The end of the school year always brings with it much to celebrate, and this year was no exception. 2009-2010 saw MBA shine in every facet, with multiple athletic championships, unrivaled academic achievements, and an impressive college matriculation. All these achievements, however, were tempered by the sadness of losing Malith Wiek, a beloved member of the MBA staff who was killed in late April. Malith, who was featured in The Hill last year with the other members of the MBA Maintenance Department, escaped war and violence in the Sudan and was building a new life in the United States.

His sudden death was a shock to the entire school, particularly to the senior class, many of whom had formed deep friendships with the 6’7” giant. In the wake of his death, several students helped with his lunchroom duties, and a memorial was erected on campus to allow individuals to say their goodbyes, and the seniors wore handkerchiefs at Commencement to honor Malith. At a celebration of Malith’s life and the people he touched, David Norton, the school’s director of plant operations, offered the following tribute to his friend:

We are here today to honor the memory of Malith Wiek, also known as Malit, Malick, Malicke, or just Tiny. When we butchered his name, he would just smile and say “Mr. David, it’s okay; it’s all me!”

He went from being a Lost Boy of Sudan and giving up everything we take for granted: home, family, country, freedom. When he escaped and came to America, he regained those things.

Lost, and found.

After coming to America he came to work at MBA. He spoke little English and was hesitant to converse. He often misunderstood instructions. But he worked to improve his language skills by watching old sitcoms on TV Land and listening to talk radio, and was enrolled until the end in English classes. I knew he had gained confidence when he telephoned me for the first time. It took me a minute to realize who was calling me with such rapid-fire speech. I had to stop him and tell him to slow down. Speak Southern.

But it was his broad smile and engaging laugh that made that big body shake that was his best communication tool, winning over all he came into contact with. I cannot honestly remember an encounter with Malith where he did not smile and laugh.

Lost, and found.

When he arrived in Nashville he struggled to get around because he did not know how to drive. After coming to work at MBA I had arranged to pick him up one morning at the house where he was staying in West Nashville. I arrived at the house only to find that Malith had already left, walking to MBA. I followed his likely route until I saw him, running down White Bridge Road. After he got in the car he told me that in Sudan he ran everywhere, many times running more than 60 miles in a day. When he came to work one Monday morning proudly flashing a new license, we were skeptical. Somehow over the weekend he had ended up with a driver’s license—from Kansas!

He bought a car and proceeded to run into or over everything. He almost took out a gas station and pumps. He hit my van with the golf cart. Twice! But he was determined to get better. And through practice he improved his skill to the point that he could move the buses back to the shed at night. And he coached Ambachew on how to drive the gator, patiently working with him until he gained confidence.

Lost, and found.

We thought it would be fun to get him to dunk a basketball. He could reach up and place the ball in the goal, but when we told him to jump he seemed not to move. He had a vertical leap measured in centimeters! Because of his height he had always been able to grasp what he was reaching for and never learned how to jump. And he did that here: grasping all he reached for, one goal at a time.

Lost, and found.

He was keenly interested in everyone here and delighted at your accomplishments. There was not a bigger fan of MBA anywhere. He deeply cared for “his boys.” When asked if he missed his native country and family, he replied: “I have my community and my church and MBA. MBA is now my family.”

And now he has been taken from our midst.

Lost, but only to us.

And found, for the very last time.

Keep on smiling, Malith!

To celebrate Malith’s life, a garden is planned in his honor as a part of the school’s new entrance off Wilson Avenue.
GENTLEMAN SCHOLAR ATHLETE
07 ALUMNI DAYS
Alums from the 0’s and 5’s head back to The Hill

48 SERVICE CHAMPIONS
Mike Martin (’98) takes a look at alumni who are MVP’s in their fields of service work.

45 MBA THEN AND NOW
Nina Thomas compares teachers shared by fathers and sons.

52 THE REINVENTION OF STEVE JOHNSON
Nina Thomas interviews Steve Johnson (’69) about facing life-changing success.
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Montgomery Bell Academy admits quality students of any race, color, religion, national, or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school.

ON THE COVER
The Class of 2010 celebrates their graduation from The Hill.

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER
The Hill - SPRING/SUMMER 2010
Sixty-six different colleges from Stanford to Oxford University in England. Four state athletic championships (the most in any year in the modern era of sports within the TSSAA). State championships in both Science Olympiad and the Envirothon competition. Two snow days in one year (twice the number of snow days in the past 16 years) and one flood day! These statistics reflect remarkable numbers for the 2009-2010 school year. It was by any account an exceptional and rewarding year at MBA.

One of the proudest moments for me in this school year was the senior college essay competition. The competition in itself was impressive, but even more meaningful was the reason and inspiration behind the event. Steven Bess ('95) wanted to honor former Headmaster Douglas Paschall, his English teacher, by sponsoring a significant prize for the best college essay. That care, remembrance, and insight into improving education and college admissions all meant a great deal to me.

Another amazing part of this school year was MBA's work with the city of Nashville and our neighbors. As most of you know by now, we purchased the last house on Brighton Road and successfully earned the confidence of the neighborhood to incorporate that area into the MBA campus. We plan to enhance both our surrounding neighborhood and the MBA community. This development will have a huge impact on MBA in the 21st century. Just as importantly, this change signals significant improvements and stronger relationships between MBA and the communities surrounding our campus. I am proud of that important alliance.

We had another wonderful year in admissions for new students. Our Admission Office continues to work with students from over 40 different schools in Middle Tennessee. We are forging relationships with many great friends and educators, and developing long-term bonds that will strengthen our school. Our music department has formed new a capella groups that have enlivened the campus. The video technology at MBA is abundant, and friends of the school can now catch a more immediate and realistic glimpse of life at MBA through the Media Library on our website.

The exchange programs at MBA have blossomed in six different countries: England, Australia, South Africa, New Zealand, Greece, and China. Additionally, we are sending 25 students abroad each summer to learn Spanish, German, French, and Chinese, and to gain greater insights about classical languages through a new scholarship program from the David K. Wilson bequest.

MBA's initial developments at Long Mountain should be realized by the fall of 2010 with the completion of our new observatory. Members of the MBA community will be able to visit our property, enjoy the lake and new fields, and enjoy the views from the observatory.

One of the best accomplishments, in my opinion, at MBA in recent years has been the strengthening of our Advisory Program. We meet daily with our advisees to develop personal bonds — to know and to care for our boys in greater ways. We believe we have distinguished the school through our academic and extracurricular programs, and we also want to be known for the ways in which we care for our boys as people, forming lifelong bonds between teachers and students.

This early June afternoon as I was walking across the campus, I saw one of our recent graduates who (along with ten other MBA students) had just returned from the Tennessee School for the Blind. I am grateful for the ways in which students serve others both on this campus and beyond Harding Road. I continue to be amazed by the ways in which students like Fitz Lassing achieve so much in and out of the classroom. His recognition as the top high school football scholar-athlete in Middle Tennessee highlights the ways in which MBA's renaissance men broaden the landscape of academics and sports. Reading The Tennessean's recent profile of Joshua Liang reinforces not only my pride for this brilliant young scientist headed to the Wharton School at Penn, but also strengthens my resolve to develop within young men the kind of care Joshua has exhibited for his mother during her trials with breast cancer. Working with Rob Higham the past two years — realizing the ways in which he has built significant relationships with the Burundi community in Nashville, and transformed his injuries in athletics into a focus on service — has inspired me to push our young men to greater understanding and appreciation of the world around them — to balance the strength of the statistics of my first paragraph with men of care and character.
The MBA Alumni Board is pleased to welcome 22 new members to its ranks. The new members are:

Tom Corcoran ('63)
Randy LaGasse ('63)
Frank Bass ('64)
Butch Hoover ('65)
Ted Moats ('66)
John Cheadle ('71)
Chase Cole ('72)
David McClellan ('75)
Wilson Robinson ('76)
Lyle Beasley ('77)
Jeff Haynes ('78)
Martin Brown ('82)
Dawson Thombs ('85)
Steve Mason ('86)
Chris Burch ('87)
Trey Harwell ('88)
Chris Cigarran ('89)
Robert Echols ('91)
Drew Healy ('91)
Hunter Connelly ('92)
Ryan Tyrell ('92)
Bo Bartholomew ('92)

The Young Alumni Board has added 14 new members:

James Gunn ('96)
Matt Beasley ('97)
Max Fuller ('97)
Morgan Hillenmeyer ('97)
John Ozier ('98)
Johnny Rich ('98)
Noble Judy ('99)
Jared Averbuch ('00)
Chase Breland ('00)
Mark McDonald ('00)
K.B. Parkes ('00)
Will Denbo ('02)
Will Howorth ('02)

The Advisory Board has added eight new members:

Arthur Hiller ('72)
Whit Holcomb ('72)
Jay Bradford ('90)
Leighton Thomas ('90)
Richard Fitzgerald ('91)
Bradley Coburn ('95)
Michael Pass ('92)
Deke Shearon ('92)

Rock Morphis has been selected to join the MBA Board of Trustees. Morphis co-founded Heritage Group, LLC in 1986 and has served as a Managing Director of the firm since its inception. Heritage Group is an investment and advisory firm, which focuses on early stage healthcare opportunities. Over the past 24 years, he has served in numerous executive positions within Heritage Group’s portfolio of companies.

Since 2008, Morphis has served as Chairman of US Radiosurgery, LLC. The company develops and operates stereotactic radiosurgery centers in partnership with hospitals and radiation oncologists throughout the U.S. From 1995-2004, he served as Chairman, President, and CEO of Heritage Health Systems, Inc. HHS, through its subsidiaries, operates as a managed care organization and focuses primarily on the Medicare Advantage market throughout the U.S. The company was acquired by a public company in 2004.

From 1992-1995, Morphis served as Chairman, President, and CEO of Surgical Health Corporation, a company engaged in the development and management of outpatient surgery centers. After acquiring and developing 37 ambulatory surgery centers in the U.S., the Company was acquired by a public company in 1995.

Additionally, Morphis has served on the Boards of numerous business and civic organizations and as an advisor to many corporate clients of Heritage Group.

Morphis is a graduate of the University of Tennessee. He and his wife Linda have three children – Kathleen, Ellen, and John ('12).
Alums from the 0’s and 5’s returned to The Hill as MBA played host to Alumni Days and Reunion Weekend at the end of April. The reuniting classes from 1960, 1965, 1970, 1975, 1980, 1985, 1990, 1995, 2000, and 2005 (along with party-goers from non-reuniting classes) enjoyed a bevy of activities throughout the weekend.

The Dinner Dance on Friday night, which began with reuniting class cocktail parties, was preceded by the Distinguished Alumnus reception honoring Mr. Jake Wallace (’48). Alums caught up with each other as the campus buzzed with activity from soccer, to tennis, to student One-Act plays. Pat Patrick (’65) and the Pat Patrick Band once again provided the musical entertainment for the night as couples and friends danced into the late evening.

On Saturday, the rains dampened the school grounds, but not the spirit of the alums who graduated 50 or more years ago, as the Class of 1960 hosted the Gold Lunch. Reunion Chair Jimmy Pickle (’60) welcomed the crowd and shared stories from half a century ago. A tour of the Frist Center (led by MBA Fine Arts Chair Jim Womack) added a cultural experience to the reunion activities.
Consistent with the order of MBA’s credo of gentleman, scholar, athlete, J. Bransford (Jake) Wallace (’48) is first and foremost a gentleman: courteous, considerate, and unassuming. He is a man who values family and friendship above his professional accomplishments. When asked which of his many awards he treasures most, “Father of the Year” would likely be his reply. “It makes me feel great,” he says. “Every father aspires to be thought of in this way.”

Having lost his former wife early in their marriage, Wallace was determined to maintain stability for his children. He and his wife Anne have done just that, having built a strong family life together with their six children. His dedication to family extends far beyond, to his many friends as well. He has been a lifelong friend to MBA, and is committed to the future development of the school. He appreciates and supports MBA’s plan for managing growth and is considered a torchbearer for the current capital campaign.

As chairman emeritus of Willis Corporation, Wallace understands growth and development, having directed the company’s global retail operations. He began his career in 1954 with Bransford, Sharp & Co., which, after a series of mergers, became part of Willis Corroon, a global insurance broker with over 300 offices in 100 countries. The level of achievement he has enjoyed in his career is commensurate with his level of humility: he is as unassuming as he is accomplished.

