the same session. Each senior participated in two of these affinity group sessions.

Many of the professionals stayed on campus for lunch with the seniors. Here the students had an opportunity to talk with any of the speakers in more detail, get to know them better, and continue exploring how their own careers might unfold.
MOTHER-SON BREAKFAST

On April 28 a packed Currey Gymnasium once again played host to the Annual MBA Mother-Son Breakfast. Hundreds of students and their mothers enjoyed a hearty breakfast as Headmaster Brad Gioia welcomed the audience and introduced the first of six seniors who offered reflections on their relationships with their mothers. Andy Lustig, Vic Goetz, Will Overton, Alex Martin, Nicholas Caprioli, and Charlie Watkins offered both humorous and poignant stories of their mothers and shared the profound impact that they have had on their sons. In addition to the speakers, MBA parents Tom Douglas and Marie Bellet entertained the crowd with their singing and songwriting talents. The musical entertainment also included the MBA Jazz Band playing Sway (with senior Ryan Penney on vocals) and Play That Funky Music (with junior Zach Sternberg taking the lead on Baritone Sax), as well as the Chorus singing Down to the River and How Sweet It Is (with senior Reggie Ford and sophomore Gage Baxter on lead vocals).

TOTOMOI

Twelve new students were inducted into the Totomoi Society this March. The induction is regarded as one of the highest honors a student, alumnus, or faculty member can receive. The society was founded in 1954 by Robert McNeilly, Jr. ('50) and Dr. Inman Fox ('50) and recognizes juniors and seniors who have displayed leadership in Integrity, Loyalty, Honor, and Service.

New members included seniors Coleman Breland, Robert McNeilly, Michael Nunan, Fadi Pulous, and Harrison Stringfellow. The juniors were Seth Akers-Campbell, Kyle Brantley, Kevin Carr, Pat Killian, Alvin Kim, Thomas Moore, and Michael Seitz.

CUM LAUDE

Seven seniors, eight juniors, and two faculty members were inducted into MBA's Cum Laude Society in January. Founded in 1906, the Cum Laude Society honors individuals with superior academic achievements. Seniors inducted were Clark Benton, Coleman Breland, Paschall Davis, Reggie Ford, Wade Longmire, Will Overton, and Harrison Stringfellow. Juniors were Seth Akers-Campbell, Wiley Hunt, Pat Killian, Fitz Lassing, Eric Mace, Thomas Moore, Michael Seitz, and Daniel Todd. Faculty members were Mr. David Deutsch and Mr. Daniel Paolicchi. Featured speaker Mr. James L. Chandler, Jr. ('75) spoke of the impact of some of his teachers at MBA and the teaching styles of Mary Helen Lowry. The Cum Laude motto is excellence, justice, and honor. MBA is proud of the achievements of the faculty and students inducted.
The Hill • spring/summer 2009

THEATER

At the end of January, Dr. Rick Seay directed our fourth annual MBA Junior School production. Set in the fora, palaces, and arenas of ancient Rome, Androcles and the Lion, a parable of man vs. beast, showcased a rollicking and tuneful version of a memorable classic. The show featured Colin Caldwell ('13) and Vince Panvini ('13) in the title roles and a fabulous “swan-song” performance by beloved English teacher Mrs. Carole Pettus as Mama, Hermione’s humorously nagging mother.

In February, Mr. Malcolm Morrison directed Steven Berkoff’s adaptation of Franz Kafka’s Metamorphosis. This story presents Gregor Samsa (Will Holt ’09), a humble, industrious man who, upon waking, finds himself transformed into a gigantic beetle! This production combined wonderful language and movement (including Will’s bug-like crawling along the scaffolding) with stunning lighting effects by Zach Sternberg (’10). Director Morrison applauded his cast and crew for their unfailing enthusiasm, creativity, and empathy for the project: “They produced an art work of rare quality and beauty, and their commitment and dedication were exemplary.”

THE INSANITY OF MARY GIRARD
This year’s competition one-act was *The Insanity of Mary Girard*, a drama set in 1790 Philadelphia. For the first time, MBA partnered with Harpeth Hall on the entry. After advancing from the Middle Tennessee competition, the production won top honors in the state and represented Tennessee at this spring’s Southeastern Theatre Conference festival in Birmingham. Combining choreographed movement and extensive choral speaking, the production showcased many talents in the students who performed. Senior Will Holt earned All-Star recognition in every phase of competition, and the show garnered great praise throughout the competition process, which ran from October to March.

Under the leadership of seniors Ben Gregory (’10) and Ellen Thomas of Harpeth Hall, MBA hosted a Shakespeare-athon in April—24 hours of continuous performances of the Bard’s plays as a fund-raiser for Tennessee Repertory Theatre. Over 100 students and faculty participated (13 students performed all night!), 10 plays were performed, and $2,000 was raised for the Rep!

Later that month, on April 27, junior Tommy Harless (after winning MBA and regional contests) represented MBA strongly at the National Shakespeare Competition at Lincoln Center in New York City. Out of 60 competitors, Harless came away with a semi-final finish.

The season concluded with *Student-Directed One-Act Plays: Monkeys, Mayhem, & Hashed Brown Potatoes*, including shows directed by seniors Nicholas Caprioli, Ben Gregory, Will Holt, and Alex Martin. The shows ranged from the sublime to the ridiculous and featured strong performances by Ryan Penney (’09), Matt Moynihan (’10), Dalton Fouts (’10), Daniel Smith (’10), with Barrett Jacques’s (’09) impressive theatrical debut. Dr. Fuller thanked the seniors for their strong contributions and leadership: “It has been an honor to teach and direct these young men. As they graduate, I hope that they take pleasant memories of what they have learned and created together on The Hill. I also strongly hope they will continue to support theater wherever their paths take them.”

MBA Debate rang in 2009 with a First Place finish at the prestigious Lexington Winter Invitational in Lexington, Mass. After receiving honors at competitions at Emory University, Vestavia Hills High School, and the University of Georgia, two MBA teams — Hershel Mehta/Sam Page and Campbell Haynes/Wesley Wilson — were honored with invitations to the Tournament of Champions hosted by the University of Kentucky. While the teams were unfortunately unable to attend the tournament due to the swine flu closure, both teams did compete at the 2009 National Debate Coaches Association Championship hosted by the University of Nevada at Las Vegas.

Freshman Kelly Haselton was honored as being one of the ten best novice debaters in the country at the JV and Novice Nationals at Woodward Academy. Graduating seniors Sam Page and Rahul Sastry, junior Aaron Lutkowitz, and freshman Karthek Sastry will represent MBA at the National Forensic League National Tournament to be held in June in Birmingham.
In 2009 the MBA Service Club dove even deeper in its commitment to community service. In one of the more invigorating service projects undertaken by MBA students this semester, club members were there in body and spirit, but out of their minds when they chose to take part in the Polar Plunge — a challenge in which students braved the Nashville Shores water park and freezing temperatures to raise money for a worthy cause. Other students were mindful of warmer waters as they opted to coach a Special Olympics swim team at the Jewish Community Center’s natatorium.

In an exercise of mind and spirit, students and faculty alike put their brain power to good use by participating in the MBA Quiz Bowl. Funds raised from this event, along with the Titan’s Parking revenue, were given to the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Tutoring is also considered an exercise of the mind, and service club members had ample opportunity this year to work with students at the Preston Taylor homes, through Time to Rise, and with the Burundi Refugees, and Hispanic Achievers.

Physical strength was required as students worked up a sweat and got their hands dirty by refurbishing bicycles. In a project with an environmental spin called Re-cycle Now, boys salvaged bike parts to rebuild fuel-efficient transportation. Building projects were a common theme this spring as boys constructed ramps for Interact. Participants with Running to Beat the Blues also broke a sweat as did those boys in the Soup Kitchen, where working the "deep sink" is pure physical labor.

The Service Club members logged a record 3,500 hours in service to the community with the junior class leading the charge at 1,445 hours. Past President Ian Preston ('09) will pass the baton to incoming Service Club President Ben Sutter ('10), who will most certainly be there for the students and the community — in body, mind, and spirit.
After a heated battle and a few untimely spills, junior Luke Colbert emerged as the victor of MBA’s annual Founders Day race, run in the memory of Vann Webb (’00). Senior Will Overton was the leader at the halfway point before taking a fall at the turn by Massey. The finish turned out to be even more physical. Colbert and sophomore Hayes McCord ran neck and neck, with freshman Aaron Simonis close behind. McCord and Simonis both hit the brick surface shortly before the finish line as Colbert pulled away. The victory marks the second straight win for the Class of 2010.
Spring at MBA brings several opportunities to enjoy performances by MBA’s Music Department, including a jazz band concert, a joint MBA/Harpeth Hall performance with the Nashville Symphony, and a Music in the Round concert.
MBA’s annual art purchases for 2009 came from graduating seniors Jamie Cooper and Chunbum Park. Both boys were AP art students and garnered numerous awards throughout their high school careers.
BOWLING The bowling team finished the 2008-2009 season as the Division II Middle-East Region runner-up and a State Tournament Semi-Finalist with an overall record of 18–7, and a team average of 164.8 over a 25-game season. The season opened with a big victory over arch-rival Father Ryan, and the Big Red went on to sweep all three regular season matches against Ryan. The team battled hard all year, only losing five regular season matches. The team won the season series against the 2008 state champion and power-house Pope John Paul II and emerging contender Ensworth, swept the season series against region opponents USN, Brentwood Academy, Father Ryan, and defeated Division I foe David Lipscomb. The team finished the regular season with a 17–5 record and second place in the highly competitive middle district.

The team qualified for the state tournament with a strong showing in the Middle-East Region tournament beating McCallie twice before losing in the final match to BGA. The team entered the state tournament as the number two seed from the middle/east region and easily dispatched a pesky Lussianne team from Memphis 22–5. The team advanced to the semi-finals, but lost a close match to eventual state champion, Christian Brothers.

Team leader Logan Lechleiter (’09) qualified for the state individual tournament with a 188 season average. Lechleiter performed superbly in the state tournament advancing to the final round and finishing sixth in the state. He was the top Big Red bowler this season and received second team all-metro recognition. Captain Will Andrews (’09) kept the team focused the entire year, and the team fell only a few pins shy of advancing to the team finals of the state tournament. Seniors Charlie Watkins, Caldwell Ritter, Brian Swenson, and newcomer Bradford Norton, contributed greatly to the team’s success. The seniors accounted for 168 individual game wins.

