



MARYVILLE
MAGAZINE

FALL 2018



EXPLORING A NEW KIND OF

FIELD TRIP

IN THIS ISSUE

DEPARTMENTS

Shift Forward	2
Mpowered	10
Teaching I	12
Q&A	34
Saints Nation	36
Alumni Scene	42

ON THE COVER

Through virtual reality technology, the world comes to campus as students experience interactive tours of ancient sites, ecology in open fields and office spaces in which they might find themselves working someday.
photo by **Jay Fram**



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Maryville University is a private, independent institution offering 90+ degrees at the undergraduate, master's and doctoral levels. Maryville has forged its outstanding reputation based on academic excellence, individualized student attention and alumni success.



10 ‘Big Red M Box’

April Huber, graphic design major and M Store Work Study student, created an exclusive gift box for students and alumni.



16 L.E.A.D by Example

A council for leaders of social and cultural awareness student organizations gives them a stronger voice as they promote inclusivity on campus.

23 Taking It Online

A talented team of learning designers and instructional tech wizards helps classroom faculty, like Geriann Brandt, associate professor of criminal justice/criminology, create robust, engaging courses for their online students.



26 Oh, The Places VR Will Take You!

Faculty devise interactive ‘field trips’ using 360-degree videos so students can tour important sites and spaces worldwide and locally—without leaving campus.

MORE FEATURES

18 Horse Happy

Student Emily Hoffman brings joy to others through Applejack Therapy Foundation, an outreach program she created with her sister, Anna Hoffman, featuring miniature horses.

30 Cyber Teens

St. Louis high school students explore the emerging field of cyber security through a model program created by Maryville faculty and students with support from Monsanto Fund.

34 Q&A: Max Artis

Life coach Max Artis talks about how his role helps students discover and leverage personal strengths, plan career goals and find their niche on campus.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

I am excited to report that Maryville University continues to lead a higher education revolution with unprecedented growth, new and innovative programs and a national awareness campaign that is trumpeting our success far and wide. And we are doing this with a profoundly student-first approach that is committed to one thing—outstanding student outcomes.

In this issue, you will explore a wide array of faculty and student achievements using cutting-edge technology of today and tomorrow. You will also explore how students are owning their learning journey and shaping it to grow, mature and improve their lives and the communities in which they live. Whether it is April Huber’s

use of her graphic design talents to spread the Maryville message, our diverse L.E.A.D Council making our community more inclusive or the sophisticated use of virtual and augmented reality to educate, enlighten and empower, you will experience what the nation is coming to know; Maryville is a leader in innovative education and tangible student outcomes.

You will also read about an extraordinary leader: Dan Viele. Dan has designed, shaped and lead THE model for quality online education in the United States right here at Maryville. And his story is inspiring and compelling for all who get to know this consummate professional and innovator.

In the weeks and months ahead, you will hear and explore even more growth and changes as we reshape the face of higher education. Together, faculty, staff, students and alumni will carry the message around the nation and the world that Maryville University is an innovative leader in quality education for students of all backgrounds and experiences, and that our students will shape their communities and their world with the knowledge and tools they experience at Maryville University.

Warmest wishes,

Mark Lombardi

Mark Lombardi, PhD



PRESIDENT LOMBARDI | ON THE ROAD With Maryville University's expanding reputation as a leader in the higher education revolution, President Mark Lombardi, PhD, has been speaking around the country on a range of topics related to the strategic growth and success of Maryville.

SEPTEMBER 26, 2018
Dreamforce
San Francisco, California
Panel Discussion: “Abstract: What if... Companies Hired Based on Potential, Not Credential?”

JULY 13, 2018
Husch Blackwell
Colorado Springs, Colorado
Topic: “Using Innovation to Address Costs in Higher Education”

SEPTEMBER 18, 2018
Missouri Valley Conference
St. Louis, Missouri
Topic: “Maryville’s eSports program”

APRIL 8, 2018
Council of Independent Colleges President’s Summit
Apple Headquarters—Cupertino, California
Topic: “Digital World”

SEPTEMBER 14, 2018
ForeChange
Colorado Springs, Colorado
(Keynote speaker to healthcare professionals on how to change a campus culture)
Topic: “Disruption to Innovation: Changing a Culture to Revolutionize an Industry”

OCTOBER 16, 2018
Atlanta, Georgia
Panel Discussion: “Unveiling Strategic Goals of the Committee to Promote Cultural Diversity and Equity”



'SOLUTION SQUAD' STREAMLINES STUDENT SERVICES

Photo by Jay Fram

MARYVILLE'S NEW "SOLUTION SQUAD" is a highly accessible and innovative team of mobile student services representatives that assists students on the spot with a variety of tasks and questions. Squad members are available in the dining hall, at the campus Starbucks, in academic building lobbies and the library as well as other high-traffic locations.

The Solution Squad is part of Maryville's new Division of Operational Excellence and marks a revolution in higher education in the delivery of streamlined student services.

"The Division of Operational Excellence is one of the most transformational initiatives we have implemented at Maryville," say Stephanie Elfrink, EdD, '04, '14, director the Division. "It will improve service, save money and automate processes."

The Division's work is operational and digital in nature, she says, supporting students via

phone, email, Live Chat and in Maryville's online student community. As part of this effort, about a dozen Solution Squad members are deployed in popular campus areas to provide in-person support and services, primarily in the areas of financial aid, student accounts and registrar services.

Support services are also provided in Maryville's Visitor Center in Gander Hall, a new high-tech space where prospective students check in for visits and meet with admissions representatives. While they wait, visitors can explore Maryville and the St. Louis region via state-of-the-art technology showcasing videos and photography.

"Our students are the most important clients we serve," Elfrink says. "The Division of Operational Excellence and the Solution Squad will only improve our service to them and make administrative tasks easier for them." **M**



700 First-Year Students Mark Record Enrollment

With record enrollment for the 2018-2019 academic year, Maryville University continues to show strong growth and strategic planning success. Overall, Maryville's student population has reached 9,200, an increase of nearly 20 percent over last year.

MARYVILLE SEES 14 YEARS OF CONSECUTIVE ENROLLMENT GROWTH

"Maryville leads the revolution in higher education, and students across the country are taking notice," said President Mark Lombardi, PhD. "When we talk about personalized learning, our approach is far more comprehensive than other institutions. At Maryville, student-centered learning means we provide wide-ranging support from life coaches, diagnostic tools to help students achieve by leveraging their own best learning styles and the right technology, faculty expertise and experiential learning opportunities to prepare our students for the workforce of the future."

More than 700 first-year students enrolled in classes this fall, representing a 9 percent growth over last year's freshman class.

In January, Maryville University launched a successful national TV campaign to announce expanded online programs for undergraduate and graduate students. Online enrollment accounts for about 5,000 students in the new academic year.

With construction of the second phase of Saints Hall recently completed—one of three campus residential hall facilities—along with five apartment buildings, residency reached 95 percent capacity as the number of students living on campus exceeded 990 this fall. **M**



Photos by Dan Donovan



Photo by Jerry Naunheim

VISITOR CENTER OPENS

Staffed by members of the Solution Squad, Maryville's new state-of-the-art Visitor Center located in the lobby of Gander Hall features high-tech monitors, information kiosks and multi-use meeting areas for prospective students and their families as well as other guests of the University.



FOCUS ON ACCESS AND AFFORDABILITY: HELPING STUDENTS THRIVE

Beginning in the K-12 school years, Maryville University helps to prepare young people in high-poverty, under-resourced schools for college success and future careers in emerging fields.

Since joining Maryville in June, Margaret Onken, vice president for development and alumni relations, has focused on amplifying the University's efforts to advance access and affordability for talented students with higher education goals and the ambition to achieve them.

"When I first arrived on campus, I was impressed by how involved Maryville is in the pre-collegiate space," Onken said. "We're working with teachers and students at all grade levels to help students graduate from college with the skills necessary to excel in the workforce of the future."

At Missouri's Hawthorn Foundation, where Onken served as executive director from 2015 to 2017, she saw firsthand the critical role



Margaret Onken, vice president for development and alumni relations, is focused on fundraising to support college access and equity. As part of that effort, Maryville partners with local corporations and foundations to create and host STEM programs for young students in underserved school districts.

primary and secondary education plays in students' abilities to succeed. Onken brings that vision and expertise to Maryville at a time when the University has become more intentional and strategic in building its scholarship endowment.

In just one year, the number of students participating in Maryville's Multicultural Scholars Program has increased 54 percent.


"Our students receive comprehensive and highly personalized support at Maryville," Onken said. "From our vibrant life coach program designed to help ease the transition from high school to college to our active learning ecosystem in partnership with Apple that provides an

iPad to each student, students are given the tools and mentoring they need to succeed. Beyond academics, they take advantage of internship opportunities at companies like Rawlings, Energizer, Edward Jones and the St. Louis Cardinals, all of which are key partners in Maryville's commitment to providing relevant curriculum and competitive skills-building opportunities for students."

MARYVILLE'S INNOVATIVE LEARNING MODEL IS THE BACKBONE FOR AN 86 PERCENT STUDENT RETENTION RATE AND A 97 PERCENT CAREER PLACEMENT RATE.

As a pillar of the University's strategic plan and as a core value, Maryville is committed to providing an inclusive campus environment that reflects the racial and ethnic diversity of the American experience. To ensure success, Maryville continues to bend the cost curve to improve access to higher education.

Increasing the availability of scholarships is a significant factor, but the effort doesn't stop there, Onken said. Backed by strategic financial planning, the University announced a tuition freeze for the current academic year, marking the third freeze of tuition and fees in the last four years.

"I'm inspired every day by my exceptional team of development professionals and the entire Maryville community—faculty, staff, students, alumni, friends and corporate and foundation partners—all of whom share a strong commitment to ensuring the success of students at every stage of their educational journey," Onken said. 