MBA has always been one of Wallace’s favorite places, and influences. When asked to speak at graduation a number of years ago, he accepted that challenge as one of the greatest honors in his life. When he was asked to lead the current Capital Campaign at Montgomery Bell Academy, he accepted that leadership position with grace, humility, and the hunger to help MBA achieve everything it could. Wallace is interested and supportive of every aspect of the school, be it success on the playing fields, student achievement, or faculty excellence. He wants MBA to represent the best in education. He believes his friendships, many of the touchstones of his life, and much of the best education he knows all reside at Montgomery Bell Academy. ■
Pat Killian
VALEDICTORIAN

Seth Akers-Campbell
SALUTATORIAN

Wesley Jenkins
THE CUM LAUDE SOCIETY AWARD
for Academic Achievement in the Junior School

Matt Bellet
THE WILLIAM MARTIN AWARD
for the Best All-Around Boy in the School

Chase Owen
THE LINDSLEY RUTH AWARD
for the Outstanding Junior

John Mark Bellet
THE HENRY W. BOYD, JR. AWARD
for the Outstanding Sophomore

George Swenson
THE DONALD ROSS AWARD
for the Outstanding Freshman

Miles Curry
THE WALTER NOEL, JR. AWARD
for the Outstanding Boy in the Eighth Grade

Hunter Wims
THE FRANCES E. CARTER AWARD
for the Outstanding Boy in the Seventh Grade

Zach Sternberg
THE HEADMASTER’S AWARD

Jordan Herring
THE WILLIAM BAILEY MEMORIAL AWARD
for Honor, Integrity, and Loyalty in the Senior Class

THE GENTLEMAN, SCHOLAR, ATHLETE AWARD
for the Junior School – Wesley Jenkins
for the High School – Kevin Carr

David Dalton
THE GARRETT FULTON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

Holden Mobley
THE LINDSEY AWARD
for the Outstanding Athlete

Tee Griscom
THE H. LAIRD SMITH, JR. AWARD
for Loyalty to MBA

Denzel Caldwell, Luke Colbert, Nathan DeWitt, Mitchell Lakens
THE FRANCIS E. CARTER, JR. AWARDS for Service and Achievement

Ben Sutter
THE RUSSELL W. CARPENTER AWARD
for Community Service

Fitz Lassing
THE FRANK ANDREWS BOOK AWARD

THE DAVID K. WILSON FACULTY AND STUDENT AWARDS for Excellence

Ninth Grade – Adam Bowman, Tom Bu, Michael Piana, Tate Ramsden, Kevin Wang
Tenth Grade – David Arteaga, Zach Chen, Rob Edwards, Karthik Sastry, Joe Scherrer
Eleventh Grade – Connor Caldwell, Carter Callaway, Ryan Hill, Chase Owen, Andrew Powell
Twelfth Grade – Seth Akers-Campbell, Pat Killian, Fitz Lassing, David Lee, Joshua Liang
Faculty – Gordon Chenerly, Ed Gaffney

Ben Crook, Hayes McCord, John Wyse
THE ALBERT P. WHITSON MEMORIAL EXCHANGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Kyle Brantley, Naveen Chadalavada, George Curtis, Drew Danielley, Eric Mace, Corbin Williams
THE PATRICK HALE AWARDS

Ford Altenbern, Rob Barnes, Lane Bullock, Max Coyle, Ford Emerson, Jack Hallemann, Will Lee, Harrison Luna, Tom Markham, Michael Peters, Andrew Powell, Daniel Rundberg, Philip Spelman, Jesse Suh, Brad Swain, Cooper Thomas, Jack Wanne
THE BETH AND DUDLEY WARNER INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Seth Akers-Campbell, Tommy Harless, Campbell Haynes, Rob Higham, Aaron Lutkowitz, Matt Moynihan
THE PASCHALL AWARDS FOR SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO MBA

THE P.M. ESTES SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS
Ninth Grade – Andrew Karpos, Paul Moore
Tenth Grade – Austin Doebler, Joe Scherrer
Eleventh Grade – Andrew Powell, Ryan Hill
Twelfth Grade – Alex Apple, Daniel Todd

Wiley Hunt, Jack Murfee, Andrew Phillips, William Tanner, Daniel White
THE WIECK BIG RED SPIRIT AWARDS

Joshua Liang
THE ROSIE PASCHALL ART PURCHASE AWARD

Zach Sternberg
THE JAMES A. POSTON AWARD
for Excellence in Theater

Matt Bellet receives the William Martin Award
Daniel Smith
THE HONOR THESPIAN AWARD

THE RASCOE BOND DAVIS AWARDS FOR CREATIVE WRITING
Fiction – 1st Scott Dalton; 2nd Chris Goodrich; 3rd Wills Brooks
Poetry – 1st Daniel Smith; 2nd Carter Hach; 3rd Cullen Moran

Thomas Moore
THE JACK ZAGER POETRY AWARD

McKay Proctor, Kelly Haselton, Jesse Suh
THE ZAGER DEBATE SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Jordan Herring
THE THOMAS H. MALONE, JR. AWARD
for Excellence in English Composition

Jake Hymes
THE EWING/RANDALL WRITING AWARD

Daniel White
THE JOHN B. HAYES AWARD
for Excellence in the American Constitution

Alex Apple, Kyle Brantley
THE JOHN MOREHEAD DOBSON MEMORIAL AWARD
for the Best Sports Article

Russell Anderson
THE PROFESSOR C.B. WALLACE SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

THE HENRY A. FITTS AWARDS FOR JOURNALISM
for The Bell – Seth Akers-Campbell, Will Henry
for Archives – Daniel Smith
for The Bell Ringer – Pat Killian

Kevin Carr
THE MARSHALL AND VIRGINIA FRAZER AWARD
for Excellence in Chemistry

Seth Akers-Campbell
THE KIRBY E. AND MARGARET JACKSON AWARD
for Excellence in the Natural Sciences

Connor Murphy, Kevin Wang, Baker Swain, David Lee, Will Henry
THE WALLACE LATIN BOOK AWARDS

Dalton Fouts
THE CHEN JAMIN PRIZE
for Excellence in Chinese

Malith Wiek
DEDICATION OF THE BELL

Cole Eppstein
THE WALTER ROBINSON MATH AWARD

Marcus Riley (’13) receives the Algebra I Award from Math Dept. Chair Jim Shackleford

Quinton Burks (’10) receives the Greek Award from Foreign Language Chair Andy Gaither.

Mr. Joe Thompson (W’37) presents The Professor C.B. Wallace Scholarship Award to Russell Anderson (’11)
The Trustees, faculty, and staff proudly recognize the 117 members of

THE CLASS OF 2010

They will attend 66 different schools in 29 states
and one foreign country.

Christopher Steele Adkins
Appalachian State University

Seth Akers-Campbell
Brown University

John Coles Andrews
University of Georgia

Sami Ansari
Oxford College of Emory University

Hogan Alex Apple
Texas Christian University

Lewis Addison Armstead
University of Virginia

Richard Lowell Thompson Barr
Davidson College

Bradley Joseph Bars
Pennsylvania State University, University Park

Matthew Francisco Bellet
University of Dallas

Samuel Martin Berklacich
University of Tennessee, Knoxville

William Gaige Bolden
University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Dennis Aldon Boston III
University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Matthew Paul Bracy
Dickinson College

Kyle Barrett Brantley
University of Miami

Roger Brownlee Briggs
Vanderbilt University

Samuel Grady Bryant
University of Tennessee, Chattanooga

Steven Nathan Burbank
University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Quinton Potter Burks
Emory University
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Rhodes College

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John Rhodes Murfee
University of Virginia

Jeffrey Edward Nutkis
University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Oliver Kneeland Oldacre
The University of Alabama

Tyler Martin Paslick
Southern Methodist University

Robert Shepherd Patterson, Jr.
Rice University

Dylan Michael Petraitis
College of Charleston

Andrew Warren Phillips
Furman University

Richard Lee Putnam
Southern Methodist University

Michael Lynn Reid II
Indiana University at Bloomington

Neil Layton Reinhart
College of Charleston

Jackson Ryan Roberts
Rhodes College

Neil Patrick Ryan
University of Notre Dame

Keesler Hardwicke Sanders
University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Jackson Denney Sandwith
University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Michael Paul Seitz
Dartmouth College

Daniel Robert Smith III
Sewanee: The University of the South

Nathaniel Brown Smith
University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Robert Lynn Smith
University of Mississippi

Alexander John Ballantine Snow
Texas Christian University

Jordan Alexander Stauffer
University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Zachary Ian Sternberg
New York University

Ben Allison Sutter
Georgia Institute of Technology

William Davidson Tanner
University of Kentucky

Overton Thompson IV
Southern Methodist University

Daniel Stephenson Todd
University of Virginia

Matthew Martin Vanek
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Jerry Christopher Vaughan, Jr.
Tulane University

Ryan Thomas Venable
High Point University

Richard Edward Wall
Baylor University

Daniel Quentin White
Morehouse College

Hayden Adam Weck
University of Mississippi

Corbin Hedley Williams
Rhodes College

John Wesley Wilson
University of Oxford

Michal Filip Zienkiewicz
Brown University
MBA welcomed Hunter Hillenmeyer ('99) back to campus as the Commencement Speaker for the 143rd MBA Commencement. A graduate of Vanderbilt University, Hillenmeyer was one of only six Division I-A football National Scholar-Athletes, earned First-team All-SEC, and First-team Academic All-America honors while leading the nation in tackles per game his senior year. Hillenmeyer currently plays professional football for the Chicago Bears, and in his spare time has earned a Masters of Business Administration from the prestigious Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University.

PURSUING YOUR PASSIONS
Commencement Address by Hunter Hillenmeyer ('99)

Thank you Mr. Gioia for allowing me to be here tonight and thanks to the graduating class and your families for letting me share in your celebration this evening. I made a careful point in preparing my thoughts for tonight not to tell you anything that I wouldn’t have wanted to hear myself when I was in your seats 11 years ago, but also to share only advice that I too might benefit from taking to heart.

It’s probably a rarity that a graduating class has to listen to a speaker who, himself, will be collecting his own diploma within the same month. As Mr. Gioia mentioned, I, too, am amongst emotions and decisions and transitions that come with a new stage in your life. While I doubt that having learned how to read an income statement will help me tackle Adrian Peterson, I share in common with all of you students that I have big changes coming in my life sometime soon when my football career comes to an end.

I hope our shared experience will help me relate to you in a way that is more relevant, that my words come across as advice to all of us, more than the preachings of someone who already has it all figured out. I wouldn’t be the first to point out that they call these ceremonies “commencements” because they are beginnings, and in that spirit, I hope we all share the excitement of new things to come.

I’ve always thought of the “sports as an analogy for life” bit as an overdone cliche. The problem is that my vast work experience ranges from waiting tables in my Dad’s restaurant to playing football. So, unfortunately for you, since Mr. Gioia invited a football player to give your commencement address, in the next 10 minutes you’ll have to stomach somewhere between one and three of these sports metaphors, depending on your opinion of whether sailing and poker are sports.

The first one comes from Bishop Eddie Long who spoke at the Bears’ chapel service before we played the Atlanta Falcons last year. He noted that your typical NFL game has around 140 plays between offense, defense, and special teams. However, in the overwhelming majority of those games, about five plays determine the outcome. Like life, where many people live to see some 30,000 plus days, there are certainly those days that define our path for all the rest. The catch, both in football and in life, is that you rarely know which five plays it will be. For a football player that demands a focus and intensity of purpose to play every snap like the whole game depends on it. I’ll secularize Bishop Long’s message relative to our lives, but what I took from it is that passion and purpose are the two keys to taking advantage of the opportunities you get on those five plays. Purpose doesn’t mean knowing exactly what you want to do or how you want to do it; I’m almost 30 and I’m still not sure what I want to do. Rather, I see purpose as consciousness about whatever it is that you are doing. Passion sets purpose on fire, gives it life, and takes away its monotony. There is no right job or right major or right college, but whatever choices you make, make them because they are yours, because you’ve reflected on your options, and chosen ones that feel right to you.

Purpose doesn’t mean you can’t have fun; quite the opposite. For you seniors, college was four of the most fun years of my life. Purpose simply gives you the best chance to take full advantage of those pivotal five plays whenever they do ultimately present themselves. However, when I was your age, I certainly did not think I would ever play in the NFL. I remember having doubts as to whether I would ever even earn the right to step on the field, to do enough for Vanderbilt football to feel like I’d earned my scholarship. In your seats, I would have laughed out loud at the idea that I could even have shot at the NFL. Now I stand at a point where I’ve exceeded even my wildest expectations for my football career; and I am certain that success has very little to do with natural ability or talent. Football has never felt like work. Sure, two-a-day practices in the heat of August and Week 17 football games where the wind chill hits negative 20° weren’t necessarily fun, but I think the only reason I ever even had a chance is because I love the game. I come to work every day passionate about practicing my craft.

The only reason I share that is because I certainly wasn’t in your seats with a roadmap in my mind to play in the NFL; I just chased something I was passionate about. I didn’t chase it because I wanted a big NFL contract or because I wanted to see my name in the paper; I chased it because I loved football. That is my charge to you — find your passions. The freedom and growth that come in college are the perfect chance to take risks, to push yourself and your boundaries, to wake up every day with a purpose to do anything. Understand, I am not advocating any one path in particular; rather, I just want to encourage you to take ownership of whatever path that may be. I think the best way to push your boundaries is to take risks, even bold ones. The French writer Andre Gide said, “Man...
cannot discover new oceans unless he has courage to lose sight of the shore.” I think we are all more likely to find passions that allow us to make our mark on the world if we embrace a pioneering spirit and curiosity, a willingness to try new things and never stop learning.

The problem is that with every risk comes the chance of failure. It seems inappropriate to talk about failure at a graduation, but my next idea tonight involves just that. I think fear of failure drives so much of what people do or do not do. I remember the old apparel company with the tag line “No Fear.” I used to think that was so cool. At some point along the way I changed my mind. Now that slogan seems oversimplified. Life is not about not having fears, it is about overcoming them.

Thomas Paine said, “The harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph. What we obtain too cheap, we esteem too lightly; it is true satisfaction is earned, not given. My defensive coordinator in Chicago worded this idea in a different way. As he explained, “A smooth sea never made a skilled sailor.” He used this as an analogy to explain the necessity of hard work in the off-season, when we show up every day with the first game almost six months away. He explained that his job was to make the sea as rough as possible (he might have worded it a bit more harshly). But, I love the idea that sometimes it is easy to slip into a mode where you are too comfortable or too complacent to realize your full potential. Intentionally making yourself uncomfortable is not a natural thing to do, but pushing your limits is the only way to find out exactly where they are.

The transition to college is just one of those sorts of opportunities, where your time is so limited is the only way to find out exactly where you are. Imagine this, I kid you not — you only have to sort of opportunities, when your time is so

Why my enthusiasm for failure? I personally think I’ve learned more from my failures than any taste of success I have enjoyed. The real start of my NFL career came not on Draft Day where I was selected by the Green Bay Packers, but five months later after I was cut from their roster. I was forced to face the possibility that all my critics were right: that I was too slow, not strong enough, or not athletic enough to survive in the NFL. That doubt, that failure, forced me to reevaluate my work ethic and my commitment, and in many ways led to the success that came in the future. Two years ago, I lost my starting job to a younger, more talented linebacker, and spent the year angry with everyone but myself for what was a very frustrating season. After realizing that there was no one to blame but myself, I rebounded to have one of my best seasons last year.

I am certainly not alone in my belief that growth often comes through hardship. Bishop Long addressed this same idea with a poker analogy. He noted a common trait amongst the world’s best poker players. The goal is not to be dealt the best hands, but to play the bad hands well. In the business world, Michael Moritz, a venture capital investor whose firm helped create companies like Google, Yahoo, Apple Computer, and YouTube, acknowledges this revealing nature of failure. He says that he loves to hire people who have overcome adversity, who can tell a story of hard work in the face of failure. Stanford University professor Bob Sutton explains it more simply, “Failure sucks, but instructs.” I certainly hope you all enjoy tremendous success. In no way am I advocating going off to school in pursuit of failure. I don’t want any calls from angry parents when they get your report card full of F’s and your defense begins with, “But Hunter Hillenmeyer said ....” No, no, don’t try to pin that one on me.