Juniors John Andrews, Denney Sandwith, Ben Sutter, Oliver Oldacre, and Neil Rinehardt, along with sophomore Marc Giguere, were instrumental in the successful season. Despite the loss of six senior bowlers, these returning bowlers will form the nucleus of another strong Big Red Bowling Squad for the 2009-2010 season.
This year’s MBA Basketball team was one of the most successful in recent memory. Led by senior Spencer Wise and a host of juniors, the team completed the season with a 17–8 record and a share of the regular season region championship. After losing the opening game on the road at BGA, the team won 11 of its next 12 to start the year at 11–2. Victories over a surprisingly strong USN squad, Hillwood, AA state tournament qualifier Memphis Sheffield, Antioch, and a road win at rival Father Ryan highlighted the quick start. While the meat of the region schedule was more difficult, the team did very well. Sweeping the regular season games with Brentwood Academy, a great come from behind victory at Culleoka, the second ranked team in the state in Class A, and handily defeating Knox Webb, McCallie, and JPII were noteworthy achievements in the second half of the season.

While the season ended with an OT loss in the state quarterfinals, there is much to look forward to in the coming years. All-Region performer and leading scorer Holden Mobley (‘10) returns, along with junior contributors Tyler Paslick, Luke Colbert, Brad Bars, Michael Seitz, Fitz Lassing, and Alex Apple. Freshmen Aaron Simonis and Austin Blackwell also logged varsity minutes this year and will be counted on for big contributions in the future. Other JV players from the 15–1 JV team will be counted on to contribute at the varsity level in the coming year, and are very capable of doing so.

Goals and aspirations run high for MBA in the coming years. The future of MBA Basketball is now.
HOCKEY  The 2008-2009 Ice Hockey team had a very solid year finishing in a tie for fifth place in the GNASH. The team had a record of 10–6 with a few very close losses. Senior Captains Bailey Brandon and Crawford Standard, who helped mature a young team throughout the season, led the team. MBA fought hard in every game, but at times was outmatched by some very talented teams in the league.

Sophomores Nick Bessette and Alex Austin played well in goal all year for the Big Red, and kept the team in many games with their outstanding play. On offense, junior David Dalton, sophomore Eddie Lang, freshman Scott Dalton, and Standard carried most of the load for the Big Red. Brandon and sophomores Max Coyle and Harrison Mathews held down the blue line on defense. The biggest wins of the year came against Brentwood High School and Ravenwood High School.

The team did not reach their goals this season, but learned a lot about themselves and what it means to make a commitment to a team. All of the boys grew up a lot during this season and will be stronger men because of their experiences on and off the ice. The team will say goodbye to some great seniors who all played a large role in raising the standards of hockey at MBA. The team will look to reload with some young talent next season.

RIFLE  With three of last year’s starting four-man team returning to the firing line, the Montgomery Bell Academy Rifle team started the 2008-2009 season with excellent prospects of repeating their 2008 state championship performance. In July most of the team’s top shooters traveled to Camp Perry, Ohio, to participate in a camp lead by US Olympic Coach Dan Durbin and his team of collegiate shooters. Building on a strong summer program, the MBA Rifles kicked off the season with their customary camp over the Labor Day weekend at the Army Marksmanship Unit, Ft. Benning, Ga.

The summer preparation paid off handsomely as the MBA Rifles started the competitive season in September with convincing wins in the MBA Invitational against local rivals and an upset of nationally-ranked and perennial Kentucky State Champions Shelby County on their home range. The Big Red shooters followed up a successful September with a second place finish at the October Montgomery Bell Rifle Classic (the nation’s largest high school air rifle tournament) beating the Missouri state champions and nationally-ranked rival Saint Louis University High School along the way. The team finished the first semester with a huge Thanksgiving weekend win over some of the best teams in the south at the Old Mill Classic just outside Atlanta Georgia.
During the second semester the team continued its winning ways in dual meets, most notably against Middle Tennessee rival Blackman High School. The tough early preparation and long, hard season of competition paid off with a second place finish behind the record-setting performance of mid-state rival Siegle High School in the Tennessee State High School Tournament and a victory in the Tennessee Junior Olympic State Championships to win the honor of representing Tennessee at this year’s National Junior Olympics at Camp Perry, Ohio.

With the regular season at an end, long standing coach Lieutenant Colonel Leo Lujan, USANG (Ret) turned over the reins as head coach to Lieutenant Colonel Joe Sharbel, USMC (Ret). In addition, Mr. Jesse Gray joins the MBA Rifles for the 2009-2010 season as the team’s new Conditioning Coach. Volunteer coach Colonel Henry Gaither, USANG (Ret) will continue to serve as the coach of the MBA Rifle sporter class team. Coach Lujan and his assistants have left a remarkable legacy and a strong foundation upon which to build future personal and team successes.

**WRESTLING** The MBA Wrestling team finished the year with a record of 16-6. The team showed a great deal of improvement under the leadership of captains John Floyd (’09) and Daniel Todd (’10). With outstanding senior leadership from Floyd, Chris Anderson, Aaron Barrett, Rylan Browner, Jeff Francis, Kile Garrett, Davis Hunt, Max Jarrell, and Clayton McQuiddy, the boys worked extremely hard all year to achieve the many goals they set.

The team competed in three very tough individual tournaments throughout the year (a sixth place finish Black Horse Invitational, a ninth place finish at the McCallie Powerade Invitational, and fifth at the Father Ryan Invitational). The wrestlers also competed in the Briarcrest Dual Meet Tournament and finished third. In the State Dual meet tournament the Big Red finished in a tie for fifth place, and in the State Individual Tournament the team claimed fifth place.

The boys competed well all weekend long at the state individuals with the team bringing home medals in 13 out of the 14 weight classes. Matthew Davidson (’12), Charles Herron (’10), Matthew Bellet (’10), and Kile Garrett (’09) took home sixth place medals. Fifth place finishers were John Mark Bellet (’12), Davis Hunt (’09), and Aaron Barrett (’09).

Mark Simpson (’11) captured a fourth place medal, while Daniel Bellet (’12), John Floyd (’09), and Rylan Browner (’09) finished third. Junior Daniel Todd finished an outstanding season as runner-up in one of the most difficult weight classes in the state, while Max Jerrell capped his MBA career with a second state title.

**SWIMMING & DIVING** The 2008-2009 Varsity team boasted a young and talented group of swimmers and divers led by our senior co-captains Paschall Davis and Jimmy Balser. Dominating its divisional rivals, MBA finished first in 67 of 72 total events en route to capturing its second division title in as many years.
**BASEBALL** Big Red Baseball had a successful 2009 season. After an early season win against Dickson County, the baseball team traveled to Phoenix, Ariz., for Spring Break. The team finished 2–3 in the Eagle Invitational with a few tough losses and big wins against schools from Arizona, Colorado, and Oklahoma.

The Big Red had early losses to BA and BGA in divisional play. However, the team avoided the sweep by winning the final series game 16–2 against BGA. The Big Red marched on to win 9 out of the next 10 league games to finish second place in the regular season. The team won the JP II series, swept Ensworth and Father Byan in their series match-ups in late April.

The Big Red entered tournament play with a first round bye. MBA lost two region tournament games to end the season. However, the baseball team had an exciting season for the fans and players, and the Big Red played hard and never quit throughout the year.

**LACROSSE** The 2009 Lacrosse team finished with a record of 12-7 and lost to eventual champion McCallie in the State Semi-Finals. The Big Red played a tough schedule this year and competed well against most of their opponents. The team had great wins against Westminster and Pope from Atlanta, and CBHS in the State Quarterfinals.

The team was anchored by senior captain Bailey Brandon in the goal. Bailey had a great year and always gave the team a chance to win. An inexperienced defense matured throughout the year and was led by juniors Sam Berklacich and Keesler Sanders, as well as by senior captain Trip Shearer. Junior George Curtis, sophomore Clay Adams, senior captain Kile Garret, and sophomore Connor Pagnani shouldered most of the load on offense. All of them had big games for the team and improved as the season progressed. The lacrosse program will miss the six departing seniors, but looks forward to a strong 2009-2010 season.

**SOCCER** The MBA Soccer season began well but unraveled as the season reached the critical stages. The team was stacked with seniors, a big help as the first few important games came down to the last three of four minutes, including a thrilling 1-0 win over JPII that ended after a last-minute Houston Oldham (’09) goal. The Big Red finished the regular season with a second place seed behind Father Byan going into the regional tournament. An outbreak of the Swine Flu and losing in the third place game in the region tournament were both unexpected. Houston Oldham was selected for the All-Region team.

Other stand out seniors included Michael Nunan, Max Jarrell, and Robbie Alsentzer.

In the Regional Championship, the Big Red put on another strong performance winning six of 12 events, setting two Regional records, qualifying 19 boys for the Tenn. State Swimming and Diving Championship, and capturing back-to-back Regional Championships.

In the State Championships, MBA battled against Baylor, the top-ranked high school swim team in the country. The boys put up 11 All-American performances and four new school records. Paschall Davis captured titles in both the 50 and 100 freestyle events.

Although we will certainly miss the contribution of our senior leaders, the team has many strong underclassmen with several talented swimmers still participating within our Middle School team. The future of Big Red Swimming is looking very bright!
**TENNIS** The 2009 MBA Tennis team finished the regular season with an impressive record of 11–2. Despite a tough schedule and a young squad, the team had a successful year. Season highlights include a second place finish at the Chattanooga Rotary, a third place finish at the Carter Invitational, and a 3–0 weekend in Louisville to win the St. Xavier Jamboree. MBA wrapped up the season and a top three spot in the Middle-East Region with final week wins over Ensworth and traditional rival Baylor. Against local teams from Father Ryan, Brentwood Academy, BGA, USN, and Ensworth, MBA went 5–0.

In the post-season, MBA secured a spot in the state tournament by defeating Christian Brothers 4–0 in Memphis. In the semifinals, the Big Red went down 4–2 to eventual runner-up Knox-Webb. With five of the top six returning next year, the future is bright for Big Red Tennis.