ZELLNER RECEIVES BYLES PEACE AND JUSTICE PRIZE

Renowned civil rights attorney Kathleen Zellner was honored by Maryville University with the annual Sister Mary Byles Peace and Justice Prize in September. Zellner was recognized for her extraordinary success in wrongful conviction advocacy. As part of the presentation, she delivered a brief lecture on her work, which includes representing Steven Avery, the subject of the popular Netflix documentary series, *Making a Murderer*. Zellner is

featured prominently in the program's second season as she investigates Avery's murder conviction and works toward his exoneration.

"We now have 2,270 exonerees in the United States, and a total of 20,080 years of people who served in our (usually) maximum security prisons that were completely innocent," Zellner told the Maryville audience. "We have spent \$2.2 billion compensating those people, which you can never really do, and half of them have never received a dime."


Since opening her law office in 1991, Zellner has obtained more than \$108 million in verdicts and settlements for her clients. She has the distinction of being the only attorney in the U.S. who won five multi-million-dollar verdicts in less than one year. 


Photo by Dan Donovan



LENORE PROMOTED TO VICE PRESIDENT FOR ENROLLMENT

Shani Lenore has been promoted to vice president for enrollment, having served as associate vice president of the division for the past seven years. Building on more than 20 years of experience in higher education, Lenore has played a significant role in Maryville's enrollment surge over the past decade.

Since 2007, enrollment for the University has more than doubled—increasing from 3,400 to 9,200 students. The growth represents an expansion of Maryville's geographic footprint, with students representing all 50 states and 55 countries.

Prior to joining Maryville in 2006 as director of admissions, Lenore served in admissions roles at three other colleges. 



Photos by Kate Boelhauf

**BLUES HOCKEY
COMES TO
MARYVILLE**

The St. Louis Blues NHL team brought its draftees and players to Maryville’s Human Performance Lab during the team’s summer development camp to assess their conditioning and strength. The Lab features the same high-end equipment used by the Blues’ strength staff. Maryville is currently the only performance lab in the region that has WattBikes, which are used by the NHL Combine, says Victor Kizer, CSCS, TSAC-F (right), director of Maryville’s exercise science program and assistant professor. Kizer and the Blues strength coaches closely monitored the players during the assessments.

**SANTOS NAMED DIRECTOR
OF HUMAN RESOURCES**



April Santos has been named Maryville’s director of human resources and brings to the University a wealth of experience in recruitment and personnel management. As the former manager of talent services for the BJC Healthcare System, Santos managed and improved processes, ensured compliance and used data analytics to manage the onboarding process and implement efficiencies to create meaningful onboarding experiences for new employees. Santos previously held human resources positions at the Federal Reserve Bank, the Missouri Department of Transportation and Harrah’s Hotel and Casino. **M**

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**WALKER CLINIC CELEBRATES 30 YEARS
OF HELPING CHILDREN COMMUNICATE**

“Our daughter, Claire, has struggled with her speech since she was very young. I had her screened at Walker Scottish Rite Clinic and she qualified for services. I know that we are in good hands because my little brother went through the program 22 years ago. It helped him immensely.”

| CLINIC PARENT

As Maryville’s Walker Scottish Rite Clinic celebrates 30 years, stories like this demonstrate the multi-generational impact of the services it provides. Started in 1988 by the Scottish Rite Masons, the Clinic became a program of Maryville in 2015 and now serves more than 650 children, ages 2 to 6, annually. Services include speech-language screenings, evaluations, individual and group therapy, audiological evaluations and parent training—all at no charge. The free services are funded by many generous supporters. Over the years, the Clinic has expanded its reach. Through partnerships with community centers, five service areas within the region are now covered—St. Louis City, St. Louis County, Franklin County, Jefferson County and Lincoln County—to reach at-risk children in urban

and rural communities. The newest Head Start partner location in the city of Ferguson, Mo., was made possible by a grant from the Missouri Foundation for Health. In addition, the ripple effects of the Walker Clinic’s mission continue to widen through collaboration with Maryville’s Walker College of Health Professionals students. Future clinicians studying speech-language pathology and music therapy complete practicums by working with children on-campus and at outreach locations. The hands-on learning opportunities for students ensures the Clinic’s impact continues to grow. As these students move into clinician roles after graduation, they provide early intervention to children in the St. Louis community and beyond. **M**






MARYVILLE REACHES OUT: The 11th annual Maryville Reaches Out day featured more than 1,400 volunteers and 4,300 volunteer hours, setting new records for participation. During this event, Maryville faculty, staff, students and alumni engaged in more than 100 service opportunities in and around the greater St. Louis area. Shown: Volunteers work in water cleanup at the historic Compton Hill Reservoir Park in St. Louis (top photo) and help clear out wheat stalks at the St. Louis Science Center’s Grow exhibit (below).



Undergraduate Nursing Program Honors Robert E. and Joan Luttig Schoor

Amid the nation’s urgent need for qualified nurses to join the healthcare workforce, generous scholarship support by longtime St. Louisans Robert and Joan Luttig Schoor for Maryville University’s Catherine McAuley School of Nursing is timely and consequential. In honor of their commitment, Maryville has named The Robert E. Schoor and Joan Luttig Schoor Undergraduate Nursing Program. “The Schoors are an example of how the combination of passion for education and great healthcare creates the vision and courage to make good things happen,” said Mark Lombardi, PhD, president of Maryville University.

The alarm regarding the U.S. nursing shortage is well-founded. Over the next 30 years, the number of people ages 65 and older is expected to reach nearly 84 million—double the number of the older adult population in 2012—which means an increased need for geriatric healthcare, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor. The federal government also projects the total number of job openings for nurses due to growth and replacements will exceed one million over the next six years. “Through the Schoors’ generosity we will be able to educate the next generation of outstanding nurses,” said Charles J. Gulas, PhD, dean of the Walker College of Health Professions. “The Schoors will enable talented students for years to come to pursue a Maryville nursing education.” 

SCOTT ANGUS, MFA, associate professor of photography and digital art, spoke about his work at the International Hall of Fame of Photography, Colorado State University, the University of LaVerne and Metropolitan Community Church in Santa Ana, California. He also received a grant through the Best Foundation to travel to Scotland, England and Ireland to photograph sacred sites.



STEVE COXON, PHD, associate professor of education, has been appointed chair of the Advisory Council on the Education of Gifted and Talented Children by the Missouri state commissioner of education.



Development director **JAMI DOLBY** has been named to the 2018 Class of Leadership Chesterfield with the Chesterfield Chamber of Commerce.



STEVE MANDEVILLE, EDD, vice president for finance and facilities, was named a 2018 CFO of the Year by the *St. Louis Business Journal*. The award honors financial professionals in the St. Louis region for outstanding performance.



Development director **EBONEE SHAW** has been named to the 2018 Class of Leadership Chesterfield with the Chesterfield Chamber of Commerce.



FACULTY / STAFF NEWS

JESS BOWERS, PHD, assistant professor of English, published a short story, “War Story,” in the inaugural issue of *Fearsome Critters: A Millennial Arts Journal*, published by Green Tower Press in the April/May 2018 issue.



DARLENE DAVISON, director of the interior design program and associate professor, has been named by DesignIntelligence as one of the nation’s Top 25 Most Admired Educators.



DANA LEVIN, PHD, Distinguished Writer-in-Residence, published a poem, “Two Autumns, Saint Louis,” in the eco-poetics folio of *The Kenyon Review* (May/June issue). Levin also served as a featured faculty member at the Idyllwild Writers Week held in July at Idyllwild Arts Academy in California.



MATT RAITHEL, instructor of game design, has been profiled in *Nintendo Force Magazine* about his work as a faculty member and an independent developer.



JENNIFER WEI, PHD, associate professor of mathematics, was invited to serve as a visiting scholar in the Division of Epidemiology, Biostatistics and Environmental Health at the University of Memphis.



THINKING
 INSIDE THE BOX

Graphic design major April Huber helped to create the Big Red M Box, an exclusive gift series offered through the M Store. | BY TIM FOX

As often happens, a Work Study job on campus turns into a learning opportunity and a chance to beef up one’s resume, or in April Huber’s case, her portfolio. She’ll graduate with more than her graphic design capstone project to demonstrate her skills—she’ll have the Big Red M Box.

The box contains exclusive, branded Maryville gear and will be available as a series for current students, prospective students and alumni. The slogan is “Experience Maryville’s Tradition, Pride and Spirit.” The idea for such a box was sparked by Nina Caldwell, EdD, vice president for student life.

Caldwell passed her vision on to two administrators of the M Store—Adrienne Jackson, retail innovation specialist, and Laura Stevens, director of auxiliary operations—for further development. In turn, they approached Huber.



Photos by Jerry Naunheim

GO SAINTS!: April Huber created the design for a new Maryville gift box (next page). Items included in the box will vary in each edition.

Their Work Study student was more than happy to take the lead on bringing Caldwell’s concept to life.

“At the M Store, student employees are encouraged to step up and take ownership of everything in the store, including projects like the Big Red M Box,” Huber says.

“AT THE M STORE, STUDENT EMPLOYEES ARE ENCOURAGED TO STEP UP AND TAKE OWNERSHIP OF EVERYTHING IN THE STORE, INCLUDING PROJECTS LIKE THE BIG RED M BOX.”

Huber, who is now a senior, began working with the M Store as a first-year graphic design student.

“April is a very talented young woman, and we have been so fortunate to watch her develop into a lead position in the M Store,” Stevens says.

Huber’s favorite element is a printed card that details what’s in the box on one side and a “Did You Know?” on the other, which explains the tradition behind the Big Red M logo, the name change for Maryville athletics teams from the Brewers to the Saints in 1979 and the annual alumni meeting that eventually led to the University’s first Homecoming festivities.

