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THE UNIVERSITY OF Memphis MAGAZINE

SPRING 2013

CAPITAL GAINS

Empowering the Dream
campaign draws to a close
June 30, page 20

CLASS ACT

A U of M alumna is named
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PATENT PENDING

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Forty-four students and administrators from the University of Memphis Lambuth Campus took a road trip to FedExForum on February 2 to see the Tigers defeat Tulsa. (Photo by Adam Simpson)

On the cover: Chemistry professor Gary Emmert is one of several University researchers whose clever inventions may one day reap huge rewards for the U of M. Story page 16. (Photo by Lindsey Lissau)

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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Alumni & Development Office, The University of Memphis, 120 Alumni Center, Memphis, TN 38152-3760.

THE UNIVERSITY OF
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Dreamers. Thinkers. Doers.



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Alumni and Friends:

As I walk across campus each day, I meet students who are the recipients of scholarships funded by you, our alumni, and by many interested donors from the community. Our students are invaluable in so many ways, from the research support they bring to faculty members, to the countless hours of volunteer work they perform in the community. They inspire us through their scholarly endeavors, and energize and entertain us with performances in the creative arts and during athletic events. Our students are the reason we are working industriously to meet the \$250 million goal of the *Empowering the Dream* Centennial Campaign.

The University's most ambitious capital campaign ever is the culmination of our centennial celebration and ends on June 30. Through the leadership of campaign co-chairs Charles and Judy Burkett and the efforts of the Campaign Cabinet, Steering Committee and Centennial 100 advisory board, we have met countless alumni who contributed to the campaign in honor of those who helped them attend college. Along the way, we have also talked to alumni who made gifts to support their majors. One alumna recently said she decided to give back to the University because others before her did, which she emphasized increased her educational experiences and led to an exceptional professional career. "Now, it is time for me to return the favor and increase opportunities for current and future students," she said.

We are also grateful to the many faculty and staff from every division and segment of the University who have chosen to make donations to the Centennial Campaign. Every gift is greatly appreciated, whether from a corporation, foundation, individual or a family. All have contributed to our students' future successes.

Let me highlight a few of the accomplishments we have so far experienced as a result of this campaign. A major gift from the estate of Helen Hardin has allowed us to expand the Honors program into the largest honors initiative in the state. Increased funding for endowed professorships and chairs has helped us in the recruitment of distinguished faculty members, such as Dr. Gary Emmert, featured in this issue for research that led to three patents and to commercializing a product. Donors have already made possible the award-winning renovation of the historic School of Law building and the new Crews Ventures Lab, a facility that will assist in transferring faculty members' research into commercial products.

We also have the opportunity to match state funding to build much-needed academic facilities. Gov. Bill Haslam has issued a challenge to universities to raise one-fourth of the funds needed for the construction of new buildings, with the state then providing the remaining three-fourths. Gov. Haslam has designated \$45 million in the state budget for construction of the Community Health Building while we must raise the additional \$15 million. The facility will house two of our most successful programs, the Loewenberg School of Nursing and the School of Communication Sciences and Disorders. We are also raising \$17.5 million for a \$70 million Music Center for the Rudi E. Scheidt School of Music, which is considered one of the finest schools of its kind in the nation. Each dollar donated for these facilities will be matched by three additional dollars from the state.

Every gift is valued, and every gift will help us realize our goal. As a donor, you can designate to any area of the University, from athletics to academic departments, to general scholarships, graduate fellowships or facilities. This is a University-wide campaign, and I want to encourage you to contact me or the Office of Development for assistance in planning your gift.

We have many wonderful stories to share from meeting alumni and friends throughout the community and from meeting the students who benefit from your generous gifts. Thank you for your generosity and support.

Sincerely,


Shirley C. Raines, President

U.S. News & World Report lauds U of M internship program

The University of Memphis has one of the top 10 most successful internship programs of any college or university in the nation, according to the "Short List," published by *U.S. News & World Report*.

Fifty-two percent of U of M students held internships prior to getting their undergraduate degrees. This compares to a national average of 36.9 percent for the class of 2011, the year the data was compiled. *U.S. News* surveyed more than 1,800 colleges and universities to compile the list, with 330 of those surveyed providing internship data.

Students have taken part in internships at places as diverse as International Paper, Smith & Nephew, the Memphis Grizzlies and St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

"You go to an internship like a sponge and just soak everything up," said Trenton Busby (BSEd '10), who was offered "a job on the spot" with the San Antonio Spurs after he interned with the Grizzlies while he was a U of M student. "It is all about building relationships internally and externally."

"The Smith & Nephew experience taught me the practical work skills that you can't find in a classroom," said Monohar Potluri, biomedical engineering graduate student. "Combining that with my graduate degree gives me the skills I need to succeed in my future endeavors."

In fall 2012, there were 2,350 U of M undergraduate students holding internships, according to Dr. Dixie Crase, director of Academic Internships at the University.

"The *U.S. News* recognition of the University Academic Internship Program is confirmation of the significance of high-quality internship experiences for many of our students," Crase said. "An internship is increasingly seen as an avenue to employment possibilities with opportunities for networking as well as the implementation of classroom learning in the world of work. The University values the



Fifty-two percent of U of M graduates held internships prior to graduation, making the University's internship program one of the top 10 in the country, according to *U.S. News & World Report*.

productive partnerships established within the Memphis community through internships. Community partners contribute to the preparation of young professionals who help build the future of Memphis."

University President Shirley Raines said the U of M is grateful to the numerous businesses, schools, community agencies, hospitals, law firms, public service offices, nonprofit organizations and other employers who provide internships for U of M students.

"We have long recognized the value of internships to a student's education," said

Dr. Raines. "Internships give students a good look at what their careers may be like after college, and research shows that students with internships on their resumes have higher job placement."

The *U.S. News* "Short List" is available at www.usnews.com/education/best-colleges/the-short-list-college/articles/2012/11/20/10-national-universities-that-produce-the-most-interns.

For information on the internship program, contact Dixie Crase at 901/678-3102 or drcrase@memphis.edu.



Dr. M. David Rudd

Rudd named U of M Provost

Dr. M. David Rudd has been named as the new provost of the University of Memphis, replacing longtime provost Dr. Ralph Faudree, who stepped down in August to concentrate on teaching. Rudd comes to the U of M from the University of Utah, where he was dean of the College of Social and Behavioral Science.

"The University of Memphis is extremely fortunate to have attracted Dr. Rudd to our University to assume the provost position and serve as the leader of our Academic Affairs division," U of M President Shirley Raines said. "He brings an outstanding record of successfully leading a large college at the University of Utah, while effectively expanding funding for research, scholarships and capital projects."

As dean at Utah, Rudd oversaw a college with a student enrollment of approximately 6,000, 130 full-time faculty and 100 adjunct professors, with gross revenue of more than \$50 million from tuition and fees.

Dr. Tom Nenon, vice provost for Assessment, Institutional Research and Reporting, had served as interim since September. "I want to thank Dr. Nenon for his service to the University as our interim provost," said Raines. "He has been exemplary in his leadership as a member of the administrative team. He has been an invaluable asset to the U of M for more than two decades."

University appoints deans, diversity director

The University of Memphis recently named two new deans and a new director of Diversity Initiatives. Peter Letsou has been appointed dean of the Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law, Dr. Richard Sweigard has been selected as the new dean of the Herff College of Engineering and Dr. Karen Weddle-West has been named director of Diversity Initiatives. Letsou and Sweigard will begin duties June 1. Weddle-West will also continue to serve as vice provost for Graduate Programs.



Peter Letsou



Dr. Richard Sweigard



Dr. Karen Weddle-West

Letsou has been at Willamette University College of Law in Salem, Ore., since 2002, serving as dean and associate dean for the past seven years. Previously a professor and director of the Center for Corporate Law at the University of Cincinnati College of Law, Letsou also spent seven years at George Mason University School of Law. He has been a visiting law professor at the University of Connecticut and Emory University.

Sweigard has been the associate dean of engineering for administration and academic affairs at the University of Kentucky since 2007, where he has also been an associate professor or professor since

1988. He served as chair of the Department of Mining Engineering at UK for 14 years. He has also held teaching positions at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale and The Pennsylvania State University.

Weddle-West joined the University of Memphis in 1989 as assistant professor in Educational Psychology and Research; she was later made an associate professor in that discipline. In 2003, following a successful tenure as associate dean for Graduate Studies in the College of Education, she became vice provost for Graduate Programs.



Gov. Bill Haslam at the University Center.

Haslam announcement a boost for Community Health Building

Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam has announced that the state's proposed budget for the upcoming year includes \$45 million of the \$60 million needed for the state-of-the-art Community Health Building that will house two of the University's most successful programs: the Loewenberg School of Nursing and the School of Communication Sciences and Disorders. The U of M is responsible for \$15 million and is working through its Centennial Campaign to secure the remaining funding.

"We expect to break ground soon on this building," said Haslam, who was on campus Jan. 29 to discuss his recently released statewide budget proposal for the next fiscal year.

The proposed building will feature 177,000 square feet to accommodate more than 1,100 nursing students, faculty and staff and nearly 150 graduate clinicians and clinical and research faculty and staff in communication sciences and disorders. The four-story building will feature a 170-seat auditorium and lecture hall, a new home for the Memphis Speech and Hearing Center, research labs and health assessment and skills labs. It will be located on the Park Avenue Campus.

School of Nursing students have a 98 percent pass rate on the NCLEX by first-time exam takers. Seventy percent of the U of M's Advanced Practice Nursing graduates work as Family Nurse Practitioners in medically underserved areas of Tennessee. The academic programs of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology have been ranked among the Top 20 "Best Graduate Schools" by *U.S. News & World Report*.

Haslam also visited the campus on Feb. 1 for the opening ceremony for the University's Black History Month celebrations. Haslam congratulated Cato Johnson for earning this year's Authur S. Holmon Lifetime Achievement Award.

THE UNIVERSITY OF Memphis MAGAZINE

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U of M launches new website design

The University of Memphis website homepage has a sleek new look. "Redesigning the University's website has been a high priority," said Linda Bonnin, vice president for Communications, Public Relations and Marketing. "We are focusing the site back on student recruitment, and we're incorporating some new technology into it."

The most noticeable difference happens when resizing the webpage's window.

"The big news is that it uses responsive design," said Allecia Powell, U of M webmaster. "This means that the content will resize to fit the window or screen for any device so you can smoothly use the site anywhere."

Prospective students, current students, faculty and staff should find the site more seamless to navigate thanks to the succinct menu bar across the center of the page. Frequently used pages are listed on the bottom portion of every webpage.

Information for "how to do business with us" is listed under the Business and Industry tab at the top portion of the page, Powell said. This is where information pertaining to employee education, faculty and staff recruiting, trademark information, U of M-hosted professional conferences, and the U of M expert and consultant lists are located.



All press releases and other media-related items are listed under the "Latest U of M News" box. This link is found at the bottom portion of each page within the rotating set of boxes. Other rotating boxes include links for recruitment, student applications and a tuition estimator.

All U of M pages will be updated to the new design by early 2014.



Abteen Moshref, U of M Class of 2011

Arlette was born with arthrogryposis, a rare disease limiting movement in her arms. Abteen Moshref and other U of M biomedical engineering seniors developed an orthosis for her. At 5 years old, she fed herself for the first time!



Arlette, 5 years old

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Young U of M cadet already giving military a huge boost

Brandi Jackson has never met John Cody Guidry, doesn't have any idea where in the world he might be, but the University of Memphis freshman has already formed a bond with him that will likely last a lifetime.

"She is my connection to the outside world," said Guidry.

Guidry is a 22-year-old private first class in the Army, deployed overseas at an undisclosed but likely dangerous location; Jackson is a first-year Army ROTC cadet at the U of M looking to establish a long-term military career.

Jackson is coordinating a local chapter of the nationwide Soldier's Angels program that provides support services to deployed and wounded soldiers, their families and to veterans — and to a branch of the military many wouldn't think about: canines. She has "adopted" several soldiers and dogs on her own, sending them care packages on a daily basis. She is bent on building local support for the organization.

Talking to the two, it is impossible to know who feels who is helping the other most in a friendship that began in September.

"Knowing that what he is doing is being appreciated means so much to him. It makes him feel like he is doing the right thing," said Jackson, a criminal justice major from Atoka, Tenn. "After 9/11, there was so much interest in the war, but over the years, that has faded. Sometimes it is like our soldiers are forgotten. But they are still deploying them all the time and they are still risking their lives for us. They also feel some isolation, cut off from the outside world."

The Associated Press reported in mid-January that there were 349 self-inflicted deaths among soldiers last year in Afghanistan, a 16 percent increase from 2011. Statistics reveal that organizations such as Soldier's Angels can have a dramatic, positive impact on military personnel.

"To know there are people back in the States wanting to support my platoon and me is a great feeling," said Guidry. "Care packages are like an early Christmas present you weren't expecting to get — they are definitely a morale booster. Being able to get small leisure items such as snacks, movies and even hygiene products can make the day much easier."

Soldier's Angels was started as a nonprofit in 2003 by Patti Patton-Bader whose son, Brandon Varn, was deployed to Iraq in early 2003. Varn let his mom know that other soldiers weren't receiving care packages as he was from her, so out of concern for them, Patton-Bader started the organization.

Jackson is hoping alumni and those in the Memphis community, including churches and school children, become involved by "adopting" soldiers or by helping prepare care packages.

Those signing up can volunteer for a number of teams and project options that include letter writing, care packages and K-9 support — there are dozens of possibilities. Jackson says services also support returning soldiers and their families, such as helping with expenses when a family member travels overseas to visit a wounded soldier.

Jackson said as part of the letter writing team, she receives new names of soldiers on a weekly basis.

"That is exciting because you never know which branch of the military they will be from or what their requests will be."

Common items sent in care packages include toiletries, mini-fans, electronic hand-held games, playing cards, books, Frisbees, phone cards and food items such as beef jerky, candy and instant oatmeal.



Top: Private John Guidry (kneeling) with friends at an undisclosed combat zone. Bottom: U of M Army Cadet Brandi Jackson is coordinating local efforts of an organization that sends care packages to soldiers.

Said Guidry, "Receiving a warm blanket can make you feel a little closer to home."

The Soldier's Angels website says there are 207 "heroes" waiting for adoption. Contact Jackson at bkjcks2@memphis.edu and visit www.soldiersangels.org for more details on how to sign up. — by Greg Russell

Wizardry, academia meet in unique honors course

Learning to read was a painstakingly slow process for University of Memphis freshman Preston Blair when he was still a first-grader. Double vision and low-level dyslexia meant that “everything was double and backward” when he looked at a page. Yet, as Blair would discover, the only way to learn to read is by actually opening a book and giving it a try – that plus a bit of “wizardry,” in his case.

On weekends, Blair’s grandfather would read at least three chapters a night to him from the wildly popular *Harry Potter* series to help him learn. “I’d read the first few paragraphs and he’d help me with the words I didn’t know,” Blair recalls 12 years later.

By the fourth book, Blair was reading silently, and he was actually finishing the book before his grandfather did. The successful exercise in learning would have even longer lasting effects: Blair is now enrolled in the U of M’s Helen Hardin Honors Program, the largest such initiative in the state of Tennessee.

And, by coincidence, *Potter* continues to live on in Blair’s life.

In a course available only to freshman honors students, U of M English instructors Tammy Jones and Catherine Dice have transposed the themes of the *Potter* series into a one-hour forum course upperclassmen covet.

“The *Potter* series is their generational story,” Jones said of Blair and his fellow freshman classmates. “There’s no one ahead of them and no one behind them that will have had the same experience with these books that this group of students has had. We’re trying to capture that experience.”

This upcoming fall’s course, “UNHP 1100: *Harry Potter and the Ivory Tower*,” will focus on topics relating to culture, socioeconomic standing, mythology, religion and British history, just as the 2012 class did. It is not a literature course about the series, Jones said, but rather a platform that encourages students to understand how they will fit into the world after they graduate.

“Some of the topics are pretty heavy, but because it’s a world that they’re so completely



Top: Honors student Preston Blair reads a passage from the *Potter* series while (bottom) Kristin Curl gazes up from the required honors course textbooks: the entire *Harry Potter* series.

invested in, they don’t mind,” Jones said. “Plus, we’re trying to get them acculturated to being a part of the Honors Program and taking the lead in their own educational experiences.”

The seven books in the series are the required textbooks, and the professors lead discussions under the assumption that students have read the whole series at least once.

Others across the country have taken notice of the unique honors course. Earlier this month, Jones and Dice traveled to the University of North Carolina at Charlotte with students from the Honors Program to the annual *Harry Potter* conference, PotterWatch. The conference, open to fans of the *Harry Potter* series, hosts scholarly discussions pertaining to the series, one of which was led by Jones, Dice and the U of M Honors students.

The Honors program itself is attracting national attention — 1,848 students were enrolled last fall, including 469 freshmen, both record numbers that reflect the University’s enhanced recruitment efforts of high-ability students. The criteria in the program are intense: incoming freshmen must graduate from high school with a minimum 3.5 grade



point average and score at least a 27 on the ACT or 1,200 on the SAT.

Blair, with a good portion of his academic life positively affected by the *Potter* series, says others should pay attention to the “many messages” found in the series.

“There’s a lot more ‘thought’ in the books than people give the series credit for,” he said. “There is something there for everyone.”

— by Laura Fenton

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U of M making it easier for adults to get degrees

Nancy Bassett certainly took her time in doing so, but come this May, several decades of waiting will all have been worth it: she will finally have her undergraduate diploma. The 71-year-old museum consultant, often mistaken as an instructor, will complete her coursework through a University of Memphis specialized degree program.

"It's been a slow journey for me, but I could see the end in sight with this program," she said. "I think that it put me on a fast track."

The University College program, formerly known as "Back on Track" that Bassett took advantage of, is getting a makeover but the core mission hasn't changed. It still serves to ease the process of returning to school or starting higher education as a later-in-life adult, such as Bassett. But now the initiative, which encompasses the degree completion and Experiential Learning Credit (ELC) program, has a new message: Your experience counts.

"The reason we are changing it is because it has morphed into something bigger," said Dr. Richard Irwin, associate dean of the University College. "'Back on Track' was a single initiative

directed at returning students and people who had started and were within a year of degree completion. That was a nice project two years ago, but in the meantime, we determined that it was a bit narrow by design. We would rather embrace a much larger population of what is typically referred to as nontraditional or adult students, not only those who are restarting a degree, but also those who may be starting college for the first time."

The University College has 25 major programs as part of its bachelor of professional studies and liberal studies degrees, including a "design your own major" degree in liberal studies.

"Going through the University College is where I learned I could actually obtain a degree," Bassett said. "It was even possible to use some of my work experience toward the degree program. I could actually design my own degree, and that was important to me because I wanted to focus on museum management."

Undergraduate and graduate students earn credit hours for knowledge gathered while

on the job, during travel or in professional development programs.