**TRACK** The 2009 MBA Track team won each of its major meets during the season, successfully defended its TSSAA DII Middle Region title, and finished fifth in the TSSAA state meet. The team competed in its first major meet in late March, winning the Highland Games for the fourth year in a row against a field that included defending DI AAA State Champion Brentwood High and defending DII State Champion Brentwood Academy. Senior Wesley Johnson won the ‘Big Man Award,’ keeping the giant sword in MBA’s trophy case for the fourth year. Next MBA competed for the first time ever in the Buster Relays and easily outdistanced the other 17 teams, scoring as many points as the second and third place teams combined. Highlights included Wesley Johnson’s victory in the shot, Patrick Crum’s (‘09) victory in the long jump, relay victories in the distance medley, the JV 4 x 100, the JV 4 x 400, and a sweep of the first four places in the freshman 1600.

Next MBA retained its title in the Doug Hall Relays, winning for the 13th time in the meet’s 24 years. Following Doug Hall, MBA won the Nashville Track and Field Championships title over 21 other teams from Davidson County. This marks the fourth straight city championship and the tenth in the last 13 years.

The team won the Region meet ahead of runner-up Ensworth and third place Brentwood Academy. Once again, team depth was key to the victory as MBA scored points in every event except the 100 and 400 meters. Brian Oslin (‘12) won the decathlon, Patrick Crum won the long jump, Chase Owen (‘11) won the triple jump, Wesley Johnson won the shot put, and the team of Jhamal Wright (‘12), Chase Owen, Reggie Ford (‘09), and Patrick Crum won the 4 x 200 relay.

At the TSSAA State Meet, Chase Owen set a new school record in the triple jump with a hop, skip, and jump of 43’ 1.5”. Crum finished second in the long jump, and Ryan Venable (‘10) finished second in the high hurdles.
Wade Longmire’s smile is almost as big as his list of accomplishments. The Wake Forest-bound Longmire was a Cum Laude, King Society, and Totomoi member, and a four year Student Council representative. He also served as Sergeant at Arms for the Service Club where he participated in dozens of projects, including trips to the Appalachians, Bay St. Louis, Mississippi, as well as MBA’s Special Olympics, Soup Kitchen, and Graffiti Paint-out.

Longmire was the recipient of the 2006 Donald Ross Award for the Most Outstanding Freshman, and the 2007 Henry W. Boyd, Jr. Award for the Most Outstanding Sophomore. He was also a three-time National Latin Exam award winner, and National Greek Exam award winner while completing 12 honors and seven AP courses over his high school career.

Wade competed in football, played every position on the offensive line during his senior season, and was named the Tennessee Radio Network Student-Athlete of the Week in September 2008. He was also a member of the lacrosse and track teams, as well as a six-year member of the MBA Jazz Band.
Reggie Ford

Reggie Ford’s MBA story is certainly unique. Ford came to MBA as an eighth grader — recommended by the Backfield in Motion program founded by Joe Davis ('79) — from a public school that was 90 percent minority. Through hard work and an engaging personality, Reggie quickly adapted to his new environment, winning the Gentleman, Scholar, Athlete award for the Junior School that May.

As an athlete, Ford excelled on the football field, basketball court, and on the track. He was named U.S. Marines Student-Athlete of the Rivalry Series during his junior season, received the National Football Foundation Recognition in 2009, as well as the Joe L. Worden Courage Award and the Nashville Predators’ Jack Diller Award.

Reggie was elected class president his junior year; was inducted into the Cum Laude society; won the French I Award, French II Honors Award, the College Algebra/Trigonometry Award, the Algebra II Award, National Latin Exam Gold Medals, and a National French Exam ranking. He was also selected for a P.M. Estes Award in 2006 and 2008. At MBA’s 2009 Commencement, Ford was honored with an inaugural Wilson Award, as well as the Gentleman, Scholar, Athlete award for the High School. He will take his immeasurable talents to Vanderbilt University in the fall.
A look at Will Overton’s list of accomplishments makes one wonder if he ever sleeps. Overton, the 2009 winner of the William Martin Award for the Best All-Around Boy in the School (and the 2008 Lindsley Ruth Award for the Most Outstanding Junior), was a member of Totomoi, The Cum Laude Society, The Junior Honor Society, The King Society (where he served as president), The Student Council, and FCA. He also served as sports editor of the yearbook and was active in the Service Club, in addition to half a dozen service trips to places such as Jamaica, Ecuador, Mexico, and New Orleans.

In the classroom Overton received the MBA Chemistry Medal, The Vanderbilt Book Award, The National Latin Award, and The National Greek Award. He was also named an AP Scholar with Honors, and a commendation from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. On the field Overton was a three-year letterman in football and soccer, as well as lettering in golf his freshman year.

Looking back on his time at MBA, Overton sees it as a school that “changed my life completely — it has molded me into the man I am today and has turned me into a gentleman, scholar, and athlete. I have made friends and memories that will last a lifetime. I will miss MBA next year, especially my friends and teachers. I would not trade my high school experience at MBA for anything — it is a truly remarkable place.” Will plans to attend the University of North Carolina in the fall.
While MBA is known for the Davis Grant awards and an ever-expanding International Exchange Program that affords the opportunity for students and faculty to travel the world, there also exists (right in our own back yard) a treasure trove of cultural riches found within the lives of these men. The purpose of this article is to shed light on the nature of their personal odysseys.

Kashu Deresu, Yorgan Petit, Sami Khadher, George Mario, Malith Wiek, and Sammy Sabino share a common bond—they are people whose destinies have been shaped by history-making events played out on the world stage. They have witnessed political unrest, civil war, oppression, famine, and genocide in their respective countries. While their cultures may differ, these men are united by similar stories rooted in hardship.

It is a well-lit clapboard structure that houses tools and a workbench, a coffee maker, microwave, and fridge, and a mishmash of chairs and musical instruments. More importantly, the Shed is home base to David Norton, MBA Facility Manager, and a group of guys who herald from places like Cuba, Ethiopia and Kenya, Sudan, and Kurdistan.

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Kashu Deresu

Born in Mega, Ethiopia to a family of four brothers and four sisters, Kashu was barely three years old when the Ethiopian Revolution to overthrow Emperor Haile Selassie occurred in 1974. Two years of widespread famine, the oil crisis, and rabid inflation led to a pandemic of civil unrest. Amid the chaos, Kashu’s perseverance and quiet determination helped him to stay in his home village and complete six years of schooling.

Kashu then moved to Awassa to live with his older sister and five nephews, and to finish grades seven through twelve. He majored in production technology and learned the basics of machine assembly, which would later prepare him for work in a factory. After graduation he opted to drive a minibus for seven years instead.

Kashu is a member of the Oromo tribe, an educated group of Christian mountain people opposed to the Ethiopian government. He explains that being called an “Anti” means you oppose the government, and that standing up for your beliefs is grounds for torture and imprisonment. The government made it a point to keep the population of the Oromo people in check (47 percent or anything less than majority) by resorting to murder, imprisonment, and deportation of the members of his tribe.

In 2001 Kashu decided it was time to flee to Nairobi, Kenya. A relatively wealthy Christian country, Kenya was the safest place in Africa at the time—a popular haven for refugees. Upon his arrival he had to explain to the United Nations the reason he left Ethiopia. His rationale was simple: Warring clans in a police state posed an ongoing threat to his life.

Kashu spent three years in a Nairobi refugee camp. He lived in a tiny house provided by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, which also gave him a living allowance and an education grant. Although his native dialect is Orominfa, Kashu could speak Amharic and Swahili with the Kenyans as he learned to master English. He noted that telling time was the same in both Ethiopia and Kenya, but literally the opposite from most other countries, the U.S. included. Their analog clock marks sunrise as one o’clock and noon as six o’clock, which most of us would interpret visually as low noon as opposed to high noon.

In light of heightened safety measures, Kashu was required to pass an in-depth interview with the Department of Homeland Security before being granted entry into the United States. On February 15, 2005 he and his younger brother were approved for immigration. A sponsorship by the World Relief Agency in Antioch, Tenn. would eventually lead him to MBA and a position on staff. Kashu’s relationship with MBA is one, he says, filled with friendship, support, and opportunity, adding that “Everyone here is always so loving and helpful.”

In October of 2007, another meaningful relationship was to be celebrated. Kashu married a woman from his local church choir whom he knew as a child in Ethiopia. He literally married the girl next door in a ceremony thousands of miles from his native home: a destination wedding with a different spin.

Biftu, whose name means “sunset” in Orominfa, was granted U.S. citizenship this past spring. Kashu is ebullient about his wife’s status as a U.S. citizen and is looking forward to his own eligibility next year. The Deresus recently had a baby daughter whose name, Fenet, means “wish”. The MBA Mothers Club has been there for him in many ways, Kashu says with gratitude. The gifts, meals, and attention they provided for his new family was yet another wish come true.

The relationships he misses most were with the refugees from those three years he spent in the camp in Kenya. He continues to maintain his Ethiopian identity by keeping traditions with his wife and four siblings who are now living in the U.S. His local church has a strong relationship with his church back home, which serves to deepen the U.S./Ethiopia connection. He keeps in close contact with several relatives as he works to get his academically-gifted niece into Vanderbilt University.

What he loves about Nashville is the weather, the size of the city, and the people who are so helpful and friendly. What he loves most about MBA are the staff and the students. He says that in his country students are always fighting and rebellious. In his four years at MBA he has never seen any bad behavior. He sees the boys as extremely courteous and (which may come as a surprise to their parents) willing to clean up after themselves. When asked to help, the boys step up without hesitation and respectfully say “Yes, Sir”. The culture of gentleman is apparently alive and well on campus.

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Yorgan Petit

Yorgan (pronounced Jorgan) came not only from Cuba, but from a family of extremely gifted musicians. His father was accomplished on drums, his mother on clarinet, and his brother on Onove, a Cuban instrument resembling a French horn. Yorgan plays a variety of instruments including percussion, saxophone, bass, and piano. At the age of ten, he went to boarding school primarily to pursue his love of music. For the Petit family, music has given them a sense of identity and an avenue of expression in the face of an oppressive political regime.

Yorgan’s father and grandfather were counter-revolutionaries who supported the re-emergence of capitalism. Yorgan vividly recalls a group meeting at his house where his father laid out a map on the kitchen table to explain a plan of attack. One member of the group was obviously under cover, because a Jeep parked in front of the house erupted with a posse of gun-wielding police. Their intent was to arrest Yorgan’s grandfather but his father insisted they instead take him into custody, reasoning that his own father was much too old for incarceration. During the five years his dad spent in jail, the government confiscated the second floor of the Petit home. While the family huddled together on the lower floor, the entire upper floor was occupied by only one person. Yorgan says (with a wry smile) that since the house was falling down, the government offered to return it to the family. The fact that his younger brother made only $5.00 a month would make even a minor repair impossible.