“I think it helps to know your roots,” says Huber. “I worked with Emma Prince, Maryville’s archivist, to research the history. Most people have no idea what’s led to the exciting University we enjoy today.”

From there, Huber was inspired. She led the design of the box and its logo. A focus group of students chose items for the first box in the series: a double-walled stainless-

steel water bottle, a tech case that comes with device charging cords, a T-shirt and a logo-engraved keychain.

Huber’s experience as a graphic design student fueled her vision for the box.

This past summer, she began an internship at the St. Louis design firm of Stephens

Creative, where she still works while also maintaining her part-time job with the M Store.

“My internship is a wonderful fit that provides me with invaluable opportunities to do what I love best, which is working with great people to find solutions to problems by providing a full design experience,” Huber says.

Huber has also taken on pro bono work, with the help of graphic design instructor Caren Schlossberg-Wood.

“She introduced me to a nonprofit organization called MetroWest Firefighters Community Outreach as part of a class project,” she says. “They serve the community through charitable giving, like shoe and clothing drives and distributing defibrillators. They needed a primary logo design, and I was honored to have the opportunity to help them.”

Huber is now busy with the capstone project she needs to complete her BFA. Her project is designing a restaurant with four rooms, each featuring a different musical genre. Every detail



of every room, from menus to color choices, will incorporate the genre.

“It’s not just a matter of playing different music in each room—it’s a whole experience,” she says.

Enhancing the entrepreneurial spirit she demonstrated with the Big Red M Box project, Huber says her guiding principle is to “do good work for good people.” M

Victor Kizer, CSCS, TSAC-F, director of the exercise science program and assistant professor, has pursued his passion for exercise from the sands of Iraq and Afghanistan to the campus of Maryville University.

In 2008, Kizer served the U.S. Army in Iraq, where he started taking online courses in exercise science. His studies continued during a year-long tour in Afghanistan.

“Accessing technology for coursework in the desert was a challenge,” Kizer says. “A sandstorm could affect internet access, and if we had lost a service member, the internet was shut down for confidentiality. And I couldn’t access information when I was out on missions.”

Despite the obstacles, Kizer pushed on. He earned his bachelor’s degree in exercise science in 2013 and his master’s degree in fitness management in 2014. Around the same time, he squeezed in co-ownership of a gym, Defining Natural Ability (DNA), in St. Louis.

Today, he’s on a mission to transform physical culture in the region.

“In our Exercise Science Human Performance Lab, we tie the science to the practice,” he says. “I look for opportunities for students to do hands-on work in the lab, on the field or at the court.”

In fact, as Kizer spoke, he guided crews who were busy installing a new treadmill in the lab, housed in Myrtle E. and Earl E. Walker Hall. Nearby, new Hawkin Dynamics wireless force plates—equipment that can measure how much force is applied when a person jumps,

how long he or she is in the air, asymmetries in the jump and more—had just been unpacked.

“Maryville has invested in state-of-the-art equipment with sensors that collect valuable data on our students, our athletic teams and our partners,” Kizer says.

At Maryville, he promotes that technology—along with innovative partnerships with health industry leaders, unwavering commitment to providing an active learning environment and internship programs—to create opportunities for students.

One of the University’s partnerships is with the St. Louis Blues NHL team.

“We worked with the Blues’ head of strength and conditioning, Eric Renaghan, who is also an adjunct faculty member in our program, to run testing during their development and training camps,” Kizer says. “We have also conducted about 1,400 body composition, jump and other tests on Maryville’s student-athletes.”

John Anderson, a junior and wrestling team member, worked as a performance lab assistant last summer. He plans to be a physical therapist or strength coach after graduating.

“It was an amazing opportunity to get practical, hands-on experience in a professional setting,” he says.

Kizer is excited about a new partnership with EXOS, an international human performance provider of corporate wellness and strength and conditioning programs to clients like the U.S. military and Bayer AG.

“It’s the first partnership of its kind in the country,” Kizer says.

In the classroom, guests from around the country speak to students about the field. Representatives from organizations like the Sacramento Kings and the nonprofit National Strength and Conditioning Association (NSCA) visit in person or through Skype to discuss career paths from strength and conditioning to dietetics to sports medicine.


Kizer helped senior Rebecca Strickland secure an internship position in Aetna Inc.’s AGILE Hire Program.

“It’s much more than an internship,” Strickland says. “I’ll rotate to five or six departments at Aetna, which is located adjacent to campus.

Kizer’s work has not gone unnoticed. The lab proudly displays a certificate from the NSCA’s Education Recognition Program, citing the exercise science program for meeting national criteria in strength and conditioning education.

“There’s nothing better you can do with your life than lifting weights,” says Kizer, whose doctoral research is on the potential for strength training to help fellow soldiers and others suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder.

Having put in more than 18 years with the military, Kizer is a member of the Army Reserve and has taught in the Army’s Master Fitness Trainer Course in Fort Knox, Ky., and he was recently selected to serve as Missouri state director for the NSCA.

“Exercise can do so much to mitigate the negative physical effects of everyday life,” he says. “It truly is the fountain of youth.” 

THE SCIENCE OF EXERCISE: Students in the exercise science program demonstrate equipment used in Maryville’s Human Performance Lab under the watchful eye of Victor Kizer, CSCS, TSAC-F, director of the program and assistant professor.



Photos by Jay Fram

STRONGER TOGETHER

Exercise Science Program Builds on Partnerships

BY TIM FOX



MARYVILLE TEES UP PGA GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP

When the 100th PGA Championship came to Bellerive Country Club in St. Louis last August, a large contingent of Maryville University students worked behind the scenes, gaining valuable experience and observing how a major sporting event unfolds in real time. Meanwhile, regional and national law enforcement agencies set up their Command Center in Maryville's Cyber Fusion Center.

'DREAM' INTERNSHIPS: PAR FOR THE COURSE

Maryville's Rawlings Sport Business Management program served as the official volunteer provider for the event, which drew record-setting crowds both on the course and through nationally televised coverage.

For the 32 Rawlings Sport Business Management students who participated, it was an opportunity to gain multi-day experiential learning with a major organization," says Jason Williams, EdD,



director of the program and associate professor.

Students worked in various capacities, including customer service, corporate hospitality, operations, marketing and corporate sponsorship.

While interning with the PGA for a week, Olivia Reese absorbed plenty of knowledge about the sports industry.

"The long days were tough, but the PGA staff remained cool and encouraging," she says. "This opportunity gave me just as much insight as some semester-long internships might."

Working side by side with PGA professionals was a dream come true, says Blake Anselm.

"Being part of the success of an event of this magnitude is

why I want to go into sport business, and this experience just reaffirmed my commitment to the program and the industry as a whole," Anselm says.

The professional learning opportunity was wide-ranging, says Alex Aivaliotis.

"I learned extensive customer service skills in encountering thousands of customers, assisted corporate event planners and helped manage situations in a fast-paced and high-stakes environment," Aivaliotis says. "Through all of this, I grew as a person.

The long hours brought out a new work ethic within me." 



OFFICIAL VOLUNTEERS: Maryville University's Rawlings Sport Business Management program served as the official volunteer provider for the 100th PGA Championship held in St. Louis last summer. More than 30 students helped in customer service, hospitality, operations, marketing and corporate sponsorship.

CYBER FUSION CENTER IS COMMAND CENTRAL

Maryville's Cyber Fusion Center served as the official PGA Championship Law Enforcement Command Center. The team coordinating on campus included the FBI, the Missouri Highway Patrol, the Missouri Department of Transportation, the National Weather Service, the St. Louis County Department of Health, West County EMS and four local police departments.

"The Cyber Fusion Center was an excellent location which provided first responders with the technological resources needed to respond to an emergency during the event," says Tracy Panus, spokesperson for the Office of Emergency Management in the St. Louis County Police Department.

Allowing outside public safety agencies to engage with Maryville's state-of-the-art Cyber Fusion Center not only helps the greater St. Louis community, but allows Maryville to establish deeper partnerships with those organizations—many of which assist in keeping campus safe, says Jair Kollasch, public safety director.

"Through those interactions, they get to know our campus better," Kollasch says. "And if we leverage the advanced technology we've

positioned as an educational tool, we help keep the campus community safe as well as the regional community."

ON BECOMING A U.S. CITIZEN

BY JANET EDWARDS

On Sept. 12, Anuradha Vummenthala, PhD, assistant professor of chemistry, and Soo-Jin Kwoun, PhD, associate professor of music therapy, took the Oath of Allegiance to the United States. They share a desire to support the communities in which they live and work—and call home.



ANURADHA VUMMENTHALA, PHD
Assistant Professor of Chemistry

When Soo-Jin Kwoun, PhD, left her home in South Korea to attend the University of Iowa, she expected to return home two years later, after earning her master's degree in music therapy—but that was in 1995.

In September, she became a naturalized citizen of the United States.

From Iowa, Kwoun's career took her to Oregon, Wisconsin and a second time to Iowa before she arrived in St. Louis to join the faculty at Maryville University, where Kwoun is now an associate professor of music therapy.

"I didn't know back then that I would stay at Maryville for the next 14 years," she says. "In this community, with the students I love and the colleagues who inspire me every day, I found a home," she says.

Kwoun began thinking about citizenship while teaching Community in Music Therapy, a course that emphasizes being an advocate for one's clients, many of whom are in marginalized or minority populations—such as people with disabilities, children and the elderly.

"I started feeling like I needed to do things I preach to my students about taking an action beyond talking about it," she says.

She took the oath of U.S. citizenship on Sept. 12, accompanied by colleagues Charles Gulas, PhD, dean of the Walker College of Health Professions; Laura Beer, PhD, director of the music therapy program; and Susan Weber, PhD, adjunct instructor.



SOO-JIN KWOUN, PHD
Associate Professor of Music Therapy

"Having them there made me realize that with all the support and care I receive from my colleagues and students, in a way I became an American a long time before the ceremony," Kwoun says. "They're my community."