An undergraduate student seeking ELCs must have a declared major within the University College. Graduate students seeking ELCs are invited to apply for the credits without declaring University College majors. Students learn by participating in hands-on training or by reflecting on the experiences from their professional lives, either through pre-accessed programs or by submitting portfolios that demonstrate knowledge gained.

Those who took time off from seeking degrees or those who wish to get secondary degrees are highly encouraged to participate in the ELC program, either on campus or online. The average recipient of ELCs is a 44-year-old active professional.

Keith Hammond (BPS '12) earned 30 credit hours in three months with online courses and an ELC portfolio. He was awarded 12 hours of ELC credit and took six courses in the short time frame.

"That helped a lot for me to get those 30 hours," he said. "And it was a lot cheaper than



Opposite page: Keith Hammond took advantage of a program at the U of M that makes it easier for adults to return to school and graduate. His mother, Earnestine Issac, visits with him during commencement. At left: Nancy Bassett, 71, also took advantage of the program and will receive her diploma in May.

taking regular courses. I would never have been able to graduate without it. It was an impossible feat. I would have been jobless without this program."

Hammond was offered the associate IT business analyst position at a local company that specializes in medical device technology under the condition that he complete his undergraduate degree by August 2012. If not, he would be asked to leave his new position. He made the deadline.

"Our emphasis in the University College on finishing a college degree is in line with Tenn. Gov. Bill Haslam's effort to increase the educational level of the state by reaching some of the 800,000 Tennesseans 25 years of age and older who have started degrees and not completed them," said Dan Lattimore, vice provost for Extended Programs, dean of the

University College and dean of the Lambuth Campus.

Nationwide, there are 40 million adults in this category.

"Additionally, we are encouraging adults who would like to change careers or enhance their skills to consider our graduate programs in professional studies," Lattimore said. "We have programs in strategic leadership, human resource administration and training/development."

Increasing the college-educated population would raise the educational level of the workforce, which in turn could spur economic growth for the region.

Another good reason to complete a degree is that statistics show that the households and demographics featuring the highest educational attainment in the country are also among those with the highest household income and wealth.

It doesn't matter how old you are, there's always time to complete the degree you've been seeking, Lattimore said.

"I think a program like this is beneficial for all adults, regardless of their age," Bassett said.

— by Laura Fenton

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SESSIONS: and includes free parking.

Tuesday, April 16

Michael D. Rose Theatre Lobby
U of M – Main Campus
470 University St. / Memphis, TN

Thursday, April 18

Varnell-Jones Admin. Building, Wisdom Parlor
U of M – Lambuth Campus
705 Lambuth Blvd. / Jackson, TN

Tuesday, April 23

The Carrier Center, Room 116
500 Winchester Blvd. / Collierville, TN

Thursday, April 25

The Millington Center, Room 132 A, B, C
6500 Navy Rd. / Millington, TN

For more information or to pre-register, please visit memphis.edu/experiencecounts or call 901.678.2716.

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Getting spoked: bike share program comes to campus

The University of Memphis campus continues to get greener — this time with the help of a little pedal power.

The new Tiger Bike Share Program is allowing U of M students to make less of a carbon imprint on campus by giving them another transportation option. The program introduced a fleet of 50 bikes earlier this year for shared student use. Besides the obvious — more exercise and convenience for students — other benefits could prove large in the future.

“It will help improve our parking problem, which is always a concern,” said Amelia Mayahi, U of M sustainability coordinator.

Other benefits include giving students who can’t afford bicycles an opportunity to ride.

Each participant will be required to pay a \$35 fee each semester and take part in a bike safety program before checking out a bike for the first time. Once enrolled in the program, students will have access to the bicycles on a first-come, first-served basis and would be able to keep the bikes for 14 days. In order to avoid a small number of students repeatedly renting the bicycles, a 24-hour window between checkouts will be required. Users will



be provided locks and helmets and will be held responsible for general maintenance and returning the bikes in good condition.

As the program grows, plans call for additional bikes and a potential bike shop on Central Avenue. There is the possibility that faculty and staff could eventually be included in the bike-share program, which is being funded by the Student Green Fee.



U of M law school student Chris Martin (left) was awarded the 2013 Student Volunteer of the Year Award for his work with the needy.

U of M law school student recognized for pro bono work

Chris Martin, a third-year student at the University of Memphis’ Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law, was honored with the state’s top award for law student pro bono work by the Tennessee Bar Association.

The 2013 Student Volunteer of the Year Award is given annually to a state of Tennessee law school student who performs outstanding volunteer service to one or more organizations providing legal representation to the poor.

Martin was recognized for his work as a volunteer with Memphis Area Legal Services, as an intern with the Memphis city attorney’s office, as a Youth Court mentor for the Memphis & Shelby County Juvenile Court and as a volunteer with the Shelby County Public Defender’s Office. Martin also has been president of the University of Memphis Public Action Law Society, during which he recruited and organized law students to help with Project Homeless Connect, a one-day event matching the homeless with state and federal services as well as legal help.

Martin is also a leader at his school. As a first-year law student, he participated in Alternative Spring Break, in which students spend their break volunteering with legal groups that serve the poor. This year he oversaw the entire program, which involved students from the U of M’s School of Law and several other law schools.

Martin earned a degree in journalism/electronic media from the University of Tennessee at Martin in 2009. After graduation from law school, he aspires to work with a government agency or a nonprofit.

Covering his bases

Adam Milligan was like most Major League Baseball prospects when he reported to spring training March 1: there was the usual “crack of the bat” and high hopes of making the Atlanta Braves’ opening day roster. A University of Memphis connection, though, set him apart from others on the team.

Milligan has been spending the spring cracking something else: books. The former junior college All-American and highly touted minor leaguer has been taking classes at the U of M’s Lambuth Campus as well as online courses.

“Ever since I signed out of college (2008), one of my main goals is making the majors, but also up there with that is finishing my degree,” said the Savannah, Tenn., native. “Through research I found that Memphis had some hybrid courses that started last fall — the season ends in the middle of September and Memphis had some online courses I could take so I felt like it was a great opportunity and I signed up.”

Milligan attended Hardin County High — the same school former Tiger and Oakland A’s pitcher Chad Harville attended. Milligan played for Walters State Community College in Morristown, Tenn., and had signed with Vanderbilt before being drafted by the Braves for the third time in 2008.

The power-hitting right fielder played for the Lynchburg Hillcats in the Carolina League last year. Despite appearing in just 91 games because of an injury, he was second on the team with 15 home runs and tallied 49 RBI. Taking courses — even online ones — sometimes was the hardest part.

“You’ve heard about the infamous long bus rides in the minor leagues? The (Carolina) league stretches from Delaware to Myrtle Beach, S.C.,” Milligan

said. “So you might play a game in Wilmington, Delaware, finish up at 10 p.m., leave out of there on the bus at 11 headed to Myrtle Beach. You get in at 8 or 9 in the morning, hop in bed for a short bit, wake up, eat lunch and head to the field. That goes on from April 1 to September. Getting in studying on some of those 10-hour trips was interesting.”

Milligan was taking three online courses during the season before settling in at the Lambuth Campus for actual classroom work last October. He decided to return to school after some serious cerebral pondering.

“In baseball, you are pursuing a career where only about 2 percent make it a career,” he said. “You have to be realistic. I will put my work in and pursue it and hope for the best. There is always that chance it won’t work out.”

This spring Milligan is taking two online courses as he continues pursuing his degree. He hopes to make it to the Braves’ AA affiliate in Jackson, Miss.

Lambuth Campus marketing professor Hal Freeman, who taught Milligan this past fall, says he believes Milligan will eventually have the same effect another Tiger star has had on the community.

“Penny Hardaway is a perfect example of what Adam is doing,” said Freeman. “Penny came back to school, got his degree and is doing tremendous things in the community. I predict Adam will do the same thing. He wants to be a role model and let kids know that ‘I might be a baseball player, but it is also important to get my degree.’”

Milligan is looking for a breakout year, but if not, he will have something to fall back on.

“I want to finish my degree in business administration and then get my masters in business administration,” he said.

— by Greg Russell



U of M student Adam Milligan found taking classes at the U of M Lambuth Campus a convenient option while continuing his big-league pursuit.



Stephens with one of his signature dunks.

Leap year

From his office in downtown Phoenix, Brett Meister admits he had never heard of D.J. Stephens. Surprise was followed by intrigue and then by what ultimately sounded like a recruiting pitch.

"What year is he? People are really comparing him to Michael Wilson? Do you know how high he can jump? What are his plans?"

Meister has reason to be interested. As a senior vice president for the Harlem Globetrotters, he is always on the lookout for fresh talent. "Keep me updated," he concluded.

If the conversation had happened late in the season, Meister's "surprise" element most certainly would not have been there: dunk by dunk, block by block, Stephens leapt into the hearts of college basketball fans nationwide with over-the-top, eye-popping throw downs.

"I think one day he might just jump right over the backboard," one Tiger fan says.

Jump on board

The question is simple, but Stephens has no easy answer. He can't tell you how many times it has been asked — "maybe a thousand times at least" — but he figures it is something he will hear when he is 80 years old: *How do you jump so high?*

"I can't tell you that," Stephens says with a grin. "That is an everyday question. People ask me if I have springs in my shoes; they ask what I did to start jumping so high.

"When I was a kid, I jumped around a lot when we were playing, like from couch to couch pretending that the ground was lava, but I never did anything crazy like wear ankle weights.

"It just sort of happened. My junior year in high school, I was in warm-ups before a game and one of my teammates said, 'D.J., you ought to try to dunk it.' I was like, 'OK.' I went higher than I expected and I dunked it. I was like, 'Oh man!' After that, every chance I got, I dunked. Sometimes two or three in a game, sometimes five times. Seems like all I was doing was dunking. It just took off from there."

The dunks, though, at least with FedExForum as the weekly backdrop, nearly never happened. Stephens came to Memphis only

because of another player's misfortune. Two weeks before entering college in 2009, with only a handful of offers from Division I schools, he was still searching for a scholarship when Josh Pastner came calling. A Tiger recruit from France had become injured during the summer, freeing up a roster spot.

"It was a scary recruiting process for me," Stephens recalls. "It was the end of the summer and all the schools had pulled back their scholarship offers. I was thinking I had nowhere to go because there is only a short window in the recruiting process and that window had seemingly closed. But then the call came from Coach Pastner. Look where I am today."

Stephens' minutes increased from about eight the first year to 23 this season. He has become Memphis' "feel-good story," aptly tagged "pogo stick," "human highlight reel" and "rocket."

"I consider myself the high-energy guy who is going to block a shot or grab a rebound really high or make a dunk that causes the crowd to go, 'Ooooooh,' he says, "or the guy who changes the momentum of the game. This year it is more evident because I have been on the floor more.

"This *has* been a special year for me. I consider myself a behind-the-scenes kind of guy, a little bit shy. I have never wanted the attention or wanted to be the guy with the camera stuck in his face. I don't even like dunk contests because I feel like those cause me to be singled out in front of a lot of people."

Quantum leap

D.J. is up high above the goal, looking down and readying to explode on the rim ... so what is he thinking?

"If I am by myself, I am thinking about just the dunk. But the times I go up in the air and someone bumps me or undercuts me, those are the times I get worried because by jumping so high, it is a long way down and there is nothing to catch me and the floor is hard.

"Fans tell me it scares them every time I hit the floor. Usually it doesn't bother me until the next day and then I feel the soreness."

Stephens says he hopes his leaping ability carries him to the NBA, something one former



Left: Anfernee "Penny" Hardaway was considered by many to be Memphis' most creative dunker while Michael Wilson (right) was the Tigers' highest leaper ever with a 52-inch vertical leap. Wilson, a Globetrotter for 10 years, is shown breaking the world record for highest dunk ever.

Tiger — perhaps Memphis' most creative dunker of all time — thinks might be possible.

"There is no other player like him out there, nobody in the NBA," Tiger legend Anfernee "Penny" Hardaway says. "He is his own player.

"To play NBA, with his height, he wouldn't be on the post. So he needs to work on his jump shot, on his dribbling skills. He needs to be a player who defensively can shut people down.

"People love athleticism and he certainly has that. He should get a look because of that alone."

But, if not, there is always ... *the Harlem Globetrotters?*

"I will never regret my time with the Globetrotters," says former Tiger forward Michael Wilson, now a girls' basketball coach in the Washington, D.C., area. "I went to 81 countries in my 10 years with them.

"D.J.? You never know. He is so athletic. He uses it in every aspect of the game — blocked shots, rebounds, dunks — like I did. I think it will take him somewhere."

Wilson, whose vertical leap of 52 inches is still a Tiger benchmark, broke the *Guinness Book of World Records* mark for the highest dunk ever at 12 feet in 2000.

Life after Tiger basketball is something Stephens, who says he is often compared to Wilson, thinks about "a lot."

"Globetrotters? That wouldn't be my first option, but I would consider it," he says with just a hint of wanderlust. "Hopefully I will be playing in the NBA next year. If that doesn't work out, then overseas."

But, with such high-flying skills, it is a sure bet he will land firmly on his feet somewhere interesting. (At press time, the Tigers were beginning play in the NCAA basketball tournament as a sixth seed.) — *by Greg Russell*



Their ideas are creative, clever, and oftentimes carry a “Why didn’t I think of that first?” quality. A new breed of scientists at the University of Memphis is aggressively pursuing inventions that are already affecting millions around the world — and could have even saved an international pop star’s life.

Patent





Pending

BY GREG RUSSELL

Ever since professors and universities across the country began focusing their research on revenue-generating inventions, a few have stood out: the University of Florida has its Gatorade; Northwestern University its anti-seizure drug Lyrica; and Florida State University its cancer-fighting drug Taxol. All have generated enormous wealth for the schools, sprouted dozens of start-up companies and, at Florida State alone, produced more than \$350 million in revenue for the inventor and the school since Taxol went on the market in the early 1990s.

So with the University of Memphis focused on becoming a research powerhouse itself, it was, as U of M administrator Kevin Boggs says, a “no-brainer” when the school created the Office of Technology Transfer five years ago. Boggs, U of M assistant vice president for Technology Transfer, says the mission of the office is not only to further the University’s ambitious and expanding research mission, but to capture some of the nearly \$2 billion generated annually because of commercialization of inventions at universities nationwide.

“President (Shirley) Raines realized with our growing research stature that includes more and more inventions, we needed an office and a full-time person who would evaluate the

invention on the front end, protect the intellectual property when appropriate, market them to companies who are likely to want them, sign licenses that make sense for both sides and then monitor the license so that the product comes to market,” Boggs says.

Boggs notes that the flurry of patents awarded to U of M researchers in the past five years shows that the University is serious about commercializing technological and scientific discoveries and supports his office’s efforts to capitalize on those discoveries. With destabilized state and federal funding, money-generating inventions are becoming more and more essential, he says.

“Kevin understands the importance of the publication of our research for academic purposes at the same time that he appreciates the value of the commercialization of our work. He has an entrepreneurial mindset that we just don’t have,” says chemistry professor Abby Parrill-Baker, who, along with fellow professor Dan Baker, obtained the U of M’s 10th recent patent, this



one for chemical compounds that is expected to be useful in medicines that fight cancer.

“We suggest to Kevin our research findings that we think might lead to a patent, then he takes it from there. He has good connections with companies that may be interested in our research for their product line,” Dr. Parrill-Baker says.

Boggs says many of the recent inventions have resulted in start-up companies, which can serve as an economic boost for all involved.

“Our office also tries to nurture relations with local entrepreneurs, because a lot of times there is no established company that is interested in that technology. The only way to get someone interested is with a start-up. That start-up perfects the product. The big payoff for all comes when the start-up is able to sell the invention to a major corporation.”

Boggs says his office has received 70 invention disclosures from U of M researchers and has filed 50 patent applications in five years. He expects those numbers to dramatically increase as more professors focus on both the academic and commercial side of their research.

So who are these pace-setting professors who are diligently working to better society while providing a new route of funding for the U of M? Grab a lab coat, put on your safety goggles and let’s scour the University’s laboratories in search of mind-boggling discoveries.

A pop star in his own right

Keep in mind that Dr. Ernő Lindner’s work is being funded by a \$1.47 million grant from the U.S. Army, but that doesn’t keep the biomedical engineering professor from bringing up the name of an internationally known pop icon to describe an invention that could make life easier on wounded soldiers in the battlefield.

“Michael Jackson made Propofol famous,” Lindner says of the powerful anesthesia that is used in more than 70 million U.S. surgeries each year. “If our product had been available, it is conceivable he would be alive today.”

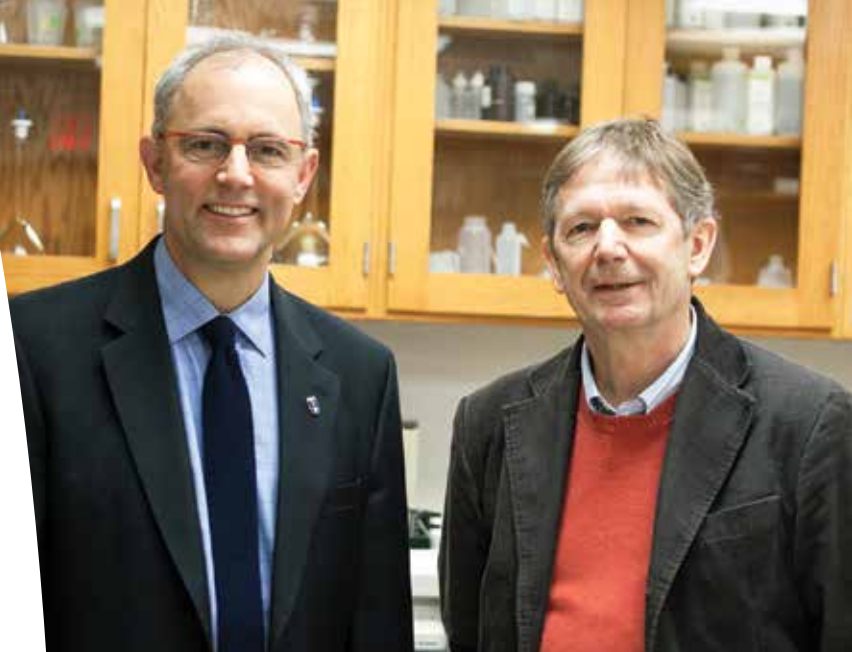
Lindner and research partner Dr. Edward Chaum, a professor of retinal disease at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center, are developing sensor-based instruments that can almost immediately measure the concentration of Propofol in a patient. Most current systems require blood to be drawn and then separated into different components before a measurement can be obtained.

“This can take as long as two hours and by that time, the surgery is over,” says Lindner.

Plus, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration requires that Propofol be administered by an anesthesiologist, which limits its use in the battlefield. The U.S. Army is working with Lindner and Chaum on an automated delivery system whereby medics could instead administer the drug to wounded soldiers in the field.

The sensor and a pump-like device would continuously monitor the level of Propofol, which is often metabolized at different rates in wounded soldiers. This could potentially prevent fatal overdoses in soldiers and during surgeries in hospitals.