With the help of Catholic Charities, Yorgan, a sibling, and his father were allowed to come to the United States. “When I first came here in 2002, it was snowing so much. I never had seen snow and ice. It was beautiful. I was so happy to be here. I was 31 years old and weighed 110 pounds. I ate only one meal a day. Food is expensive in Cuba and even soap is like gold. One single bar is used in the shower, for dishes, and to wash clothing. It doesn’t last long. When I first went to the store here, I couldn’t believe all the kinds of soaps, one made for each purpose.”

When Yorgan’s father passed away in 2003, the entire MBA community rallied around the Petit family. MBA teachers collected food and money in addition to emotional support. “I got so many cards in the mail from the boys saying they were sorry about my father dying, I didn’t feel alone. Everybody at MBA treats me like their family.”

The support Yorgan gets from the school community is in no way just a one-way street. He gives back to MBA through his diligent work on campus and through his music. Dick Klausner (’73), English teacher, soccer coach, and college counselor, had the privilege of taking percussion lessons from him: “Yorgan would play the piano while I pounded the drums. He’s an amazing musician who could even make me sound good. He’s Ricky Ricardo all the way, right down to the congas.”

A sophomore student tells the story of his serendipitous brush with musical greatness. Cooper Thomas (’11) described his impromptu session with Yorgan: “After school one day I was playing guitar in the theater. Yorgan came in, sat down at the drums, and just started jamming with me. It was so cool. We just played and didn’t even need to talk. Music is like that… it’s a language all its own.”

Another sophomore, Jack Hallemann (’11), conducted an in-depth interview with Yorgan about his life in Cuba for the Bell Ringer, which can be viewed online: www.montgomerybell.edu; At School; Student Life; Student Publications; April 30th issue; page 3. >>>
“I try to keep up my nationality by watching programs in Spanish and speaking Spanish at home for my kids. They like video games and Hannah Montana, but I always try to remind them of their culture.”
George Mario

George was born in Sudan in 1964, the same year the People of Sudan staged a rebellion; a national government was formed; and Beatlemania was in full swing in the U.S. He was a boy of 14 when the discovery of large reserves of oil in the south added economic tension to the longstanding religious strife between the primarily Muslim and Arabs in the north and the Christians and Animists in the south. Needless to say it was a brutal environment in which to grow up. His mother was forced to flee to Uganda with his younger brother when the government took all their possessions at gunpoint four years later. They left behind cars and a home, friends and family—including George.

In 1994 George sought refugee status with the hope of emigrating to the United States. He left his home town of Juba in Sudan at a time when the Sudanese government would soon be accused of an assassination attempt on Egyptian Prime Minister Mubarak. When the United Nations levied sanctions against Sudan, chaos ensued; he got out just in time.

Decisive and practical by nature, George opted to take his wife and three children to the city of Asmara in the State of Eritrea, a small country adjacent to Sudan in northeast Africa. There the United Nations High Commission for Refugees provided shelter, food, and even an education grant.

Well-educated and fluent in Arabic, English, and the local dialect, George made good use of his years in the camp. He helped fellow refugees navigate the immigration policies and bureaucracy inherent in visa applications. He also provided further support by serving as a translator and coach during personal interviews.

In 1999 George brought his family to the United States with the help of Catholic Charities. He is grateful for their willingness to help in light of the fact that he is not Catholic, but Lutheran. In George’s experience the idea that different religious denominations would actually provide support for each other is a foreign concept.

The Mario family made their way to Nashville to build a life but found their first neighborhood to be less than welcoming. They landed in a rough area where the kids were bullied and their house was robbed. The situation was mild compared to what they had endured in Africa, but they knew they could find a better life in another section of Nashville. They did just that, and now are happily settled.

The turn of this century, however, brought unsettling news from back home. In 2000 George’s father was tortured by the Sudanese government and thrown in prison. Living on the other side of the world, George could do nothing to help. There was no direct communication allowed, so only secondhand information about his dad’s whereabouts and physical condition trickled through. A famine in Sudan affecting three million people would heighten George’s anxiety about the suffering of his countrymen; at the same time he breathed a sigh of relief that he was able to make a better life for his ever-growing family in the U.S.

“George is a complex man with a simple view of the world,” observes Dick Klausner. “He has a common sense perspective with a clear understanding of right and wrong. If only more world leaders would adopt his way of thinking, we’d all be better off.”

Two other men on staff, also from Sudan, have made Nashville their home and MBA their place of employment. Sammy Sabino, a member of George’s tribe in Juba and now a U.S. citizen, emigrated to America in 1998; and Malith Wiek, the youngest staff member at age 26, “emigrated” to work each day on his own steam. “Malith used to run down White Bridge Road because he did not have a car,” says Emmett Russell (’88), Junior School English teacher and track coach. While living in Sudan he always used his feet for transportation. He often ran 60 miles in a day; he was literally running errands. When he first arrived here Malith was very thin, but he soon put on the pounds. It was fun to watch him fatten up as he ate the Sage specials in the lunch room every day. I loved to tease him about that.”

During a holiday basketball game several young alums spotted him ambling alongside the court and leapt out of the stands to give him a high-five. Malith, with his statuesque presence and magnetic personality, draws crowds all around The Hill.
Sami Khadher

Sami was born in Kirkuk, Iraq to a family of five brothers and three sisters. His family belongs to the Kurdish tribe, a separate and distinct ethnic group living in an area the size of France with a population of nearly 30 million people.

From 1988-1991, Saddam Hussein persecuted the Kurds in Northern Iraq and ordered his administration to seek out all Kurdish families to either detain them or kill them. Sami’s grandmother was one of those killed. He and his brother escaped capture in the town of Kirkuk by moving around and living with different family members; they would go to remote villages and hide out at various safe houses to keep from getting caught.

Sami would bribe the Baathist administration to put his name at the bottom of the “most wanted” list in order to stay one step ahead of Saddam.

In 1991 Sami took temporary exile in Iran, but remained illegally tied to the army of Kurdistan; that meant they could call him up from Iran to fight whenever they needed him. Over the next nine years he was deployed several times, and detained in jail for eight months during that period.

In April 2001 Sami and his brother received refugee status because of the Kurdish persecution and were allowed to emigrate to the United States. Two years later he joined the MBA staff and quickly became one of the family. “When I moved here, Nashville became my second home, even though Kirkuk will always be my original home. I went to Memphis for a while and could not wait to get back to Nashville. It is a very clean and friendly city. And I like everything about MBA. It’s a very good school with very nice people.” This past November Sami was made to feel at home in the official sense when his application to become a United States citizen was approved.

He enjoys spending his lunch hour with faculty members Dick Klausner, Emmett Russell, and John Vernacchio. Dick remembers when Sami first came to work at MBA: “He would carry a map around to show us where he was from — the city of Kirkuk — and to remind us of all the innocent people who died under Saddam.” He was both proud and horrified by his cultural heritage.

In a show of allegiance to the culinary traditions of his new home in the South, Sami has developed a taste for pulled pork barbeque, especially Junior School Director Peter Thurmond’s secret recipe. He is equally loyal to his native cuisine and likes to cook traditional Kurdish food with the exotic ingredients found at the international market. The unusual items on his list are easily found thanks to Kirkuk by moving around and living with different family members; they would go to remote villages and hide out at various safe houses to

These men have much in common in terms of their pasts and their present work place. Yet each has a unique and distinct personality. George Mario, as assistant manager, coach, and father figure, is the glue that holds the group together. With his command of Arabic, English, Spanish, and a number of dialects, he helps his colleagues with their language skills and guides them through the citizenship process. He humbly denies the importance of his influence and credits the school community for its support. “MBA is a great place for all of us to work. The teachers and students, the Mothers Club and staff, provide us all with so much comfort and make us really feel at home here.”

Kashu Deresu is a polite and thoughtful man who has impeccable manners. He has sent carefully written thank you notes to the Mothers Club and staff after such momentous events as his child’s birth and his wife’s citizenship ceremony. When referring to his wife and daughter, Kashu speaks in tender, almost poetic terms. He is both protective and quite fond of him and has taken a personal interest in Sami’s social life by playing matchmaker in setting him up with dates.

Buck Martinez, former MLB player, manager, and current television commentator, made this comment about the ethnic diversity and ensuing camaraderie found in Major League Baseball. He could have been describing MBA’s facilities staff just as well:

“To stand next to one another on this diverse team is to recognize that we are all united by work and play in the common cause of representing the United States.”
Yorgan is the resident comedian who has an endearing way of making light of stressful situations at work. Every man on the facilities staff has adopted an easy-going sense of humor. Living in a country built on freedom and basic civil rights has allowed each of them to feel light-hearted, grateful, and secure. They may not all speak the same language but they do know how to work as a team, proving the adage that actions speak louder than words.

Malith has made significant progress in terms of learning English; his strategy is to listen to hours of talk radio and watch old TV sitcoms. He speaks with a northern accent at a fast clip, which can make it difficult for a southern ear to understand him. Norton reminds him he lives in the South now and should work on developing an easy drawl! Sammy Sabino, also from Sudan, communicates a positive attitude with his bright smile that lights up a room. He is naturally skilled with his hands and has the ability to fix just about anything on MBA’s punch list.

Each of these men brings to campus a unique personality, distinct cultural heritage, and the skill of a tradesman. United by upheaval, they have lived the Odyssey of the immigrant and all that that entails: being uprooted from family and friends, navigating the immigration process, learning a new language, a new culture, but finally finding a new home.
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The mothers of Alumni from more than four decades gathered in the spring to catch up and reminisce about the good old days on The Hill. The program this year included a panel discussion about “women who have re-invented themselves” once the children have grown. Panelists included Judge Barbara Haynes (Jeff ’78, Scott ’82), Debbie Tate (Will ’01, Taylor ’04), Jane Corcoran (Tom ’09), Lou Ann Brown (Lewis ’06), and Susan Huggins (Allen ’98).

Following the panel, Malcolm Morrison, MBA’s resident gourmet, offered a cooking demonstration, whipping up a lip-smacking version of his secret tiramisu recipe. This year’s event also added a service component, with attendees donating food, clothing, and toiletry items for use in the community.
Forty-eight bowlers squared off at Pla-Mor Lanes February 7 for the Inaugural MBA Young Alumni Bowling Tournament. Competing for the Commander Carr Cup, 16 teams battled in four team round-robin play before the top eight teams squared off in a single elimination tournament. The bottom eight teams competed in a single elimination tournament as well. After many competitive rounds, team U.S.S. Strike (James Pitman ('00), Taylor Sutherland ('00), and Jay Webb ('00)) defeated I Can’t Believe It’s Not Gutter (Miller Harris ('01), Zac Hood ('01), and Ingle Martin ('01)) in the Baker Style (alternate frame) Championship.