Anuradha Vummenthala, PhD, assistant professor of chemistry, completed her doctoral program 13 years ago in India, where she grew up.

This past fall, she became a naturalized citizen of the United States.


During the ceremony, she recalls, "I got to sing the national anthem, salute the flag and receive my certificate. I felt proud and had a feeling of achievement."

Her decision to become a naturalized citizen was something of a family affair. Her husband and the couple's eldest son also became citizens in the same week; their younger son was born here, and is therefore automatically a citizen.

"I wanted to become a citizen so I can voice my opinion in the policies of the country where I'm living. I felt like I needed to become a citizen to actively participate in the well-being of this country," Vummenthala says. "Of course, I am doing a service by teaching students and encouraging their scientific inquisitiveness, but I want to participate more actively."

Vummenthala moved to St. Louis five years ago to join Maryville's faculty. She was surprised to learn, on the day she took her oath, that another faculty member—Soo-Jin Kwoun, PhD, associate professor of music therapy—had also participated in the ceremony.

Because her husband could not be there, Vummenthala had attended the momentous occasion alone.

"But after all I did not feel alone because at the end of ceremony, I met Chuck Gulas (dean of Maryville's College of Health Professions)," she says. "He came to encourage another faculty member (Kwoun), so I was not alone. I was happy to have part of my Maryville family there." 

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NATURALIZATION OATH OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

"I hereby declare, on oath, that I absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state or sovereignty, of whom or which I have heretofore been a subject or citizen; that I will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States of America against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I will bear arms on behalf of the United States when required by the law; that I will perform noncombatant service in the Armed Forces of the United States when required by the law; that I will perform work of national importance under civilian direction when required by the law; and that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; so help me God."



STUDENT LEADERS CULTIVATE CULTURAL AWARENESS ON CAMPUS

L.E.A.D. Council members run social and cultural awareness student groups and work closely with campus administrators to ensure inclusivity.

BY SARAH EDWARDS

As senior Brittany Pomilee reflects on her final year at Maryville University, she says her involvement with diversity and inclusion on campus “has shaped me into the young woman I am today.” Pomilee is president of the Association of Black Collegians. Because of her role, she is also a member of Leaders for Equity, Advancement and Diversity (L.E.A.D.), a council made up of 32 students who have an executive role in a cultural or social awareness student group on campus. Participants directly communicate with school administrators, faculty and staff as they promote multicultural awareness and a welcoming campus environment. Through their work, students continue to gain important career skills, and participation on the council also gives them a sense of ownership over the work of diversity and inclusion on campus, says Tiffany Reed, program coordinator for the Office of Diversity and Inclusion and the group’s advisor. “The social and cultural awareness groups they lead allow students of diverse identities to amplify their voices and build cultural learning experiences for the community,” Reed says. “Our student leaders are

LEADERS IN ACTION: Students who hold executive positions in social and cultural student organizations work with Tiffany Reed, program coordinator for the Office of Diversity and Inclusion (third from left), and Maryville administrators to ensure an inclusive campus environment.

creating spaces for the majority of students on campus to learn about cultures and identities different from their own.” Student leaders benefit from a wider network because of their involvement, says Turan Mullins, assistant dean for diversity and inclusion.

“Being engaged through the cultural groups gives student leaders the opportunity to connect and build community with people who share similar backgrounds and traditions, allowing them to feel a sense of belonging,” he says.

Soad Salem, sophomore and vice president of the Middle Eastern Student Association, helped found her organization last year because she felt an absence of representation for Middle Eastern students on campus.

“We want people to be able to distinguish between religion and culture when it comes to the Middle East. Many people have misconceptions or are unaware of different cultures,” Salem says. “The only way we can grow as individuals is by educating ourselves. The more we learn about each other, the more we can feel united.”

The success of student organizations represented by L.E.A.D. is largely due to the hard

work and creativity of the student leaders, but also the support of Maryville’s administration, says Reed. She points to the important role of “top-down leaders who understand and appreciate the value of diversity and inclusion and hearing ideas and concerns straight from the students.”

Last year, Mark Lombardi, PhD, president of Maryville, and Nina Caldwell, EdD, vice president for student life, partnered with the student organization Abolishing Barriers Through Leadership and Empowerment as well as the L.E.A.D. Council to improve accessibility on campus. After assessing the needs, students used their findings to inform a proposal for the president. As a result, Maryville now has more accessible restrooms, and hands-free doors have been installed in many locations.

Students also successfully advocated for gender inclusive restrooms and prayer space that accommodates Muslim students.

Pomilee says her favorite memory with the L.E.A.D. Council is meeting with Lombardi and Caldwell about new and upcoming campus events that were planned with the



assistance of council members. “The conversation showed each organization’s growth and dedication to the movement of diversity and inclusion,” Pomilee says. Their work is valuable across campus, Reed says. Even so,

has developed through L.E.A.D. have made a powerful impact on his campus experience. And his circle keeps growing. “They all come from different backgrounds and cultures and are passionate in different things,”

“The more we learn about each other, the more we can feel **united.**”

pushing for progress can be difficult, especially for students who are positioned at the forefront of change on campus. “They’re pouring so much energy into our campus,” says Reed. “Part of what we try to do is pour love and support back into them.” Charatthep Khunchan, sophomore and president of the Hawaiian Asian Pacific Islander Association (HAPA), says the relationships he

Khunchan says. “I’ve gained so much support, knowledge, confidence and friends through being a part of L.E.A.D. Because of that my college experience has been amazing.”

Little Horses, Big Rewards

BUILDING A FOUNDATION FOR HEALING

Emily Hoffman is an equestrian who has competed for years, but these days she's focused on her two miniature horses that clip-clop their way through halls of hospitals, schools and nursing homes to bring joy and healing. | BY MAUREEN ZEGEL



Emily Hoffmann isn't your everyday equestrian. Yes, her horses live in a barn in her backyard, and she's ridden competitively for years. But these days, her miniature horse, AppleJack, clip-clops his way through the halls of hospitals, schools, hospice centers and nursing homes offering the healing benefits of animal and human interaction.

Hoffmann, a sophomore majoring in physical therapy, began her vocation about three years ago after her sister, Anna, was diagnosed with Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome (EDS) at the age of 10. A seemingly invisible condition, this rare, inherited disorder affects a person's connective tissues, primarily the skin, joints and blood vessel walls, rendering them weak and elastic. Anna has EDS type 3 hypermobility, which causes her joints to be over-flexible and come out of place easily.

With the onset of EDS, Anna experienced limited activity, says Hoffman. Between multiple surgeries and physical therapy sessions, Anna found happiness and peace spending time with horses.

IN SEARCH OF A MINIATURE HORSE

The positive interaction between horse and human gave the sisters an idea, and they started reading about animal and human therapy, which led them to miniature horses.

Standing about three feet tall and smaller than a pony, miniature therapy horses perform the same duties as therapy dogs. They are calm, gentle, sympathetic and much smaller than the standard horse, weighing in at 200 to 300 pounds on average as compared with a normal horse, which can weigh 1,200 pounds.

The sisters searched for a miniature horse that could be trainable as a therapy horse. They found a child-friendly, miniature pinto colt named AppleJack.

◆ FOUNDATION FOUNDERS: Maryville physical therapy major Emily Hoffman (left) and her sister, Anna Hoffman, created Applejack Therapy Foundation to bring joy and healing to people of all ages and to raise awareness about Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome, a genetic disorder.

"We picked up four-month-old AppleJack and brought him home in the back of our car," Hoffman says.

After eight months of training and passing a series of tests, AppleJack was registered as a therapy horse with Pet Partners, a national nonprofit that registers nine different species for therapy animal work.

APPLEJACK THERAPY FOUNDATION

With AppleJack ready to serve, the Hoffman sisters established AppleJack Therapy Foundation in 2015. The nonprofit organization provides miniature equine therapy while raising awareness of EDS.

They later bought a second horse, a black miniature named LuckyCharm, which is also registered with Pet Partners.

Hoffmann and her sister operate AppleJack Therapy out of their family's home in St. Charles County, Missouri. They have a barn and pasture, four large horses, six chickens, three cats, two dogs and their two miniature horses.

AppleJack is taken on most of the therapy visits, and he interacts with a variety of people—from young children to older adults—but the results are always the same: He brings joy and laughter wherever he goes.

"I really love working with the children at Mercy Hospital," says Hoffman. "They are so hopeful and happy to get out of their rooms. They pet AppleJack, and he nuzzles them back. We also visit schools in the Special School District where the kids can walk him up and down the halls."

The Hoffmann sisters and AppleJack make numerous public appearances throughout the year raising awareness of their organization and work. Since AppleJack Therapy is a nonprofit foundation, it relies on public donations and gifts so that all visits are cost free.



Photo by Jerry Naunheim

"He brings joy and laughter wherever he goes."

Tax-deductible contributions are used for the care and transportation of AppleJack and LuckyCharm, and the continual research and awareness of Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome.

Even with the task of running a nonprofit, Hoffman manages being a full-time student in Maryville's rigorous physical therapy program, having a part-time job as a physical therapy technician and reserving one day a week for miniature therapy visits. Despite her busy schedule, Hoffman says making someone's day is worth all the effort. 🍎

WIRED FOR SUCCESS

A VISIONARY CREATES NATIONAL MODEL FOR ONLINE EDUCATION

"AS A PIONEER IN ONLINE LEARNING,
DAN IS A KNOWN THOUGHT LEADER."



Along with a talented team of learning designers and technology experts, Dan Viele, dean of the School of Adult and Online Education, builds a national reputation for excellence in online education.

BY JANET EDWARDS

A first-generation college graduate who has faced the hard choices adults often make in trying to balance the pressing needs of family and career, Dan Viele, dean of the School of Adult and Online Education, brings a vision of online learning to Maryville that serves as a model for universities across the country.