Chaum and Lindner have launched a start-up company, Infusense,



Top: Kevin Boggs, assistant vice president for Technology Transfer, and Dr. Ernő Lindner, who is working on a sensor device that monitors levels of Propofol. Bottom: (from left) chemistry professors Paul Simone and Gary Emmert and business partner John Ware already have three patents on their water-testing device.

which is working to perfect the monitoring devices, with hospitals as the ultimate target as well as battlefield scenarios. The device could be in use in the next year or so.

Waves of success

Dr. Gary Emmert insists that a painting of water gushing through a forest on his office’s wall directly behind his head isn’t for any symbolic reason. “That wasn’t by design, more of an accident,” he laughs, while taking a short break from talking about his life’s passion: ensuring clean drinking water for the masses.

What is no accident is Emmert’s prolific research that has resulted in three patents and an additional one that is pending on devices that inexpensively and efficiently gauge the amount of carcinogens in drinking water. Chlorine that is added to natural water supplies can form carcinogens when it comes in contact with decayed plants or animal waste. Utility companies are required by federal law to report the amount to consumers.



Biomedical engineering professors Joel Bumgardner and Warren Haggard and graduate student Ashley Parker are perfecting a “sponge” antibiotic system for the U.S. Army. Researchers and businesses can contact Kevin Boggs at kpboggs@memphis.edu for more information on the Office of Technology Transfer.

Emmert, a chemistry professor, says larger utility companies have labs that can test the water, but the vast majority have to send samples offsite, which can cost tens of thousands of dollars annually and take weeks to get back.

“Our way to monitor is a new approach that is a low-cost kit they do onsite and get results back in two hours instead of three to six weeks,” says Emmert. “It can save them thousands and thousands of dollars a year. Water companies want a meter that says the water is OK or not. That is what we are giving them, daily process control, at a fraction of what they now pay to test their water supply.”

“There is nothing like it on the market,” says research associate Paul Simone, a U of M chemistry assistant professor.

One major water utility company that serves in excess of six million people has bought into the product. Foundation Instruments, a start-up company that includes Emmert, Simone and business partner John Ware, is aggressively marketing the patented device that could eventually provide a large windfall for the U of M.

Soaking in it

What was originally thought to be a failed experiment from a U of M biomedical engineering graduate student may mean big things for the University and the U.S. Army.

An efficient antibiotic delivery system meant to effectively prevent infection in wounded soldiers in the battlefield got a huge lift when then-student Scott Noel (MS '07, PhD '10) approached professors Warren Haggard and Joel Bumgardner with a sponge-device that had previously been deemed ineffective in earlier research.

“Scott brought it to us and said, ‘Dr. Haggard, this needs lots of refinement, but I think you and Dr. Bumgardner can do some big things with it.’”

The U.S. Army did too, investing in research into the sponge, which is actually made of chitosan polymer from shrimp. The spongy material can soak in a solution of antibiotics (whatever the surgeon deems necessary) and then is placed in the wound without the need for a major procedure.

“That is one big advantage of the sponge,” Haggard says. “Another huge advantage is that our sponge is biodegradable. With other technologies, surgeons have to go back in and remove it.”

Haggard says the Army prefers the sponge technology over other antibiotic delivery systems because “they feel it is simpler and easier for them to train their staff and other physicians on how to use it.”

The sponge can be cut into different sizes, meaning the entire wound is covered.

A patent is pending on the sponge technology; start-up company Bionova Medical has hired Noel and is aggressively marketing the sponge.

“They are a small start-up, but a successful one,” says Haggard. “They have already licensed a couple of technologies to larger companies. Think of them as a development company that perfects a product and then sells it to big companies.”

End game

Haggard easily sums up the importance of the U of M’s recent emphasis on inventions: “Some universities have had great windfalls with patents, Florida State for example, with Taxol. With the licensing agreements coming out of our Office of Technology Transfer, the University has a revenue stream of its own when the product becomes available and the product hits certain milestones.”

Time will tell, but with the aggressive nature of these U of M scientists and others across campus on finding real-world solutions to problems, the potential of that revenue stream is becoming larger. 🐾

With the U of M's most ambitious capital campaign drawing to a close June 30, there is still time to invest in your University.

Capital GAINS

BY GREG RUSSELL

One grain of sand may seem insignificant. But add another, then another. Ten more, millions more and suddenly, you have a vast, pristine beach. Now envision a donation of \$25. Add \$100. Throw in a few thousand more — that's how a great university becomes iconic.

As the University of Memphis' \$250 million *Empowering the Dream* Centennial Campaign draws to a close June 30, Bobby Prince, U of M associate vice president for Development, wants to convey an important message: "Every dollar counts."

"We have had more than 60,000 gifts in the \$100 or less range that have amounted to millions of dollars that have gone toward reaching our goal," Prince says. "Every gift, no matter how small or large, is important and valued. Every dollar received will help us reach our goal."

Longtime education faculty member Jane Hooker (BSEd '68, MSEd '69), who taught the likes of Keith Lee, Larry Finch and James Earl Wright, agrees.

"It is not how much you give, but just that you do give," says Hooker, who first began giving in 1968 at the encouragement of legendary athletic director Elma Roane. "Imagine if everyone in the city gave just \$10 a month, the impact that would have on the region. When you give to the University, you are giving to the community because the school is involved in so many service organizations.





Empowering the Dream funds have already been used for an award-winning renovation of the Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law in downtown Memphis. Alumni are still encouraged to donate to the U of M to help the school reach its \$250 million goal by June 30.

“Don’t be just a taker; be a giver, it will warm your heart. You might just be making a difference in whether a student can attend college or not by donating to scholarship funds,” she says.

The campaign has already generated more than \$236 million that supports student scholarships, research, faculty development and the renovation and construction of major new facilities. Prince stresses that gifts can be designated for any area at the University, from athletics to scholarships.

University President Shirley Raines emphasizes that with the dramatic decrease in state appropriations in the past 10 years, alumni giving is extremely important to the University’s overall mission.

“Endowment funding is crucial to attracting top-ranking, high-caliber students,” Raines says, “and increased funding for endowed professorships and chairs will foster the recruitment of distinguished faculty. Campaigns such as this and strong alumni support help us accomplish those goals, which in turn enhance the University’s reputation. An enhanced reputation only increases the value of degrees that have been earned here, so alumni do see a return on their investments.”

Alumna Tona Simpson (BA ’88, MA ’95), director of Foundation Relations at Ducks Unlimited, agrees with Raines.

“The strength of the U of M is in its alumni,” says Simpson, who along with her husband, Randy (BBA ’90), designated gifts to the Fogelman College of Business and Economics and to the College

of Communication and Fine Arts. “The people who came before us helped make the University what it was for us. With our gifts we can ensure two things: that students who want to get a great education can and that our degrees will grow in value because of the quality students we are helping to nurture.”

Memphis business leader Doug McGowen recently donated to the Student Affairs Leadership Fund with an eye toward giving an economic boost to the region. McGowen is a retired commanding officer with the U.S. Navy, and is the director of the Mayor’s Innovation Delivery Team, which helps grow small businesses in inner-city Memphis.

“Supporting an environment that challenges the limits of individual performance and creates space for the study and practice of leadership is an investment in our community and our nation,” says McGowen. “Left to chance, the potential of far too many solid leaders will go unrealized, few good leaders will emerge, and too many well-intentioned, but poorly prepared leaders will develop.”

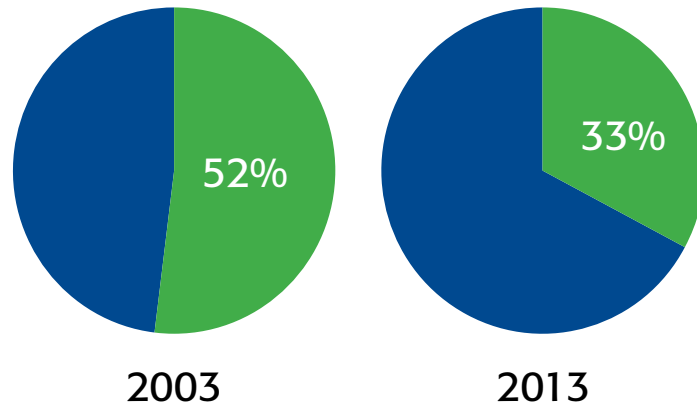
McGowen, who further invests in the University through his role as a member of the Leadership Programs advisory board, encourages alumni to give as a way to strengthen not only the city but the entire Mid-South.

“More than providing education to our families, the intellectual capital of the students and faculty adds significant capacity to our collective ability to advance the city and the region,” says McGowen. “That only happens because the U of M is invested in and committed to our community.”

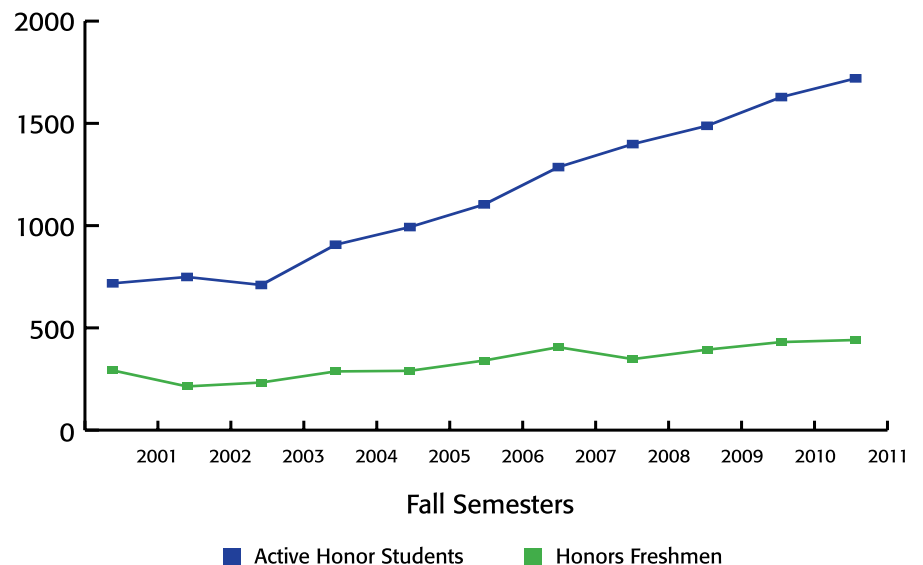
Simpson adds, “Randy and I are lifelong Memphians and see the value a strong university brings to the community. We know the University gave us the basis for our careers, and we owe much of our success to the connections we made in college. For me, the University also was my first real job. Giving back to a place that gave us so much was just natural.”

Monies raised so far have gone toward an award-winning renovation of the historic downtown Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law as well as current remodeling of the former

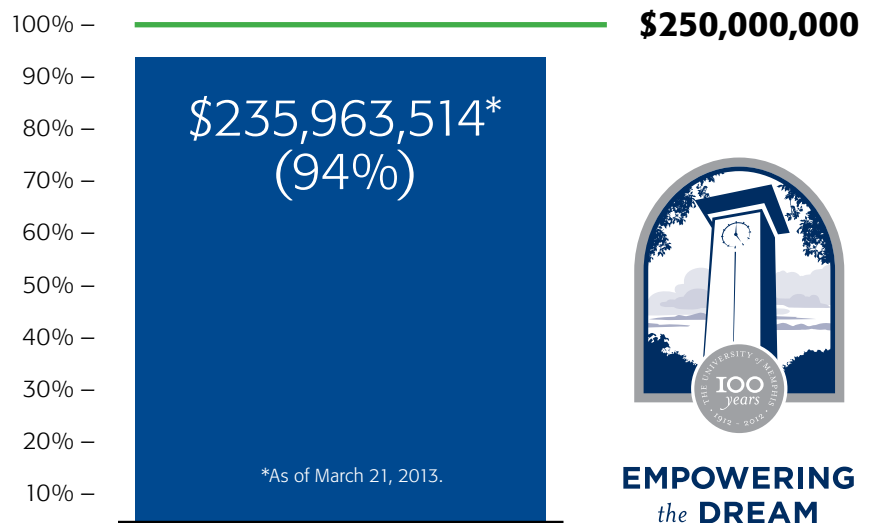
State Appropriation Levels versus General Budget



Helen Hardin Honors Program Growth



Empowering the Dream Campaign Goal



Masonic Lodge near campus that will serve as the Crews Ventures Lab. The building will be home to a vibrant environment for researchers and local entrepreneurs to collaborate on projects with real-world applications.

Part of the funds raised will go toward construction of a new Music Center and the Community Health Building, which was recently in the news after the state pledged \$45 million toward the \$60 million price tag. The remaining funding for this state-of-the-art facility must come from the University. The building will house the Loewenberg School of Nursing and the School of Communication Sciences and Disorders on the University's Park Avenue Campus.

The Loewenberg School of Nursing currently has to house its classes and labs in nine different buildings while the School of Communication Sciences and Disorders and its Speech and Hearing Center is operating in three locations, including one downtown.

The Helen Hardin Honors Program, the largest such initiative in the state of Tennessee, has also benefited from the Centennial Campaign. This past year, 1,852 students were enrolled, a record number. Of that number, 469 were freshmen, also a new level. "We have become a 'first choice' for academically motivated students," says Raines, while pointing out that the program's phenomenal growth is being made possible because of donations.

Simpson says she feels she is ensuring her legacy at the U of M through her gift.

"Giving to the University is a natural part of the pride I feel for my alma mater and my city," she says. "There really is no great city without a great University." 🐾

To make a gift to this very important initiative, call 901/678.4376, email Bobby Prince at baprince@memphis.edu or visit www.memphis.edu/development/index.php to explore the many ways to give.



Top: The Community Health Building will house two of the University's most successful programs: the Loewenberg School of Nursing and the School of Communication Sciences and Disorders. Both programs currently operate out of multiple locations. Middle and bottom: A new Music Center is also planned, which will house the Rudi E. Scheidt School of Music. The current music building is antiquated and cramped for space. Donations for both facilities can be designated directly for each building. Email Bobby Prince at baprince@memphis.edu or call 901/678.4376 for information on how to make a gift to this defining capital campaign.

A case in study



From a land made famous by long distance runners, a University of Memphis alum's own extreme journey has reaped huge rewards.

BY LAURA FENTON

There's a saying almost as old as time itself that "what doesn't kill you makes you stronger." For a young, near penniless student from a land far away, the saying soon became a perfect fit more than a decade ago.

When Kenya native Pauline Linda Adhoch first reached U.S. soil in 1998, she only had \$5 in her pocket; her lone suitcase was sparsely filled with odds and ends. "I did not have much of anything," Adhoch bluntly admits. And, as if circumstances couldn't have been any worse, the only person she knew in the United States "was long gone," she notes.

"I had come to the U.S. to get an education, but I did not have much in terms of wealth or any friends, so those first few years were very tough ones," she recalls. "I had a relative here, but he had moved to New York. So I didn't have transportation to get anywhere; I didn't know anybody else in town. I had to rely on my work-study for the little money I had, and on scholarships to pay my tuition.

"It was a totally new environment for me from what I was used to in Kenya: no friends and no family to talk to. It was like a new life."



Even something that is a staple in the United States — fast food — was a challenge, one that was cultural in nature. "I am not a fan of fast food — we don't really have that much in Kenya — so eating was a problem, too," she says.

Adhoch had journeyed to the United States to study biology at Rust College in Holly Springs, Miss., about a 45-minute drive south of



Memphis. But with no friends or family, she quickly found herself out of her comfort zone, frequently alone and often homesick. With a burning desire to earn a diploma, she knew she had to find a way to cope. What she found was something that would ultimately lead to almost dizzying success, considering her melancholic start.

While her classmates would spend evenings and weekends at sporting events, movies or shopping, Adhoch would return to her dorm room alone each night and crack the books, almost incessantly.

"Everything I did was centered around studying," she says. "That is how I handled not knowing anyone or having family close by. It is how I passed my time at night, on the weekends and any free time I had. I would study for hours and hours just to turn my attention away from any loneliness I would have. And when I would become homesick, I would study even more."

What almost became an obsession born out of survivalist mode has since paid huge dividends for a woman whose chance at success seemed like a longshot 13 years ago. Adhoch graduated last summer from the University of Memphis' Loewenberg School of Nursing with a graduate degree from the advanced nursing program. It was her third diploma since arriving in the United States and is allowing her to fulfill a lifelong dream.

"My passion lies in helping people," Adhoch (MSN '12) says. "The \$5 bill has been replaced with good nursing experience that I



Above: Pauline Linda Adhoch addresses the Loewenberg School of Nursing. When she arrived in the U.S., Adhoch had only \$5 and knew virtually no one. She now has three degrees and a blossoming professional career.



says Hilary Armstrong, WellChild coordinator of clinical processes. “They absolutely love her. It is apparent that she is a very compassionate person.”

At the U of M, Adhoch steadfastly proceeded through her coursework, graduating in two-and-a-half years with the skills necessary to become a nurse practitioner.

“It was a wonderful program with good professors who helped me to transition through the program successfully,” she says. “They gave me phone calls when I needed help, and they gave me the guidance that

I needed. It has made me confident in my role as a practitioner and I feel the program really prepared me for the role that I have currently.”

Adhoch could easily have chosen to use her personal problems as a crutch, but she never did, says Loewenberg clinical assistant professor Mary “Petey” Elliotte.

“She wasn’t trying to use any difficulties she has faced as an excuse if she wasn’t successful,” Elliotte says. “She was trying to do what was expected of her in the program. She was trying to be the best she could be. That’s an inner desire for some people. She deserves all the respect in the world.”

Adhoch has come far since those early, difficult days. She is now married and has two children. She even has siblings in the U.S. who have followed in her footsteps in their quest for a degree.

“When I came here, I didn’t have much. But my humble beginnings have been replaced with a wealth of experience that I never imagined possible,” she concludes. 🐾

can share with others as a way to give back.”

“This graduate inspires us all,” says Loewenberg Dean Lin Zhan. “Her determination to pursue higher education despite financial hardship is truly commendable. And I think it speaks highly of our faculty who mentored, guided and supported her in this long journey. It is an all-around success story with a happy ending.”

Adhoch now works for WellChild as a family nurse practitioner, caring for young children. With the wellness company, she goes to Memphis area schools to conduct vision, hearing, dental and behavioral-health screenings and physical exams to make recommendations to parents on whether they need to take their child to a clinic for follow-up exams.

“What is missed at home or at the doctor’s office, we catch it,” Adhoch says. “We make sure they have good vision, because sometimes children fail in school not because they don’t understand what is being taught, but because they can’t see well, and no one has treated them for that.”

Adhoch says her desire to care for young children is something she comes by honestly: as a child, she would watch as her mother — a midwife and nurse in Kenya — would go to great lengths to provide proper care for newborns. Her mother’s diligence must have rubbed off on Adhoch.

“She has a very calm demeanor that the kids are very receptive to,”

“Everything I did was centered around studying. That is how I handled not knowing anyone or having family close by.”