In the loser’s bracket finals, Jim’s Unit (Robert Womack ('00), Josh Eaves ('00), and Jim Womack) defeated Class of ’99 Problems... (Robbie Quinn ('99), Elijah Reynolds ('99), and David Dean ('99)). Overall, the tournament, sponsored by the Young Alumni Board, was a great success and will become an annual event.
The goal of NTFS is (while providing needed items and services for every school in the system) to also let students, staff, and faculty know that the community is behind them and strongly supports their success. Great numbers of parents, individuals, church groups, civic groups, businesses, PTAs, private schools, and universities have all made contributions of money, time, expertise, and energy. Belmont, Lipscomb, and Vanderbilt Universities have provided 250 volunteers on projects. At least 100 other college age people have volunteered.

The future looks even brighter for NTFS as more and more volunteers come on board. In September 2009 a new kind of project will begin at Cane Ridge. NTFS will finance wall panels for a Habitat House. Students and volunteers will build wall panels for a home and ship them to Habitat. Habitat will refund the money and the process can start over at another school where students and volunteers can work together to learn and to give back to the community.

In May NTFS started the renovation and expansion of the inadequate restroom facilities at the Hillsboro football stadium. In June the group will start the construction of showers and restrooms for the East High football dressing room.

In addition NTFS has been asked to provide computer desks for 140 computers. They also are planning to build new lockers for Hillsboro’s state championship Girl’s Basketball team.

1960

The Miller Center of Public Affairs at the University of Virginia has named Admiral Joseph W. Prueher as its James R. Schlesinger Distinguished Professor. Throughout the 2009–10 academic year, Prueher will engage in and advise on Miller Center programs and activities, including forums, panels, and conferences, and will write on foreign policy and national security matters with research support from the Miller Center. He will also serve as a speaker in Miller Center programs on topics within his expertise and experience, and serve as a guest lecturer for University classes.

Prueher is a consulting professor at Stanford University’s Institute of International Studies, and senior advisor on U.S.-China security matters for the Preventive Defense Project—a research collaboration between Stanford and Harvard University’s Kennedy School of Government.

1965

Trevor Evans was elected as the Vermont Outstanding Tree Farmer for 2009 by the Vermont Woodlands Association. The VWA is the Vermont branch of the American Tree Farm System.

1966

Hardy Housman, retired from US Army Special Forces, is a contract employee at Fort Leavenworth, Kans. He is going through training in preparation to return to Afghanistan to work in Human Terrain Systems, an awkward name for a new Department of Defense program in socio-cultural anthropology.
1964
John Stifler spent last fall teaching in Visakhapatnam, India in the School Year Abroad program. The program has been in existence since the 1960s but just started a new operation in India last fall. He is currently teaching in Sri Lanka for eight months on a Fulbright grant, and will return to his position at the University of Massachusetts in the fall.

1971
Jamie Stifler spent March and April in the Chagos Archipelago teaching and doing research. He reports that it’s one of the most interesting places he has ever been – farther from any inhabited land than any other place in the world. Commercial planes or boats do not serve it. The water and air are 100 percent pollution free, and because it’s almost on the equator, the night skies sparkle with every constellation from the Big Dipper to the Southern Cross.

It’s also a controversial place because the British relocated its entire native population of 1800 persons about 40 years ago in order to create an American satellite tracking station and a nature reserve.

The Archipelago remains an environmental treasure full of rare fish, sea mammals, birds, crabs, and turtles. These same species have been hunted to near extinction in other parts of the world, but they exist in their original populations here.
1981

Chris Stephens is proud to announce that his eldest son Christopher will be reporting to the US Air Force Academy this fall, after he completes ‘boot camp’ this summer. Chris and his wife Sharolyn will remain busy enough, however, with the remaining three children as they head to tenth (2) and third grades.

1982

Steve Anderson, a founding partner of Walker, Tipps & Malone, has become a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, one of the premier legal associations in America. The induction ceremony at which Anderson became a Fellow took place before an audience of approximately 600 during the recent 2009 spring meeting of the College in Fajardo, P.R.

1985

Scott Carey has been named managing partner of the Nashville office of Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz, PC.

1987

Todd Cassetty was just named President of the Nashville Film Festival. He has a TV, video, and film production company here in town called Todd Cassetty Welding Service – www.toddcasetty.com. He is pictured here with Olympic Gold Medalist and Dancing with the Stars winner Shawn Johnson.

Laurie and Steven Hooper had their third child on Oct. 2, 2008. They are blessed to have Lela (6), Cole (5), and now little Katie!

1988

Rob Archer and his wife Kristi just welcomed their third child, Kamrynn Grace, on May 5, 2009. All are doing well in Spokane, Wash.

1991

Charles Israel has been appointed chair of the Department of History at Auburn University; he lives in Auburn with wife Katherine and son John. He has recently published essays on the history of medical and legal education in the South and on the legal history of children’s educational rights in the twentieth century.

1993

Sam Smaldone recently accepted a role with Tate & Lyle as Director of Strategy, Food, and Industrial Ingredients, Europe. He and his wife Denisa will be moving to Luebeck, Germany in July.

Ward Waltemath’s son, Edward Paul Waltemath II, was born October 28, 2008. Edward enjoys learning from his three older sisters and garnering as much attention as possible. Ward and his family are still living in San Francisco but still NOT cheering for the 49ers.

1994

Charlie Thombs and his wife Jen are still living in Milwaukee, Wis. with their three children: Ethan (5), and Molly (3), and Peter (1). They await the birth of their fourth child sometime in June. Charlie recently completed the 2009 Rockman Half IronMan with much support from family and friends.

1995

Joe Martinez is a second year Anesthesiology resident at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

1997

Arun Anandaiah has moved from New York to Bombay, where he joined the Indian corporate law firm Vaish Associates. He plans to spend some time developing an expertise in his primary areas of interest — advising U.S. companies investing in India and Indian companies doing business abroad.

Jake Beesley is working for an interactive production and branding house called Good Corporate Citizen, located in New York City.

Scott Blount graduated Magna Cum Laude from the University of Tennessee College of Law in 2007 while serving as Assistant Women’s Soccer coach. He then went to SMU Cox School of Business to get a Masters in Business Administration (MBA) and just graduated second in his class on May 16, 2009. He has accepted a position with Lancaster Pollard & Co., an investment bank in the health care arena, as a Health Care Associate. He will be moving to Columbus, Ohio to start work on July 14th and will then move to Austin, Tex. within two years to work from the Lancaster Pollard Austin office.

Scott Carey has been named managing partner of the Nashville office of Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz, PC.
2009 has been an exceptionally fruitful year for Adam Lofbomm and his wife Jessica. Together, they recorded a CD, Laughing Tree Lullabies, Volume 1, which was released on May 31. Adam produced a series of 60 photographic works and exhibited them in Seoul, South Korea, where he has been living and working as a voice actor for the past three years. In addition, Adam and Jessica have just set out on a six-month tour of Europe, where they plan to visit good friends, promote their new record, and raise awareness about Nashville-based charity, Sweet Sleep. You can follow their travels and creative work at Lofbomm.com and Laughingtree.org.

Will McInnes, who had been doing high end residential landscaping since 2002, decided to pursue a new career growing organic vegetables at his father’s 70 acre horse farm in Kingston Springs, Tenn. He has just under an acre in production this year and is in the planning phase of expanding to 2.5 to three acres next year. His wife Keli works for the state in water pollution control and watershed management and loves it. They welcome visitors, especially Class of ‘97 guys!

Charlotte and Andrew Ward had their first child on August 9, 2008. Her name is Mary Moulton Ward.

Will Arnold and his wife Becca are celebrating their fifth anniversary this summer. Their son Davis turned two on March 10th and continues to amaze and entertain them daily with new skills and great memories. After six years as a classroom teacher and education researcher in Nashville, Will launched Brain Craft LLC, an education consulting business, this March. Brain Craft focuses on utilizing effective, research-based education tools and techniques to help students learn to their potential. He also will begin working with faculty by leading professional development workshops.

Will is developing as a distance runner, having competed in three Country Music Marathons (2007, 2008, 2009), and two ultramarathons—the 50 km distance of the Dizzy Fifties in Huntsville in November 2007 and the 60 km distance of the inaugural Nashville Ultramarathon in October 2008. His best finish is second place (60 km in 7:09:03) in the Nashville Ultramarathon. He is currently training for the 80 km (50 mi) distance of that race and enjoys running Sewanee’s Perimeter Trail (about 20 mi) as good training.

Phil Berry is now living in Black Mountain, N.C. with his wife Amy and two girls, Lily Eve Berry was born January 2, 2009. Phil is currently the Assistant Director for Ridgecrest Summer Camps and loves living the slow life with his family in the Mountains.

Leland Murphree and his family moved to Birmingham, Ala., where Leland practices law with Maynard Cooper & Gale, P.C. On May 13, 2009, he and his wife Courtney welcomed their second little girl, Lucy Murphree.

1999

Cole Barfield graduated Vanderbilt Medical School in May of 2009. He will begin his residency at Vanderbilt in July.

Jaclyn and Blake Bergeron welcomed their first daughter, Lillian Ruth, on March 29, 2009. They are going to be in Memphis for at least four more years as Blake has one more year of pediatric residency and Jaclyn will be starting residency in medicine/pediatrics.

David McIntosh graduated from Vanderbilt’s Owen Graduate School of Management (full-time MBA program) in May with a concentration in General Management. While at Owen, he served as a Dean’s Scholar and was elected as an Owen Corporate Ambassador.

2000

Brent Burish married Kathryn Camarata on June 5 at Christ the King Church in Nashville. In attendance, standing in the mass were a host of MBA alums, including classmates Jeff Ramsey, Sheetu Jain, and Andrew Thomison, along with brothers from both families who also Rollled Red from other years: Mark Burish (‘98), Andy Camarata (‘98), Tony Camarata (‘04), Will Camarata (‘06), and Vincent Camarata (‘08). The couple resides in Athens, Ga., where Kate is an elementary school teacher and Brent is a hospital administrator.
Tiffany and Bryan Fisher welcomed son Brady Morrell (7 lb 9 oz) on March 7, 2009.