"We're creating programs for working adults who have taken the bold step of completing their degrees," Viele says. "They lead busy lives, and they're looking for a quality program. We have respect for their maturity and ability to process content differently than the traditional 18- to 22-year-old college student."

Launching five years ago with select courses in advanced nursing, Maryville Online now offers 30 programs across academic disciplines, with 10 more in development for next fall.

"Dan Viele is at the core of our online program success," says President Mark Lombardi, PhD. "He has designed and

implemented the highest quality, cutting-edge model for online education in America with quiet professionalism and a commitment to excellence."

EXPERIENCE INFORMS THE FUTURE

Viele grew up in Springfield, Ill., the son of a coal miner and his wife, both of whom immigrated as children to the U.S. from Italy. Neither of his parents had the opportunity to experience education beyond grade school.

"We were a working-class family; those were my roots," Viele says. "I inherited my dad's work ethic, and I was determined to figure out a way to get a college education."

Viele earned a bachelor's in accounting and later returned to school for a master's, earning a slot as a graduate assistant to help finance his studies—his first introduction to working in higher education.

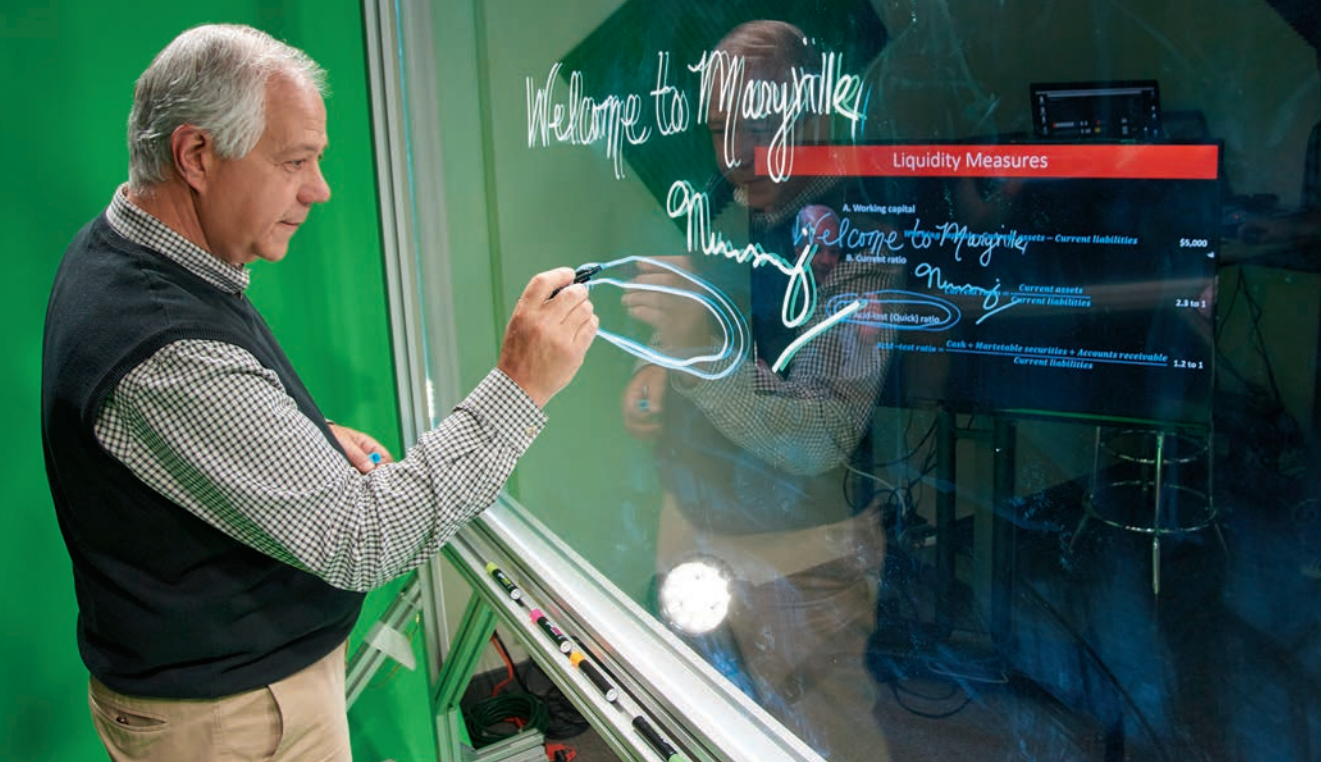
In a sense, his early efforts to create additional learning opportunities for

his students was similar to what his team does now for Maryville's online programs, Viele says.

"I presented the content in ways that were shaped around the major questions students asked," Viele says. "I felt like I was really helping students."

Viele's teaching career extended over 20 more years as an accounting professor, and along the way he made a point of studying best practices in student engagement. He also stayed alert to changing workforce needs. When the fields of management information systems and information technology emerged in the 1980s, he developed courses for both subjects at a time when few others understood computers and technology.

Viele later left academia to become a controller and systems analyst for a start-up company in St. Louis, where he pushed the boundaries and learned to expect more from tried-and-true systems.



STUDIO MAGIC: In the design studio where online courses come to life, Dan Viele, dean of the School of Adult and Online Education, tests the lightboard, which is used in conjunction with a green screen to allow professors to interact with graphics, create webinars and film interviews. (Previous page) Tom James, instructional designer, is featured in a technical view of what happens behind the lightboard.

“We constantly focus on...how best to engage our students.”

“I did a lot of things with their accounting system it wasn’t really designed to do, such as extract data and build graphic views of how well we were performing, creating a precursor to the dashboards and analytics we use now,” Viele says. “I was bringing technology to the forefront and using accounting to convey information in a way that was most valuable to the people who needed it—but who didn’t know how to get it or use it.”

With that experience, an axiom for the online program was first realized.

“That’s what we do here at Maryville,” he says. “We constantly focus on finding the right data to inform our decisions about which programs will be successful and meet market demands as well as how best to engage our students.”

Viele’s ingenuity landed him a job with the Silicon Valley company that developed the accounting system. But he missed teaching, and returned to higher education.

BUILDING AN ONLINE PROGRAM

Viele joined the faculty at Webster University just as a decision was made to create an online MBA program. He eagerly jumped aboard the planning team.

“Along the way, we figured out a lot of best practices,” he says.

In 2013, when Viele joined Maryville, the Catherine McAuley School of Nursing in the Walker College of Health Professions had just launched several graduate courses, but that was the extent of the University’s foray into online education. His charge was to expand the online format to other academic disciplines.

DESIGNING THE A TEAM

In preparing for that expansion, Viele hired two key teams: learning designers and rich media and system architects—experts in creating a flexible, online environment.


For them, excellence is not just an idea—it’s a measurable goal.

“We have a course review process that is 25 pages long,” Viele says.

Viele’s impact on the online initiative at Maryville is game-changing, says Katherine Louthan, executive director for the School of Adult and Online Education.

“Dan brings a successful strategy for growth through market-relevant program selection, data-driven decision making and an engaging learning environment,” she says.

As a pioneer in online learning, Viele shares his knowledge throughout the country with advisory boards and as a speaker and panelist.

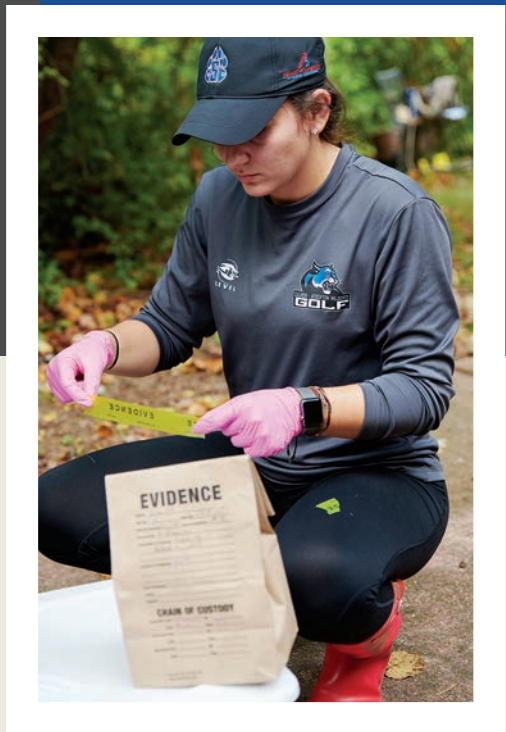
“Dan is a systems thinker who knows the value of infrastructure,” Louthan says. “His unique take on how we partner with academic departments and faculty to bring online learning to life is special. He is known to say, ‘We don’t own programs or curriculum, we only own the quality of the work we do and the service we provide.’” 



PARTNERS IN CRIMINOLOGY: THE ART OF DESIGNING AN ONLINE PROGRAM

A successful online course requires creative partnership between faculty and learning designers. Geriann Brandt, associate professor of criminal justice/criminology, is a recent and enthusiastic collaborator. | BY ELLEN FUTTERMAN

“Most faculty, when they start working with us, have no idea what the potential is ... We partner with them in a way to help build that vision together.”



PARTNERS IN CRIMINOLOGY: (Above) A student in Brandt's course on criminal investigations explores a staged "crime scene." These types of field experiences will soon be available online through the use of virtual reality technology. (Previous page) To transform her on-ground courses to an online format, Geriann Brandt, director of the criminal justice/criminology program and assistant professor, (right), collaborates with learning designer Melissa Childers and Tom James, instructional designer, to create engaging and robust course content.

Geriann Brandt, director of the criminal justice/criminology program and assistant professor, admits that when she first learned her courses would be transformed for online learning, she was less than enthusiastic—even though her on-ground program would remain strong and intact.