From boys to Men

A unique mentoring program bolstered by a U of M professor's expertise is putting at-risk youth on the path to success.

by
Gabrielle
Maxey

Before there was a Soulsville USA Charter School, there was an after-school program at Stax Music Academy. While it offered engaging activities for the young people in the neighborhood, some of the boys attending were exhibiting less than stellar behavior. Enter Dr. Gregory Washington and a team of elders from the community to add a culturally centered group-mentoring component to the program.

Young black men in Memphis face immense challenges, including behavioral issues, troubling school dropout rates and high levels of crime, poverty and incarceration, says Washington, director of the University of Memphis' Center for the Advancement of Youth Development (CAYD) and associate professor of social work. "When family members are incarcerated, children may experience mental and physical health problems, exposure to

violence, gangs, and, in too many cases, the absence of fathers," he says.

The aim of Washington's engaged scholarship in the U of M's Department of Social Work is to identify, implement and evaluate culturally centered interventions that prevent and treat problem behaviors that youths experience.

Washington has a history of collaborating to recruit African-American mentors to work with young males through groups like the LeMoyne-Owen College Community Development Corp. (LOCCDC), the city of Memphis, Shelby County Government, Urban Youth Initiative and Memphis CARES Mentoring Movement. The most recent of these collaborations between LOCCDC and CAYD is the Expanding Assets and Steering Initiative (EASI). The program attempts to mold the healthy development of young males and their families.

"Poverty is off the chain, health outcomes are poor and incarceration rates are deplorable in African-American neighborhoods," says Washington, while noting that while some progress has been made, improvement is inconsistent and modest.

A critical part of the EASI initiative is following the African tradition of using elders to lead discussions and activities about healthy manhood identity and skills.

"African-American ancestors and elders had to learn healthy ways to survive slavery and Jim Crow," Washington says. "Elders teach unity, manhood development strategies and how to respect others in the universe."

These lessons are in competition with messages the boys see in their neighborhoods and in the media.

"Gangs offer a sense of family, a sense of identity," the U of M professor says. "They provide mentors, resources and ideology.

EASI elders try to counteract some of that.”

Physical activity, including basketball and swimming, also is an important part of the program.

“Boys need a healthy way of dealing with that male energy,” Washington says. “Therapeutic recreation helps with communication, socialization and academics and provides the ‘hook’ that keeps boys engaged.”

EASI uses activities like drumming, hip-hop, art and martial arts to engage boys in lessons about healthy manhood identity.

Ekpe Abioto (known simply as Ekpe) uses the djembe, or African drum, to deliver universal messages of health, love of learning and respect for others. Through African music, the colorfully clad Ekpe teaches the boys and mentors about their history and culture.

“By playing the drums, they have an opportunity to express themselves in a positive way,” Ekpe says. “They get to be with other young men doing something positive. They form a camaraderie through culture.”

Drumming offers an alternative to the violence the boys see in their community, says Ekpe.

“It’s very positive. When they come in, the first thing they want to do is put their hands on the drums,” he says. “They pay attention very well. It’s not boring.”

Ekpe sometimes demonstrates other African instruments like the kalimba, or thumb piano.

“They’re proud to know their culture,” he says. “In Africa, drums symbolize power and unity. They know they’re not getting their power from a gun.”

The EASI program partners with Cummings Middle School,



Top: Participants in the Expanding Assets and Steering Initiative pose with their djembes, or African drums. Bottom: Ekpe Abioto (at left) watches as the Cummings Middle School drum circle performs at the Art Trolley Tour in downtown Memphis.

where the mentors meet with boys once a week.

Drumming was a big draw for the program, says EASI’s program director, Gerald Richardson. The EASI drum circle has performed throughout the community, including at neighborhood block parties in downtown Memphis and at the Art Trolley Tour in the South Main Historic District.

“It gives them a big sense of accomplishment. They were the focal point, doing something positive,” Richardson says.

The boys had the chance to design and print their own T-shirts to wear during the performances. “They picked African symbols for peace, love and unity,” he explains. “They wear the T-shirts all the time. Those who met all the requirements of the program got to keep a drum of their own.”

Funded through the U of M’s Strengthening Communities Initiative, United Way and the Community Foundation of Greater Memphis, the program is redefining the way social work is done,

says Dr. Stan Hyland, head of the U of M’s School of Urban Affairs and Public Policy.

“Dr. Washington is using a very innovative approach by looking at human development and identity in a very creative way through music,” Hyland says. “They are building relationships related to trust and identity that can be linked to critical social services. We see it as a good investment that will lead to more innovations. We’re discovering new paths.”

The scope of the EASI program reaches across University departments. Dr. Theresa Okwumabua, visiting assistant professor and outreach coordinator for the U of M Department of Psychology, has worked with young people with serious mental, emotional and behavioral health challenges. Her focus is on helping African-American youth better understand themselves.

“We attempt to facilitate their self-understandings through open, frank and reflective discussions about what it means to be a child, an adolescent and an adult,” she says. “In addition to considering their personal, academic and career goals, we devote time to exploring how the experiences of their ancestors paved the way for them today. Infusing the cultural piece is extremely important. Research shows that knowledge about one’s culture and heritage are positively related to mental health outcomes and self-esteem.”

This approach is important in working with children, whether they have special needs or not, Okwumabua says.

“The strategy is holistic, culturally relevant and meaningful.”



Mentors congratulate the boys who completed the EASI program at Cummings Middle School.

she says. “It is proactive, so we work with children even before difficulties are manifested. It is also multi-systemic and multi-dimensional, involving not only the child but his family, peers and the broader community.”

Jeffrey Higgs, director of the Lemoyne-Owen College Community Development Corp., says the mentoring program tries to put the boys on a different and positive path.

“A lot of social problems are statistically attributed to African-American boys and men,”

he says. “We try to catch them at an early enough age to stem the tide.”

An important component of the program is to impact the entire family. When the mentors learned one boy’s mother was paying a high rent, they encouraged her to use that money to purchase a home instead. “We do profiles of the entire family, study the family structure. We connect the needs of the family to assets in the neighborhood,” Higgs says.

Earlier, mentor Shea Langs added African history and culture while teaching taekwondo to the boys. In addition to learning the martial art, “they could earn a stripe on their white belt for reciting historical facts or getting better grades,” says Langs, a licensed clinical social worker who works with veterans.

The mentors often gain as much from the program as their young mentees.

At the time James Thompson became a mentor, he was at a crossroads in his life. He was recruited by his oldest son, James Jr., who was participating in the program along with his younger brothers, Jermaine and Jamourice.

“I knew that it was time for a different approach to life and the awareness that my three boys needed me to be a great example for them,” says Thompson. “I had to make a choice between taking up my responsibility as

a man in my community, or continue to live life consciously aware of the leadership missing in the lives of young men in our community. I have learned to have more patience with children and to have an open ear to what they have to say, no matter what it is.”



Thompson had the opportunity to encourage and inspire young men who don’t have a father’s influence. “I was able to grasp the importance of how serious the need for a father to be in his son’s life,” he says. “These young males were able to experience the brotherhood aspect of the program as well as having the fatherhood aspect that they were missing at home. I continue to encourage these young males at Cummings School. I see most of them on a regular basis because this is where my children attend school. They will always have a friend and a positive role model in me as long as I live.”

James Jr., a 10-year-old fifth-grader, says his experience in the mentoring program was “great.” “We played the djembe, which is an African drum,” he says. “The mentors were teaching us to grow up to be leaders. We would talk about our ancestors and say the word ‘ashe,’ which is about honoring our ancestors.”

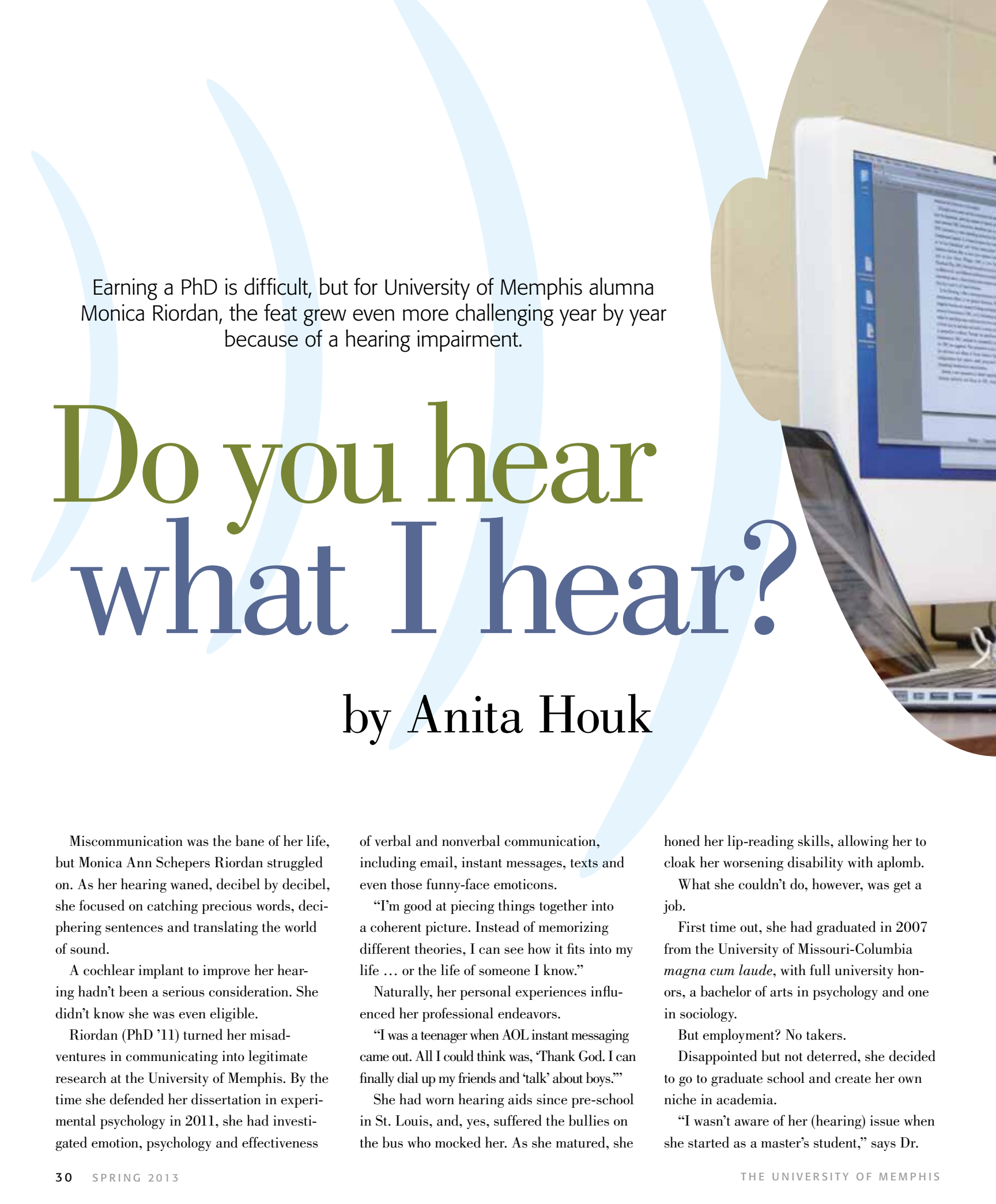
Jermaine, 9, says mentors helped with relationships and being a good person. “We talked about helping other children and staying out of trouble,” he says. “We learned the meaning of ‘ashe.’ We would pour a cup of water over a plant. That was for people you love. I also liked watching the African dancers.”

Washington and CAYD are completing the evaluation of the EASI program.

According to the National Mentoring Partnership, young people who have been mentored are 49 percent less likely to use drugs, 59 percent more likely to get good grades and 73 percent more likely to achieve their goals.

Says Washington, “We’re helping the Department of Social Work at the University of Memphis become a leader in the healthy development of youth, particularly African-American males.” 🐾





Earning a PhD is difficult, but for University of Memphis alumna Monica Riordan, the feat grew even more challenging year by year because of a hearing impairment.

Do you hear what I hear?

by Anita Houk

Miscommunication was the bane of her life, but Monica Ann Schepers Riordan struggled on. As her hearing waned, decibel by decibel, she focused on catching precious words, deciphering sentences and translating the world of sound.

A cochlear implant to improve her hearing hadn't been a serious consideration. She didn't know she was even eligible.

Riordan (PhD '11) turned her misadventures in communicating into legitimate research at the University of Memphis. By the time she defended her dissertation in experimental psychology in 2011, she had investigated emotion, psychology and effectiveness

of verbal and nonverbal communication, including email, instant messages, texts and even those funny-face emoticons.

"I'm good at piecing things together into a coherent picture. Instead of memorizing different theories, I can see how it fits into my life ... or the life of someone I know."

Naturally, her personal experiences influenced her professional endeavors.

"I was a teenager when AOL instant messaging came out. All I could think was, 'Thank God. I can finally dial up my friends and 'talk' about boys.'"

She had worn hearing aids since pre-school in St. Louis, and, yes, suffered the bullies on the bus who mocked her. As she matured, she

honed her lip-reading skills, allowing her to cloak her worsening disability with aplomb.

What she couldn't do, however, was get a job.

First time out, she had graduated in 2007 from the University of Missouri-Columbia *magna cum laude*, with full university honors, a bachelor of arts in psychology and one in sociology.

But employment? No takers.

Disappointed but not deterred, she decided to go to graduate school and create her own niche in academia.

"I wasn't aware of her (hearing) issue when she started as a master's student," says Dr.



Thanks to the U of M's School of Communication Sciences and Disorders, Monica Ann Schepers Riordan overcame a severe hearing impairment that limited her ability to find employment.

Roger Kreuz, U of M psychology professor, and the person Riordan dubs “the best boss in the entire world.”

“She wanted to have an academic profession,” Kreuz continues, “but having a hearing problem was limiting. We talked about that early-on. My assumption was that really smart, motivated people will make things work for themselves.”

In fall 2008 Riordan defended her thesis, “The Role of Emotion in Language Use,” and earned her master of science in psychology. She dove into the doctoral program.

“There are different kinds of graduate students,” Kreuz says. “One type meets expectations and does a good job; the second type, you have to keep pushing. Monica falls in a third category. Just give her the tools and get out of her way, and she takes off and does great work.”

“It’s been wonderful having a graduate student who has that intense desire to pursue the research she has done. It has been quite amazing.”

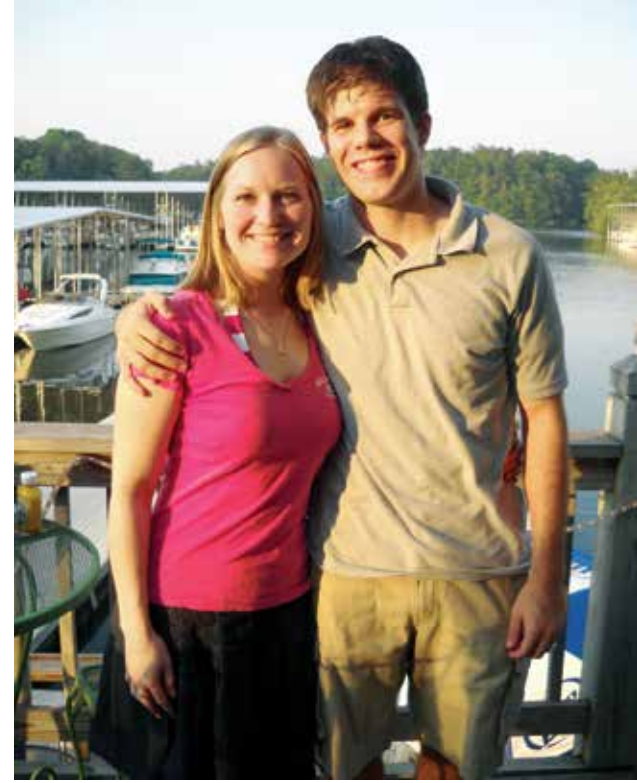
And yet, on the cusp of completing her PhD, she could barely land an interview for work. Many potential employers, she explains, expect a telephone interview with candidates, but her resume had no number because hearing loss had nixed phone talk.

While worrying over the problem, Riordan coincidentally took advantage of her U of M health benefits and checked in with the University’s School of Communication Sciences and Disorders to get her hearing-aid molds adjusted. When the therapist mentioned cochlear implants, she was receptive to being evaluated for candidacy.

“The candidacy criteria,” explains Dr. Roxanne J. Aaron, clinical assistant professor at the school, “is a 50 percent cutoff for understanding sentences.”

Riordan’s left ear, with hearing at 57 percent, did not qualify. Her right ear definitely did.

“Her ability to understand single words in her right ear was



Left: Before Riordan underwent cochlear implant surgery, she couldn't carry on a telephone conversation because of her hearing loss. Right: Husband Ryan encouraged her during difficult times that included not being able to gain employment because of her hearing impairment.

4 percent,” says Aaron. “When we gave her sentences, her ability to understand words was only 23 percent.”

Aaron encouraged Riordan to learn more about the implant. “She was an ideal candidate because she had hearing through childhood, was a good hearing-aid user, always relied on her hearing, was very attached to auditory modality. All we had to do was restore access to sounds and her brain was able to use it to understand words.”

Opting for a cochlear implant, however, is a huge decision.

“I have a genetic disorder,” Riordan explains. “The exact term is ‘sensorineural hearing loss, binaurally,’ which means I have hearing loss in both ears that is related to abnormalities in the hair cells of the cochlea.

“The records indicate that in 2002 I was audiometrically deaf. I could not understand speech without both hearing aids and lip reading, and was often totally unaware of environmental sounds unless they were very loud; for example, a jet taking off. I was profoundly deaf in both ears. My hearing threshold — the point at which I could hear — was at 95 dB or greater. For context, normal conversation is about 60 dB; a lawnmower in operation is about 90 dB.

“My hearing loss was progressive. There was no endpoint but total deafness.”

And yet, a cochlear implant was a scary idea. “You’re gambling,” she says. “You’re gambling that you’re going to have everything — be able to hear. But if the implant doesn’t work, you’ll have no hearing at all in that ear.”

What does the cochlea do? The snail-shaped tube in the ear gathers electrical signals from sound vibrations and transmits them to the auditory nerve. The auditory, or hearing, nerve sends the signals to the brain, where they’re translated into recognizable sounds.

A cochlear implant uses its own electrical signals to stimulate the auditory nerve.

Riordan conferred with audiologist Aaron, studied the procedure and consulted her husband, sportswriter Ryan Riordan, and her parents, Dave and Carol Schepers of St. Louis.

“I was ecstatic,” says Carol Schepers. “She never qualified for the cochlear implant in high school. We told her it doesn’t matter how much it costs, if we have to pay out of pocket, we’ll pay for it. As it turned out, insurance covered it.”

Riordan herself had no insurance, but she qualified under President Obama’s Affordable Care Act to be added to her parents’ policy until she turned 26. The Schepers quickly added their 25-year-old married daughter to

their policy.