K.B. Parkes graduated from the University of Mississippi School of Dentistry this spring and is going into practice in Nashville with Dr. Gary Waltemath in June. The Web site is www.kbparkesdmd.com.

Katherine Crews and James Pitman 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. James’ brother Andrew Pitman (’05) was also in the wedding party. The couple continues to live in Nashville after the wedding.

Roddy Story just completed his first year at Northwood High School in Pittsboro, N.C. Teaching Civics during the presidential election and coaching the JV Baseball team were two of the many highlights. This summer he plans to learn how to speak Spanish, knit, play the piano, garden, shoot skeet, play bridge, and color within the lines.

2001

Daniel Branscome was recently engaged to his college sweetheart Kimberly Olvey of Orlando, Fla. They will be getting married on September 6 in Hot Springs, Va. They currently live in Washington, D.C. where Daniel is pursuing an MBA at the Robert H. Smith School of Business at Maryland and Kim is an Associate in the Litigation practice with the law firm Covington & Burling.

Nathan Burkhalter recently completed his Masters Degree in Modern Languages at the University of Mississippi. He will be teaching English as a second language at the college level in either Japan or South Korea.

William Floyd graduated in February from Robert Morris College, in Chicago, Ill., with a B.A. in Management. He played Hockey on the ACHA DII team, serving as captain, and is now in graduate school. He will receive an MBA in Management in November 2009.

In February of this year, Michael Osburn relocated to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia as a contract employee with the Center of Excellence for Concrete Research and Testing at King Saud University. He has been serving as a quality assurance engineer for a new multi-billion dollar university strategic project. He can be reached at mosburn@gmail.com if anyone wants to hear more about the experience or simply catch up. The photo above is from a desert trip about 250 km north of Riyadh.

Paul Steele and his wife Jenny had a little girl, Sophie Lyle Steele, on March 4, 2009.

Ross Johnson’s son Brad was born on May 8, 2008 weighing 7 lb 6 oz. Ross currently works in Washington, D.C.

2002


Walt Sharpton plans to move to Chapel Hill, N.C. where he will begin pursuing an MBA at the University of North Carolina’s Kenan-Flagler Business School in the fall.

2003

Brent Collins married Elizabeth Drew Colestock in Athens, Ga. on May 31, 2009. They will be living in Brooklyn, N.Y. where they will be attending graduate school at Pratt Institute in the fall.

Jay Howell has just returned from 15 months in Central and South America where he taught English in Buenos Aires for seven months and then backpacked his way back to the States. He will attend Princeton Theological School in New Jersey this fall.

2004

Taylor Barnett recently commemorated the one-year anniversary of his diagnosis of Stage II testicular cancer. He was diagnosed just a few days before his graduation from Georgetown University last year,
and spent the next summer undergoing surgery and chemotherapy. He finished treatment in the fall and has been in remission since then. In the meantime, he has been working as an interpreter in Nashville and in August will be attending medical school to become a medical oncologist.

Jonathan Gluck graduated from the University of Michigan in December. He will be moving to San Francisco in July to start dental school at the University of the Pacific. He would love for any MBA alums to give him a “holler.” His e-mail is jonathan.m.gluck@gmail.com and his cell is 615-347-0908.

Ted Tywang is moving to New York City for the second time since graduating from college. He is beginning his first year of Columbia Law School in the fall.

2005

Paul Crook was recently awarded a $7500 NCAA post-graduate scholarship based on achievement and distinction in the classroom and as captain of the Washington & Lee Swim team. He was a nine-time All-American, a three-time Academic All-American, and a four-time All-Bluegrass Mountain Conference honoree. Upon graduation, Crook will be attending medical school at the University of Tennessee College of Medicine in Memphis.

Chad Hume graduated Summa Cum Laude from the University of Georgia in May with a double major in Finance and Real Estate. He will soon move to Atlanta to begin working for Roark Capital Group, a private equity firm.

C. J. Hurt recently graduated from Tuskegee University with a degree in Biology and will be attending the University Tennessee at the Memphis School of Pharmacy in the fall.

Derek Pendergrass graduated with college honors from Carnegie Mellon University with a degree in Entertainment Engineering. Derek has accepted a job at Lexington Scenic in L.A. as a technical designer.

2007

Jackson Floyd just completed his sophomore year at Trinity University, where he was named Campus Music Director for the upcoming year. He also has a show on Trinity’s radio station Jazz 91, and works as Web Manager and produces programs for Trinity TV.

2008

Corey Metzman, a University of Pennsylvania freshman, received a Critical Language Scholarship from the U.S. Department of State, which will pay for him to study Arabic in Amman, Jordan for two months this summer. He will spend seven to ten weeks in intensive language institutes this summer in 12 countries where these languages are spoken. The program is part of a wider U.S. government effort to dramatically expand the number of Americans studying and mastering critical-need languages. Participants in the program are expected to continue their language study beyond the scholarship period and apply their critical language skills in their future professional careers.

Columbia freshman outfielder and second baseman Jon Eisen was twice named Ivy League Rookie. The Alumni Baseball team saw a four game winning streak come to an end this year with a 5-5 tie versus the MBA Junior Varsity. This year’s alumni team boasted a youth movement with many of the players just having finished college. However, it was the “Old Guard” that kept the Alums in the game preserving the tie. Alums ranging from ’64-’04 enjoyed the great game, great food, and camaraderie. The Alumni team looks to start a new winning streak in 2010. Check the MBA Web site for details.
Bunyan S. Howell, Jr. (’39) 1921-2009

Bunyan Howell passed away on January 27, 2009. Following MBA, Howell graduated Vanderbilt University. He earned a pilot license while an undergraduate at Vanderbilt. Howell served in the Army Air Corps in World War II. After his military service, he was employed by American Airlines in the (then called) Traffic Department in Nashville. Later, he served as a Division Sales Manager for Tennessee Products and Chemical in Nashville. Howell was a founding partner of Plateau Inc. and Vice-President of Manufacturing of Charcoal Briquette in Cookville, Tenn. He served as a Director of Plateau and Cullman Metalcraft of Cullman, Ala. Howell was President of Nashboro Record Co. and a Director of Ernie’s Record Mart, the parent company. He also served as Vice-President of Sales for Hickory Specialties of Brentwood, Tenn., as well as an affiliate broker with Folk-Jordan Real Estate. Howell was a member of Belmont Heights Baptist Church and a charter member of Hillwood Country Club. Howell is survived by his daughter Nancy Irene Howell, and son Stephen Thomas (Janet Nichols) Howell.

Samuel H. Howell (’42) 1924-2009

Capt. Charles Daniel Summitt (’42) 1924-2009

Dan Summitt died January 1, 2009 in St. Petersburg, Fla. Summitt attended Vanderbilt and Georgia Tech before graduating from the United States Naval Academy in 1947. In 1958 Summitt invented and received a patent for a safer boatswain’s chair which came to be known as the “Summitt Chair.” On July 21, 1962, a nuclear powered submarine, USS Seadragon, (based in the Pacific and commanded by Summitt) met the USS Skate (based in the Atlantic) under the polar ice cap and the two made history as they surfaced together through a hole in the ice cap.

Summitt served as aide to Admiral Hyman Rickover (father of the nuclear navy) from 1963-64. Summitt retired from the navy in 1974. Summitt’s Book, Tales of a Cold War Submariner, was published by Texas A&M University in 2004.

Summitt was survived by his wife June; two sons — Charles Daniel Summitt, Jr. (Marie) and Stephen Dickson Summitt; two grandchildren; step daughters — Cecelia Strange (Michael Snider) and Sherry Ailing; and two step-grandchildren.

Fred R. Webber (’42) 1924-2009

Fred Webber died peacefully May 6, 2009 after a short illness. He served in World War II, surviving the Battle of the Bulge in the winter of 1944. Upon his return, he attended Vanderbilt University, graduating in 1949. Soon thereafter he entered the residential real estate development business. Hillwood Estates was the first of his many developments, which included Laurel Ridge, Sugartree, Whitehall, Abbotsford, and Hidden River. One of his greatest joys was the development of Rock Island Farms in McMinnville, Tenn. Webber was a member of the Nashville Board of Realtors, West End United Methodist Church, Belle Meade Country Club, and Cheekwood Botanical Gardens and Fine Arts Center.

He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Anne Harrison; his daughters, Julia Webber Gildemeister (Thomas ’72) and India Manning Webber; and his four grandchildren including Walter Brownlee White (’04) and Frederick Webber White (’04).

Benjamin C. Robinson (’44) 1926-2009

Benjamin Robinson died April 13, 2009. Robinson joined the US Navy immediately after graduating from Montgomery Bell Academy, and was assigned to the USS Alabama for the duration of World War II.

He graduated from Vanderbilt University, where he played Varsity Basketball and was a member of Phi Delta Theta Fraternity. A self-employed manufacturer’s rep for 50 years, he was past President of the Toy Manufacturers Assoc., served on the Nashville YMCA Board of Directors, and was a longtime member of the Destin, Fla. Chamber of Commerce, where he was a Charter Member of the Emerald Coast Sister Cities la francaise.

Survivors include his wife of 31 years, Diane; sons — Ben, Jr., and Wade (Susan); step-children, Elizabeth Burton and William Burton, Jr.; three grandchildren; his brother E. Miller Robinson (’41) (Jane); sisters — Elizabeth Lacock, Margaret Hart (Joseph), and Sarah Prince Sparks; and sisters-in-law, Linda Fraise (Garry), Karen Waldman (Kenneth), and Cheryl Robens (CW); together with numerous beloved nieces and nephews.

Nelson C. Andrews (’45) 1927-2009

Nelson Andrews passed away June 13, 2009. At MBA, Andrews played every sport, and was MVP of his football team in the All Star game which was the forerunner of the Clinic Bowl. He established the school paper, The Bell Ringer, and was its first editor. He graduated as Valedictorian. Nelson volunteered for service in the Army to begin at graduation (and was planning to go to war) when he was ordered to the U.S. Military Academy. There he was ranked first in his class in military matters, and second scholastically. He also played for two years on West Point’s undefeated national champion football team. He also played several other sports, rang the Carillon, sang in the choir, and set the record with his marksmanship in riflery. Andrews won the academy title of the Best of the Cadets in Physical Condition. However, knowing that he didn’t want the life of a military man, he resigned in 1947 and again returned to Nashville with a scholarship to play football for Vanderbilt. There he was injured in the first day of fall practice, and refused the job of water boy, which cost him his scholarship. He paid his way through college with savings from previous jobs, supplemented by forming a hillbilly band (the Tennessee Dew Drops) and by playing poker.