"I said, 'No way am I doing this, I don't have the time,'" says Brandt. "But when I talked to Pam (Bryan Williams) and Melissa (Childers), I started to warm up to the idea."

Williams is director of learning design and development. Childers is a senior learning designer. Along with an expansive team of instructional designers and technical developers, they work closely with faculty across academic disciplines to create the most robust online programs in the United States.

BUILDING A VISION FOR ONLINE COURSES

"As we got into it, I started really enjoying the process," Brandt says. "The support I get from the learning design team totally changed my attitude about investing my time in creating online courses."

"Needing time to adjust to the new learning format is not unusual," says Williams. "Most faculty, when they start working with us, have no idea what the potential is. We partner with them in a way to help build that vision together."

The first of Brandt's classes, Introduction to Criminal Justice and Multicultural Policing, debuted online this fall. A course titled Introduction to Criminal Investigations will follow in Spring 2019.

Childers spent hours observing Brandt's teaching style, and they had numerous conversations as first steps in transforming Brandt's courses for online students. The goal is to engage students in the best ways possible, using rich visualizations and immersive virtual experiences.

USING TECHNOLOGY TO ENGAGE STUDENTS

Childers has helped develop more than 100 online courses.

"It's not only what students can see and hear, but we need to emulate some of those tactile and sensory experiences. We can do lots of things cognitively and emotionally with audio and video to engage students in new ways," she says.

Brandt had 13 years of law enforcement experience with the St. Louis County Police Department, seven of which were in the Uniform Patrol Division, before joining the Maryville faculty 16 years ago. Williams and Childers describe her as a dynamic educator who brings enormous expertise and passion to what she teaches.

"I want to convey my passion for the subject and my love of teaching," Brandt says. "I hope students can 'feel' that through my presentation of course content online."

In the on-ground version of Criminal Investigations, Brandt stages a crime scene on Maryville property to teach students about finding and handling evidence. It's about as hands-on a class as any, so bringing it online is challenging.

"We're talking about using 360-degree videos that will give students a circular view of the 'crime scene,'" says Brandt. "The students could click on evidence 'hotspots' they feel may be relevant to the course of a

conviction or acquittal. We may also use a drone to give students a birds-eye view of the terrain and a sense of the land's dense canopy."

Brandt says the benefits of transforming classes to an online environment are enormous—and she's grateful for the opportunity. In addition to growing her program and being inspired to think more creatively, in the process, she's learning about new technology and getting to know her students better.

"Developing online classes for Maryville allows me to view my on-ground teaching with a critical eye—meaning I look through the lens of online learning to assess if my content and concepts are clear and concise," Brandt says.


She checks in with her online students daily, responding to questions, answering emails, grading and facilitating discussions. The new environment is invigorating and provides welcome perspective, she says.

"I have students stretching from the states of Washington to Texas to Missouri. Having a wide variety of backgrounds, income-levels and careers brings new viewpoints to our discussions," Brandt says.

This fall, Maryville launched 10 new undergraduate online programs. Students can earn a degree online in a wide range of fields, from psychology to communications and business administration to health management.

"It's about providing educational opportunities to students who might not otherwise have them," says Williams.

When faculty experts share their best practices gathered over time with learning designers, she says, the end result is more innovative, engaging and successful for students.

"Our partnership with faculty throughout the online teaching and learning process is a powerful differentiator for Maryville University," Williams says. 



SEEKING CLUES: A criminology/criminal justice student examines evidence at a staged "crime scene."



YOU CAN GET THERE FROM HERE

BY JANET EDWARDS

Immersed in virtual reality, students travel down the road and around the world to explore history, botany and workplaces.

From a nature reserve to the offices of a marketing agency to the Pantheon in Rome, students across academic disciplines are exploring these important spaces up close and often with tour guides—even if the students are located 10, 50 or thousands of miles away from the sites.

Using high-end technology such as Oculus Rift headsets and Google Cardboard, along with 360-degree photographs and video, faculty across academic programs are excited about the learning potential of the virtual reality (VR) devices.



Photo by Jay Fram



DISCOVERING NATURE IN ALL SEASONS

For Kyra Krakos, PhD, professor of biology, the VR video she created featuring Shaw Nature Reserve in Franklin County, Mo., largely solves matters of timing.

“Students experience a different world when they put on their headsets and actively engage on a ‘field trip,’” she says. “We have the resources. We could take a field trip, but it’s hard to teach botany in March in St. Louis. There’s nothing growing out there.”

With the help of her students, Krakos created a VR video of their research at the nature reserve.

“We stitched together six locations across several weeks this summer so you can walk through Shaw and see it change through time, or compare plant growth from May to August,” she says. “Basically, it means I can teach living ecology in a classroom any time of year.”

Students in Krakos’s lab contributed two-minute videos describing their research in the spot where it was collected, photographs of themselves in action, images of plants up close and research posters, all of which are embedded in the video as clickable matter that provides more in-depth information.

Deanna Deterding, biology major, is excited to share her research through the VR experience.

VISITING THE PANTHEON: Using VR technologies, students in the World Arts and Ideas course taught by Todd Brenningmeyer, PhD, professor of art history, explore the Pantheon in Rome, Italy, almost as if they were actually on site.

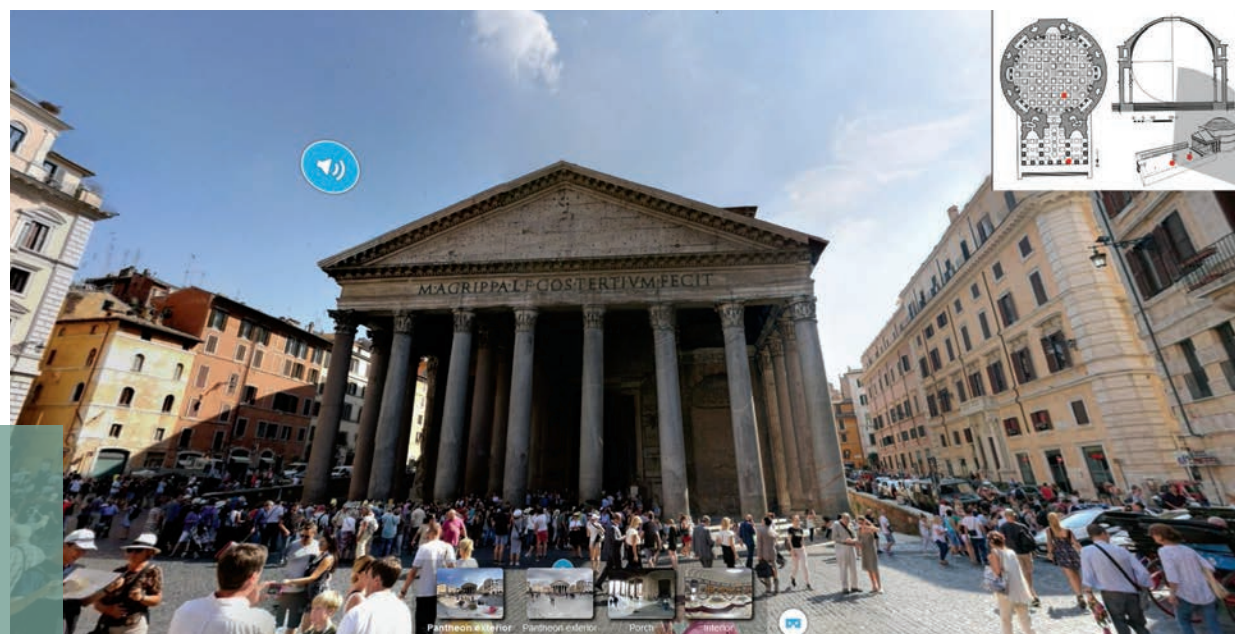
“The most gratifying part of this project was knowing that I would be helping to educate students in classrooms that don’t have the ability to do research at a nature reserve,” Deterding says.

Shelby Whaley, ’18, also worked on the Shaw video project. She’s planning to attend graduate school next fall to study ecological restoration and management.

“I think VR videos are a great way to include external content. Some aspects of a subject are just not available or possible to comprehend without seeing it,” Whaley says.

EXPLORING THE PANTHEON

Todd Brenningmeyer, PhD, professor of art history, created a 360-degree video for his World Arts and Ideas course so students can explore Rome’s ancient Pantheon in more personal and detailed ways.



“The idea is to allow students to interact with a space as if they were there, much like we do in our study abroad classes,” he says. “When you visit the Pantheon, you’re walking around, looking at the columns, you’re in the space,” he says.

Typically, an instructor will show students images—slides or photographs—of the outside of the Pantheon and of the dome on the inside, but students aren’t fully engaged in that experience, Brenningmeyer says.

“We’ve created a way for them to explore the whole exterior of the Pantheon, then gradually make their way inside, looking around and above them as they walk,” he says. “This is how you want to experience it; you want to be feeling the space.”

Brenningmeyer embeds audio links in his videos, so students who are interested in a particular feature can learn more about it.

“The audio talks about where they are, just like I would do if we were on site and taking an actual tour of the building,” he says.

Using his library of VR videos, students can explore 20 other important historical sites, such as the Colosseum, Stonehenge, the Egyptian pyramids, an Etruscan cemetery and the Terracotta Army.

TOURING FUTURE WORK SPACES

Every semester, Dustin York, EdD, director of the communication program and assistant professor, introduces a class project to explore an emerging technology. There are no step-by-step instructions provided—students collaborate in small groups to learn the skill.

Last spring, York’s students created an Alexa app and previously designed a Snapchat filter. This semester, his students are creating a VR video featuring a tour of Abstrakt marketing agency’s downtown St. Louis offices.

“For communication majors, their favorite experiential learning opportunities are agency tours,” York says. “We decided it would be cool to create a VR collection of tours for the benefit of students who can’t join us, but who are curious about the office spaces.”