Riordan rode a whirlwind in early 2011. She defended her dissertation, “How We Laugh and Cry Online,” in February. She underwent the \$70,000 cochlear implant procedure with Dr. Bruce Fetterman as surgeon at Baptist Memorial Hospital on March 31, 2011. On April 21, she turned 26 and lost her insurance coverage. In May, she was awarded her doctorate.

The cochlear implant surgery was painful, she says, and the healing and changes were a bit tricky. She suffered severe headaches from the noisy barrage to her senses as the implant mechanics were adjusted, first over weeks, then over months.

“The device is programmed to match the amount of electrical current needed for you to hear,” explains Aaron. “The level of electrical current is adjusted on each electrode, and there are 22 in the device. Everybody is different. There’s a lot of tuning up in the very beginning.”

“All at once, I realized how loud the world is,” Riordan says. “I could hear the refrigerator — I never knew it made noise. I could hear my husband chew. Once, he said something under his breath when he was leaving the room, and I said, ‘I heard that!’

“It had been a long time since I heard the



Above: Riordan's surgery corrected her severe hearing loss; she now teaches in Pittsburgh. Right: Riordan with U of M mentor Roger Kreuz, a psychology professor whom she calls "the best boss in the world."

birds singing. Now I know just how unbelievably annoying birds can be!"

She chuckles softly, but she's not joking.

Husband Ryan sympathizes. "Once she got used to the noise, once she saw the different things she could do and how the job process changed this time around, she said it was worth it."

In May 2011, implant in place and PhD in hand, Riordan still had no outside job prospect. Then again, she was still adjusting to being all ears. She was hired as a U of M postdoctoral research associate to Rick Dale and Roger Kreuz in the Cognition and Integrated Action Laboratory. She held that position until Summer 2012, when, at 27, she received an offer she couldn't refuse.

She moved to Pittsburgh, her husband's hometown, and is now a professor and researcher at Chatham University.

"Monica," Ryan says, "just seems happier now that she got (the implant) done. She believes it did help with her job process, and that's really why she wanted to go through with it. Obviously, if it made her happier, it made me happier."

While predictably delighted, Riordan exited her U of M circle of support with the prerogative of having the last word.

"Determination is good," she says, "but it's also incredibly important to have supportive people around you. I couldn't do it without my husband, Ryan ... without my former boss Roger Kreuz without my friends, true friends. You have to find those people who support you — and get rid of the people who doubt you.

"Everybody," she says emphatically, "everybody has a struggle. People may struggle with ADHD, be confined to a wheelchair, have alcoholic parents.

"This just happens to be my struggle." 🐾



U of M alumna Allyson Chick was named 2012-13 Tennessee Teacher of the Year and became a finalist for National Teacher of the Year.



A University of Memphis alumna recognized as the best teacher in Tennessee credits the U of M for putting her at the head of the class.

Even 8-year-old Thomas Miller recognized the enormity of the news. “I was about to flip out,” says Thomas, a student at Richland Elementary School in East Memphis. “I wrote her a letter that said, ‘I am not surprised you won because you *are* the best teacher ever.’”

Thomas had just found out that his third-grade teacher, University of Memphis graduate Allyson Chick, had been chosen as the 2012-13 Tennessee Teacher of the Year by the Tennessee Department of Education, the first such honor for a local teacher in 29 years. Chick became one of 56 finalists (from each state, Washington D.C. and the U.S. territories) for the coveted National Teacher of the Year Award,

CLASS

ACT

by Laura Fenton



which will be presented later this spring by President Barack Obama at the White House.

“It feels really good to bring this kind of honor to your school, to the city and to the West Tennessee district,” says Chick (BSEd ’00). “It’s a huge honor, one that I’m proud of because it sheds light on the fact that there are fantastic teachers throughout our city.”

Chick set herself apart from the other eight finalists for the state award with her exceptional ability to relate to young students on a one-on-one basis, state education officials say. She tells students that she can handle anything they have to say, “as long as it is the truth.”

“I haven’t heard of anyone who hasn’t resolved their problems after going to Ms. Chick,” says 9-year-old Richland student Sydney Thornton. “When I got to school the first day, I felt like that whoever picked me to be in her class made a really good decision. I feel like I can relate to her so much.”

Chick, who has also taught at Spring Hill and Fox Meadows elementary schools in Memphis, is known, too, for her creativity in the classroom.

“You know you’re a teacher if you can look at everyday objects that are about to get thrown away and think, ‘Oh, I can use that in my classroom,’” Chick says.

Paper towel rolls, soup cans and buttons become 3-D figures or game pieces in her classroom; egg cartons and ice trays are transformed into math activities. Her class recently designed the “Emerald City” from *The Wizard of Oz* with recyclable coffee tins and soup and soft drink cans that became the Tin Man while an old broom was used to create his Scarecrow friend.

Eight-year-old Lucy Pollard says Chick helps students learn new material by putting “pretty much anything” to music. “She makes poems and songs to help us (learn),” Lucy says. “It is such a big help.”

For Chick, educating young minds has been her passion since graduating from the U of M 13 years ago.

“Teaching, for me, is a 24/7 job,” she says. “I can’t turn it off. All summer long, I’m thinking about the children and what I’m going to do the next school year.”

Richland principal Sharon McNary said that besides being a skilled educator, Chick has a single-minded focus on the academic, social and emotional development of each and every student.

“She really cares about our students — it’s not just a job to her,” McNary says.

Chick is also intent on giving back to the University that gave her a start. She serves as a mentor for undergraduate teacher candidates, a role she takes very seriously.

“As a teacher leader, it is my job to help cultivate the profession for the future,” says Chick. “The teacher I’m mentoring today could very well be across the hall from me next year. I take that very seriously because I always ask myself when I let that student teacher go, ‘Would I want my children to be in that class? Would I want to work with you?’”

Chick allows her student teachers to fully present lessons to their pupils so they will be prepared for their classrooms.

“I think the U of M is doing a great job with their undergraduate program,” Chick says. “I feel like the students are coming out with even more resources than I had.”

She says the University heavily stresses to its teachers-in-training that they find and use the latest technologies as well as outside resources to supplement lessons and activities.

Chick says she somewhat unintentionally backed into the Teacher of the Year honor. As a Teach Plus Teaching Policy Fellow, she and two other fellows embarked on a research project designed to improve Memphis City Schools’ teacher recognition programs. One of her contributions to the project was to apply for the Tennessee Teacher of the Year award. That, she says, is when the unexpected happened: she placed first in the Memphis division of the statewide contest.

“After it got that far, the research part was over,” Chick says, and it then became “just about the competition.”

Her accomplishments have caught the attention of both local and state education officials.

“Her commitment to education is evident, and her character has been shaped by her exceptional ability and the commitment to serve,” says Dr. Kriner Cash, former superintendent of Memphis City Schools.

“The College commends Ms. Chick on this outstanding honor and is proud that her University degree is serving her and the community



Top: Allyson Chick, 2012-13 Tennessee Teacher of the Year, accepted the award presented by Kevin Huffman, commissioner of the state’s Department of Education, and Linda Irwin, vice president of the Niswonger Foundation, at a ceremony in Nashville, Tenn., in October 2012. Bottom: Chick, third-grade teacher at Richland Elementary, has taught with Memphis City Schools for 12 years.

well,” says Dr. Donald Wagner, dean of the College of Education, Health and Human Sciences.

Chick noted that if she could offer one piece of advice to new teachers, it would be to “make the building engineer, the custodian and the school secretary your new best friends. Those three people are invaluable to you. They will save you from a crisis in a minute,” she says.

Kevin Huffman, Tennessee State Commissioner of Education, says the teacher recognition program only strengthens the educational system.

“The Teacher of the Year award allows us to not only recognize some of the best teachers, but it also provides an opportunity for us to share and learn from their inspired, effective methods of instruction,” he says. “Allyson is a perfect example.”

Chick added that she greatly appreciates the recent celebrations in her honor, including a “Queen for a Day” party at Richland, but she feels the recognition should also be bestowed on Memphis City Schools as well.

“These kids and the teachers at my school were so proud,” Chick says. “This was just a great overall experience for everyone involved.” 🐾

Beginning with this edition, The University of Memphis Magazine will run an original short story written and illustrated by U of M students.



It wasn't the way the breeze came off the Mahoning River that morning that made the day unlike any other. And it wasn't the way the sun at that angle made the surface sparkle and lose its brown color, or the way the lack of rain lately had lowered the river enough to expose the roots of trees that Felix Raskin had never seen before, or the peculiar absence of the sound of birds, though all those details were present, and were striking to him.


Somehow, Felix had convinced his grandparents that twelve years old was old enough to be allowed to fish alone that morning. He'd been given permission to keep the carp he caught to fertilize the rose bushes his grandmother was planting that day.

He'd brought a whole can of hominy, remembering his grandfather saying carp preferred it to worms, and had threaded the hominy onto the hook and poked himself and bled and did not wince, for the first time. That had made him feel somehow older, a solitary boy experiencing pain and not wincing, not even for himself. He set up his bamboo fishing rod at his and his grandfather's

favorite location in Packard Park and tied two sinkers from an earlier snag in the trees onto the end of the line—joining them with two others—and he felt them drag along the bottom of the river, felt the vibrations all the way up into the bones of his wrists.

Then he saw, at first one, then a dozen, then the unimaginable thousands of letters floating downstream. He took off his shirt and shoes and waded into the center of the low river, arms raised among the soaked mail, his toes finding a grip or scraping themselves on the sharp stones. He tried to count the letters as they came down stream, and moved himself so they would graze against his ribs and tickle him. Later he lay in bed running his fingers over his raw soles and smiled, recalling how the river was paper, how it had ceased to be mud altogether.

But it wasn't this either. What made the morning so glorious, the day unlike any other, was the fact that, out of all of those letters, in the whole low but uneasy wideness of the river, despite the sheer impossibility of it, a letter from his older brother drifted and stopped itself against his bare stomach.



Any moment now, Ellen Maurits will wipe her sweating glass of ice across her forehead and sip from it what liquid has melted. She will put her hands on her dirty knees as she stands, having just finished digging the fourth and final hole for the rose bushes, and she will hear the familiar crack of her eighty-eight-year-old joints as she does so.

Before she can go into the house to refill her glass and wash her hands, she'll hear the slapping sound of bare feet on the driveway and see her grandson Felix stop in front of her, leaned over and panting. Shirtless, shoeless, without the bucket or bamboo fishing rod or anything he'd promised he'd be responsible enough to take care of alone. And before she can ask him about any of this, he'll hand her a letter, without speaking, still breathless.

She'll barely have time to wonder where he got the letter—it will be too early for the mail—before she notices it's from Felix's older brother, August. She'll feel herself lowering but won't hear her knees cracking again, though they will be. Sitting on the ground at the border of the driveway and yard, she'll see that the ink is smeared, like it was wet but has dried. She won't have time to marvel that it is all somehow still legible, because she will already be skipping to the end of the letter, just as she always did when her brothers wrote home long ago from the war in Europe, to read "Love," before she reads the whole letter, quickly at first, skimming, and then slowly, deliberately, to see that her grandson is coming home for good, finally.

She'll fix Felix a glass of lemonade and, when he has finished, tell him to put some shoes and a shirt on, and to go back to the park to pick everything up, and not to worry about catching carp, she'll pick up some fertilizer. She'll hear the screen door squeak and slam shut before she gets up to make phone calls. She'll heat the coffee in the stove percolator. She'll wash her hands so she can smooth the letter out on the kitchen table without getting more dirt on it. She'll refer to it as she relays the news.

Everything will have to be just right. Yes, she'll get everything in order. She'll return the red rose cuttings and buy yellow ones, just as her mother had for her brothers. Yes, that will be fitting.

“ Sara? It's Sam. Listen, I need you to type up a letter and put it in Mr. Klein's box before he gets in this morning.”

“Is this about his dirty locker lately? I know he's been—”

“No. The Raskin boy is coming home.”

“So what does that have to do with Mr. Klein?”

“Mrs. Maurits called me this morning to remind me of my promise to give her grandson his job back.”

“What about Mr. Klein?”

“Ellen and I are old friends. And she's right. I did promise.”

“So that's it?”

“Sara, he knew this was temporary work.”

“You'll fire him? Just like that?”

“No one will be fired. He will be let go.”

“What's the difference?”

“He'll be able to stay on a couple months, 'til the next cycle begins.”

“His divorce isn't even final yet. Is there at least an open spot in Sorting?”

“Sara, you know there isn't.”

“So that's it?”

“Type it and read it back to me.”

“Sam, are you whistling?”

“Yes.”

“A man's losing his job.”

“Sorry.”



The top of Cornelius Klein's head is already sunburned by the time he stops his mail truck in the middle of Summit Street Bridge. He forgot his hat this morning, having left in a rush after receiving the news. Four years service, for nothing.

It's windier than usual on the bridge; it feels good on his head. He walks to the railing and grabs it, but starts at the heat the metal has absorbed. He blows on his hands and thinks, briefly, of being a child, of the smell of rust from swing set chains. He pulls a handkerchief from his pocket, folds it over into a fourth, and grabs the railing. He tests his footing, hoists himself up. He made the decision not twenty minutes ago.

It's hard to balance himself in his shoes and he decides he should take them off anyway—they were the last gift his wife bought him, and he can't see ruining them already.

To hell with the rest of the uniform, the post office provided that. He climbs down, removes the shoes, and sets them neatly on the driver's seat. He twists his wedding ring and works it over his knuckle, then puts it in his left shoe. Let her find that, he thinks.

Now he can wrap his toes around the edge of the railing. He notices the river for the first time. How low it is. Then he closes his eyes, tries not to notice it, tries not to think of swimming in its muddy water as a child, tries not to think of anything. The wind is at his back but whips around him, envelopes him. Cools the top of his head. He tries to think of one last thing to say and decides that would be meaningless here alone.

A letter blows out of his mailbag.

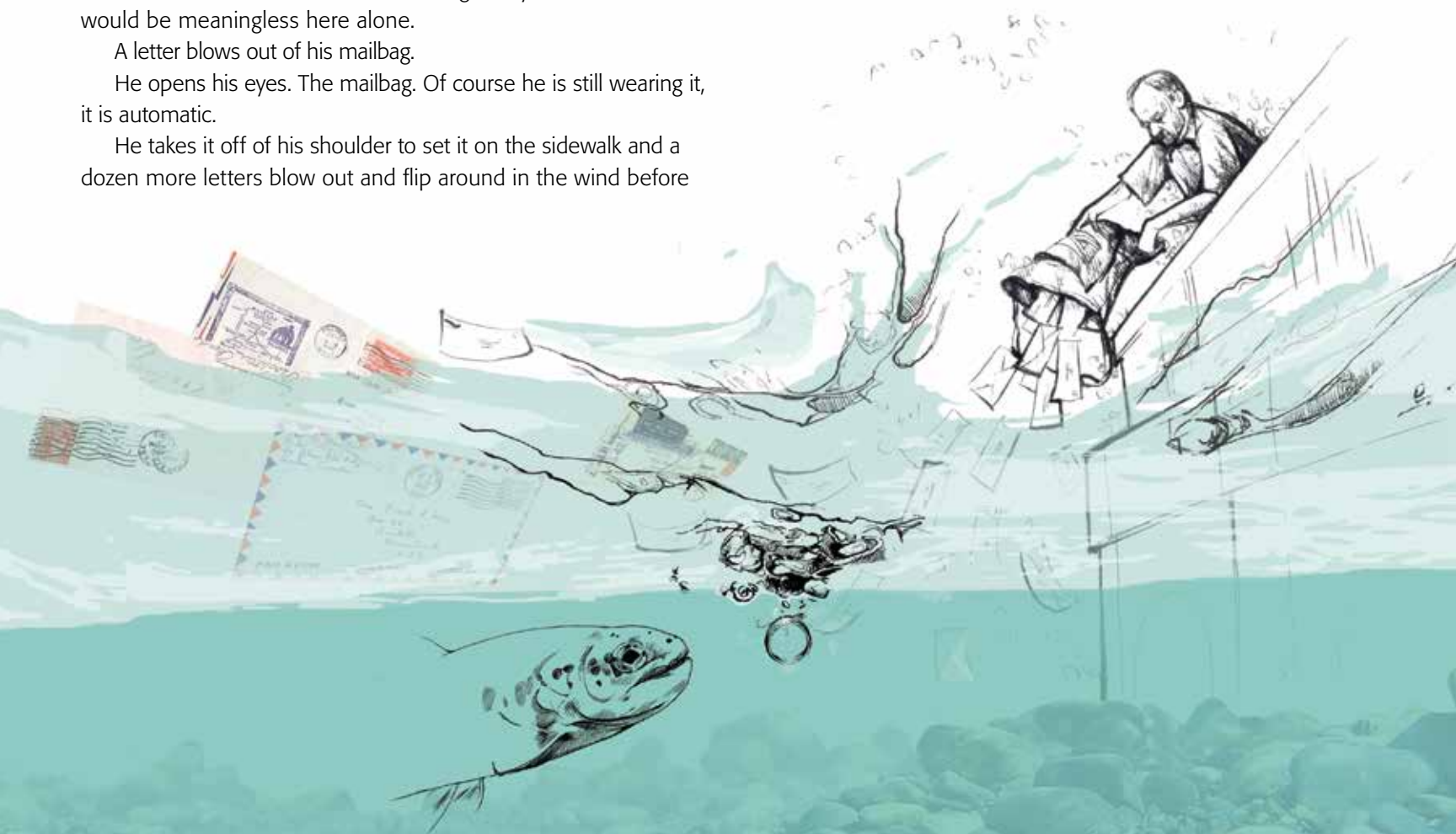
He opens his eyes. The mailbag. Of course he is still wearing it, it is automatic.

He takes it off of his shoulder to set it on the sidewalk and a dozen more letters blow out and flip around in the wind before

landing in the river. He laughs despite himself, stands straight again and watches the letters move downstream. He actually feels himself getting lighter. Is it so simple? He tips the bag upside down. The wind sucks the letters right out of the bag. Like a vacuum. Like it is a law of nature that mail flows from an area of higher concentration to an area of lower concentration. The wind takes them and lays them soundlessly upon the surface of the river and the current pulls them away from him. Though he can't make out any of the addresses from this height, he knows it's all the families in the Summit to Roosevelt block drifting away from him. He decides he likes the way that looks.

He shakes the bag and, seeing no more letters come out, drops it into the river as well. He lowers himself from the railing and opens the back of the mail truck. He pulls the sorted mail from it, dumps entire boxes into the river one at a time. When he is finished, when the whole truck is empty, he watches the letters disappear downstream.

Then he goes back to the mail truck, picks up the shoes and leans over the railing. He tips the left shoe and listens for the plop of the wedding ring in the river. He uses his handkerchief to polish a scuff mark out of one of the shoes, tucks the laces inside the way his wife used to when he left them by the door, then drops the shoes in the river, turns, and walks home.





MEET THE AUTHOR: *John Filkorn*

John Filkorn often takes a gamble with his approach to creative writing.

"I sometimes use a looping style where a story might start in the middle and then loop back to the beginning. The story might continue to loop in a circular manner. I just try not to antagonize the reader too much," he says.