What I do hope is that we all make the effort to focus more on finding our passions and less on a fear of failure. More importantly, I think taking risks and challenging yourself is a much surer way to find your place in the world, rather than a place that others would pick for you. Picasso once made this point, saying, “My mother said to me ‘If you become a soldier, you’ll be a general, if you become a monk, you’ll end up as the Pope.’ Instead I became a painter, and I wound up as Picasso.” With the head start you have as you leave MBA, a place so proven in the fostering of young leaders, it is inevitable that many of you will find success on many different avenues of life. I encourage you to define that success in non-monetary ways. That may sound odd coming from someone who abhors his body for a paycheck, but I am a firm believer that in most cases, wealth is a by-product of someone pursuing a passion. Rarely does someone who is interested only in dollar signs amount to much; and even if they do reach their definition of success, it proves empty in the long run.

As Bishop Long wrapped up his chapel service, he acknowledged the droves of people crowding in the lobby outside hoping for a glimpse of Brian Urlacher or Jay Cutler. In fact, every hotel we go to each year for away games tends to accumulate a mass of die-hard Bears fans. His point was that we live our lives in a spotlight, where every play, every throw, every tackle, and even every decision off the field would be analyzed by all sorts of people. This spotlight gives us, he argued, a bigger capacity to influence our world, for better, and, yes, perhaps, for worse. The stakes are higher for people with this heightened capacity to affect others. In that same vein, because you were privileged enough to go to MBA, because you have already been dealt one of the best hands at the table, you share that spotlight and that burden.

I am hoping that all of us try our best to use that spotlight in the right way; to pursue our passions even when they take us down unconventional paths, to learn that real power is not held over other people, but used to lift other people up, and to understand that the mark of a great leader is not being the best, but bringing out the best in others. True to my word, a majority of the advice I just threw your way, I can use as much as any of you. So, congratulations then, to all of us, for pushing our limits the way MBA teaches us to, for embracing those new and challenging experiences yet to come, and for dreaming big, even if those dreams may seem far off or out of reach from where we sit today. Thank You.
Good evening. This day has been a long, long time coming. On the first day of our senior year, someone told us how many days there were until graduation, and after that it was all pretty much over. With a countdown ticking in our heads, this past year became endgame—time to kill before the walk across this stage—hardly part of our high school careers at all. We did not stop achieving—our tennis team won a state championship earlier this week—but it was a real shock, to me at least, to realize how much our perspective on life here had changed.

At the end of junior year, we began to do a lot of talking about ourselves. With college applications ahead, we gathered about us our awards and achievements and looked upon the oncoming year with self-assertive determination. As a class, we spoke of being the best ever. Individually, each of us asserted—in various terms—that I, an MBA senior, am the best student any college could ever hope for. The wave that was twenty-ten rushed forward, but in the fall, broke quietly.

What I believe many of us came to realize is that senior year was not about us. Like speaking in the third person, repeating a resume too often separates you from yourself. And without another high school autumn on the horizon, our careers here suddenly seemed more history than crusade—laid in print, set in stone. Call it Senior Slide or living for college admittance, but we were and are no longer our own source of pride. Rather, satisfaction and the measure of our success have come over the past few months from the evidence of our influence on others.

Final day—this year’s swimming state championship. I swam a 46.1 in my individual hundred freestyle to take second place; on a relay with two freshmen and a sophomore, I swam the same race in 44.9 seconds to give us the win. A captain and senior, I could not reach that level alone. And I know my classmates have experienced a similar paradigm shift. Tee Griscom remained a star of this year’s football team standing with crutches on the sideline. Rob Higham transferred his tremendous energy invested in track and swimming to tutoring African refugees and learning Swahili for friendship’s sake. Alvin Kim took under his wing a small band of seventh-grade cellists, bound to follow in his musical footsteps, just as Wesley Wilson has tutored a new generation of Friday-afternoon philosophers. Matt Bellet had this figured out years before the rest of us: whom hasn’t he greeted at least once with a friendly wave and smile?

So as the Class of 2010 prepares to leave this institution, here’s looking at the rest of you—twenty eleven to twenty fifteen. We hope that you’ve been able to be right with us, through our triumphs and failures. That every time we’ve been recognized or applauded, you’ve thought, that’s 2010—dude, I know them! That by making waves at this school and in the greater community, we have left all of you with smooth sailing.

My fellow seniors—Bravo. I am confident that we’ve done well. As we graduate tonight, let us not only celebrate our own accomplishments, but also think with pride on what we’ve been able to do for others. As for our future—it’s out there? I can encourage you to strive, to seek, to find, and under no circumstances to yield—I hear it is good advice—but as for specifics…watch those steps—they’re tricky.

VALEDICTORY SPEECH
Pat Killian (’10)
"As we graduate tonight, let us not only celebrate our own accomplishments, but also think with pride on what we’ve been able to do for others."
Chairman Webb, members of the Board of Trustees, Headmaster Gioia, administration, faculty, staff, parents, families, guests, and students: welcome to Montgomery Bell Academy’s 143rd commencement ceremony. Welcome to the celebration of the Class of 2010. And how about the ride the last six years? I guess that’s why they call it “The Hill.” The journey up the hill that is MBA has certainly been steep. It is possible to trip and fall back down at any time, even almost at the top. Our parents, teachers, coaches, and classmates have helped us to reach the summit of this hill through our lessons in the classroom, in the gym, on the stage, in front of the podium, and even at the rope swing. Yet, despite its lofty height, the “hill” we have ascended has become the very base for our future. That base of knowledge includes the math tests, the science labs, every theme you have written, and every Latin passage you have translated. The Latin (which has, as you will see, come in handy) tells me that the true purpose of this Salutatory is just to greet you tonight. However, the word “salutatorian,” in our society, indicates less the idea of a greeting but more to flash the words “second place” in the minds of most. Undoubtedly, over the course of two thousand years, our language and culture have changed. Yet, as MBA graduates, we are knowledgeable of the past, modernized for the present, and prepared for the future. That is the essence of our education here.

Today, we live in a world that is increasingly fluid and open, rapidly changing politically, economically, and socially. Even in my own short lifetime there has been both a failed and successful healthcare overhaul. The Communist economies have fallen and the world has been united through free trade and supranational agreements. Pokémon has faded in and out and then back into popularity. These transformations, the very forces of history, are not so different from the inevitable changes we have endured in school. As seventh graders, we toe the line to walk to lunch. As seniors, we jump directly to the front. As a freshman, a theme takes days of preparation. By senior year, many are able to write a good paper during a free period. I have learned that even a well-drawn dragon might get you some credit. We learn to adapt to our surroundings through observation, we discover our niche through a broad education, and we become pragmatic through multitasking and perseverance. It is not the individual assignments, tests, and performances that constitute our education here, but rather the progression from one level to the next as we build upon our knowledge and skills. What we are most truly tested for at MBA is not our ability to regurgitate random facts and theories, but rather our ability to cope with the changes in our lives and adapt for the world beyond. We are not graduating tonight because we successfully memorized Chaucer or identified the unknown ions in a solution. We are graduating because we identified tasks for completion and developed our own process for success. That is why our base on top of this hill is fluid and evolving. Sure, there are solid chunks for us to stand on—our friendships, accomplishments, and championships in sports, theater, math, science, and debate launch you into the world beyond, prepared for whatever challenges might lie ahead. I know that we can climb mountains because we are graduates of Montgomery Bell Academy—the Class of 2010.

SALUTATORY SPEECH
Seth Akers-Campbell (‘10)

Because this base which MBA has prepared for us is not solid, I propose that we keep it only as a light foundation and prevent it from defining us in the future. When we walk across the stage tonight, it will be our final transition at MBA, but the first transition of the life beyond. We are on a hill, but it is only a foothill for the mountain which lies ahead. We certainly have been given an excellent placement at the foot of our mountain, and we stand on a path to true success with a clear view before us. So, forget your past failures and be wary of your high school victories. Start fresh. But, make this Hill your base camp, your ground zero. Remember your friendships and background, and let your experiences, your accomplishments, and championships in sports, theater, math, science, and debate launch you into the world beyond, prepared for whatever challenges might lie ahead. I know that we can climb mountains because we are graduates of Montgomery Bell Academy—the Class of 2010.
SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

ALEX APPLE
TCU Scholar Award at Texas Christian University

BRAD BARS
Athletic Grant in Aid Scholarship to Pennsylvania State University

MATT BELLET
Trustee Scholarship to The University of Dallas

SAM BERKLACICH
Tennessee Hope Scholarship

GAGE BOLDEN
Tennessee Hope Scholarship

ALDON BOSTON
Tennessee Hope Scholarship

MATT BRACY
Dickinson College John Montgomery Scholarship

KYLE BRANTLEY
Dickinson Scholarship to The University of Miami

ROGER BRIGGS
Athletic Gift in Aid to Vanderbilt University Tennessee Hope Scholarship

SAM BRYANT
Tennessee Hope Scholarship

STEVEN BURBANK
Tennessee Hope Scholarship

BENNETT CAIN
Tennessee Hope Scholarship

DENZEL CALDWELL
Morehouse College Academic Four-year scholarship
Boys & Girls Club Finalist Scholarship
YMCA Black Achievers Scholarship
Vanderbilt University Martin Luther King Essay Award

KEVIN CARR
Navy ROTC Scholarship at The Notre Dame University

NAVNEET CHALALAVADA
Summer Scholar Scholarship for Biology and Biomedicine research at Washington University

PATRICK CLARKE
Tennessee Hope Scholarship

DREW DANIELY
University of Alabama Books and Supplies Scholarship

SAM DENNEY
Tennessee Hope Scholarship

NATHAN DEWITT
Founders Scholarship at Texas Christian University

JOHN DONLON
Tennessee Hope Scholarship

COLE DOSTER
David V. & Hortense G. Howard Memorial Scholarship
Tennessee Hope Scholarship

ALEX FETTROL
School of Engineering Scholarship
Tennessee Hope Scholarship

MAC FRITH
Tennessee Hope Scholarship

STEVEN GAITTENS
Presidential Scholar at The University of Southern California

MBA Scholarship to attend Princeton University

FITZ LASSING
National Merit Scholarship Corporation Award
MBA Scholarship to attend Yale University

JACOB HYNES
MBA Scholarship to attend Princeton University

TOMMY HARLESS
Achievers Scholarship at Furman University

ALEX HORNBUCKLE
Woodrow Scholarship to attend the University of South Carolina

ROBIN HOYEN
President's Gold Scholarship to Baylor University

STEVEN LIANG
CIC Foundation Scholarship to attend The University of Pennsylvania

PAT IRVING
Academic Scholarship to attend Rochester Institute of Technology

TOBY JAMES
Achievers Scholarship at Furman University

TIDAL HENDERSON
National Merit Recognition Award at The University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

TAYLOR HENDERSON
Foundation Fellow at The University of Georgia
National Merit Scholarship to The University of Georgia

JORDAN HERRING
President’s Gold Scholarship to Baylor University

ALEX HORNBUCKLE
Woodrow Scholarship to attend the University of South Carolina

JACOB HYNES
MBA Scholarship to attend Princeton University

FITZ LASSING
National Merit Scholarship Corporation Award
MBA Scholarship to attend Yale University

TAYLOR LEROY
Achievers Scholarship at Furman University

JOSHUA LIANG
CIC Foundation Scholarship to attend The University of Pennsylvania

PATRICK LOVETT
Academic Scholarship to attend Rochester Institute of Technology

Mr. Jamie Tillman speaks to Senior Class President Drew Danielely
John Lowe
Tennessee Hope Scholarship

Joseph Lowe
Tennessee Hope Scholarship

Mitchell Lukens
Rocky Mountain Scholarship to The University of Wyoming

Aaron Lutkowitz
National Merit Scholarship
Robertson Scholarship at The University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

Eric Mace
National Merit Recognition Award
University of Virginia Echols Scholar

John Michael McGinn
Tennessee Hope Scholarship

Ben Mecklenborg
Dean’s Merit Scholarship at The University of Dayton

Hershal Mehta
MBA Scholarship to attend Stanford University

Holden Mobley
Four-year leadership scholarship to Belmont University
Tennessee Hope Scholarship

Matthew Moyinhian
National Merit Recognition award to Northwestern University

Sam Moxley
Tennessee Hope Scholarship

Jack Murfree
Athletic-Gift-in-Aid to The University of Virginia

Jeffrey Nutkus
Tennessee Achieve The Dream Scholarship
Tennessee Aspire Scholarship
Tennessee Pledge Scholarship
University of Tennessee Alumni Scholarship
Tennessee Hope Scholarship

Tyler Paslick
Distinguished Scholar Scholarship at Southern Methodist University

Andrew Phillips
Achievers Scholarship at Furman University

Richard Putnam
Distinguished Scholar Scholarship at Southern Methodist University

Jackson Roberts
Presidential Scholarship at Rhodes College
Tennessee Hope Scholarship

Neil Ryan
Scarlett Family Foundation Scholarship to attend The Notre Dame University

Keesler Sanders
Tennessee Hope Scholarship

Denney Sandwith
Tennessee Hope Scholarship

Daniel Smith
Academic Merit Award and Presidential Award to The University of the South, Sewanee
Tennessee Hope Scholarship

Nate Smith
Tennessee Hope Scholarship

Jordan Stauffer
Tennessee Hope Scholarship

Overton Thompson
Hilltop Scholarship at Southern Methodist University

Daniel Todd
National Merit Recognition Award at The University of Virginia

Matt Vanek
Bridgestone Americas Trust National Merit Scholarship
College of Electrical and Computer Engineering
Grainer Scholarship
University of Illinois University Achievement Scholarship

Christopher Vaughn
Scarlett Family Foundation Scholarship
CIC Foundation Scholarship to attend Tulane University

Richard Wall
President’s Gold Scholarship to Baylor University

Daniel White
M. Gillespie Scholarship
Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Scholarship
Morehouse College Special Scholarship

Corbin Williams
Fine Arts Fellowship and an Academic Merit Award to attend Rhodes College
Tennessee Hope Scholarship

Michal Zienkiewicz
National Merit Recognition Award to attend Brown University

Jim Womack talks with Luke Colbert
MUSIC

ON THE HILL
ON THE HILL

Founders Day 2010
The MBA Service Club once again worked tirelessly to help the community. Club members logged an amazing 2750 hours during the school year, led by the junior class with nearly 850 hours. Projects ranged from Soup Kitchen and Mobile Loaves & Fishes to tutoring school children at the Preston Taylor Homes, as well as helping refugees from Burundi adjust to life in the United States.