The learning outcomes are two-fold, York says. Primarily, the knowledge gained puts his students one step ahead of other job candidates.

“Two years ago, we studied drones. Afterward, one of our students got an internship with TedX because he knew how to fly drones and no one else did. It’s the same with this project. Virtual reality is only going to become more widespread, and my students will be at the edge of that,” he says.

Additionally, he says, “In two years, there will be some new technology we can’t fathom right now, and my students will feel more confident taking that on because they will have already experienced mastering an unfamiliar technology.”

AGENCY TOURS: Exploring the offices of marketing agencies are some of the most popular off-site experiential learning opportunities provided for students by Dustin York, EdD, assistant professor of communications. Students recently visited Abstrakt marketing agency in downtown St. Louis and created a virtual experience for students who cannot make the actual tour.



Photos by Jerry Naunheim

A curriculum developed by Maryville faculty, staff and students for high school students prepares them for careers in a high-demand, high-paying field. | BY JANET EDWARDS



Hacking into the Emerging Field of <CYBER

Marissa Cooper, a senior at Jennings Senior High School, talks about protocols, passwords, various types of networks like LANs and WANs and ethernet and internets, private networks and VPN—and that’s after completing just the first month of class.

Cooper, a student in Chris Sellers’ STEM class, is a member of the NextJenn STEM TEAM and is also enrolled part-time at North Technical High School. In Sellers’ class, she participates in CyberReadySTL, a program offered through Maryville’s Center for Access and Achievement (CA2) in partnership with Monsanto Fund, which provided support for 80 students and their teachers in the Jennings and Ritenour school districts of St. Louis County. Both districts serve underserved students.

The CyberReadySTL curriculum was designed by Steve Coxon, PhD, associate professor of education; Rebecca Dohrman, PhD, associate professor of communications; Paul Gross, computer scientist; Gretchen Roberts, ’12, program manager; and Maryville cyber security students.

“The districts each receive tens of thousands of dollars in computing and technology equipment to be used in this curriculum,” Dohrman says. “We work closely with teachers to professionally develop them and increase

their knowledge, which is essential for a program like this. It multiplies the impact of the program tenfold as those teachers move forward each year with new classes of students eager to learn the curriculum.”

Most students know how to navigate a Microsoft or Mac operating system, Sellers says, but that alone doesn’t teach students how computers actually work. Through the CyberReadySTL curriculum, Sellers says, they learn advanced skills in an engaging way.

“When you figure out how computers work, you can start to build them and engineer and design software,” he says. “Kids grow up with one small world—they know how to get to Windows, but they can’t change permissions, passwords, or add users because the settings are blocked. So Maryville wrote a curriculum where students really start with the basics of a computer operating system.”

ADVANCED NETWORK SKILLS

“I’m learning a lot about networks,” Cooper continues, following her litany of computer terms. Sellers is still shaking his head as he interrupts his student to address a classroom visitor.

“Hold on, time out—do you hear this?” he asks. “Isn’t it amazing that Marissa comes in here and just starts rolling all those terms out?” In fact, Sellers does a lot of bragging on behalf of his students, who all look forward to spending time in his technology-driven, STEM classroom.

NEXT-GEN CYBER SECURITY FORCE: Chris Sellers, STEM teacher at Jennings Senior High School in St. Louis, works with his students in a program called CyberReadySTL. The multi-lesson curriculum was developed by Maryville University faculty and students to teach the fundamentals of computer operating systems and encourage interest in emerging technology fields such as cyber security.



Photos by Jerry Naunheim

Having participated in a previous program to learn block coding, advanced coding is more challenging—and exciting, she says. Prater wants to become a cyber security analyst, and she knows exactly what it takes to be successful in one of the nation’s emerging and highest-paying career fields.

“You have to be the type of person that solves things using more than one way of thinking,” she says.

Starting salaries for cyber security jobs are expected to approach \$90,000, but demand for skilled employees is higher than the number of available workers. In 2016, just over 8 percent of all degrees conferred to African Americans



SECURITY>

Sellers asks Teresa Prater, a junior, to demonstrate how she created files by implementing line commands—a newly acquired skill for her.


“This is a beautiful thing; did you see her head turn?” Sellers asks others standing nearby. “Something didn’t go right so now she’s troubleshooting what she typed wrong because a lot of the program is syntax, and if the syntax is right it works, if it’s wrong, it doesn’t.”

Prater solves the problem quickly.

“I like the way that I get to be hands-on with the computer and try to figure it out,” she says.

were in STEM fields, and less than 6 percent of total African American employment in 2017 was in the tech industry, reports the National Urban League.

That’s a lot of untapped talent, says Coxon.

“We want to prepare young people for the workplace of 2020 and 2030,” he says. “One of Maryville’s core strengths is advancing economic development in the region by creating confidence within young people in some of St. Louis’ high-need districts so they can have the same ambitions and achievements as students born in any other zip code.” 



“You have to be the type of person that solves things using more than one way of thinking.” | TERESA PRATER

REFLECTIONS: HOMECOMING 2018



Homecoming festivities this past fall brought together more than 1,000 alumni, students, faculty, staff and friends of Maryville to connect and enjoy reunion traditions—old and new. The weeklong celebration drew record attendance at the annual Fall Formal, and more than 40 Class of 1968 alumnae returned for the Golden Circle reception in honor of their 50-year reunion. Students and alumni shared stories during the inaugural Backyard BBQ, and former track and field and cross country team members ran an honorary lap on the new track with current student-athletes. New activities—like Homecoming Kickoff and Yell like Hell—became instant traditions. The week concluded with the annual Tailgate to cheer on the Saints men’s and women’s soccer teams as they took on a cross-town rival.

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MAX ARTIS, LIFE COACH

For many high school students, the transition to college academics and campus life is a scary prospect. But how much more confident and successful would they be if they knew there was someone in their corner—a person on campus who had the knowledge, resources and care to help them navigate the college terrain? Enter Max Artis—and the other 14 life coaches in the Division of Student Success.

Each first-year student is assigned a life coach, who works with them throughout their Maryville journey as an academic advisor, career counselor, student services expert, mentor, friend and cheerleader.

Artis has been with Maryville since 2016. Previously, he was an academic advisor at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, and before that he was a recruiter for diversity in the admissions office at St. Louis

College of Pharmacy. He holds a bachelor's degree in biology and a master's in higher education administration.

"I changed my major three or four times. I started out in biology, then switched to psychology, then education," Artis says. "None of these were a great fit, but I love lab work, attention to detail and problem-solving. I looked at fields where I could help people, like physical therapy, occupational

therapy and nurse practitioner. I finally realized I was developing good skills, but they were transferable to careers outside the health professions. The way I see it, everything is a part of your journey—sometimes you just need to change directions to find your success story."

Artis recently spoke with Janet Edwards, editor of Maryville Magazine, to provide readers with a closer look at Maryville's life coach program.

Why does Maryville provide life coaches for students?

There is a need for comprehensive, holistic support to ensure our students thrive academically, personally and in their chosen careers. Having an individual that serves as a one-stop shop provides for much-needed retention support for students, along with the knowledge gained from learning diagnostics and deep career explorations.

When do you first meet your students?

We start interacting with students before they ever arrive on campus, so we can help with the transition from high school to college. Over the summer, we have START programs for admitted students, and each life coach gets an opportunity to meet with their students and pre-register them for courses.

We've always done coffee chats in the summer to meet with our students in different communities around the St. Louis area, but we've also started virtual chats. We talk about different topics—such as

what to bring to campus and what to expect at Maryville—and connect with students who may not be local through online group and one-on-one chats.

How do life coaches use learning diagnostics to help students?

Learning diagnostics help us identify each student's needs, and that gives us an opportunity

Are life coaches the center of a student's universe when it comes to campus support?

At Maryville University, there's an all-hands-on-deck mentality when it comes to supporting students. When everyone is invested, that makes it easier to rally together for a student who needs help.

That said, life coaches are always included in the conversation of

What does a typical day look like for a life coach?

Life coaches are mobile. We meet students where they are. We are out on campus—you'll see us in academic buildings, LJs, Gander Dining Hall, the campus Starbucks, in passing. Like other life coaches, I make sure students are aware I'm here for them, and that doesn't always

Talk about a time when a student was struggling, and you helped them through it.

One of my students had difficulty deciding on a major. For most of her life, she thought she wanted to pursue a career in the medical field, but she knew that career path wasn't a good fit after taking chemistry and biology courses in her first semester. She felt defeated

"IT'S REWARDING TO SEE A STUDENT'S GROWTH, SEE THEM STRETCH AND MATURE OVER THE COURSE OF FOUR YEARS—IT'S INCREDIBLE TO WATCH. IT ENERGIZES ME."

to be proactive instead of reactive. We provide a wide variety of assessments. With StrengthsFinder, for instance, we help students discover their talents, what they're great at.

Through others, we can identify the type of support each student needs to be successful, and then we make sure to provide those services. We utilize a learning styles inventory to help students develop strategies for best study practices, and an engagement survey to help them be intentional about connecting with peers on campus.

The Strong Interest Inventory helps identify a student's interest areas, and based off of those we explore career fields that might be a good match. It's a great way to have that conversation early on, especially with students who are still deciding on a major.

how students are doing because of the relationships we're able to build with them. We connect with students on a consistent and frequent basis, which speaks to the whole retention piece—having a point person.

How much of what life coaches do is considered mentoring?

Every session I have with my students consists of some type of mentorship. When it's registration time, I'm not just saying, "What classes do you need?" I'm also asking, "How's life? How are you doing?" We view students as a whole person, not just a scholar; rather, we see them as a person who is unique and has their own needs. I don't think any of us sit down with a student and say, "You signed up for a career conversation today, so that's all we're talking about." That just doesn't happen.


mean a structured appointment in my office. Availability is very important, so we do whatever is needed to connect with our students. From cultural events to athletic competitions to homecoming—anything on the campus activity calendar—life coaches strive to be represented.