This "looping" style certainly can captivate an audience, as evidenced in Filkorn's short story "To the Four Corners of Warren, Ohio," which was chosen by professors in the University of Memphis creative writing program for inclusion in this issue of *The University of Memphis Magazine*.

Filkorn, a December graduate, also gathers notes for his work in a unique manner. "As I think of an idea, I jot it down on a Post-it note or an envelope — whatever is handy," says Filkorn. "I then file it away in a folder. When the folder gets thick enough, I pull out all the notes and I put them together and start writing the story."

Filkorn says he created "Four Corners" from three different sets of notes he had originally set aside for separate stories. "I found a few notes I could combine and linked them together and made them into one story. The structure itself keeps the story looping," he says.

Filkorn, originally from Warren, says he never wrote about his hometown until he moved to Memphis to pursue an MFA in creative writing. He says the U of M's creative writing program has been a major boon to his writing career because of its strong creative writing faculty, including Filkorn's graduate adviser, Cary Holladay, who is about to publish *Horse People: Stories* and *The Deer in the Mirror: Stories and a Novella*.

With graduation in the rear view mirror, Filkorn is journeying back north. "I am moving back to Cleveland to a house that has a view of Lake Erie — it will be the perfect writing environment," he says.



MEET THE ARTIST: *Becca Hand*

There's a certain character in the TV series *Mad Men* that reminds University of Memphis student Becca Hand of her grandfather. "My grandfather was a big inspiration for me because back in the 1940s and 1950s he was working at an ad agency doing illustrations. I like to think of him as a *Mad Men* character because he was out in New York City way back when working in an agency. He was really good — we have a lot of his work framed."

Hand herself may one day come to resemble one of the show's characters: she, too, is striving for a career in an ad agency. "I love to draw — I have been doing it forever," says Hand, who illustrated John Filkorn's original short story "To the Four Corners of Warren, Ohio." "When I was very little, maybe as young as 3 or 4, my mom would sit me down with paper and some crayons, and I would be busy for hours. I had a good attention span in that way. She still has most of my work I did even then."

Hand says she translates Filkorn's story as being transcendent, "where it seems unreal and real at the same time. I decided to use more motifs, or fanciful elements because of this."

Hand comes to drawing naturally, something that started with her grandfather and has continued to the present. She says she enjoys portrait work most. "I have always liked to draw people. I think drawing people and even animals is more challenging than most things. Landscape, architecture — those things are a lot of straight lines. I like something harder than that and portraits are most challenging."

Lately she has been using what she calls a more "mixed media approach." "I use my drawing elements in a more literal sense and bring in other textures and things like photographs to mesh with it, more mixed media style."

"Coming from a humble background, I wouldn't have been able to achieve the level of success that I have without the U of M. I am very proud to be able to give back to the school and help ensure that our students have the same resources and opportunities that I did."

The Hon. Robert L. "Butch" Childers
(BBA '71, JD '74)

FEATURE STORY

ON THE RECORD

ALUMNI BOARD

ALUMNI ACTIVITIES

CLASS NOTES

IN MEMORIAM

Just duckie

By Michelle Corbet

In The Peabody Hotel fountain, five North American mallards begin quacking excitedly and swimming in circles. They recognize the voice of Anthony Petrina as he recounts the history of the hotel to the dozens of guests gathered to watch the evening march of the world-famous Peabody ducks.

WITH HIS SIGNATURE CANE, crafted of wood and topped with a brass duck, Petrina relates the history of The Peabody ducks, using his hands, cane and a bit of footwork. Dressed in his bright red coat with gold braid, he mesmerizes the crowd with the familiar story of how the ducks came to be in the fountain. Much as a magician would, he points his cane like a wand to illustrate the ducks' journey down the red carpet, up the elevator and into their room.

At age 27, Petrina is only the fifth duckmaster in The Peabody Memphis' 70-year duck tradition. While he's got the duck march down to a tee now, things didn't always go so smoothly in the beginning. His first experience with the ducks "went rather poorly," he says.

"My very first duck march, I completely choked. I'm in there and all these people are looking at me. They're tweeting about it, and I said, 'Welcome to The Peabody' and choked," he says. "Despite all the prep work I'd done, I realized this was actually a pretty tough job."



Duckmaster Anthony Petrina employs showmanship gained through his theatre background as he leads the ducks on their daily march at the historic Peabody. (Photos courtesy of The Peabody Hotel)

After almost a year of performing his speech, it's just another part of his day now. He even manages to throw a few jokes in, such as duck not being offered on the menu of Chez Philippe, a restaurant inside the hotel, making it possibly the only French restaurant in the world that doesn't serve the famous delicacy.

Petrina received his bachelor's degree in business administration in 2010 from the U of M's Kemmons Wilson School of Hospitality and Resort Management. He started out as a waiter at The Peabody's Capriccio Grill and was soon promoted to management.

"I got promoted after only four months of waiting tables because of my degree from the U of M," Petrina says. "Because of those

connections and the piece of paper hanging on my wall, I moved up really quickly. I caught their eye when they were looking for somebody to actually represent the hotel and all its values to the public"

When Petrina is not with the ducks, he serves as the hotel's historian and ambassador, giving history tours, greeting guests and speaking to media.

Dr. Carol Silkes, assistant professor in the Kemmons Wilson School and Petrina's former mentor, says Petrina was a great ambassador for the U of M and the hospitality program, and now he has a larger role of representing the city of Memphis.

"Honestly, Anthony was born for that position, whether he knew it or not," she says. "He really does embody the spirit of the first duckmaster and takes his job seriously. We can't ask for a better spokesperson."

In Petrina's time as duckmaster, he has met guitarist Peter Frampton; actor George Hamilton; Bon Jovi keyboardist David Bryan; Vanderbilt University's football head coach James Franklin; and Elmo, Bert and Ernie from *Sesame Street Live* when they served as honorary duckmasters.

The duckmaster tradition originated in 1941 with Edward Pembroke. Pembroke came to the hotel as a bellman in 1940 after a series of odd jobs, including time spent with The Ringling Brothers Circus as an animal trainer.

When he saw hotel staff bringing the ducks down and placing them in the fountain each morning, he knew he could do better, so he offered to train them to do what is now known as The Peabody Duck March. Pembroke was the longest serving duckmaster in the history of the hotel, performing two duck marches at 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. each day for 50 years before retiring in 1991.

The first ducks appeared in 1933 when then-Peabody-general-manager Frank Schutt and a friend put their three English call ducks — live decoys commonly used for hunting at the time — in the fountain after the men had a little too much Jack Daniels. The ducks were left there overnight and when the men woke up the next day, a crowd had gathered around. The hotel lobby has had ducks ever since, Petrina says.

A common misconception is that the most important trait of a duckmaster is to have experience working with animals, but The Peabody Memphis' director of public relations Kelly Earnest says that's not necessarily true.

"We are really looking for someone who has the right personality," she says. "A Peabody duckmaster should be outgoing, cool under pressure, dignified, eager to please, warm and love talking to our guests all day, every day about The Peabody ducks. In all of those respects,

Anthony is the perfect duckmaster."

Earnest says it also helps that Petrina had a theatre background in high school because there is a lot of showmanship involved in the daily duck march.

Petrina is responsible for anything related to the ducks, including care, training, travel arrangements and appearances. To prepare for his role, he studied under the duckmasters at The Peabody Little Rock and Orlando to learn about duck care, feeding and training.

He works with two groups of ducks — always consisting of one drake and four hens — that he calls "the veterans" and "the new guys." Each group lives in the hotel for three months before retiring from their duck march responsibilities to live out the rest of their lives as wild ducks. During their time at the hotel, Petrina doesn't handle them, lay out trails of feed or name them.

"That way they never become domesticated," he says. "We don't want to deprive any duck of being a wild duck. We want to bring them here, spoil them rotten, then send them home to Dad."

When the ducks first arrive, Petrina marches them back and forth from the Duck Palace on

the rooftop to the elevators "to get them into the habit of being The Peabody Ducks," he says. He keeps his fingers crossed on the first day the ducks are introduced downstairs, and the first time they see the crowds of people, the red carpet and the fountain.

Why the ducks remain in the fountain from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and don't wander off is a mystery to Petrina and other employees. "We think it's because they prefer the company of other ducks rather than being in the lobby with us," he says.

Petrina recently was named one of the *Memphis Flyer's* "20 Under 30" young Memphians who are shaping the city's future. He also serves as president of the Kemmons Wilson School Alumni Club.

While duckmaster is "the coolest job in Memphis," Petrina says he plans to move up in the field of hospitality and resort management. "My 10- to 15-year goal has always been to be the general manager of a four-star hotel or resort, and so while this is a very interesting segue this probably isn't the end game," he says. "I plan on doing some of everything."



Petrina poses in front of The Peabody fountain with his five charges — always a drake and four hens. He is only the fifth-ever Peabody duckmaster.



Johnny Hurd's impressive haul of medals as a senior runner earned him membership in the Memphis Amateur Sports Hall of Fame.

Johnny run lately

By Gabrielle Maxey

While in school, Johnny Hurd considered himself too small to be a competitive runner; he now owns a remarkable collection of medals in senior sprints.

WHILE MOST SENIORS ARE CHECKING THEIR RETIREMENT PORTFOLIOS,

Johnny Hurd is shopping for running shoes. Hurd, 81, decided to become a serious track competitor at age 60 after being inspired by Jim Mathis, a U of M alumnus and celebrated local track coach. Mathis, who died last year, was a top senior 400-meter runner.

"I just wanted to see if I could beat somebody and have a good time," Hurd says. "I wanted to see if I could outlive some of the speed merchants."

On his first day of running, Hurd took two steps and popped a calf muscle. ("I hadn't warmed up or jogged or anything," he explains.) The injury didn't set him back for long.

He entered his first senior track meet at age 61. Over the next 10 years, Hurd (BS '56) won 19 gold, 33 silver and seven bronze medals while competing in the 100-, 200- and 400-meter dashes at the local and state levels. He represented Memphis in nine consecutive state championships, earning 12 gold, seven silver and three bronze medals.

In 2011, he claimed the title of "second fastest octogenarian in the United States," winning the silver medal in both the 100- and 200-meter dashes as an 80-year-old at the Senior Olympics.

Hurd has been named an All-American by the U.S. Track and Field Federation for 15 of the last 16 years (missing in 2005 by just 1/100 of a second) and has two national gold medals and two silver medals.

An added bonus of the running was better health. Hurd's blood pressure and heart rate improved, and he trimmed inches from his waist. His weight has remained steady for years.

In 2003, Hurd retired and moved with wife Sandy to Navarre, Fla., where he has won a record 10 consecutive state gold medals in both the 100- and 200-meter dashes. The Pensacola Sports Authority presented him with its Special Achievement Award for his impressive string of victories.

In addition to Tennessee and Florida, Hurd has won 14 state titles in four other states – Arkansas, Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi.

Hurd travels 63 miles round-trip to work out three to four days a week at the University of West Florida's track in Pensacola. Aside from the occasional strained muscle or sprained ankle, he has remained remarkably injury-free by limiting his running to the track rather than the street. (At age 68, he did race with cracked ribs, placing second in his age group in the three sprints at the Regional Senior Games.)

Sandy, who is 66, doesn't attend Johnny's races – but that doesn't mean she's not his biggest fan. "She would have to sit in the sun all day for something that lasts 14 or 15 seconds," Hurd explains. "She is my strongest cheerleader, supporter and motivator. She'll tell me, 'You're not quitting now. You stay healthy. You keep running.'"

When Johnny once told Sandy he was thinking of skipping a 200-meter race with a slight injury, she told him, "Don't talk like that. Get a massage therapist and get back out there."

In fact, Hurd says, "My chiropractor calls me his 'poster boy' for people my age. I told him most people my age aren't around now."

Hurd is a graduate of Tech High School and served in the Navy during the Korean War. He graduated from Memphis State University with a degree in math and business. Hurd had a long career in the computer science field that involved developing special programs and software for IBM, including a special project on an air defense system for the U.S. Dept. of Defense. He retired as director of the Micro Computer Resource Center at State Technical Institute, now Southwest Tennessee Community College.

While a student at then-Memphis State, Hurd was a cheerleader and a member of the barbershop quartet The Sing Eps, composed of members of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity. The group won the Delta Zeta Follies, a musical talent contest, and sang at social functions. "We didn't get paid that well, but we were invited to a lot of parties," he remembers.

In recognition of his long string of achievements, Hurd was inducted into the Memphis Amateur Sports Hall of Fame in December. "This was the biggest thrill of that kind that I've ever had," he says. "It's been a lot of fun."

At 81, Hurd is still running strong. He says the best running form he's even seen was on a 91-year-old competitor. "He wasn't going very fast, but he had perfect form," Hurd says.

His goal for the future? "I'd like to win a national gold medal as a 100-year-old."

On the Record

► We asked five people on campus to answer a few questions:



JUSTIN FUENTE
Head Coach,
U of M football



DR. BEVERLY CROSS
Associate Professor and Chair
of Excellence in the College of
Education, Health and Human
Sciences



RUSSELL BORN
SGA President, Senior
Political Science Major



ARLEEN HILL
Associate Professor of Earth
Sciences



DR. SANTOSH KUMAR
Assistant Professor of
Computer Science

The best thing to happen to me is...	the birth of my children	seeing the uniqueness and gifts of this part of the country	deciding to answer these 10 questions	my family	meeting my wife
If I had an extra hour in the day, I would...	read a good book	do more for and with the children in Memphis	work to make the U of M a better campus	walk in the woods	spend it with my family
The hardest subject in school for me was...	accounting	physical education, but thank goodness for the written exams	political statistics	French	art
If I could star in a movie, I'd be in...	the <i>Indiana Jones</i> series	a Broadway play like <i>Wicked</i> or <i>The Phantom of the Opera</i>	<i>Argo</i>	I'm not sure. It's been a long time since I really watched a movie	<i>3 Idiots</i>
I wish I understood why I...	get too competitive	smile every time I see <i>Hello Kitty</i>	get shot down by the ladies	fret about things that I can't do anything about	can't play music well
I am most inspired by...	my wife	children (and my graduate students) who ask "why"	my Mom and Dad	trust	my father
My favorite place on campus is...	the Park Avenue football practice field	anywhere with the Tigers Around Town	Student Recreation Center	the Center for Partnerships in GIS office	Dunn Hall, room 222 (my lab)
What I wish others knew about the U of M is...	how bright our future is	It represents diversity, inquisitiveness and engagement	If you love the U of M, it will love you back	the innovative work that students, staff and faculty are doing	its culture of appreciating quality work
I want to be remembered for...	preparing our players for the real world	wearing pink every day on campus	my faith and character	hard work, reliability, and being a trusted mentor and partner/collaborator	helping improve the quality of health in the world via computing
The world needs more...	hard workers	understanding of our interconnectedness	common sense and logic	patience	dreamers, thinkers and doers

Meet the new National Alumni Association President and Board Members



Anita Vaughn
 (BA '77, MPA '82) is president of the Alumni Association's National Executive Board of Directors. Vaughn is administrator and CEO of Baptist Memorial Hospital for Women. She

was chosen as one of the "100 women who made a difference in the University of Memphis" by the Center for Research on Women in 2012. Vaughn is a guest professor for the College of Arts & Sciences and is a LEAD and CAS Advisory Council member. She was named Outstanding Alumna by the College of Arts & Sciences Alumni Chapter in 2005.

A registered nurse, Vaughn has been with Baptist Memorial Health Care for 40 years. During that time she has gained experience in virtually all areas of healthcare, from the patient's bedside to management. Vaughn has become a champion for improving women's health and making health care more accessible and convenient for women and their families. From 1994 to 1997, she was administrator of managed health and wellness. In 1997 she became director of practice management, which included planning and operations for 11 Baptist Minor Medical Centers and six physicians' practices. In 1998 she was selected to lead the planning and development team for the Baptist Memorial Hospital for Women.

Vaughn also has a strong clinical background. She was promoted from clinical director for Baptist East and Baptist Medical Center to assistant vice president for Baptist East in 1992. She graduated from BMH School of Nursing and earned two degrees from the U of M, a BA degree in sociology in 1977 and a master's in public administration in 1982.

Vaughn and her husband, James, are Life Members of the Association and have one son.

The four new board members are:



Karimeh McDaniel
 (BA '02) is serving her first year on the National Board. She is the first vice president over fixed income sales at Raymond James Morgan Keegan.

McDaniel has been very active in the Alumni Association as a founding member of the Young Alumni Committee and co-founder of the group's True Blue 5k. As a student at the U of M, she was Student Government Association president and a Student Ambassador Board member. McDaniel and her husband, Spencer, are both Life Members and have a daughter.



Greg Siskin
 (BBA '85, MBA '00), Association Life Member, is serving his first year on the National Board. He has been a loyal Tiger sports fan his whole life. Siskin

is on the Cooperate Relationship Board of the American Association of Endodontists. He is president of Ultimate Dental, which is a sponsor of the Penny Hardaway Basketball classic. Siskin and his wife, Jorianne, have two children.



Andrew Bailey
 (BBA '00, EMBA '05), Association Life Member, is serving his first year on the National Board. He is the marketing principal

at FedEx Services. Bailey was named the 2010 Distinguished Young Alumnus by the Fogelman College of Business & Economics Alumni Chapter. He is the current vice president of the Luther C. McClellan Alumni Chapter and is a guest professor in the Fogelman College. During his time as a student at the U of M, Bailey served as Student Government Association and Student Ambassador Board president, Student Activities Council vice president, and was voted Mr. U of M. He and his wife, Melody, have three children.



Jamie Russell
 (BBA '02) is serving his first year on the National Board. Prior to being named to the board, he served for many years on the Young Alumni

Committee, where he worked primarily on the True Blue 5k. Jamie and his wife, Lauren (BA '04), are both Life Members of the Association and have one daughter. He has worked at First Tennessee for nine years and is currently a senior marketing manager working with small businesses.



1. Theopolis Holeman (BSET '71) and Dr. Susanne Darnell (MA '70) were two of the 100 participants representing each year of the University's history at the Centennial Commencement in May.
2. Angela Harris (BA '98), Michel Joiner (JD '09) and LaKeisha Sisco-Beck (BS '00, JD '10) celebrated at the Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law's 50th anniversary gala.
3. Members of the first graduating class of the Loewenberg School of Nursing were honored during the University's centennial. Seated, from left, are Ernestine Rucker Chism (ASN '69, BSN '85) and Betty Rixter (ASN '69). Standing, from left, are Dr. Lin Zhan, dean of the nursing school; Dr. Bettye Harris Alston (ASN '69); Betty Kinchen Anderson (ASN '69, BSN '85); Charlotte Gibson Beaird (ASN '69); Clara Goodall Evans (ASN '69); Dr. Gloria Carr, associate professor of nursing; and Collin Johnson (MSN '10), LSON Alumni Chapter president.
4. Rachel Renner Jacques (BBA '09, MBA '11) and Mary Clayton (BLS '05) enjoy a Young Alumni Committee watch party.
5. Dr. Art Graesser, right, accepts the Eye of the Tiger Award from Allie Prescott (BS '69, JD '72) at Homecoming.
6. Noya Bedini and Spencer Glaser don top hats at the Law School's 50th anniversary gala.
7. A scene from the Centennial Homecoming Parade.
8. Attending the Fogelman College of Business & Economics Alumni Day luncheon were, from left, C. Kemmons Wilson Jr., Summer Owens (BBA '01), Marvin Ellison (BBA '89), Dean Rajiv Grover and Sarah Maurice (IMBA '09, MHA '11).
9. Teams got down and dirty at the Student Ambassador Board's annual Mudball volleyball tournament.