Senior David Lee managed to hold off sophomore William Reames and freshman Gary Jackson to win the Vann Webb Memorial Founders Day Run in April. The win marks the third straight victory for the Class of 2010. Lee took the early lead, briefly lost it to junior Tyler Franks, and regained command of the race when Franks pulled up with an injury heading towards the third turn. After the victory, the enthusiastic senior class — who held up three fingers marking the three-peat — mobbed Lee.
The 2010 Father-Son Dinner in March featured student tributes to their fathers by seniors Dylan Petratis, Jack Murfee, Roger Briggs, Mitchell Lukens, George Curtis, Tee Griscom, and Denzel Caldwell. The night also included musical selections by the MBA Jazz Band and the MBA Chorus. Mountaineer and research scientist Mark Inglis, the first double amputee to summit Mt. Everest, gave the keynote address of the night.

Jack Murfee (’10) and his father John

Miles Curry (’14) and his father Sid
Father-Son Dinner

Mountaineer and research scientist Mark Inglis
The 2010 Rosie Paschall Art Purchase Award went to senior Joshua Liang for his piece entitled, *The Innocent Youth.*
MOTHER - SON BREAKFAST

The MBA Mother-Son Breakfast returned to an overflowing Currey Gymnasium on April 27. Students and their mothers enjoyed a scrumptious breakfast as Headmaster Brad Gioia welcomed the audience and introduced All-pro football player and MBA parent Kevin Mawae as the morning’s keynote speaker.

Seniors Corbin Williams, Joshua Liang, Neil Reinhart, Matt Bellet, Ben Sutter, Daniel White, and Jeff Nutkis offered reflections on their relationships with their mothers, and the impact they have had on their lives.

In early March two seniors and three juniors were inducted into Totomoi, MBA’s honor society. Totomoi recognizes individuals who have shown outstanding leadership in academics, athletics, and service to the school, community service, and appreciation for the arts. Current members conducted the ceremony by giving a brief history of Totomoi, tapping each new member, and providing a history of each new member’s accomplishments. New inductees this year are Naveen Chadalavada ('10), Shep Patterson ('10), Connor Caldwell ('11), Chase Owen ('11), and Andrew Powell ('11).

CUM LAUDE

In late January ten seniors, eight juniors, and one faculty member were inducted into MBA’s Cum Laude Society. Founded in 1906, the Cum Laude Society honors individuals with superior academic achievements. The Cum Laude Society evaluates secondary schools for membership by examining the school’s academic qualifications, the credentials of the school’s faculty, and the college choices of the school’s graduates. MBA’s chapter was founded in 1981.

Seniors inducted were Quinton Burks, Kevin Carr, Sam Denney, Turner Henderson, Will Henry, Campbell Kinnard, David Lee, Joshua Liang, Aaron Latkowitz, and Hershel Mehta. Juniors were Stephen Bedard, Connor Caldwell, Carter Callaway, Cody Fisher, Jack Hallemann, Ryan Hill, Tom Markham, and Paul Van Pernis. Mr. Cole Eppstein was the faculty inductee.
In a special ceremony, seven MBA students were inducted into the school’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. The ceremony was highlighted by music from Lawrence Thompson, and an address from Ernest Patton, who recounted his experiences as a Freedom Rider in the 1960s.

New members inducted are seniors Turner Henderson and Shep Patterson, as well as juniors Rob Barnes, Jack Halleman, Frank Gaglione, Jack Halleman, Jack Warne, and Wentao Zhang.

Current King Society members Matt Bracy, Kyle Brantley, Denzel Caldwell, Nathan Dewitt, Tee Griscom, Rob Higham, John Lowe, Michael Sietz, Ben Sutter, and Daniel Todd conducted the induction ceremony.

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. Montgomery Bell Academy 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 MBA high school Science Olympiad team reigned supreme at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville state tournament Saturday, March 27, earning their second state championship in four years and the right to compete at the National Science Olympiad Tournament at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, May 21-22. Seniors Seth Akers-Campbell, Kevin Carr, Mitchell Lukens, Richard Wall, and Michal Zienkiewicz led the team.

The MBA team medaled in 16 of the 23 scored events and took fifth place in the trial event. The team claimed state titles in the following five events: Astronomy, Fossils, Mouse Trap Vehicle, Picture This, and Technical Problem Solving. The second place finishes were Anatomy & Physiology, Dynamic Planet, Forensics, and Physics Lab.

The participants earned third place in Mission Possible and Trajectory. Medals were also earned in Ecology, Chemistry Lab, Remote Sensing, Elevated Bridge, and Write It Do It. The team finished well in the remaining events to beat traditional powerhouses Oak Ridge High School and White Station High School.

Individually, Carter Callaway ('11), Andrew Powell ('11), and Michal Zienkiewicz led the team with four medals each, while Mitchell Lukens, Connor Caldwell ('11), and Joe Scherrer ('12) brought home three medals each. Each team member earned at least one medal in this total team effort.

The MBA Envirothon A team, consisting of senior Mitchell Lukens, junior Wilson Parker, sophomores Weston Bell and Augie Houghton, and freshman Hamilton Millwee, won the 2010 Tennessee Envirothon competition after two days of competition at David Lipscomb University, May 11th and 12th. The team placed well in all competition areas, including forestry, wildlife, aquatics, soils, and groundwater. This is MBA’s eighth year in the Canon Envirothon, and the team will represent Tennessee in August at the national competition in Fresno, Calif.
THEATER

At the end of January, to celebrate the fifth anniversary of MBA’s Junior School musical, Dr. Rick Seay returned to the works of Mark Twain and directed a musical version of his famous 1889 novel, *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur’s Court*. It told the story of teenager Hank Morgan (Chris Burrus ’14) and his amazing journey back in time to thwart the insidious plans of Merlin (Will Glover ’14) and Morgan le Fey (Caroline Krumm). In addition to strong student performances, the show featured beloved art teacher Catherine Hollifield as Mrs. Benvie, the school’s theater director.

In February, Mr. Malcolm Morrison directed *The Merchant of Venice*, one of Shakespeare’s most memorable “comedies.” In the play, Bassanio (Matt Moynihan ’10) hatches a plot to win the hand of Portia (Miranda Fisher), a young and wealthy heiress. However, to do so, he must borrow money from the vindictive moneylender Shylock, powerfully portrayed by Daniel Smith (’10). He desires revenge on Bassanio’s good friend Antonio (Chris Goodrich ’11) in the form of “a pound of flesh.” Morrison commended his responsive, attentive, and creative cast and crew: “From the first day of rehearsal the group has been completely committed to this vital play. They have been in all respects as professional as possible, and I salute their wonderful interpretation of this Shakespeare classic.

Under the leadership of senior Matt Moynihan and junior Lindsay Myrick 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 Nashville Shakespeare Festival and Tennessee Repertory Theatre. Over 100 students and faculty participated (24 students performed all night!), 12 plays were performed, and $3,000 was raised for these two wonderful local theaters!

The season concluded with Student-Directed One-Act Plays: *Flosst (The Final Season)* including shows directed by seniors Tommy Harless and Ben Mecklenborg, Dalton Fouts and Daniel Smith, Corbin Williams and Denzel Caldwell, and Matt Moynihan. The shows included student-written adaptations of stories by Nathaniel Hawthorne and Woody Allen, as well as classics by Anton Chekhov and Harold Pinter. They featured strong performances by Conner Hastings (’10), Lewis Armistead (’10), and Chris Goodrich, and impressive theatrical debuts by Adrian Carey (’10) and Jonathan Golab (’10). Dr. Fuller thanked the seniors for their strong contributions and leadership: “It has been an honor to teach and direct these young men. I am particularly proud of this group for their ambitious undertaking and for their continued commitment to theater during their time at MBA. Many of them began their theater involvement with the junior high musical five years ago. We’ve enjoyed their dramatic run and especially their “final season” on the MBA stage. As they graduate, I hope they take with them pleasant memories of what they have learned and created together while here at MBA.”
The Kugelmass Episode by Woody Allen adapted and directed by Ben Mecklenborg; actors: Ellie Hitt, Richard Wall, and Jonathan Golab

Dark Clad Company inspired by Nathaniel Hawthorne’s Young Goodman Brown written and directed by Matt Moynihan. Chris Goodrich (center), Hoke Smith, Christopher Netterville, and Jess Darnell

Daniel Smith and Jackson Rich in The Merchant of Venice

The Kugelmass Episode by Woody Allen adapted and directed by Ben Mecklenborg; actors: Ellie Hitt, Richard Wall, and Jonathan Golab
The event-filled Prom weekend, the Class of 2010 were given a normal classroom activities and ts from nearly 30 alumni and the MBA community as a part of Career Day. Visitors talked with potential occupations and advice.

Activities kicked off with a breakfast of the junior class that featured a sion by financial manager Tom attorney Robert Holland ('78), Dr. Bill Obremsky.

('91) addressed the entire school. Mason detailed his success online retail with an Internet at he started from his garage. y grew to a market cap of more on before the dot-com bubble encouraged students to take a ow their dreams, and not to be by the opinions of so-called old the boys that for every suc-

After assembly, small groups of professionals discussed their career tracks in Math, Banking and Insurance; Science and Medicine; Languages, Journalism, and Publishing; History and Law; Investments, Real Estate, and Entrepreneurial Business; Business Management; Non-profits, Government, and the Arts; and Architecture and Engineering.

After the morning sessions, students were able to have lunch with their guests, pose further questions, and get to know the visitors on a personal, as well as professional, level.
The MBA Debate team brought the same tenacity to the second half of the 2009-2010 debate season as it did in the fall. In both policy debate and extemporaneous speaking, the team fared well amongst a highly competitive field of elite national high schools. With the longest season of any team or club at MBA, beginning in August and running through the end of June, the team stayed the course and again qualified at least one entry to all three national championship tournaments in both the policy and extemporaneous divisions. With our senior debaters and speakers moving on to attend an impressive slate of colleges and universities next year (including Oxford, Stanford, Dartmouth, UNC, Notre Dame, and University of Illinois), we will cherish the lasting impact they’ve left in the debate building and on the record books.

Highlights of the winter and spring tournaments include ninth and tenth place finishes for our Varsity debaters – seniors Campbell Haynes, Hershel Mehta, Matt Vanek, and Wesley Wilson – at the Lexington Invitational in Massachusetts, first place for our first-year debaters John Mellow (‘13) and McKay Proctor (‘13) at the same Invitational, third place for the same first-year team at the University of Georgia Bulldog Invitational, and ninth place at the same Georgia tournament in the Varsity division by junior Jesse Suh and debate prodigy Kelly Haselton (‘12). Additionally, the whole squad banded together to help Haynes and Mehta qualify for and compete ferociously at both the Tournament of Champions National Tournament in Lexington, Ky. and the National Forensics League National Tournament in Kansas City.

The extemporaneous speaking team competed all over the country and also earned some impressive accolades. Senior Aaron Lutkowitz capped off an impressive high school career by winning the Yale University Invitational among a field of over 100 nationally competitive entries. The team showed its depth when it mattered most, qualifying speakers for each of the four slots to compete at the NFL National Tournament in June. It is the first time that MBA has qualified speakers for every possible position in extemporaneous speaking.

After a successful year, the team looks forward to a summer of debate camp and a new season next year, where the policy debaters will debate whether the U.S. should reduce its military presence abroad in such countries as Iraq, Afghanistan, and Japan.
BASKETBALL The 2009-2010 Varsity Basketball team proved to be one of the best in the school’s history. Led by a strong senior class, this year’s squad finished with a 24-5 record and captured the 2010 State Championship, the sixth State Basketball Championship in MBA’s history.

An unforgettable weekend of basketball at Lipscomb University in early March, where MBA defeated Ensworth and Christian Brothers in the state semi-finals and finals, capped this storied season. The 84-80 victory over Ensworth in the semi-finals was not only a great game, but a community event as both schools created a terrific atmosphere for the game at Lipscomb’s Allen Arena.

The Big Red had many notable moments throughout the season as well, including sweeps of traditional rivals Father Ryan, Brentwood Academy, BGA, and JPII. Other noteworthy victories were over strong programs such as Marshall Co., Columbia Central, Hillsboro, and Cleveland. The team was 9-3 in the region, finishing in a tie for second place during the regular season, and they won both the Columbia Christmas Classic and the Rock Holiday Classic in Orlando, Fla.

Through team success came individual recognitions. Senior co-captain Holden Mobley led the Big Red in scoring this year and was named the Tournament MVP at the Rock Holiday Classic, All-Region, MVP of the State Tournament, and also was a Mr. Basketball finalist. Senior co-captain Tyler Paslick was named second Team All-Region, and also was named to the All-Tournament team at the State Tournament. Sophomore David Howard was named to the All-Tournament team at the Rock Holiday Classic. Senior Brad Bars was also named to the All-Tournament team at the Rock Holiday Classic.

The Big Red was a deep, talented, and unselfish team this year and the contributions were numerous from many players. While it is with mixed emotion that we say goodbye to our accomplished seniors (Alex Apple, Brad Bars, Luke Colbert, John Lowe, Holden Mobley, Tyler Paslick, and Michael Seitz), the returning players ensure that the future of MBA Basketball remains bright.

TRACK The 2010 Big Red Track and Field team completed a better-than-expected season with a Runner-Up finish in the state meet.