Andrews began his career in Nashville at the A.J. Smith Company. He was the president and Chairman of the Board for McClures Department Stores, and also the founder and Chairman of the Board of Brookside Properties, one of the most successful real estate firms in the Southeast. Andrews served as president of the Junior Chamber of Commerce, and later the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce. He was a leading force in the community for public education.

He was a strong advocate for early childhood education. Many organizations were formed to benefit public education using his ideas and leadership. He committed his life to improving education, from preschool to graduate school, from inner-city schools to private universities. In 1984 he began his nine-year tenure as Chairman of the Tennessee State Board of Education. He was the founder of the Nashville Alliance for Public Education and later received its highest honor for service to public education, as well as the TEA Friend of Education award.

His favorite creation was Leadership Nashville, which integrated his passion for leadership, community, virtue, and service. He also founded the Vanderbilt Children’s Hospital, Nashville’s Better Business Bureau, the Canby Robinson Society, and the Davidson Group. He chaired the Tennessee Tax
IN MEMORIAM

Richard W. Carpenter ('51)
1933-2009

Richard Carpenter, 75, of Greenville, Ohio died March 28, 2009. Following MBA, Carpenter attended Vanderbilt University and received a B.A. in political science in 1955. Upon graduation he served as an officer in the US Navy from 1955-1958. After leaving the Navy, he attended medical school at Vanderbilt, graduating in 1962. He married Judith Troyer of Indianapolis in 1962, and eventually settled in Morehead, Ky. where he founded the Morehead Clinic in 1971. He started the first cardiac-rehab program in Morehead. Carpenter practiced internal medicine in Morehead for 25 years, before moving to Maryland in 1992. He resided in Maryland and practiced addiction medicine there until 2007, when he moved to Greenville to be closer to his family.

Carpenter is survived by his wife, Wendy Carpenter Hess (Courtney), Rachel Carpenter Zakelj (John), Chris Carpenter (Eun Jung Kim), and Sam Carpenter (Alison); six grandchildren; and two brothers – William F. Carpenter (Alison); and John A. Carpenter ('58).

Robert L. Rippy ('51)
1933-2009

Robert Rippy died March 15, 2009. Rippy attended Vanderbilt and Tennessee Tech. He retired after 41 years as purchasing agent for MDHA. He was a loyal member of the BMA Club and the Cope-Simpkins Sunday School class.

Survivors include his wife of 31 years, Jean Rippy; sons – Robert Elkin Rippy (Gwen), Jeffery Lanier Rippy (Karen), John Rogers Rippy (Lisa); daughters – Gayle Rippy Sgarlata (Mike) and Sara Rippy Ingram; step-son Ryan Casparis; and 12 grandchildren, including Aaron Barrett ('09).

Barry A. Heller ('80)
1962-2006

Barry Heller passed away Feb. 27, 2006. Following MBA, he was a graduate Magna Cum Laude of Tennessee Tech as a mechanical engineer. He was employed by Teledyne Firth Sterling and Stellram for 17 years. He served as vice-president and general manager of Stellram Europe, residing first in Switzerland and later in Germany. Upon his resignation from Stellram in 2001, Mr. Heller became an independent adjuster for Pacesetter Claims Service.

He is survived by his daughter, Lynzi Heller; mother and stepfather, Patricia and Robert Zanone; fiancé Karin Hobmaier; sister, Barbara (Roger) Thor; brothers, Robert (Nancy) Heller, David (Ann) Heller, Dan (Vicki) Heller, Kerry (Jeanie) Heller, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Lucas L. Carter ('07)
1988-2009

Lucas Carter, 20, passed away on March 7, 2009. At MBA Carter served as student body vice president, was a member of the football and basketball teams, and was very involved with Special Olympics. Following MBA, he matriculated to the University of Tennessee in Knoxville.

Carter is survived by his parents, Nicole Mathews-Watkins (Shawney) and David Carter (Annette); twin brother Lance Lamar Carter; sisters, D. LaShan Mathews, Holly Ann Carter, and Taylin D. Watkins; and grandparents — William Carter, Martha Moore (Moses), and Diane Washington.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Thomas L. Cummings Jr.
1920-2009

Thomas Cummings, 89, passed away peacefully on January 26, 2009 at home. He was a graduate of Vanderbilt University and served in WWII. He retired as a Colonel and as Deputy Wing Commander of the Tennessee Air National Guard. In 1946, he formed Cummings Inc., The International Sign Service. He served as a Board Director for United Tennessee Bank Shares, Nashville City Bank, and Dominion Bank, where he served as chairman of the executive committee for 17 years. He was active in the community, serving on the Boards of Boy Scouts of America, The YMCA, The Chamber of Commerce, The Nashville Symphony, and Cheekwood. He served as a trustee for Harpeth Hall School, Ensworth School, Montgomery Bell Academy, Montreat Anderson College, and King College. He founded the Nashville United Givers Fund (currently known as the United Way of Metropolitan Nashville).

Cummings is survived by his children— Tammy Cummings Haggard, Tina Cummings Huggins, Thomas Leon Cummings III ('72) (Mary Ella), and Timothy James Cummings, Sr. ('74); and his eight grandchildren, including David Stratton Huggins IV ('95) (Kimmie), and James Gregory Huggins ('97); and two great grandchildren.

W. Dortch Oldham
1919-2009

Dortch Oldham, 89, died peacefully with his family by his side on February 26, 2009. At age 16, Oldham hitchhiked to Nashville with only a few dollars in his pocket, having heard about the possibility of selling bibles door to door for the Southwestern Company. He eventually worked his way to President and majority owner of the company. Along the way, Oldham fought in WWII.

Bernard S. Elam ('47)
1927-2009

Bernard Elam passed away February 20, 2009. Elam was a dedicated servant and communicant of St. George’s Episcopal Church. He and his family were grateful for the opportunity of employment at Sanders Manufacturing Company, where he worked until his retirement. Elam was a member of the Sertoma Club and the Nashville Boosters. He is survived by his brother Dr. Roy O. Elam, Jr. ('38) and 12 nieces and nephews.

Structure Study Commission and Blue Cross-Blue Shield of Tennessee. Trustee Emeritus of Vanderbilt, he also served in various capacities for Belmont and David Lipscomb Universities. He served on the board of the Vanderbilt Medical Center since 1964. Andrews received numerous community commendations and honors, the latest of which is Nashvillian of the Year by the Easter Seals Tennessee. Andrews was a member of the MBA Board of Trustees, and was selected as the school’s Distinguished Alumnus in 1997. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Susan Adams Andrews: daughters Susan Toy Andrews (Randall), Judith Ann Andrews; sons Nelson Carter, Jr. ('72) (Nanette), Adam “Lep” Gillespie Andrews (Tami), Frank ('82) (Denise); sisters-in-law Evalina Harwell Andrews and Faith Adams Young. He is also survived by 21 nieces and nephews.

The Hill • SPRING/SUMMER 2009

BBA Board of Trustees

Class News

Spring/Summer 2009
Superman. I first heard that from Lee Noel, who (like a lot of people) could never figure out how Daddy managed to appear in so many places at once, and accomplish so much at each place.

Superman. Jerry Williams likes to say that Daddy is Leadership Nashville’s Superman.

Superman. He couldn’t resist taking time off from Leadership Heaven to play one last practical joke. [ed note: The power had gone out in the church.]

One of the things you might not realize about a kid growing up as Superboy, is that Superman never had any reason to fear anything; and, quite naturally, that led to a lot of crazy stuff happening. Like dumping boxes of 45 caliber bullets into furnaces all over the neighborhood to see what would happen — at the age of five; or firing a blunderbuss full of powder and steel through three houses at once at the age of 15.

Superboy’s favorite uncle was General Frank Maxwell Andrews, who in World War II became the Supreme Commander of the US Forces in Europe, before dying in a plane crash. Uncle Maxwell was among the first guys to prove it was possible to fly a plane without being able to see out the window. Daddy soaked up his bravery and courage, and Uncle Maxwell set the bar high for how far Superboy would go in making the world a better place.

As Superboy, Daddy grew up in San Francisco, where he was the only kid on the block who ever announced he could climb one of those impossibly steep San Francisco streets on a 35-pound one-speed bicycle. He did it, but he wrapped his spleen around his other internal organs in the process. The doctors couldn’t believe he survived the blood loss.

Who else but Superboy would have a wildcat as a house pet?

Having no fear meant our Superboy at the age of 16 was working out of the docks of San Francisco in a deep sea divers’ suit, pulling dead bodies out of the bay by day and brawling in bars at night. When he saw a sling full of steel falling from a crane, he tackled three dock hands into the water just in time to save them from the deadly falling metal.

Superboy may have become Superman when he fell 200 feet straight down a sheer cliff face, breaking Lord knows how many bones. The doctors didn’t know they were dealing with Superman, so they assumed he would die.

Of course, the docs didn’t know this was at least his 24th trip to the hospital after an accident. Others had included (in chronological order) being attacked by a swarm of hornets; coming out second best in a tussle with a very large iguana; doing the splits while walking on top of a picket fence; a bad dog bite; a swing accident when a limb broke; a broken hand from the recoil from the crank of a large motor; the chain breaking on a bike (no brakes); shirt caught on fire; rabid-dog bite; doing the splits while walking on top of a picket fence; a bad dog bite; a swing accident when a limb broke; a broken hand from the recoil from the crank of a large motor; a 500-pound bomb dropping on his feet and breaking all ten toes; a soap box car accident caused when his brother reversed the steering mechanism; landing on the back of his head from a six foot fall to concrete; his brother (again) removing the bolts from the bicycle wheel; a 20-penny nail impaling the foot; shrapnel from exploding soda bottles; serious sunburn; being sucked through a dam; a swing accident when a limb broke; a 500-pound bomb dropping on his feet and breaking all ten toes; and trying to stop a runaway cart full of fire bricks and hitting an acid vat in the process. You just couldn’t make this stuff up.

Superboy always had a twinkle in his eye, was invariably happy and polite, and never, ever took credit for his exploits. When people asked him how he stayed so happy, he’d reply, “Costs no more!”

Somewhere along the way, our Superman’s slogan became, “If you’re gonna be stupid, you better be tough.”