1955

Bob Ford (BS, MA '56) was inducted into the Arkansas Sports Hall of Fame. The Wynne, Ark., native played football for the Tigers from 1951-54 and was inducted into the M Club Hall of Fame in 1983. He coached college football for more than a decade. After returning to Wynne to practice law in 1970, Ford worked as a part-time scout for the NFL's Dallas Cowboys for 20 years.

1957



Bob Dickson (BS) received the 2012 Trailblazers Award from Mental Health America of Greater Houston. Dickson has more than 30 years of experience establishing and

administering mental health, addiction recovery and early childhood development programs. He also helped establish the Southwest Health Technology Foundation, which furthers the research, development and availability of neurotherapy.



Larry Hilbun (BS) was named chair of the Lifeblood board of directors. He has served Lifeblood in a number of roles, including vice chair and secretary of the board, as

well as chair of the Bartlett/Arlington/Lakeland volunteer donor council. Hilbun has received Lifeblood's Life Giver Award and Community Partner Award. He is retired personnel director for the city of Bartlett. Hilbun was voted Mr. Memphis State in 1956 and served as vice president of his senior class in 1957. 🐾

1962

Victor L. Robilio Jr. (BBA) authored *Forever Young*, which tells stories of American soldiers in World War II. 🐾

1968

Glen Reid (BBA, JD '71), a partner with Wyatt, Tarrant & Combs, was named among the best attorneys in his area of legal practice in the 2012 edition of *Chambers and Partners*.

Donald J. Valdez (BS, JD '75), a retired Texas entertainment attorney, was elected to the board of directors of the Hot Springs Village Concerts Association. He also serves on the association's arts committee and is a member of the Arkansas River Blues Society.

1969

Don Hardy-Holley (BS Lambuth) lives in San Antonio. He has been in private practice there as a licensed professional counselor and licensed marriage and family therapist since 1986. He and his wife, Anne Hardy-Holley, work together with individuals and couples. They were recognized by the South Texas Counselors Association as the 2012 Multi-Level Counselors of the Year.

1970



Don Godwin (BBA), chair and CEO of the Dallas-based law firm Godwin Ronquillo, was selected for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America* for 2013.

1971

Judge Robert L. Childers (BBA, JD '74) received the Tennessee Bar Association's Justice Frank F. Drowota Judicial Service Award. The award honors a judge or judicial official who has demonstrated extraordinary dedication to the improvement of the law, the legal system and the administration of justice. Childers was recognized for his work with the Tennessee Lawyers Assistance Program, a confidential service for attorneys struggling with addiction, depression, anxiety and other issues. He also was presented the first Excellence in Legal

Community Leadership Award from the Hazelden Legal Professionals Program. 🐾

Herbert Hilliard (BBA), executive vice president and chief government relations officer of First Horizon Corp., was named a director of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority. The TRA sets utility rates and service standards for privately owned telephone, natural gas, electric and water utilities.

Richard Raines (BBA, JD '74), a partner with Wyatt, Tarrant & Combs, was named among the best attorneys in his area of legal practice in the 2012 edition of *Chambers and Partners*. 🐾

1972

Jackie Nichols (BSEd), executive producer of Playhouse on the Square, received the Thomas W. Briggs Community Service Award. The award recognizes outstanding leadership by an individual whose creativity, effort, commitment, professionalism and exceptional initiative have enabled his organization to excel in its mission. Nichols has long emphasized the importance of theatre in the community. He is involved in the next phase of Playhouse on the Square and the progressive redevelopment of Overton Square.

1973

Ernest Lancaster (BA) authored *Precinct Memphis – Cop Tales*, a collection of short stories in an ebook. Lancaster was a Memphis police officer for 33 years, retiring as a captain. He also has written two suspense novels that he plans to publish. His website is ernestlancaster.com. 🐾

John E. Miller (JD) wrote the article "Contract Legalese Reduction Tips," which was published in the National Contract Management Association's *Contract Management Magazine*. He is a contracts management consultant for Contracts.com (www.con-tracts.com).

1974



Sam Fullerton (BBA, MS '76), professor of marketing at Eastern Michigan University's College of Business, was named an "extraordinary professor" by North-West

University in South Africa. He works with North-West's Potchefstroom Business School. The designation recognizes Fullerton's contributions to the educational process in South Africa.



Bob Plunk (BA) received the 2012 Outstanding Fundraising Executive Crystal Award from the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) Memphis chapter in November. Plunk,

who served as director of the U of M National Alumni Association from 1985-94, currently is director of development for Methodist Healthcare Foundation. 🐾

1975



Samuel C. Totaro Jr. (JD) joined the law firm of Curtin & Heefner in its Doylestown, Pa., office. He is an accomplished attorney in the fields of adoption litigation and family

law. Totaro served on the committee that revised Pennsylvania's adoption code and has received distinguished service awards from the National Council for Adoption and the American Academy of Adoption Attorneys.

1976



Terry Durham (BA) received the "Caring More" award from Crossroads Hospice. The award recognizes her tireless dedication to social work. Durham received \$500 for herself and \$500 to

present to her nonprofit of choice, Church Health Center.



Jeff Weintraub (BSEd, JD '81) was selected for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America 2013*. He is managing partner of the Memphis office of Fisher & Phillips.

1977

Lancelot L. Minor III (JD) was selected as one of the 2012 Mid-South Super Lawyers by Thomson Reuters. Only 5 percent of the attorneys in Tennessee, Mississippi and Arkansas are selected to the Super Lawyers list each year. Minor received his undergraduate degree from the University of Mississippi, and has been practicing primarily business and commercial law in the Memphis area for more than 34 years. For the past 18 years he has practiced with the firm Bourland, Heflin, Alvarez, Minor & Matthews.

Jimmie Tapley (BBA, MS '82) of Crye-Leike Realtors was ranked the 13th most successful residential Realtor in the U.S. on the Real Trends 2012 Top Thousand List.

Dr. Robert F. Wright (BS) was elevated as a Fellow of the Academy of Prosthodontics. The academy is the oldest specialty organization in prosthetic dentistry, with a Fellowship of distinguished clinicians, educators and leaders from around the world. Wright is director of advanced graduate prosthodontics at the Harvard School of Dental Medicine. 🐾

1978



Alan Doyle (BBA), an agent with Clay & Land Insurance Inc., was elected president of the Business Network International (BNI) chapter In the Loop, which meets in east Memphis.

Larry Etter (BSEd), senior VP of Malco Theatres' concessions, received the National Assoc. of Concessionaires' Mickey Warner Award.

1980

Richard Alan Bunch (JD) authored the book *The Color of Sunrise: Stories, Poems, Plays and Philosophical Fragments*. This 365-page volume includes a collection of literary expression from plays such as *The Fortune-Telling Parrot* to the novel *Cornet and Clarinda*, short stories like "Meditation Interruptus" and "Veiled Interlude," the poems "Unearthing" and "Maybe Someday" and philosophical topics such as love and humor. *Philosophical Fragments* also includes an acknowledgment of the philosophical influence of University of Memphis law professors Francis Gabor and Wade Sides.

John Good (BBA, JD '87), an attorney with Bass, Berry & Sims, was listed in *Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business*.

Dr. Randy McPherson (BSEd, MS '84, EdD '93) was selected Career Guidance Professional of the Year by the Tennessee Association for Career and Technical Education. He also received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the West Tennessee Counseling Association. McPherson is director of counseling services and college prep for Memphis City Schools. He co-authored the chapter "Career Guidance and Counseling" for the book *The Career Pathways Effect: Linking Education and Economic Prosperity*. 🐾

1982

Dr. Kelly Hunt (BSCE) received the Outstanding Alumni Award from the University of Tennessee Health Science Center College of Medicine. She graduated from UTHSC in 1986 and completed postgraduate training at the UCLA School of Medicine. Hunt served as a surgical oncology fellow at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center and joined the faculty there in 1996. She is a professor of surgery in the Department of Surgical Oncology as well as chief of the Surgical Breast Section and associate medical director of the Nellie B. Connally Breast Center.

Kevin Mauldin (BM) participated in a jazz jam session at the Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center in Fort Myers, Fla., in July. Mauldin is principal bass with the Naples (Fla.) Philharmonic Orchestra and owner of KGM String Repair. He earned a master of music degree from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music and was principal bass with the Chattanooga Symphony Orchestra and Opera Association.

1983

Sharon Taylor McKinney (BA) is small business development specialist for EDGE (Economic Development Growth Engine). She previously served as business resource specialist for the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development and as a small business consultant with the U of M's Tennessee Small Business Development Center.

1985

Susan H. Kastner (MFA) authored the book *Witnessing Conversations with Heaven: A True Story of Love From the Afterlife*. The book details accounts of the signs shared between her two best friends and soulmates, one of whom died of cancer at age 50. Kastner works in the gaming technology industry. She lives and writes in Las Vegas.

Daryl Newman (BBA) is CEO of Cagenix, a company that designs and manufactures restorative dentistry products.

Leigh Anne Snider (BBA) was named vice president of retail operations at Caribou Coffee Co. She joins the Minneapolis-based company from YUM! Brands in Louisville, where she served as chief operating officer of the Long John Silver's and A&W Restaurants brands.

Marshall Talley (BBA) was promoted to executive vice president and senior credit officer for Paragon National Bank.

1987

Valeria Saulsberry Edmonds (BBA) received certification as a leadership coach from Georgetown University. She has been a human resources consultant for Exxon Mobil Corp. for 22 years.

1988

Ken Moody (BA) was named director of community relations for Central Defense Security. He had been interim human resources manager.

1989

Tanya Miner Dumas (BA) was appointed to a two-year term on the Shelby County Ethics Commission by Shelby County Mayor Mark Luttrell.

1990

Keith Dillihunt (BBA, MBA '07) is economic development specialist for EDGE (Economic Development Growth Engine). He has 15 years of banking experience, most recently as senior vice president at First Alliance Bank.



Capt. Cheryl Hansen (BSME) is executive officer of U.S. Naval Facilities Engineering Command Marianas, Guam. She is responsible for administrative, legal, financial and military affairs for the 600 civilian and military personnel assigned there. Previously Hansen served as Construction Division director for U.S. Forces Japan.

John Horne (BSCE) joined the engineering and architectural firm Barge, Waggoner, Sumner and Cannon as a civil engineer. He previously was a private consultant with the city of Bartlett.



Christopher Sheffield (BA) joined the Shelby County Trustee's office as executive director of communications. He has more than 20 years of experience as a print journalist,

most recently as a reporter for the *Memphis Business Journal* covering banking and finance, residential real estate, health care, and law firms and legal trends.

1991

Richard Thorne (BSEE) completed successful testing of a highway tunnel system in San Francisco with Axiom Engineers. Thorne performs systematic testing of building heating and air conditioning systems and electrical systems as part of the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification process. He has also completed testing and verification of his design improvements to a hotel in Monterey, Calif., resulting in more than \$80,000 in annual energy savings. This hotel is only the second in California to receive LEED certification for existing buildings. Thorne has been with Axiom as a professional mechanical engineer for more than five years and recently was promoted to commissioning services field division head. He is retired from the U.S. Navy Reserve.

1993



Patrick Neal (BSCE), a civil engineer, was named principal owner of Pickering Firm Inc., a comprehensive engineering and architectural services company. He has been with

Pickering's Memphis office for 17 years and is a Professional Engineer registered in Tennessee and Mississippi.

Felicia Willett (BSHE), owner and executive chef at Felicia Suzanne's, was invited to cook at the James Beard House in October. She prepared a five-course meal using local products.

The New York-based James Beard Foundation promotes the culinary arts.

1994

Marty Barton (BA, JD '97), executive vice president and general counsel of Adams Keegan, joined the board of trustees of Visible Music College.

Kirk Caraway (BA, JD '97), a partner with the law firm of Allen, Summers, Simpson, Lillie & Gresham, was selected as a Superlawyer in the field of labor and employment law by *Law & Politics*. He also was named one of "Tennessee's Top-Rated Lawyers" by American Lawyer Media.



Rob Hoerter (BBA, MBA '96) was named associate vice president for communications, public relations and marketing at the University of Memphis. Previously an account

supervisor at TMB Marketing, a division of archer>malmo, Hoerter has also worked with CS2 Advertising and was a partner in the Sossaman+Associates agency. 🐾

1995



Todd Presnell (JD) received the 2012 Richard H. Krochok Award from the Defense Research Institute. The award honors an individual who has provided exemplary leadership

to the DRI Young Lawyers Committee. Presnell is a partner with Bradley Arant Boult Cummings.

1996

Michael Carpenter (BLS) was elected mayor of Schertz, Texas, in November. Carpenter was first elected to the Schertz City Council in 2005, then re-elected three times. His areas of focus include sustainable and profitable economic development, controlled expansion and quality of life initiatives.

1997

Kimberly Rogers (BA, MA '01) was named college media coordinator for the U of M's College of Communication and Fine Arts. She has held publications, public relations and web positions at Baptist Memorial Health Care and Methodist Healthcare.

1998



Mark A. Fulks (JD) joined the Johnson City, Tenn., office of Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz as an associate and member of the Advocacy Department. He

focuses his practice on general business litigation as well as state and federal appeals.

1999

Cassie Beck (BFA) appeared in the Roundabout Theatre Company's revival of *Picnic* on Broadway. The Pulitzer Prize-winning production's stars included Ellen Burstyn and Mare Winningham.

Stephen Mosher (BSCE, MBA '06) was named an owner in the Ridgeland, Miss., office of the architecture and engineering firm Gresham, Smith and Partners. Mosher lives in Madison, Miss., with his wife, Caroline, and their two children, Hayley and Henry.

2000



John Francis (PhD) was promoted to associate professor with tenure in the College of Business Administration at San Diego State University, where he

teaches MBA and undergraduate courses in business strategy and international management.

Julie Bhattacharya Peak (JD) was appointed resident attorney for Tennessee for Liberty Mutual Insurance Co. Inc. She has been named

a *Super Lawyers* Rising Star for three consecutive years in the areas of insurance defense and coverage.

Tony Silva (BM, MM '03, DMA '08, JD '08) joined the Donati Law Firm as an associate attorney. He focuses his practice on immigration law and related litigation matters for individuals and businesses. 🐾

2001

Timothy F. May (BBA, JD/MBA '04), an attorney with Rogers Towers, was named a Rising Star in the practice of real estate law by *Florida Super Lawyers* magazine for three consecutive years.

Christi McCoy (BSN) is a nurse practitioner with Baptist Medical Group-Arlington Family Medicine. She had been a cardiovascular intensive care nurse and neonatal intensive care nurse for Le Bonheur Children's Hospital.

Dr. Robin Myers (EdD) was named chancellor of the Arkansas State University campus in Mountain Home. He had been at Arkansas Northeastern College since 1989, and served as its president since 2005.

2002

Kevin Dean (BA), executive director of Literacy Mid-South, was appointed to the board of directors of the Tennessee Literacy Coalition. He previously was community services director at Volunteer Memphis and director of development at Hope House. Dean was named one of Memphis' "Top 40 Under 40" by *Memphis Business Journal* in 2011.

Megan Gatewood (BBA) was promoted to marketing director at Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare. She had been a marketing specialist.

Michelle Goldsby (BBA) was promoted to audit senior at Deloitte & Touche.

2003



Ashby R. Scott (JD) was named a shareholder in the Evans Petree law firm, where she works in the real property practice group.

2004



L. Clayton Culpepper III (JD) was named a shareholder in the Evans Petree law firm, where he works in the litigation and intellectual property practice group.

Destin Tucker (BBA) was promoted to assistant director of admissions for recruitment at the U of M. She had served as coordinator of orientation and special events since 2007.

2005

Thomas Greer (JD), a partner in Bailey & Greer, was named to the National Trial Lawyers' "Top 40 Under 40 for 2012."

David Nischwitz (EMBA) was appointed senior vice president of property enhancements and redevelopment for Fogelman Properties.

2006



Laura Girsch (BSEd, MS '07) is a clinical dietitian with Infusion Resource. She coordinates the company's clinical nutrition services and provides nutritional support for outpatients

throughout southern New England. Girsch lives in Quincy, Mass.

2004



Ryan Ivey (BSEd, MS '10) was named director of athletics at Texas A&M University-Commerce in January. At just 31 years of age, he is overseeing 11 A&M-Commerce intercollegiate athletic programs for men and women. The Lions compete in the Division II Lone Star Conference.

Ivey joined A&M-Commerce from McNeese State University, where he had been with the athletic department since 2007. He had served as associate athletic director since August 2010, handling the day-to-day operations of the department.

Ivey spent two seasons as the director of operations for the women's basketball team at the U of M. He also served as marketing and promotions coordinator for the University of South Dakota as well as a stadium operations assistant for the Memphis Redbirds. The Mayfield, Ky., native was a four-year letter-winner at Memphis as a punter and holder on the Tiger football team, seeing action in both the 2003 New Orleans Bowl and the 2004 GMAC Bowl. He earned his bachelor's degree in sports management in 2004, followed by his master's degree in sport and leisure commerce in 2010.

"My time at the U of M prepared me very well for my appointment," Ivey says. "Having had the opportunity to be a Tiger student-athlete and the opportunity to learn from quality instructors

(cont'd page 53)

HOT TOPICS SERVED ALL EVENING LONG

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 \$65 Advance Reservation Required
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Join us for dinner, drinks and a fiery discussion of today's hottest topics in college research.

Presented by the University of Memphis College of Arts & Sciences.

THE UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS
 College of Arts & Sciences



Ryan Lasiter (MBA) was elected a member of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors. He is the only member in the state of Arkansas who works in the areas of commercial real estate development and investments. Lasiter also was named director of the Arkansas Foodbank board of directors.

Darnell Settles (BA) is web marketing manager for Baptist Memorial Health Care's corporate communication department.

2007

Trey Heath (BA) is information specialist for EDGE (Economic Development Growth Engine). He is a former reporter for *The Commercial Appeal* and *Memphis Business Journal*. Most recently Heath was a partner and president of Magnetic Digital Marketing, a web design and marketing agency.

Teresa Thomson (BPS) was promoted to assistant vice president in First Citizens National Bank's trust division. She had been an employee benefits assistant in the bank's investment and trust division.

Jonathan Wright (MBA) was promoted to audit manager at Deloitte & Touche.

2008

Kristin C. Dunavant (JD) is an attorney with Butler, Snow, O'Mara, Stevens & Cannada.