Starting the season with the traditional Highland Games Festival, MBA won six events to edge out eventual AAA state champion Brentwood High, highlighted by the winning Tug-O-War team. The next week the Big Red overwhelmed the 17-team field in the Buster Relays by more than 50 points over runner-up and eventual AA/A state champion Martin Luther King Magnet School.

MBA once again defended their turf in the Doug Hall relays over a large field. The trio of Bryan Oslin (‘12), Hampton Farr (‘11), and Ryan Venable (‘10) set a school record in the shuttle hurdle to pace the rout.

After a runner-up finish in the Hill Center Relays, the team rebounded to win the region meet, qualifying all four relay teams and 16 individuals for the state. At that meet, held at MTSU, the Big Red effort was paced by Chase Owen (‘11), breaking his own school record in the triple jump with an effort of 43'11". All 16 individuals and all four relay teams placed well, and although the team did not win any events, the team was able to finish Runner-Up behind Christian Brothers High School by seven points in a closely contested meet. The Big Red edged rivals Ensworth (by two points) and Brentwood Academy (by seven points) to claim the second place trophy. As a result of their efforts in the meet, the 4x800 team of David Dalton (‘10), Andrew Powell (‘11), Stephen Bedard (‘11), and Daniel Mace (‘12), as well as the 4x200 team of Gary Jackson (‘13), Nick Bessette (‘11), Jhamall Wright (‘12), and Chase Owen (‘11), were named All-Midstate.
LACROSSE  The 2010 Big Red Lacrosse team was led by a dedicated group of seniors who worked tirelessly to bring the program back into the ranks of the top programs in the South. The team had a some early ups and down, but managed wins over three-time Kentucky State champion St. Xavier, and an overtime thriller during Spring Break against Georgia state runner-up Lassiter before league play began.

As play within the state heated up, the Big Red seemed to hit its stride, holding nationally-ranked McCallie to their lowest offensive output of the season, and giving the Blue Tornado all it could handle despite a 5-3 defeat. MBA rebounded from the loss with a classic 2-overtime game against MUS. Clay Adams ('11) buried the game winner as the Big Red notched its first win against the Owls in four years. A big win against midstate rival Ravenwood set up a quarterfinal game with Christian Brothers. In a back-and-forth contest, goalie Patrick Clarke ('10) bailed the Big Red out with a point blank save with 15 seconds on the clock. Junior Ben Charpentier moved the ball up the field and fed Gray Curtis ('12) for the game winner with seven seconds remaining, as MBA ended the Purple Wave’s season for the second consecutive year. The win set up a rematch with MUS in Memphis. In a game that saw the Big Red dominate every statistic, MBA was unable to find the back of the net in the second half, leading to a heartbreaking 7-6 loss and a premature end to an outstanding season.

Several players were recognized for their outstanding seasons. Attackman George Curtis ('10) was named 1st-team All-Region, 1st-team All-State, and All-American. Curtis will continue his lacrosse career at Middlebury College next fall. Clay Adams was also voted 1st-team All-Region, 1st-team All-State, and All-American. Ben Charpentier was named 1st-team All-Region, and 2nd-team All-State. Patrick Clarke was selected 2nd-team All-Region, and 2nd-team All-State. Defenseman Keesler Sanders ('10) was named 1st-team All-Region, and 2nd-team All-State; while defenseman Sam Berklacich ('10), midfielder Connor Pagnani ('11), and long stick midfielder John Morphis ('12) were all selected 2nd-team All-Region.

RIFFLE  The MBA Rifle team completed its 50th year of competition in 2009 bidding farewell to long time Head Coach Leo Lujan with a strong second place finish in the state. During Coach Lujan's tenure, the team’s season has grown to become the longest of any sport at MBA, beginning with practice in early August and continuing through the State Championship in April, followed by practice, summer camps, and competitions thru July.

The team began its 51st year of competition in the fall of 2009 with one of the deepest rosters in memory, fielding three four-man precision squads and two sporter squads totaling 21 competition shooters. While this year’s team had no real stand-out shooters, it was lead by an experienced and dedicated senior class. Seven of our 12 precision shooters occupied positions on the team’s four-man first squad over the course of the season, which began during the first week of August with camp at the Army Marksmanship Unit at Ft. Benning, Ga. Competition opened in September with a tough schedule against a long list of state and nationally-ranked teams in both dual and tournament competitions all over the Southeast and Midwest. High points included a tournament win at the September MBA Invitational, a team silver medal at the nationally renown MBA Classic, a dual match win over 2008-2009 Tennessee State Champions Siegel High School, and a mid-winter win in dual match competition against the nationally-ranked veterans of St. Louis University High School. As the season drew to a close, the team placed individual shooters at the State Open Air Rifle and Small-bore Championships in Knoxville, Tenn., and finished first in Region 4 of the American Legion Nationals. During the first week of April, the Big Red Rifles won an at-large berth at the Jr. Olympic National Championships scheduled for July in Anniston, Ala. At the State Championship held over April 9-10, our first precision squad turned in their strongest state championship performance in team history with a score of 2296, but fell eight points short of defending state champions and Army ROTC national champions Siegel High School to claim second place, while the other MBA precision squads placed third and fourth. The picture is
clear; the quality of high school competition shooting has matured in Tennessee, regularly producing some of the nation’s most competitive teams and individual shooting athletes.

In the face of an increasingly competitive field, the MBA shooting program looks forward to a future full of promise. Student interest in the shooting sports continues to grow, filling the team’s rosters with dedicated athletes focused on competing and winning at the highest levels. The MBA leadership is also committed to a dynamic capital improvement program, including the construction (already underway) of a state of the art air-rifle and small bore range. This new facility will afford increased opportunity for improvements to our shooting program in terms of both the quality and quantity of practice and competition.

The Big Red Rifles look forward to the 2010-11 season with another strong roster of dedicated shooting athletes who continue to reflect the best qualities of the MBA student-athlete.

**SOCCER**

The Varsity Soccer team had an outstanding year under new Head Coach Giles Cheevers. The team began the year knowing it would have to replace six starting positions after losing such a strong class to graduation. The team struggled in its first two preseason games as the new players began to learn the system of play. Turner Henderson ('10) and Rob Smith ('10), the two returning starters defensively, did a tremendous job of bringing in new starters Clay McDonald ('11), Trey Gill ('13), and goalie Warren Smith ('11) as they formed one of the strongest defensive units MBA has had in several years. In fact, at the end of the season McDonald was voted Most Outstanding Defender for the year because of his intelligent and physical play, and, even though a defender, Gill was voted Most Outstanding Offensive Player because of his powerful runs from the back and his incredible throw-ins. The midfield was led by the team’s Most Valuable Player, Ford Emerson ('11), as well as Chris Meluch ('12), Hayden Deakins ('13), and Alex Luna ('11) who together guided the offensive attack each game. Deakins’ love of the game and tenacity earned him the Lawson Fort Award.

The team had a strong season, but they knew the biggest game of the regular season, and really every season, was waiting as the Big Red travelled to Father Ryan to battle for the region title. The game was a stalemate till right before halftime when Ben Crook ('11) broke past the Ryan defense and crashed into the diving Irish keeper. When the ball bounced away, Emerson followed the shot and buried the ball beautifully into the back of the net to clinch the game and the region championship for MBA.

As the team reached the quarterfinals of the state, they faced a strong McCallie team in a rematch of their earlier 1-1 tie during the regular season. The game remained scoreless well into the second half as the MBA defense, led by McDonald’s heroics and Warren Smith’s continued excellence in the net, held strong against McCallie’s dangerous attacks. With 15 minutes to go in regulation, the referee called a penalty kick against the Big Red, and McCallie’s striker buried the free kick. MBA fought till the end but could not score, and this outstanding season came to a close. For the year the team was 11-4-1, which was a great result for the boys and for the coaches. Even though this team will graduate two starters, the rest of the team will return with high expectations to build on this season.

**WRESTLING**

MBA Wrestling completed a very competitive and successful year with a fifth place finish in the state tournament. Senior Daniel Todd became the 20th MBA wrestler to claim a state title. MBA had tremendous success in the lower weights during the tournament with many placers. Sophomore Cayce Ortale finished sixth place at 103 lbs, sophomore Daniel Bellet placed fifth at 125 lbs, sophomore John Mark Bellet...
placed third at 130 lbs, junior Mark Simpson placed fourth at 135 lbs, senior John Donlon finished sixth at 140 lbs, and junior Ian Sharbel finished the tournament with a fourth place finish at 171 lbs.

Along the way to the state tournament, the Big Red took fourth place at the Ryan Invitational, placed well in the Southeast Prep Slam in Atlanta, Ga., and barely missed a spot in the top four in the state dual competition.

**SWIMMING** Led by a deep roster of swimmers and divers, the MBA Swim team capped an undefeated season with the school’s first state title. In the state finals Jack Murfee (’10), Chase Lovelace (’11), Macklin Davis (’12), and Jarvis Werkhaven (’11) teamed up to set a new state record in the 200M Medley Relay and recorded the fastest time in the country this year. In the 200M Individual Medley Werkhaven took it out fast and held on in the end to give MBA its only individual victory of the meet.

On day two of the finals, the Big Red qualified boys in every event — including divers Mikey Reid (’10) and Hoke Smith (’12) — for finals, with three qualifiers in the 500M freestyle and all four potential scores qualifying in the 100M breast. In addition, MBA was top seed in both relays going into finals. The 200M freestyle relay of Davis, Murfee, Pat Killian (’10), and Werkhaven blew away the field and came within 0.02 seconds of the state record. The 400M freestyle relay proved to be the closest race of the evening. Nathan Stinson (’12), Tate Ramsden (’13), Andrew Dobbs (’13), and Co-captain Killian secured the clean sweep of all three relays with a victory by 0.26 seconds. In all, MBA captured one state record and 11 All-American performances.

**BASEBALL** After graduating eight seniors from the last year’s team, the 2010 MBA Baseball team entered the season with many new faces. Although there were question marks entering the season, the Big Red quickly answered them with its best showing in the Eagle Invitational in Phoenix. MBA finished 3-2 in the tournament and narrowly lost to the 18th ranked team in the nation out of Houston.

MBA opened up league play with an impressive three game sweep over Baylor en route to a third place regular season finish. The Big Red won eight straight games during the year, including series wins over McCallie and BGA, and a sweep of Father Ryan during the streak.

In the first round of the postseason, MBA defeated Father Ryan in the first two games of the three-game series. Unfortunately, the season ended abruptly with a quarterfinal series loss at Briarcrest. The team finished the season with a 20-12 record.

**HOCKEY** The 2009-2010 ice hockey team had a successful season. The team came into the season missing ten of its top players from the previous year, and was forced to field a very young team. The team’s overall record was 11-9-1; good enough for a sixth place finish in their league. The group overachieved all season long and should be very proud of their body of work. The team took an attitude of working hard each day to improve in some way, and stuck to this approach up until the last whistle. The Big Red was over matched in terms of talent many times during the year, but always played a smart, tough, and disciplined game that tested the top teams in the league.

The Big Red group was led by two-time captain David Dalton (’10). Dalton was a three-time All-Star and a leader on and off the ice for the team. Seniors Austin Locke and Aaron Hays proved great leadership as Assistant Captains. The strength of the team started with their goaltending. Juniors Alex Austin and Nick Bessette were tremendous in goal this season and were the main reason for this team’s success. They kept the team in every game and really stepped up when needed. Max Coyle (’11) had a very strong year as the team’s top defenseman and led a young, but scrappy, defense of Harrison Mathews (’11), Conner Griffin (’13), and Logan Standard (’12). Offensively, David and Scott Dalton (’12) were the heartbeat of the team.

The two played great all season and came through time and time again with big plays. Jack Keller (’11), Hays, Locke, and Bennett Maxwell (’13) all played key roles for the offense and grew a lot as players. The team will lose some great seniors, but returns a terrific core of players looking to build on last year’s results. The program would like to wish Coach David Deutsch good luck as he takes over the MBA Hockey program.
TENNIS

The 2010 tennis team had a season to be cherished by its players and coaches for decades. It was one of those dream seasons often talked about in sports, but rarely realized. For the first time since 2003, the last point of the season ended with the Big Red earning the trophy for the 2010 State Championship.

Like several of their peers in other sports, this year’s seniors had the opportunity to avenge a devastating mid-season loss to a bitter rival in the playoffs. For the tennis team, the sweet revenge would come in the state finals against Baylor School — the only tennis power it could not tame in the regular season. In the end, the script was better than they could imagine with a state title, a 14-1 overall record, two victories over rival MUS and St. Xavier (Ky.), wins over McCallie and Knox-Webb, and first place finishes in the Chattanooga Rotary, St. Xavier Jamboree, and MBA’s own Carter Invitational.

This year’s team was a unified group characterized by competitors who grew stronger on the court as their opponents began to fade. The team was fierce and determined as its will to win overcame nerves when points mattered most. On several occasions, MBA’s players turned away match points against them in individual matches that led to team successes in tournament and regular season play. MBA had one of the strongest groups of top three players in school history with Roger Briggs (‘10), Naveen Chadalavada (‘10), and Palmer Campbell (‘12), but the bottom three were also relied upon heavily. In fact, the trio of Russ Anderson (‘11), Davis Thrailkill (‘11), and Andrew Karpos (‘13) went 60-0 in all of their singles matches and finished off Baylor in the finals going 14-0 versus the Red Raiders for the season.

The Big Red was coached by Zac Hood (‘01), Hampton Williams, and Ryan Preston. Other members of the team included seniors Jake Hymes and Chris Vaughan, junior manager Matthew Johnson, sophomore Greylon Gawaluck, and freshmen Andrew Graham, Lucas Littlejohn, and Andy Seay.

BOWLING

The bowling team finished the 2009-2010 season as the Division 2 Middle District runner-up and a State Tournament Qualifier for the ninth straight season with an overall record of 18–4, and a team average of 161.5 over a 20-game season. The season opened with a big victory over arch-rival Father Ryan, and the Big Red went on to sweep both regular season matches against Father Ryan, JPII, Ensworth, USN, Ezell-Harding, and 2008 state runner-up BGA.