As our Superman became a man, he found himself playing for two years in the most storied backfield in college football history at West Point, where his team won two national championships, and the two other guys in the backfield with him both won Heisman trophies. I wasn’t there, of course, but I can just imagine the cornfed awe shucks attitude our Superman had about his exploits, even though in my imagination he was faster than a speeding bullet, more powerful than a locomotive, and, yes, able to leap tall buildings with a single bound.

Superdaddy always had a twinkle in his eye, was invariably happy and polite, and never, ever took credit for his exploits. When people asked him how he stayed so happy, he’d reply, “Costs no more!”

>>>
Daddy always liked to brag that when he met my mom, his Lois Lane, he suddenly stopped doing stupid and dangerous things all the time. He claims he resolved then to use his superpowers for the benefit of humanity. I can’t really comment on that except to say that when he married my mom, he committed whole hog to his job as a husband and daddy, and things were never dull around here.

You always had to wonder how Superman turned up in so many places. While working his first job as a lumberman at A. J. Smith Company, Daddy played guitar and sang duets with Eddy Arnold, and his Tennessee Dew Drops played a thousand square dances.

Our Superman, who flew with a helicopter instead of a cape, lived by an inviolate code of conduct, which was pretty easy to discern.

Daddy believed with all his heart that you never lost when you gave something away, and his life was a real testimony to that...his first thought was always, “What can I contribute? What can I do to brighten this person's day?”

Rule one, page one of Daddy’s code was clearly: “Act with integrity.” Like Superman, Daddy followed a strong moral compass without compromise, without any consideration for his own comfort or needs. No amount of hardship, no amount of pain, no amount of adversity could make him act against his homespun values.

Rule two was: “Show up.” In all his speeches on leadership, Daddy never talked about the power of showing up, but until his dying day he showed up. I think he must have had X-Ray vision, too, because Daddy always saw opportunities to show up that others just couldn’t see.

If he thought he should be somewhere and help somebody, he got himself there, no matter what. In a lot of ways, Daddy was like a preacher who always heard the calling of his flock. His flock was our community, and if he thought he could possibly contribute something, he would show up and rise to the occasion.

Rule three was: “Do your best.” It didn’t matter if it was a racquetball game, a job, a civic responsibility, or being a husband and dad—whatever he did, he did it to the absolute best of his ability. There were no days off. No half-hearted efforts. No lapses of concentration.

He loved any form of competition, delighting in how victory would go to the surefist, the cleverest, and the most committed. He may have appeared to be laid back on the outside, but inside, he was always bringing his “A” game. He did his best.

Rule four for Daddy was: “Stay positive.” Like Superman, Daddy never felt any doubt as to the outcome. He was the original mind-over-matter guy. It didn’t matter how bad things got. He was always upbeat, confident, and steely-eyed. All of his children marveled at how he could totally dictate how he felt. He made up his mind about how he was going to feel about something, and that’s how he felt.

There were a lot of corollaries to his “Be positive” credo. Daddy always saw the absolute best in everyone—no matter who they were or how they acted. I heard him say a thousand times growing up, “If you don’t have something nice to say, don’t say anything at all.” He followed that rule publicly and privately. He never complained. He accepted whatever life threw at him with complete equanimity.

Daddy’s bulletproof “be positive” attitude would get him into all kinds of scrapes, because he was generally incapable of acknowledging pain. I’ll never forget being in the hospital room with him when his gall bladder was rupturing. All he would say was, “I’ve felt better, but I’ve hurt a lot worse.” When the doctors opened him up and saw the mess inside, they were incredulous. They couldn’t believe he hadn’t passed out from the pain or begged them to do something to stop it. Daddy wouldn’t admit to himself or anyone else that the situation was dire, and he had to become Superman once again just to pull through.

Daddy’s fifth rule, at least as far as I could tell, was “Make something happen.” No matter what the situation was, there was always room to make it better, and, by golly, he was gonna stir the pot and make something happen. Start something up. Be, as he loved to say, the raspberry seed under the wisdom tooth.

Like Clark Kent, Daddy was a writer, and he loved to take a complex topic (whether it be improving education, reforming our tax structure, or leadership) and reduce it to a few simple but profound observations. Then, with his cape snapping in the breeze, he could convince just about anyone to follow his lead, all the while believing they had been the leaders.

For Daddy, stirring the pot was as fun as it got, and it left a lot of room for mischief. Wouldn’t it be fun to set off firecrackers under the outhouse or drop limburger cheese into the radiator in school? Hey, why walk when you could be riding a unicycle? He stirred the pot.

Daddy’s sixth and final rule was “Be a giver.” Daddy believed with all his heart that you never lost when you gave something away, and his life was a real testimony to that. In every challenge he saw and with every person he met, his first thought was always, “What can I contribute? What can I do to brighten this person’s day? How can I help out?” I never, ever saw him act out of a selfish agenda. He was simply incapable of putting his own needs first. Have integrity. Show up. Do your best. Stay positive. Make something happen. Be a giver. All simple rules; and most of us can live them most of the time. But what made Daddy unique is that he was tough enough, strong enough, and committed enough to live them to the fullest minute of every day. No exceptions. No excuses. No complaints.

As a result, our man of steel had an incredibly full life, showing up everywhere at once, helping out, and making as many friends as one person could possibly make in a lifetime, as the presence of all of you eloquently attests. Daddy built community, and it’s only appropriate that before he moves on to whatever is next, we all take a moment to thank him for bringing us together yet again.

Daddy had a business history speech that I heard him give at least 25 times, and every time would be a virtuoso performance, as he decided which bits to leave in and what to take out on the fly. However, he always ended the speech the same way, saying, “What’s next? Don’t know; but I can’t wait to find out.”

“What’s next? Dunno, but I can’t wait to find out.”
married the former Lenore Huebner, his loving wife for over 60 years, and grew the Southwestern Company to over 5,000 salespeople at its peak.

Perhaps most importantly, Oldham counseled hundreds of young men as they began their business careers, and helped motivate and encourage them throughout their lives. On many occasions, he pointed to his mentoring and his life-long friendships with the “book boys” as his greatest achievement in life.

Oldham met and greeted every President from Lyndon Johnson to George H.W. Bush, ran for Governor of Tennessee in 1974, chaired the Republican Party of Tenn., served as President of the Nashville Chamber of Commerce, and chaired the boards of the YMCA, the Salvation Army, and several other charitable organizations. He served on the Board of Trustees of the University of Richmond and Montgomery Bell Academy, and as an Elder at Westminster Presbyterian Church.

The Oldham Scholars at the University of Richmond and the University of Tennessee-Knoxville were established to benefit students who might otherwise not be able to afford an education.

Oldham is survived by his wife “Sis” and five sons — Dortch (‘68) (Carol), Greg (Anne), Peter (‘74) (Kim), Danny (‘75) (Laurie), and Mark (‘83) (Sharon). He is also survived by 13 grandchildren, including Drew Oldham (‘02), and Houston Oldham (‘09); and by one great-grandchild.
Entering seventh grade, you do not realize how small you are, how little you know. Grade school is a stifling place of single-file lines and assigned seats, conducive to no discovery but that prescribed on a lesson plan. Surrounded by kids your own height and pitch of voice, you little wonder what heights your experience fails to reach.

First period, seventh grade. The doorway to Mrs. Libby Bourland’s classroom was, in a broader sense, our entrance to MBA—a Leviathan to ones so small—and Mrs. Bourland was there to greet us. Raised in Nashville, a graduate of Harpeth Hall, Mrs. Bourland was deeply imbued with a sense of the school’s community. Welcoming us to her English class, she welcomed us to that larger community.

My most enduring memory of that class is its expansiveness. Near the beginning of the year, we were assigned a Power Point presentation. “How are we supposed to bring it in?” I asked. “With a floppy drive?”

Mrs. Bourland stared at me blankly. “Of course. How else?”

It seems simple, but no teacher had ever expected me to act so independently. Mrs. Bourland’s goal was never to discipline and stifle; she urged us to grow and gave us the space to do so freely. We acted out scenes and wrote poetry. We were as often in front of the class as in our seats. In the wake of the 2005 tsunamis, Matt Bracy suggested we hold a dodgeball tournament to raise money to send around the globe with the Red Cross; Mrs. Bourland backed our efforts all the way. Our world expanded.

In giving us space, Mrs. Bourland made sure not to throw up personal walls; she never aimed to threaten or intimidate. She sang *Rich Girl* and knew the words to *Grillz*, played along with April Fool’s jokes and threw a Christmas party. She was fun, lively, and personable.

Mrs. Bourland’s class started our careers at MBA—a period of exponential growth for us all. Now in our junior year, we are members of Totomoi, Cum Laude, and the King Society; participants in football, lacrosse, swimming, basketball, golf, tennis, track, theater, and debate; leaders in the African-American Studies Club, the Service Club, FCA, the German Club, Science Olympiad, Archives, and *The Bell Ringer*; Gentlemen, Scholars, Athletes.

We thank Mrs. Bourland for teaching us, encouraging us, and never limiting our experience. We thank her for laying the foundation not only of our knowledge but also of our desire to expand that knowledge. In that way, her influence will never leave us.

*In perpetuum,* Mrs. Bourland, *ave et vale.*
IN THE A&D OFFICE’S CONTINUING EFFORTS TO BOTH KEEP YOU INFORMED AND LIMIT OUR IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT, WE ARE DISTRIBUTING MORE AND MORE OF OUR MATERIALS ELECTRONICALLY. IN ORDER TO BE SURE THAT YOU CONTINUE TO RECEIVE MATERIALS SUCH AS THE MONTHLY ALUMNI CALENDAR AND ALUMNI E-NEWS — AS WELL AS MBA’S ANNUAL REPORT THIS FALL — WE NEED TO MAKE SURE ALL OF YOUR INFORMATION (ESPECIALLY YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS) IS UP TO DATE.

IF YOUR INFORMATION HAS CHANGED RECENTLY, PLEASE LET VICKI MAYHEW (VICKI.MAYHEW@MONTGOMERYBELL.EDU) KNOW SO THAT SHE CAN UPDATE OUR DATABASE. IF YOU HAVE FORGOTTEN YOUR ALUMNI LOG IN INFORMATION FOR MONTGOMERYBELL.EDU, PLEASE CONTACT MIKE MARTIN (’98) (MIKE.MARTIN@MONTGOMERYBELL.EDU) FOR DETAILS ON HOW TO CONNECT.