Britany Foley (MS) was promoted to tax manager in Deloitte's Business Tax Services Group.



Jerad McFarlin (BA) was named Rookie of the Year in the Nashville law office of Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz, where he

is a business development assistant. The award is given to an employee of two years or less for outstanding performance and dedication to client service.

Ashlee K. Roberts (BA) has been accepted into the PhD program for higher education administration at Saint Louis University. 🐾

2009

Marla Brown (BLS, MPS '11) joined Agape Child and Family Services as director of the Families in Transition program. 🐾

Ellis Fowler (BA) is a motion graphics specialist with Signature Advertising. Before joining Signature he ran his own video production company.

Sarah Maurice (IMBA, MHA '11) joined Campbell Clinic as chief operating officer. She had been with Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare. 🐾

Christine Kelly Miller (BA) joined Hilton Worldwide as global public relations manager for Hampton Hotels. Her husband, **Tim Miller** (BA '07), is a communications specialist with FedEx Corp.

Katie K. Parker (JD), an attorney with Atlanta law firm Boyd Collar Nolen & Tuggle, was named to the State Bar of Georgia's Young Lawyers Division Leadership Academy Class of 2013. Parker focuses her practice on a range of family law issues, including divorce, custody and post-divorce matters.

Joshua J. Sudbury (JD) is an associate in the Nashville office of FordHarrison, a national labor and employment law firm.

Justin Sypult (MBA) joined Financial Federal as an asset manager/financial analyst.

2010

Lowell Hinte (BFA) was promoted to account manager at Second to Nunn Design. He had been a designer.

Katie Sinclair (BFA) was promoted to creative coordinator and designer at Second to Nunn Design. Sinclair has been a designer at Second to Nunn and a junior art director at inferno.

2011

Joseline Acosta-Hoyt (BBA) was promoted to business banking officer at the Bank of Bartlett's Raleigh branch. 🐾



Jamie B. Kidd (JD) is assistant director for law school administration at the U of M's Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law. Her responsibilities involve human resources, accreditation, budgeting, academic regulations and other administration-related projects.

2012

C J Kelman (BA) joined Signature Advertising as a web content specialist. 🐾

(cont'd from page 52)

in the sports management field provided me hands-on, practical experience. The professors in sports management took great pride in teaching us the core principles, and really took the time to ensure we were learning and growing as students. The opportunities available with the Memphis sports community provided me with hands-on experience that I was able to take and apply in my career, along with class discussions."

Ivey has taken that inspiration to the top of an athletic department. "My goals are to bring A&M-Commerce back to national recognition," he says, "to reach out and re-engage alumni, donors and former student-athletes, while at the same time providing the opportunity for our current student-athletes to have a great experience."

The University of Memphis Alumni Association expresses its sympathy to the families and friends of the following individuals:

ALUMNI

(Listed alphabetically by graduation date)

1920s-30s

Fern Howell Gibbons '33, June '12
 Constance Kahn Starr '34, Sept. '12
 Bertha Shankman Lutz '35, May '12
 Mable Hopper Webb* '35, June '12
 Virginia Kelsey Carrington '37, July '12
 Ruth S. Mischke* '38, '61, Nov. '12

1940s-50s

Mildred Shirley Sigler Chamberlin '42, April '12
 Mary Ellen Griesbeck Marr '42, July '12
 Elizabeth Watson Kareth '46, June '12
 Cecil G. Keltner '47, '50, May '12
 Ward Byrd* '49, '61, Oct. '12
 Doris Marie Pleasants Galey '49, Oct. '12
 Hildreth S. Taylor '49, Sept. '12
 Forrest Aubrey Hettinger '50, April '12
 Theo Leathers* '50, Sept. '12
 Lacey Irene Stahl '50, June '12
 Charles Wilkes '50, June '12
 Chlorita Gaines Carter '51, April '12
 John Lee Cobb '51, '55, Oct. '12
 Robert Harris DeZonia '51, '55, Nov. '12
 Edward Joseph Bousson Jr. '52, July '12
 Louis Miller Hall III '52, May '12
 Ernest Michael '52, Sept. '12
 Martha Frances Fowler Moore '52, June '12
 A. Paul Bruno '54, Aug. '12
 Jack W. Holt '54, July '12
 Ernest Delane Neyman '54, Nov. '12
 Erlend Nichols '54, '59, Oct. '12
 William Chesley Sowell '54, Sept. '12
 Rev. Paul Blankenship* '55, Nov. '12
 Graham McLain Griffith '55, '65, Nov. '12
 Billy G. Robinson '55, Nov. '12
 Helen Hamilton Bullard '56, May '12
 Dr. David M. Hilliard Jr.* '56, July '12
 Charles Leo McCollum '56, May '12
 Lynn Francis Sutton '56, Sept. '12
 Dr. Pat Burlison '57, Aug. '12
 Robert Donald Crews '57, Dec. '12
 Billy Inman Bedgood '58, Sept. '12
 Jumel C. "Bud" Campbell Jr. '58, March '12
 Janis Debardeleben Epler '58, '71, June '12
 Rebecca Duncan Gorman '58, May '12
 Beverly Morton McCormack '58, May '12
 Frances Carlson Tarpley* '58, Sept. '12
 Richard Lee Murchison* '59, Sept. '12

Richard N. Schiff '59, July '12
 Francis Larry Whaley '59, Aug. '12
 Harold Douglas Wilson '59, '61, Oct. '12

1960s-70s

Loretta D. Franklin '60, June '12
 Edward Wesley Genes Jr. '60, Nov. '12
 Robert Allen Caldwell '61, July '12
 Barbara Ellen Clark '61, '76, June '12
 Charles David Coscia '61, Oct. '12
 Richard Foster '61, Sept. '12
 Wilma Palmer Hendrix '61, July '12
 Raymond Thomas Lange Jr. '61, Nov. '12
 Charles Colbert Linn '61, Nov. '12
 Lynn Alexander McNatt '61, Oct. '12
 Lena F. Bien '62, July '12
 Marilyn Campbell Gordon '62, July '12
 Sally McGregor Davis '63, Dec. '12
 Jane W. Droke '63, Sept. '12
 Dr. George Lipsey '63, Sept. '12
 George Michael Makris '63, '66, Sept. '12
 Robert Ray Rye '63, Nov. '12
 Phillip Smith Weaver '63, '76, Aug. '12
 James Franklin Byrd '64, July '12
 Susan Harmon '64, Sept. '12
 Albert L. Luthe '64, July '12
 Russell Vollmer '64, Aug. '12
 Gerald Wayne Carlyle '65, '68, July '12
 John O. Davis '65, June '12
 Douglas Roberts '65, May '12
 George M. Graham III, '66, '72, May '12
 Raymond Francis Kamler '66, July '12
 Herbert Wayne Vaiden Jr. '66, Nov. '12
 Mary Ann Waggener '66, Oct. '12
 Anna Maude Mahaffey White '66, '74, May '12
 Julia Elaine Graham '67, Aug. '12
 Claire Ann Hull Law '67, June '12
 Tony Franklin Raburn '67, '70, Aug. '12
 Lester Franklin Swords '67, '70, Aug. '12
 William Patrick Wills '67, May '12
 Thelda E.P. Atwater '68, Nov. '12
 Joe A. Dycus '68, Oct. '12
 Earl V. Ingram '68, July '12
 Albert Benton Merkel* '68, '75, Dec. '12
 Charles Thomas Neill '68, Aug. '12
 Jerry Douglas Peace '68, June '12
 William Metcalf Prest '68, June '12
 Dr. Glenn Crosby '69, Oct. '12
 Anita W. Licht '69, May '12
 James Edward Armstrong '70, '75, July '12
 David Bosse '70, Aug. '12
 Dottie Reagan Danley '70, Aug. '12
 Michael Alan Douglas '70, June '12
 David C. Dye '70, Aug. '12
 Mable Robertson '70, April '12
 Kathryn Banks Singleton '70, May '12
 David Lee Sullivan '70, Aug. '12

Jeanne Yarbrough '70, July '12
 Bill W. Blackburn '71, Aug. '12
 Joseph Peter Cavallo '71, '78, July '12
 Wallace Luther Chandler '71, Sept. '12
 Robert Daniel Hudson Jr. '71, '76, May '12
 Daudet J. Schreurs '71, July '12
 William L. Burnett Jr. '72, Oct. '12
 Pearl Priddy Coleman '72, May '12
 William J. Cook '72, Dec. '12
 Robert Truett Faulk '72, Oct. '12
 Carroll Frances Stuart Hardy '72, Nov. '12
 Julia Hayes Hatter* '72, Oct. '12
 William Larsha '72, Sept. '12
 Hazel Everett Parker '72, June '12
 Ronald Douglas Pierotti '72, Dec. '12
 Charles Sertich '72, Aug. '12
 Donald Lee Beegle '73, June '12
 Perry Glenn Mills '73, Nov. '12
 Evelyn Carter Parrett '73, Aug. '12
 Michael Richard Riley '73, May '12
 Anne G. Weathers '73, May '12
 Rev. Glenn A. Elliott* '74, July '12
 Joanne Farley '74, Aug. '12
 Alene V. Haskell '74, June '12
 Consuelo O'Neal '74, '77, July '12
 Jack Pauley '74, Nov. '12
 Barbara Williams Ruff '74, '91, Oct. '10
 Gene Elaine Dlugach '75, June '12
 Sam Steven Howell '75, June '12
 Gerald Malone Acree '76, May '12
 Anthony Arthur Aspero Jr. '76, June '12
 Sandra Griffin Cotton '76, July '12
 Cynthia D. Lipscomb '76, Aug. '12
 Roland Michael Lyons '76, Nov. '12
 Douglas Spiller Marsh '76, Nov. '12
 Frances Conner Miller* '76, Sept. '12
 Dr. Thomas Harold Peake '76, Sept. '12
 Myra Thomas '76, Sept. '12
 Evelyn Burch Webb West '76, Nov. '12
 David Louis Williams '76, June '12
 Richard A. Blount '77, Nov. '12
 Randall Martin Evans '77, Oct. '12
 Dwight Wade Watts '77, '85, June '12
 Sharon Anita Carpenter* '78, Oct. '12
 Linda K. Cox '78, '82, May '12
 Woodrow Edward Jones '78, Aug. '12
 Rebecca Ann Sullivan '78, Sept. '12
 Robert Franklin Andrews '79, Sept. '12
 Louise Tannehill Bagby '79, Oct. '12
 Carrie Tilson Bridger '79, June '12
 Frederick William Dicken Jr. '79, May '12
 Derryl Anthony Foster '79, July '12
 Angela G. Mullikin '79, July '12

1980s-90s

Ann Allred Bell '80, Sept. '12
 Fredrick Coulter '80, Sept. '12

William Hale Cullinan '80, Aug. '12
 Willis Lincoln Hardaway Jr. '80, Oct. '12
 David Eugene Moran '80, Oct. '12
 John H. Buchanan '81, Sept. '12
 William E. Lucas '81, Aug. '12
 Bessie M. McBride '81, Oct. '12
 Rebecca Ann Smith '81, Oct. '12
 Barbara R. Bronze '82, '85, Oct. '12
 David Tual Ivy '83, Nov. '12
 Charles H. Patton Jr. '83, Aug. '12
 Roy Bryant Scott '83, Sept. '12
 Charles Sutton '83, '95, July '12
 Diva Daria Barbee '84, May '12
 Doran Oliver Major '84, June '12
 Frances D. Barton '85, July '12
 Doris Jean Hayes '86, March '12
 Ann Balcom '87, Sept. '12
 Tara E. Holland '88, May '12
 Carol Elaine Rutland Amagliani '89, Nov. '12
 Betty Jean Hall '90, June '12
 Mary Sue Peters Squires '91, '95, Aug. '12
 Parriellee Parks Perdue '92, Dec. '12
 Rhonda Charmaine Tate '92, Sept. '12

Melissa Belcher Chiles '93, Sept. '12
 John Lunsford '94, '97, May '12
 Sandy J. Ostby '94, June '12
 David Toombs '96, Jan. '13
 Jeffrey Lyn Smith '97, July '12

2000s

Dr. Quan Yang '01, Oct. '12
 Michael Scruggs '04, Aug. '12
 Nicholas Matthew Oldham '05, Nov. '11
 Lindsay Allyson Young '08, Sept. '12
 Jeffrey Adam German '10, May '12
 Joseph Erle Johnson '10, May '12

Faculty/Staff

Carolyn Prewitt "Tilly" Bell, June '12
 John Cooksey, Oct. '12
 Kay L. Dickson, Oct. '12
 Dr. George Leroy Dowd, Oct. '12
 Frances Silberstein Evensky, Nov. '12
 Peter Edward Gillquist, July '12
 Joyce Ann Hathaway, Oct. '12
 Dr. Ralph G. Johnson, July '12

Deirdre L. Jones, Aug. '12
 Joe Lincoln Jones, April '12
 Minnie McRae Powell Miller '42, May '12
 James D. Preston, Sept. '12
 Kathy Pinchback Preston, July '12
 Rachel Shelton, Oct. '12
 Dr. Cecil G. "Pete" Shugart, Nov. '12
 Dr. John Andrew Sobol, July '12
 Peter Loran Spurbeck, May '12
 Marjorie Underwood, July '12
 Charlotte Wireman '73, Oct. '12

Friends

Mary Caldwell, Sept. '12
 Tom Donahue, July '12
 Fred Kesselman, Nov. '12
 Carl H. Langschmidt Jr., Nov. '12
 Michael Marcuzzi, Sept. '12
 Era Marshall McKee, June '12
 Marguerite Piazza, Aug. '12
 Emma Jean Pierotti, May '12
 Juanita May Wilfong, Aug. '12

* Lambuth University graduate

Alumni Association

National Executive Board of Directors: Anita Vaughn (BA '77, MPA '82), President; Allie Prescott (BA '69, JD '72), Past President; Kim Barnett (BA '95, MBA '99), Vice President for Membership; Wei Chen (IMBA '98), Vice President for Communication; Ben Watkins (BBA '78), Vice President for Finances; Renee DeGutis (BS '83), Vice President for Programs and Events; Hon. Butch Childers (BBA '71, JD '74); Eric Robertson (BA '03); Jim Strickland (BBA '86, JD '89); Karimh McDaniel (BA '02); Marla Johnson Norris (BA '81); Roberto Young (BSEE '02, BSCE '03); Andrew Bailey (BBA '00, EMBA '05); Greg Siskin (BBA '85, MBA '00); Jamie Russell (BBA '02); David Kustoff (BBA '89, JD '92); Dana Gabrion (BA '98); Ron Hart (BBA '81, MBA '83)

Advisers to the Executive Director: Deanie Parker (BPS '77, MPA '88); Mark Long (BSEE '85); John Lawrence (BA '94, MS '98); Theopolis Holeman (BSET '71); Cathy Ross (MBA '82); John Bobango (JD '83); John Koski (BA '88); Dr. Robert Wright (BS '77); Paul Jewell (BA '78); Hon. Diane Vescovo (JD '80)

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Four Truths about Higher Education

by Linda Bonnin

College campuses are complex entities

University campuses are similar to small cities. They are comprised of police forces, transportation services, sports and entertainment facilities, health centers, utilities, housing, ground crews, restaurants, classrooms, art galleries and business operations, as well as academic areas divided into colleges and schools. They also provide cultural and community resources that enhance quality of life for the surrounding area, and they are actively involved in community partnerships that address major societal issues.

Universities meet the needs of a diverse group of constituencies. Thus, they face somewhat unique challenges that are often influenced by opinion leaders, action groups and various centers of power. Change requires buy-in which entails communication, negotiation and conciliation. While these processes are frequently transparent to campus participants, they may seem somewhat foreign and perplexing to those outside of a university environment.

While it is true that higher education has traditionally been slow to change because of these complexities, the environment is rapidly changing.

Higher education is in the midst of a major transformation

Online education has exploded in the last decade and, while universities across the globe are finding new ways to meet the digital needs of today's students, it is also increasingly important that they remain focused on their core values in the midst of this rapid change.

The advent of MOOC's (Massive Online Open Courses) has added an even greater dimension to the delivery of academic content. A new type of online courses aimed at large-scale participation and open access via the web, MOOC's are a recent development in the area of distance education.

But even in this age of continuing innovation, it is difficult to imagine a time when distance education will completely replace traditional college classrooms. While technology offers seemingly unlimited potential to improve the educational process, it is not likely to supplant the physicality of a setting where students and professors engage in verbal dialogue that enhances the educational experience for those in the room. What has emerged instead is a proliferation of hybrid students who take classes both on the ground and on the web.

While online education is one avenue for many degree-seeking students, particularly those who work and have families or those in remote locales where college campuses are not easily accessible, it is doubtful that traditional college classrooms will ever become obsolete, even as MOOC's continue to multiply. However, universities that embrace transformation and adjust their strategic plans to fit these new, often hybrid models will find themselves in an enviable position.

Funding models have changed

In the past, public funding for higher education has focused on the total number of full-time students enrolled on college campuses, but that model has changed in Tennessee. Funding is now outcomes based. Even so, only one-third of the University of Memphis' budget comes from the state. The remainder comes from tuition, grants and contracts, research and fundraising.

Graduation and retention rates, as well as timely progression toward graduation, are three of the key factors used to determine state funding.



Universities must recruit academically ambitious and talented students even more aggressively since these are the students most apt to graduate in a timely manner.

As competition for the highest caliber students has increased, so too has the need for programs and facilities designed to attract and retain them. State-of-the-art libraries, technology centers, music venues, student centers, laboratories, recreation facilities, residence halls and technologically advanced classrooms have become the norm.

The beneficiary of all of this is not only the students themselves, but the community and the region, which ultimately benefit from the highly educated, motivated workforce that colleges and universities produce.

A college degree has tremendous value

With tuition climbing at both private and public universities, *public* higher education has only increased in value. In short, it is still a good bargain that pays quantifiable dividends.

Debate about whether a college education is essential seems to have permeated the national consciousness over the last year, but one truth remains clear: those who hold a college degree make incomes that are disproportionately higher than those who do not. On the average, college graduates make 80 percent more over their lifetimes than those who have only a high school education, but individual success still depends largely on the student's readiness for college, the unique focus they bring to their academic life and the availability of jobs in their chosen field.

Just as important as degree completion are the critical thinking skills, personal networks and career preparedness that universities provide. College is an investment that pays off over time, but students must play a participatory role. Personal integrity, cognitive ability, interpersonal skills and the availability of emotional support systems are all predictors of, and contributors to, both academic and professional success.

The affordability and accessibility of higher education will continue to play a prominent role in the national discourse as funding becomes more scarce and tuition continues to rise. But any meaningful discussion of college affordability must also include the benefits that a college degree provides which, for most students, includes the likelihood of higher employability, higher earnings, better fringe benefits and other quality-of-life and citizenship outcomes.

And let's not forget the well-documented correlation between educational attainment and local and regional prosperity. Great cities need great universities, and that interdependence will only continue to grow.

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