The team battled hard all year, only losing three regular season matches. The team finished the regular season in second place in the highly competitive middle district behind former Division 1 powerhouse DCA. The team qualified for the state tournament despite under-performing in the middle/east region tournament. The team shook off their disappointing performance in the region tournament and entered the state tournament as the number four seed from the middle/east region. MBA faced eventual state champion, Christian Brothers in the quarter-final round losing a heart-breaker 17-10 in a match that was much closer than the eventual score. Team leader and number one bowler Neil Reinhardt (‘10) led the team in victories all year and qualified for the state individual tournament with a 194 season average. Neil performed superbly in the individual state tournament advancing to the final round and finally finishing third in the state. Neil was the team’s top bowler this season and was named to the all-region team and all mid-state team by the sports writers at The Tennessean.

The team was dominated by strong senior leadership led by team Captain John Andrews — 172 average. John kept the team focused the entire year, and he fell only a few pins shy of advancing to the team finals of the state tournament. In addition to the strong bowling of John and Neil, senior veterans Denney Sandwith — 170, Ben Sutter — 158, Oliver Oldacre — 175, were joined by first year seniors Overton Thompson — 157, Hayden Weick — 151, and Dylan Petraitis — 130. The strong senior presence was the primary reason for the team’s successful season. Freshmen Nick Green and Robert Papel joined the seniors, gaining much valuable experience for the coming season. The future is uncertain for the Big Red bowling program with only two returning letterman and no starters coming back for what promises to be another challenging season.
Perhaps the only thing more impressive than Fitz Lassing’s accomplishments as an athlete is his performance in the classroom. A three-sport athlete, Lassing lettered in basketball, track, and football during his MBA career. It was on the gridiron, however, that Lassing proved himself a force to be reckoned with. In leading the Big Red to the state finals his senior year, Lassing did a little bit of everything—taking snaps at running back, quarterback, linebacker, and punter. He was named All-State by five different publications, and was chosen as the Division II Midstate player of the year. He was also the recipient of the Admiral William P. Lawrence Award, given annually to the top football scholar-athlete in the Midstate.

Academically, Lassing was also a star. He was a member of the Cum Laude Society, a National Merit Finalist, and a Presidential Scholar Candidate. Lassing earned medals for the highest average in Spanish I, Latin II Honors, Spanish II, Spanish III AP, English III Honors, American Government AP, Calculus BC AP, and Chemistry AP. He was also a three-year member of the school math team, placing fourth in the state in statistics his junior year.

In addition to his course load and athletics, Lassing was a class officer in FCA, volunteered with Hispanic Achievers, served as President of the Medical Careers Club, and took part in numerous service club activities.

Lassing received a football scholarship to Vanderbilt University, where he will enroll this fall.
As a seventh grader, Daniel Todd approached his MBA career with caution, fearful of a new place where he knew less than a handful of classmates. Six years later, that apprehension has been replaced with accomplishment. Todd leaves MBA as both a decorated student and a state champion. His work in the classroom earned him membership in Cum Laude, the designation of AP Scholar with Distinction, and recognition as a National Merit Finalist. His service to the community earned Todd membership in the King Society, and a place on the student council all four years of high school.

Todd also leaves his mark on MBA as one of the school’s finest wrestlers. He was a five-year starter on the Varsity team, serving as captain for the final three. He improved his place in the state tournament each year, finishing fourth as a freshman, third as a sophomore, and runner-up as a junior. Todd completed his career with a state championship in March. He reflected on his wrestling career as, “without a doubt the most difficult thing I have ever done. Finishing my career with a state championship was one of my dreams growing up, and I don’t know if I will ever experience the pure euphoria that I felt when I walked off the mat that one final time knowing I had met my goal.” Todd will pursue a new set of goals at the University of Virginia in the fall of 2010.
Whether he is at the keys of a piano, working in a research lab, or putting away a forehand winner, Naveen Chadalavada is proud to represent MBA. Chadalavada began his MBA career in ninth grade, looking to fit in, and somewhat “…overwhelmed by the variety of talents each student possessed. Everywhere I looked someone was a star debater, a football juggernaut, a whiz kid, or a combination of all three. But thanks to the atmosphere Montgomery Bell Academy provides for students, I was able to comfortably present my talents and join my classmates’ myriad of gifts.”

Chadalavada’s own gifts are impressive and varied. He was a member of the Junior Engineering Technical Society that captured the 2009 state championship and was ranked 16th in the nation. Last summer he spent six weeks conducting medical research at Vanderbilt University, earning the status of a contributing author in his mentor’s next publication. Chadalavada was also a member of the National Junior Honor Society, The National Spanish Society, and a Patrick Hale Award winner.

Outside of the classroom, Chadalavada served on the Student Council for three years, was a member of the Discipline Committee, and devoted numerous hours to the MBA Soup Kitchen and his temple. On the tennis court, Chadalavada was voted team captain from 2008 to 2010, was the winner of the USTA Sportsmanship Boy of the Year in 2008, and was a two-time coach’s award winner. In 2010 he helped lead the MBA Tennis team to its first state title since 2003. He will continue his career at Washington University in St. Louis in the fall.

Looking back on his four years on The Hill, Chadalavada remarked that he has, “never felt such an intimate connection with a community. From every faculty member to the students, MBA has been like a second home to me.”
Rosie Paschall — Just her first name was enough to evoke emotions, creativity, energy, and appreciation! Rosie Paschall taught at MBA from September 1988 until May 2009. She was beloved as a teacher and instrumental in shaping and developing MBA’s Art Program. Her lyrical South African accent filled the second floor of the Davis Building, and her desire to show boys that they had a creative voice and mind and heart made a difference in the MBA community. Regularly her students won local, regional, and national awards, but her presence sparked and instilled an appreciation for the arts. Just like her husband (MBA’s former Headmaster Douglas Paschall), Rosie made her mark at MBA by bringing the arts into the school community in a way that strengthened and stretched the MBA motto — Gentleman, Scholar, Artist. We will miss her presence on the campus, and her legacy will live in the minds and hearts of her students and in the fabric of MBA’s educational program and curriculum.

David Cassel — A giant of a man with a voice of an angel, David Cassel persuaded young men for almost two decades at MBA that singing and classical music were significant, academic, skillful, and joyful endeavors. He built music into a strong foundation for MBA’s curriculum and community. His presence at concerts and on the campus each day suggested that music should be enjoyed, celebrated, and respected. He loved seeing boys grow into great musicians, and he celebrated the transcendence and compatibility of music, academics, and athletics. It was common to see a student singing in the Chorus or playing in the band in his athletic uniform so that the individual could literally live and play in both worlds. Dr. Cassel loved recounting at concerts how many of his musicians also were wrestlers, swimmers, runners, and football, baseball, soccer, and lacrosse players. We will miss his voice and presence on the campus.

Dennis DeYoung — A teacher’s teacher, Dennis DeYoung loved the classics, particularly Vergil. His classes were playgrounds of learning and entertainment where the students travelled through The Aeneid or conjugated joyfully different Latin verbs. A published author, a participant in a number of Boston Marathons, a superb debate and track coach, Mr. DeYoung personified MBA’s motto. His Latin vocabulary cards enriched and educated two decades of MBA students, and he strengthened MBA’s reputation locally and nationally with these achievements. We will miss his presence in the classroom, on the athletic fields, and in the debate room.
As seen through the lens of fathers and sons—and the teachers they shared
Nearly 200 alumni have had sons who attended MBA, and approximately 80 currently have students here. It is significant to note that many have shared the same teachers. The number of current MBA faculty members who have taught here for 20 or more years and whose careers have spanned two generations of students is substantial.

The following list represents faculty who have taught for 20 or more years. If our math is correct, we estimate a twelfth grade student with a teacher in his/her first year on faculty, could have had (at age 26) a son who would now be in the seventh grade at MBA!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bill Compton</td>
<td>1968</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andy Gaither</td>
<td>1971</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ed Gaffney</td>
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In spite of a busy spring marked by an epic flood, we were able to round up a few alums, their sons, and the teachers who taught them. Faculty hustled across campus to reminisce, taking time out from proctoring or grading exams; fathers re-arranged work schedules to drop by the Roberts Room for a Jersey Mike’s sub and a chat; and students rolled in looking a bit stunned from the dizzying checklist of end-of-school activities.

The focus of the discussion was to be MBA then and now in terms of the culture of the school, the programs, and the physical plant. The idea was to talk about what on campus has changed over the past three decades and what has remained the same.

And talk they did. This mediator could hardly get a word in edgewise and quickly gave up trying to “lead the witnesses.” Hearing tales of Mrs. June Bowen’s ability to conduct class with a firm grip would underscore my lack of skill in that area. All agreed that receiving theme scores in, say, the negative 13 range certainly got their attention. They were full of optimism, well-meaning Microbes just trying to make the grade. Time would prove that a sense of accomplishment and a heightened self-esteem would come eventually, after they learned how to fail successfully, and then to write well.

Another legendary English teacher with an equally high level of expectation was Mrs. Mary Helen Lowry. Frank Andrews (’82) and his brother Carter (’72), while a decade apart in school years, compared notes about her classroom—an adventure both agreed felt like a blessing and a curse. Nearly three decades earlier their father Nelson (’45), sat in the same classroom and had a similar experience—only then she was known as Miss Bitzer.

Dr. Chris Hill (’80) remarked that he experienced a similar sense of déjà vu when, on Parents Night, he found himself in the same room, in the same seat, listening to teacher Andy Gaither talk about what to expect from his Latin class. The 28 years that had passed from his years as a student and then to parent seemed to melt away. Chris had to force himself to shake off the reverie and focus on the here and now: as a source of inspiration, the words carpe diem magically came to mind.

Jerry Mace (’78) commented that seeing Mr. Bill Compton also made time stand still for him. To see Mr. Compton then and now is to see little change. The images captured in the ’78 yearbook attest to the minimal change in Bill’s appearance.

From a reverse point of view (teacher to student, that is) comes another observation. Mrs. Beatie O’Connell would allude to The Curious Case of Benjamin Button when calling upon Will Andrews (’10), whom she swears looks exactly like his father Frank did as a kid: a likeness so striking as to mimic said movie about a case of the aging process in reverse. Beatie would find herself addressing Will as “Frank” more often than not. Twenty-five years ago, Frank had a similar experience when Mrs. Lowry would call him by his dad’s name: “Nelson, see me after class and we’ll work on getting your grade into the positive territory.” History has a habit of repeating itself in all sorts of ways.

Compton pointed out another type of similarity in that the Mace father-son duo of Jerry (’78) and Eric (’10) used the same textbook, written by Forrester. He says although the order of classes has changed from Algebra 1, 2, Geometry from when Jerry was in school, the principles of math change little and the textbook’s author remains the best, albeit with minor revisions.

Traditions in the principles and approach to math continue, as is also the case with the demerit system. Frank Andrews (’82) observed that many aspects of the system haven’t changed. Certain teachers have always been more generous in doling out the “D’s” than others, and certain students are more inclined to be the recipients. Demerit Hall is still held on Saturday mornings at 8 a.m. and has traditionally been a good source of labor for on-campus chores. Chris Hill made the clever observation that demerits were and still are issued for texting, although the offense itself has evolved and the term has taken on new meaning. Back then texting meant heaving a text book at someone in a less-than-gentlemanly manner and texting today is—as we all know—that compulsive thumb typing at inappropriate times.

Mace then remarked that both of his boys, Eric (’10) and Daniel (’12), got their first demerits exactly three weeks into their respective seventh grade years, not for texting of any sort.
The aromas emanating from the Ball Building back then were not limited to greasy fried food and pungent body odor (due to lack of air conditioning). Ball was (and still is) home to the faculty lounge — but then it was a smoke-filled sanctuary where, as Beatie O’Connell puts it “the cigarette smoke bilowed out each time the door was opened, and made the whole building reek.” The lounge was then relegated to a smaller space with no windows and fondly dubbed ‘the fume-atorium.’ Today it appears that fewer faculty members smoke, and certainly not overtly so around campus.

The Debate Team — or Forensics as it was called in the yearbooks of yore — is a program, which has been strong throughout MBA’s history. Though tucked away in an unobtrusive corner of campus, the debate program’s voice has been reverberating for a hundred years. Mace remembers the forensics team presenting a national trophy to Headmaster Carter at assembly in the mid 1970’s and how the student body was reminded that such an honor should be applauded with the same level of enthusiasm as a football division title. Jerry recalls the students responding by rising for a five-minute standing ovation.

Students today may be inclined to stage a sit-in to protest the food in the cafeteria, but the food service in the good old days was bad at best. Wedged in a cramped space downstairs in the Ball Building, the daily menu consisted of either a burger and fries or a mystery meat with over-cooked vegetables. Frank Andrews described it as “re-heated Belle Cafeteria fare, five days later.” Compton mentioned the SOS campaign, a protest of sorts to “Save our Stomachs” from the evils of institutional food. Things have changed for the better, thanks to Sage Dining Service. Also, how about those flat panel screens to watch ESPN while eating lunch? Students these days have many reasons to give a standing ovation.

The Debatables and what’s more, segues conveniently into our next area of discussion.

A constellation of relatively recent changes as noted by the group (inaccuracies in casual conversation may apply):

- Exams scheduled before Winter Break
- Seniors with a B Plus average now exempt from exams
- Exchange Program replaces AFS
- Language Grants send 25 boys to immerse in foreign languages
- Rivalries with BA and Ensworth replace Father Ryan and Overton
- Project Graduation replaces private parties
- Envirothon replaces Science Fair
- High School fraternities fizzled out around 1983
- Prom takes a hiatus in the 1960s and returns in the late 1970s
- Lacrosse becomes an MBA sport in 1990
- The theater department gives four performances a year and students are recognized by the International Thespian Society
- Advances in technology have made theme writing easier
- Finance Office evolves from the days of Miss Pat and her pre-Post It note bookkeeping system to a professional staff and paperless payroll
- Changes in the physical plant marked by Massey in ’82 and the Capital Improvements slated for 2011-2012

Green first got mixed up with Red on an academic level when Harpeth Hall students doubled up with MBA students in Physics classes. One teacher recalled how the girls loved to commemorate every holiday with baked goods or by dressing up in costumes, providing a “feminine” respite from the rigors of Physics. As a counter-balance to that stereotype, Frank told the story of how his sister Susie won the Physics Medal in Dr. Crowell’s class, beating out every guy in her class and making them green with envy. Today the green effort on campus takes on a new meaning and is centered on eco-friendly initiatives. Freshmen, for example, lead a comprehensive recycling program for which MBA has won statewide recognition.

All recognize that the Office of College Counseling has undergone the most dramatic change. Chris Hill told an amusing story of how Dr. Mike Drake, acting as both headmaster and college counselor, would call eight boys at a time into his office for a quick meeting to distribute a handful of college brochures, and told them to pick just one. Mace added that Drake told him he was a UVA man, and that’s where he should go. He obeyed and the suggestion carried over into the next generation when Jerry’s son Eric starts UVA in the fall. The Drake approach certainly simplified the process; but then again, those were simpler times.
It was quite a year for MBA. From a success standpoint, MBA took home multiple academic honors, athletic titles, and fine arts awards. But, if there had been a state championship for service, the Big Red quite possibly could have won that crown, too.

This school year, over 300 MBA high school students combined for over 2,700 hours of service. Whether preparing meals at the Soup Kitchen, assisting athletes at the Special Olympics, or tutoring inner-city kids, MBA students were there to help.

The Service Club has been a prominent part of the MBA community for a long time and has influenced a countless number of alums to continue to serve into adulthood. For three alums, the idea of service has helped shape their careers.

David Spickard (’88) was in the Service Club at MBA and remembers the effect it had on him. “The idea of service and the atmosphere that MBA provided had a huge impact on me. It was almost peer pressure to be engaged in things that helped others.”

David’s service career was just getting started at MBA. He attended The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where he was involved in afterschool tutoring and mentoring at-risk kids. After UNC, he got his M.B.A. at Indiana University and worked with (and eventually led) a group called “Students for Responsible Business” and got really involved with Habitat for Humanity.

Unlike most people that attend business school, Spickard went to get his M.B.A. knowing he wanted to lead a non-profit. “I felt like a fish out of water.”

Even though David’s initial intent was to lead a non-profit, he took a job at Bell South instead. One fateful day, he took a day off work and attended a Community Development Conference and learned about Jobs for Life, a non-profit company whose purpose is “to elevate the power of work to transform lives.”

Jobs for Life needed someone with a business background to help grow its local operation, and David was that someone. Spickard joined Jobs for Life in 1999 as Chief Operating Officer and was promoted to CEO, his current position, in 2006.

Jobs for Life distributes toolkits to Christ-centered churches and organizations to lead training classes for people in need of jobs. The classes help men and women “develop character and become connected to a community of support to help them obtain a job…and a life filled with confidence, self-control, coaching, learning, and faith.”

The class is normally 16 sessions, twice a week, with a graduation ceremony at the end of the training. There are requirements for graduation and the students must meet certain standards.

As CEO of Jobs for Life, David has some big goals. “Our hope is for every church and community to help provide people with meaningful jobs. We hope that Jobs for Life will become the Habitat of Humanity for jobs.”

The non-profit that began in Raleigh, N.C. has grown to numerous cities and even had classes and training in South Africa and El Salvador.

According to their website, “after one full year, between 70–80 percent of those who commit to follow the Jobs for Life way are still employed.” The amazing thing is that many of these people face difficult barriers, including stints in prison, welfare, or limited education. But those barriers haven’t stopped the success of Jobs for Life.

Advance Memphis, a group that focuses on helping people in the 38126 zip code become economically self-sufficient, uses the Jobs for...
Life training program. They started with three students, but now employ over 100 students per year. One company alone has hired over 70 graduates of the program.

As Jobs for Life continues to grow both nationally and internationally, David Spickard remains thankful for his time at MBA and the seeds that were planted. “People who are able to go to MBA have tremendous opportunities. The hope is that there is a real opportunity to get into places of influence to bridge the gap for people who are really struggling, and to come alongside them in a relationship and find a way to create a community.”

One of David’s favorite stories involves a man named Don Turner. Turner grew up in an abusive family and eventually packed up his things and left. Having a lot of built up anger, Turner became homeless by choice and lived in the woods to avoid people. Eventually, he ended up at a church, found shelter, and was introduced to David and Jobs for Life. Through the program Don was able to turn his art into a profitable business and got married.

David became a friend and mentor to Don. “I stood up at his wedding and prayed for them.”

David also recalled a group of young men, mostly former gang members, who went through the training. They talked about the Parable of Talents. One student raised his hand and said, “I bet everyone here is a great sales-person. We are just selling the wrong thing.”

He also met a man in a halfway house in Nashville who had been in prison for 20 years. Upon release, he was given $75 and a bus pass to the halfway house. “And you wonder why people end up back in jail within three years.”

According to Spickard, “Jobs for Life is different than a lot of outreach programs because it offers churches the ability to take the next step. We are a tool and a strategy.” Jobs for Life is able to train former inmates, identify their problems, and help them stay out of prison. “Churches are organizations that are willing to dig deep and get to the root of these problems.” The curriculum is also religion-based and uses stories from the Bible.

The idea of creating a community was critical to Paymon Rouhanifard’s (’99) success as a teacher.

Paymon transferred to MBA at the beginning of his sophomore year. He attended The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and served as the Senior Class President and received the University Chancellor’s Award, given annually to one senior male and female student for demonstrating outstanding character, leadership, and honor. He graduated with a B.A. in Economics and Political Science.

All signs pointed to Paymon entering the field of economics. “I thought I was going to start a career in finance. I had a few offers. Last minute, I made a knee-jerk decision to kind of postpone that for a couple of years because I wasn’t ready to sit behind a computer for the rest of my life. I wanted to spend a couple of years in public service.”

While at UNC, Paymon heard a couple of speakers on campus, including Wendy Kopp, founder of Teach for America. “I thought it would be a neat thing to do for a couple of years.”

Teach for America employs recent college graduates to teach in urban and rural public schools with the hope of eliminating educational inequity.

Paymon applied and was accepted into the Teach for America program in 2003. Before being placed in a school, he first had to complete the training process. This process consisted of a five-week review, with three days a week in the classroom. When not in the classroom, students would learn pedagogy and teaching techniques while having mentors and trainers throughout the day.

“’It’s a boot camp of sorts’”

Upon completion of his training, Paymon was sent to Intermediate School 195 in the West Side of Harlem. The school took up the first three floors of a 45-story subsidized housing building. Most of the kids that went to the school literally would take the elevator down. Outside was a giant, concrete playground.

“When I first got there, it was a massive building with tons of families. Quite different from MBA, obviously.”

Paymon definitely had his work cut out for him. “The school itself was dysfunctional on just about every level. There certainly were a
good number of people there who were committed to educating kids. For the most part, you could sense that it was a community that had felt under-served for a long period of time.”

On average, his students were on a third grade reading level and second grade in Math. Unfortunately, he taught sixth grade.

In order to help the learning process, Paymon implemented community and culture first before moving on to anything else. “I started out the school year instilling the notion that education is truly a privilege and that you have to earn it. As ridiculous as this sounds, I had them earn their chairs and desks at the beginning of the year, so everyone sat on the ground.”

Early on, the class did a lot of community and culture building. “From there, once I had the buy in from the kids, we took off.”

It was also important to get commitments from his students’ families. He visited every kid’s home and overviewed his expectations, classroom procedures, and homework policies with each family. He had them sign a contract saying they would ensure their child met these expectations and agreed to longer school hours.

In order to raise their reading and math levels, the students came to school an hour earlier, stayed two hours later, and had class every other Saturday.

Paymon also incorporated college into many of their discussions to give the students something to aim for. “Nearly 100 percent of my students were coming from homes where their parents didn’t finish high school, much less college.

All the hard work paid off. In Paymon’s second year, 24 of his 33 students placed into specialized higher performing district and charter middle schools.

There were times when things were tough. When Paymon’s brother first visited the school, a student set a fire in a trash can. But Paymon drew on his time at MBA. “We spent a lot of time focusing on what it meant to be a good human being; I think this was something I borrowed heavily from MBA.”

It was a hard decision to leave I.S. 195, but Paymon did enter the financial world after two years of teaching. One thing he had noticed in his school was a mismanagement of resources. After five years in the banking and investment world, he was hired by the New York City Department of Education in August 2009.

Today he is the Director of Portfolio Strategy, and he evaluates the performance of schools in the New York City school system. “We have 1,600 schools here and we provide structural changes to positively impact student performance, family choice, and learning conditions.”

One of their responsibilities is to close the lowest performing schools in the city and open up newer and better schools to better align the academic needs of that community.

The idea of improving communities through education is very important to Paymon. He is also grateful for the MBA community. “I think MBA was really the first step for me to set higher expectations for myself. Where I was coming from before, I was kind of a middle of the road student and never really thought big picture about what I wanted to do with my life. I think MBA not only instilled ambition into me, but taught me about public service, taught me about discipline, and how to achieve your goals in addition to setting them.”

Like David and Paymon, Morgan Wills (’86) has spent much of his adult life in service. After majoring in History with a concentration in American Studies at Princeton University, Morgan attended Vanderbilt Medical School.

“I didn’t have a distinct vision for a specialty when I started medical school.” The time outside of medical school would end up influencing Morgan in a major way. Prior to medical school, Morgan spent time doing mission work at an indigenous African hospital in Ghana. “The experience definitely shaped how I thought about my career.”

While at Vanderbilt, Wills spent several summers working in a Latino section of North Philadelphia doing a door to door immunization campaign. Working with a non-profit clinic called Esperanza Health Center, the campaign got Morgan integrated with the needs of an under-served community. Seven Hispanic kids had died of measles in the area. Morgan went door to door to check vaccination cards, educate families, and give children who were not vaccinated the proper immunizations.

“It was a tremendous success on a lot of levels.” The area was the epicenter of one of the biggest drug trafficking neighborhoods on the East Coast.

“Because we were working with local indigenous Latino congregations in the neighborhood, the community quickly saw that we were
there to help. Pretty soon the drug dealers started looking out for us and bringing their kids, and clearing out whole blocks of drug deals so we could get to them.”

Even though Morgan’s time spent outside of medical school had a major influence on his life, it was the time during medical school when he began working at Siloam Family Health Center.

“I was looking for an outlet to get both clinical experience, but also serve in a context that was a little outside of the box.

At the time, Siloam was a Saturday morning and Monday evening volunteer clinic that had been started by a Vanderbilt faculty member. Originally, the clinic had been started as an outreach to the African-American neighborhood of Edgehill.

“It quickly took on a different character when some Vietnamese refugees showed up and they told two friends, and they told two friends. Within a year, it had become a predominately Vietnamese clinic for immigrants and refugees who had difficulty accessing the standard health care system due to language barriers, inability to get to the doctor’s office, or cost and lack of insurance.”

Morgan began volunteering there as a student and continued to do so during his residency. During his senior year, Morgan took care of a Vietnamese woman and performed a routine health exam. Upon her receiving her results, she started to weep. She had been told while living in Vietnam that she had cervical cancer and presumed she was going to die. She had been in the America for a couple of years. When she was asked why she chose to come to Siloam she replied, “I came here because they told me you love your patients here.”

That experience had a positive effect on Morgan. “I was really drawn to that. I loved the opportunity to bridge a culture gap and meet a need.”

After his residency, Wills was asked to come on staff and be the first regular staff physician. “I hadn’t been looking for that job in particular. I initially told them ‘No, thanks.”

After some persistence from the Board, Morgan took the job and has worked at Siloam since.

The mission statement of Siloam is “to share the love of Christ by serving those in need through health care.” It is the personal care and attention that really sets Siloam apart. Morgan has many fond memories of his patients. One woman named Betty, who lived in an apartment above the original clinic on 12th Avenue South, showed up in the middle of the night having had a stroke. Betty, who had never been a patient before, was hospitalized and treated. Although she suffered brain damage from multiple strokes, she continued to follow up with the clinic.

“She found not only a place to get her routine medical care, but kind of found a second home with us and became a volunteer at the clinic.” Incredibly, one of her family members, who she had not been in contact for years, found her name in one of the newsletters on the Siloam website. “We were able to facilitate a reunion between her and her estranged family.”

This past year, Morgan and his family have been living in Vancouver, Canada while he finishes graduate school at Regent College.

Upon returning to Nashville, Morgan will dive back into his work at Siloam. They moved to a new facility four years ago off of Franklin Road and have tripled in capacity. The clinic now cares for patients from over 90 countries and about 80 percent of their patients are from other countries.

Morgan credits his time at MBA with helping him get to where he is today. “For me, MBA provided a great stepping stone of skills that gave me confidence to go on and pursue my academic developments.”

For Morgan and many others, the all-boys school on The Hill means a lot to him. “MBA is such a part of the fabric of Nashville.” Much like service is a part of the fabric of MBA.
Having thoughtfully reassessed his priorities in life, Steve/Sam has taken a radical detour...causing his internal navigational system to shout out “re-calculating.”
Imagine practicing law for a decade, followed by 20 years immersed in the vortex of venture capital deals, and then nothing. Goldman Sachs swoops in with an offer to buy your portfolio and you say okay. One day, life is filled with frantic scribbling on a legal pad amid high level exchanges on a Blackberry; the next, according to Steve Johnson, "life as I knew it came an abrupt halt."

"Now what? For starters, his wife Neal suggested he saunter downstairs to read the paper from cover to cover with a leisurely cup of coffee — something he hadn't done in 30 years. "That was fun for about a week," was the response, and then came the relentless feeling of restlessness. Steve tried following Neal around to "help" her with farm chores, but soon realized he was better at living on the farm than working it. She wisely sent him into town to rent an office where he could kill some time and write "that book."

Apparently Steve is a natural raconteur and had been telling stories for years, about his adventures as a kid in Nashville. With boundless free time and lack of farming skills, he most certainly needed a project. Writing a memoir was it.


"With appearances scheduled all around the South, I get to come full circle by ending my book tour in Nashville — the place where it all began. I have a speaking engagement at the Green Hills Library at 12 noon on Tuesday, June 29, followed by a drop-in appearance at Davis Kidd. I'm also hoping to get together with my old high school and neighborhood friends while I'm in town."

So let's back up a minute. How did you get from there to here?

After undergraduate school at the University of Virginia, I thought I wanted to be an English professor. The chairman of the department quickly dashed those dreams and suggested I consider banking instead. I was in desperate need of some kind of direction, no matter how haphazard the advice. I was really confused, so I took a year off and taught golf and worked in a men's clothing store in Charlottesville. That's when I realized there must be more to life.
nating. Starting technology companies from scratch is fast paced and full of variety.

Technology start-ups obviously sparked your interest and gave you a wake-up call. This led you down another path, I venture to guess?

When the opportunity came to start a venture group, I jumped at it. I started a venture group in Richmond, Va. for a Virginia-based company called Tredegar Corporation. The venture group was called Tredegar Investments. We grew quickly and found that the bulk of our investing activity was on the West Coast, so I moved the venture group to Seattle. I was there from 1996 to 2004, working mostly on venture start-ups in the healthcare arena (biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, and medical devices). We sold our investment portfolios in 2003 and I was suddenly out of a job.

In deciding what to do for an encore, how did you settle on a “Green Acres” lifestyle?

My wife Neal and I had always talked about living on a farm (30 years of talking about it). Our kids were grown and gone. I loved venture capital, but I’d done it and was ready for another change. We could live wherever we wanted (within reason), so we said, “Why not?” We quit talking about it, moved to Walla Walla, built a farmhouse, etc.

Which came first: the farming or the writing?

I didn’t start writing until we’d settled in on the farm. I can remember wanting to be a writer as far back as first grade. I carried the stories for BIG APPETITE around with me for 50 years. When we slowed down on the farm and settled into life here in Walla Walla, those old stories and new ones — the Green Acres-like stories about moving to the country — nagged at me until I started writing them down. The more I wrote, the more writing fascinated me. To use the farming analogy, I think the seed had always been there. I just didn’t take the time to plant and water it until I was 55 years old.

Why Walla Walla, Washington? (Excuse the alliteration)

For 20 years we vacationed with our girls in Montana. We often talked about buying a cabin there, but never did. We’d been in Seattle for about six months when I found myself on a kids’ soccer team trip to Walla Walla. When I arrived here, I called Neal on the phone and said, “This is it. It’s like Montana. The sky’s big. The valley’s beautiful. The people are nice. The town’s quaint. There are three colleges here, so it’s pretty lively. We should think about building our cabin in this valley.”

We’d just finished unpacking boxes from our move to Seattle, so Neal wasn’t ready to hear it. But four years later, our middle daughter Abby decided to come to Whitman College here in Walla Walla. It’s a terrific school — the West Coast equivalent of Davidson College. Neal and I drove her to school and Neal said, “Wow, I like this place.”

We got to know Walla Walla over the next couple of years while Abby was in school here. When I retired from venture capital, I knew this was the place.

I have to ask about your educational roots way back in Nashville: Was there a particular MBA teacher who looms large in your memory?

Mrs. Lowry. She was tough — very demanding. I may have worked harder for her than any other teacher I’ve ever had. I was a challenge, but she taught me grammar so well I’ve never forgotten it.
If Mrs. Lowry provided the building blocks of writing, where did your storytelling talent come from?

My grandfather was a great storyteller. Whenever he told my brothers and me a story, he encouraged us to embellish it and make it our own. “Make it big and make it fun, boys. Forget the truth. Nobody wants to hear it. Folks like fun way better than truth.”

And how did you develop your personal style?

Like writing, I think storytelling’s something I’ve always wanted to do. Developing a voice has taken time—a lot of trial and error. But I’m comfortable with my storytelling now and enjoy working with an audience.

Do you keep in touch with any MBA classmates? Do they think you were crazy to slow down so abruptly and so far away from home?

I keep up with Bert Dale and Gordon Peerman. Bert and I played on the MBA Golf team together. Gordon and I went to the University of Virginia together. They’re both very good friends. You’d have to ask them if they think I’m crazy. Over the years, a lot of folks asked why I didn’t come back to Nashville after college or graduate school. I think the best answer is “wanderlust.” Neal and I have lived in eight different cities over the last 30+ years.

Steve writes under the pen name Sam McLeod. An excerpt from his blog, Writing Life, illustrates his self-deprecating, down-home style:

“Thoughtful people know that writing requires great discipline. I write every morning—except Saturdays and Sundays, of course. I take holidays off, and maybe a couple of days either side of a holiday. I tend to follow the national banking holiday schedule since bankers work about as hard as I do. (As you might imagine, we require a bit more time off than regular folks.)

“Otherwise, I write every day—unless something important comes up, like a fishing trip or the grand opening of a new coffee shop.

“On writing days, I sit down promptly at eight...for sure by ten...unless I get off track.”

Having been on track for a good part of his 60 years, Steve (aka Sam) now has the luxury and the audacity to get distracted through his writing. He cares more about the means than the end, valuing the process over the product. The value of his stories lies in the wisdom they impart rather than the information they disclose. His genuine love of storytelling allows him to meander through memories just for the fun of it. And what fun it is for us, the reader. To enjoy the ride, with all its ups and downs and detours: that’s the real deal.

Editor’s note: Since moving to the farm, Sam has written several books, produced an audio book, hosted a live variety show, written a newspaper column, and told his stories to anybody who’d listen. Detour Farm is devoted to wildlife and habitat conservation; every time Sam sells a book, they plant a native shrub or tree. ■

To learn more about the farm, visit http://www.detourfarm.com

Mothers of Alumni Coffee

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. We were pleased to have Malcolm Morrison (MBA’s resident gourmet) again offering a cooking demonstration with scrumptious pasta and delectable delights! We were happy to welcome back over 100 ladies to campus; what a treat to have so many familiar faces gathered together again!
States. level-4 laboratory in the United the only university-based biosafety Emerging Infectious Diseases, and Excellence in Biodefense and helped establish a Region Center of tropical public health. W alker also importance to both biodefense and of diseases caused by agents of the premier centers for the study in Galveston. His department is one University of Texas Medical Branch Department of Pathology at the Walker is the chairman of the Texas Society of Pathologists. Dr. Andujar Citation of Merit from the 1961

1961

David Walker received the John J. Andujar Citation of Merit from the Texas Society of Pathologists. Dr. Walker is the chairman of the Department of Pathology at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston. His department is one of the premier centers for the study of diseases caused by agents of importance to both biodefense and tropical public health. Walker also helped establish a Region Center of Excellence in Biodefense and Emerging Infectious Diseases, and the only university-based biosafety level-4 laboratory in the United States.

1978

Dean (Dee) Anderson is the author of A Sacred Trust, published in March by CrossBooks. The book provides an introduction to the doctrinal beliefs that distinguish Baptists from other Christian churches and denominations.

Mark Barnes is teaching at Harvard Law School and the Harvard School of Public Health, and at the same time serving as Harvard's Director of Sponsored Research, where he directs the office that oversees all federal grants and contracts at Harvard — some $800 million this year.

Barnes came to Harvard in 2004 on secondment from the Boston law firm of Ropes & Gray, where he was a partner, to start up and oversee Harvard’s AIDS treatment programs in Nigeria, Botswana, and Tanzania. At various times since then, he has served as executive director of that program, and now chairs the university's oversight committee for it. The program has over 100,000 people in these three countries on antiretroviral treat-

1985

Hunt Warner and his wife Shea welcomed a son, Austin Carr Warner, on April 14, 2010.

1988

Kurt Gilliland has been named the Wallace and Phyllis Baird Medical Alumni Distinguished Teaching Professor at the University of North Carolina School of Medicine.

1992

Michael Weldon and his wife Jenny celebrated the birth of their first child Greyor (Grey) on February 17, 2010. Michael and Jenny are both English teachers at Karns High School in Knoxville, Tenn. where Michael also serves as the Head Wrestling & Rugby coach. The couple was married in October of 2008 on Tybee Beach, Ga.

1995

Mark Dunkerley moved back to Nashville in 2009 and started the Jubilee Craft Beer Company. Jubilee donates 50 percent of its profits to the Oasis Center, a local organization that does amazing work with the youth of Nashville. Mark’s brother John (’99) created the artwork used on the packaging.

1997

Paul Russell has been named Assistant Professor of Planning, Design, and Landscape Architecture at Clemson University. He and his wife Lauren are the parents of two children — Paul (4) and Elizabeth (2 months).

2001

Adam Brooks appeared in the MTV movie Turn the Beat Around, which debuted in February. He played Chris, the boyfriend of the lead character.

2003

Jeffrey Michael Hollis graduated Centre College in May 2007. Jeffrey is currently enrolled in the dual JD/MBA program at the University of Tennessee Knoxville.

2005

Vanderbilt senior shortstop Brian Harris set a new NCAA single season record with his 36th hit by pitch. Harris, a former walk-on at Vanderbilt, earned All-SEC honors as a junior and keyed the Commodores run to the NCAA tournament.

James William Hollis graduated Magna Cum Laude, Furman University May 2009: Phi Beta Kappa, Political Science Honors Essay Award (European Union Related Referenda), Phi Sigma Alpha Political Science Honor Society, Furman Men’s Club Soccer Team (Striker), Phi Eta Sigma Freshman Honor Society, and the Scholar in Law Award to attend Washington University in St. Louis School of Law, where he is currently enrolled as a first year law student.

Curtis Lane graduated from Duke in May 2009 with a double major in Biomedical Engineering and Economics. He moved to New Orleans in the summer of 2009 and works for St. Jude Medical, a car-

2002

David Was earned his MBA with a focus in Health Care from Vanderbilt’s Owen Graduate School of Management in May. In June he moved to Charleston, S.C., where he is now an associate administra-

Jubilee is available in stores and restaurants in Middle Tennessee.
Will DeLoache and Kevin Seitz ('06) met up at the National College Ultimate Frisbee Championship tournament in Madison, Wis. Will played for Berkeley and Kevin played for Harvard.

Wade Sims just graduated cum laude from Belmont University with a B.B.A. in Business Administration and a B.A. in English Literature, also winning the James & Sara King Writing Award for his paper, The Narrativity of Law, Legislation, Legality, and Justice. Sims will be returning to Belmont in 2011 as a member of the Belmont University College of Law’s charter class.

2006
Jim Witherspoon was awarded the David Steine Economics and Business Award at Vanderbilt University. The award in the Managerial Studies Program recognizes two seniors who show exceptional promise for a business career and benefits students from any of Vanderbilt’s four undergraduate schools who are working toward a minor in Managerial Studies.

2007
Brendan Kiefer received The Patrick J. Deviny Scholarship Award, given to a Notre Dame University senior in Aerospace Engineering studies who displays the most diligence, persistence, and enthusiasm in his or her studies (as voted by fellow classmates and professors). The vote by classmates and professors makes this award one of the most prestigious awards given in Notre Dame’s School of Engineering.

2009
Hooper Paty just completed his first year at the University of Mississippi, where he is studying civil engineering and is a member of the baseball team.

LACROSSE In late March nearly three dozen former MBA Lacrosse players gathered in Tommy Owen Stadium to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the program. Players from the early nineties to the Class of 2009 took part in a spirited game between odd and even numbered graduation years. The Even squad prevailed in overtime with a big goal by Zach Wall ('02).

MBA also welcomed John Baer, the program’s first coach and a pioneer of lacrosse in Tennessee, back to campus. With many of his former players on hand, Baer was honored at halftime of the MBA Varsity Lacrosse game later that evening.

New job? New baby? Other news to share with your MBA friends? Please submit your class news to Chris Smith at chris.smith@montgomerybell.edu
decade. Bradford served as a board member of many securities industry organizations, including the New York Stock Exchange, as well as the Securities Industry Association, the American Stock Exchange, and the National Association of Securities Dealers. In Nashville he was Chairman of the Board of Ensworth School, vice chairman of the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce, president of the Nashville Symphony Association, and served on the boards of Montgomery Bell Academy, Baptist Hospital, the Nashville Opera Association, Peabody College, and the Belle Meade Country Club.

He is survived by his wife Lillian (Tooty) Bradford; and sons — James C. (Jay) Bradford III (’90) and Bryan Robertson Bradford.

James H. Reed III (W ’37) 1919-2010

James Reed died at home on April 20, 2010. Reed graduated cum laude from Vanderbilt University in 1941 with a BA degree in economics. He served during World War II as a first lieutenant in the Air Force. Following his discharge in 1946, he was employed by Jim Reed Chevrolet. In 1959 Reed was named president and general manager of the company. He was a winner of TIME Magazine’s prestigious Quality Dealer Award (TMQDA) in 1967. He served as a member of General Motors Presidents Advisory Council and was the first dealer in the United States to receive the Chevrolet Service Supremacy Award. He was regional vice president of the Tennessee Automotive Association, and president of the Nashville Automobile Dealers Association. Throughout his long career he was active in civic and charitable activities, serving at various times as a board member of Big Brothers, the YMCA. Family and Children’s Services, the Nashville Davidson County Chapter of the American Red Cross, and the local chapter of the American Cancer Society. Reed was a lifetime supporter of the United Way.

Reed is survived by his five children — James H. Reed IV; W. Casey Reed (’69) (Stephanie); Celeste M. Reed (Don), John Clay Reed, McGavock D. Reed (Mary Ann); and nine grandchildren.

Burton Terrell “Tad” McWhirter, Jr. (’71) 1953-2010

Tad McWhirter passed away at home among family and friends after an eight-month illness. Following MBA, McWhirter went on to the University of the South. He was co-owner of McWhirter-Dillon Construction. He will be remembered for his deep love of family, his capacity for lasting friendships, and his uncanny wit. He was loved by so many because of his innate sense of fairness, his ability to treat everyone the same, and the fact that he never did anything for show or to impress.

McWhirter is survived by his wife Frances Carpenter McWhirter, and four children — John Russell McWhirter (’02), William Terrell McWhirter (’06), Kathryn Hays McWhirter, and Anne Breland McWhirter; and by his sister Eleanor Hays McWhirter and his brother John Donelson McWhirter (’76).

John Michael Price (’96) 1978-2010

John Michael Price passed away March 11, 2010, after an extended illness. He was a graduate of the University of Tennessee, and served in the Air National Guard. Price is survived by his parents, Byron and Kathy Price.