Along with face-to-face visits, we also rely on text messages, phone calls, email and Skype for communication.

Work doesn't start at 8:30 a.m. and it doesn't end when we leave at 5 p.m., because students' concerns don't end at that time. If I'm sitting at home on the couch when a student texts me, and I can answer their question with a few sentences—knowing my response will take a ton of stress off that student—why not do it? That's the powerful thing about the life coach model; we strive to be there for our students as much as we can and when they need us the most.

and thought about leaving the University. I suggested she take the StrengthsFinder and Strong Interest Inventory assessments. The student discovered she has always dreamed of being an entrepreneur. I connected her with business faculty, who talked her through potential career pathways. Eventually, she changed her major to business administration—and she's thriving.

What's the personal reward in being a life coach?

It's rewarding to see a student's growth, see them stretch and mature over the course of four years—it's incredible to watch. It energizes me. When I have a full day of meetings with my students, I'm happy. My calling is to serve others; that's what drives me. I love helping students begin their journey toward success. 



SAINTS HALL OF FAMERS REFLECT ON THEIR SUCCESS



Photos by Kendall Hambrook

A national champion, the first team to earn a bid to an NCAA Division II championship and the player who scored the most goals in a career for men's soccer are the 2018 Saints Hall of Fame honorees.

The ceremony was held during Homecoming festivities.

BY JONG CAMBRON



I wanted to do everything I could to make sure that I got the best result."

Baker, who transferred to Maryville after starting at the University of Nebraska-Omaha, was also selected for the 2012 GLVC Sportsmanship award and named Maryville's 2013 Male Student-Athlete of the Year.

PACIAL DAMKAM, '97

Pacial Damkam, '97, had a prolific soccer career at Maryville, finishing as the program's all-time leader in goals scored with 61 and points leader with 136. He also owns the record for most goals scored in a season with 22 in 1994. And he holds the record for most goals scored in a game, which he accomplished twice.

"We had an outstanding team that year," says Damkam of the 1994 season. "Along the way we set many records, school records and individual records."

The team finished 18-4-0, setting a new record for most victories in a season. It also captured the St. Louis Intercollegiate Athletic Conference regular-season and tournament titles.

Damkam was named to the All-Conference team three times and was named Maryville's Male Student-Athlete of the Year for the 1991-1992 season.



Photo by Kendall Hambrook

2011-2012 WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

The 2012 Women's Basketball team became the first Maryville squad to win a conference championship and also be selected as one of the 64 teams to participate in the NCAA Division II March Madness.

Abby Duethman, '12, who was named the 2012 Great Lakes Valley Conference (GLVC) Player of the Year, was a key player on the team.

"I've been on a lot of teams and I think the 2011-2012 Maryville team was the best," says Duethman. "It was because of my teammates—that's ultimately why we were so successful. Our camaraderie, our friendship and just how well we worked together was amazing."

The 2011-2012 season was the first year Maryville was able to compete in the GLVC postseason, after moving to Division II

earlier that year. The team carried a 15-11 record into the conference tournament before reeling off four-straight wins to claim the school's first conference championship.

"Everything just started clicking right at the perfect time, and we just rolled through that conference tournament. It was insane," says Shelby Miller, '15, who played as a freshman guard.

MATTHEW BAKER, '13

Matthew Baker, '13, was the first Saint to be crowned a national champ when he claimed the wrestling title in the 197-pound class in 2013. He went 40-1 during the season and was twice named All-American during his career at Maryville.

"Right from the get-go I decided my mantra was, 'Enjoy the year, enjoy the journey and leave no stone unturned,'" says Baker of his senior year. "I had one more opportunity, and

HALL OF FAME HONOREES (left): After receiving their awards, 2018 Saints Hall of Famers pose with Lonnie Folks, '82, '98, director of athletics and recreation (far right). Featured are Matthew Baker, '13, (left); past women's basketball coach Chris Ellis, Kaitlin Childs, '13, '14, and Abby Duethman, '12 (center) and Pacial Damkan, '97.

New Club Hockey Team Skates into History

BY JONG CAMBRON

ARREN ROMERIL is from Amherstburg, Ontario, near the U.S. border with Canada. As a third-year student studying business administration, he is 560 miles from home.

Romeril, who is goalie and captain of the newly formed men’s club ice hockey team, is less homesick because four of his teammates also hail from Ontario.

“Looking at our team this year, it is very nice to see the number of Canadian-born players and all of them from the province of Ontario,” says Romeril. “We can relate to certain things, and we have that feeling of home.”

The inaugural team is also comprised of players from Ukraine, New York, Arizona, Colorado, Ohio, Minnesota, Texas and the St. Louis area. The team has good chemistry, says coach John Hogan.

“They have something in common in being on a new team,” says Hogan. “The 21 guys get along really well and are striving to build a strong program here at Maryville.”

Romeril came to Maryville after earning his associate’s degree from Williston State College in North Dakota, where he was a member of the hockey team.




Romeril led the Saints to its first win in team history when he stopped 36 of 39 shots to pick up the 4-3 win in a shootout against Indiana University in mid-September.

“On our current roster, we have only three players who have college hockey experience,” Romeril says. “Winning that game versus Indiana was something I wanted for the 18 other players on the roster who haven’t played college hockey before. I wanted them to cherish the win and understand what it takes to make it in this league.”

The team competes at the Division II level in the American Collegiate Hockey Association. There are three divisions with Lindenwood and Missouri State having Division I teams. Maryville will also face off against St. Louis University, Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville and the University of Missouri at Columbia.

HOCKEY COMES TO MARYVILLE: A new Saints club hockey team took to the ice this year with Arren Romeril, from Ontario, Canada, in goal (right) and Jared Viggers, also from Ontario, playing forward (top photo).

The Saints currently play home games in Affton, Missouri. By early fall of 2019, the team will move to its home rink in Chesterfield, Mo., where an 84,000 square-foot facility with two sheets of ice is under construction. Maryville will be the only university team to call it home. 



QUEST FOR OLYMPICS LEADS SWIMMER TO SLOVENIA

WINNING FORM: Saints swimmer Mike Aldaco earned a spot on the Slovenian national swim team with strong performances in his backstroke races during pre-meet trials.

BY JONG CAMBRON

Mike Aldaco, a first-year student and Saints swim team member, is making waves as a competitive swimmer, a journey he hopes will take him all the way to the Olympics. To help make that dream a reality, he traveled to Slovenia this past summer—a familiar destination.

Aldaco was born in Slovenia and his mom is Slovenian. He moved to the United States when he was young, and his family settled near Kansas City, Missouri.

“I contacted the Slovenian Swimming Federation to let them know my interest and they flew me out there,” says Aldaco, an international business major.

He began the process of earning a spot on the swim team last spring, when he participated in pre-meet trials. During his high school spring break, he traveled back to Slovenia for the trials. Making it to the next stage required at least a top-four finish in an event. He landed in the top four in the 200-meter backstroke, 100-meter backstroke and 100-meter freestyle.

With those finishes, he was able to swim for the national team at Telekom 2018, an international swim competition held in Slovenia last

July. During his first meet, Aldaco finished fourth in the 200-back stroke—and his 400-meter medley squad won gold.

“It felt really good to know that my hard work over the last few years paid off,” he says. “I really was able to achieve what I had set out to do.”




Attending meets in Slovenia while churning out personal best times should enhance his efforts on the Maryville team, he says.

“It prepares me well here at Maryville,” says Aldaco. “It gives me experience, and I know I can compete with the best in the country.”

Maryville swim coach Erica Rose agrees the experience will benefit his collegiate career, and his efforts will also boost the Saints team’s chances for a winning season.

“He was able to see how meets are run and learn how to handle the stress of racing,” says

Rose. “All of those external factors will help him mature as a swimmer.”

Aldaco’s pursuit of making the Olympic team will continue next summer when the Slovenian Swimming Federation contacts swimmers to attend international meets. 



Tristan Van Wieringen shifts between eSports coaching and NASCAR racing

COMPETITIVE DRIVE

BY DALE SINGER

Tristan Van Wieringen began his racing career at the age of 4, but it wasn't on a tricycle—he was already mastering the art of motocross competition.

Van Wieringen, a student from LaSalle, Ontario, is a junior in the international business program.

In a racing accident when he was 7 years old, Van Wieringen received injuries to his legs and throat that took two years and nine major surgeries to heal, but he was not about to end his time on the track—real or virtual.

This year, he began competing as an amateur NASCAR driver—and as an eSports coach for the Saints. Competition is a family affair. His sister, Dominique,

competes in the same NASCAR series. His father, Murray Van Wieringen, raced Super Bikes before he was sidelined by a shoulder injury.

Racing cars is a thrilling experience, Van Wieringen says.

"It's exciting and terrifying at the same time, going so fast and driving so close at times to other people," he says. "It definitely pushes me out of my comfort zone."

But it also has pushed him beyond his financial comfort zone, so he has shifted his attention to eSports.

"NASCAR requires a lot of money," Van Wieringen says. "eSports isn't super money-driven."


Van Wieringen says he was recruited to coach the Saints' Overwatch eSports team. He compares the job to putting together a football squad, where each person has a specific role to play.

"Everyone has to be willing to work well together, especially with such a small team," he says. "You need people with a positive attitude who are willing to work toward the same goal."

His Overwatch team is considered one of the best collegiate contenders in the nation.

"This team won't have a problem winning the title," he predicts.

Racing and coaching require a lot of time, but Van Wieringen says balancing competitive pursuits with academics is easy:

"School comes first." 



IN OVERDRIVE: Between studying and coaching an eSports team, Tristan Van Wieringen competes in the NASCAR K&N East Pro Series, racing late and super late model cars.

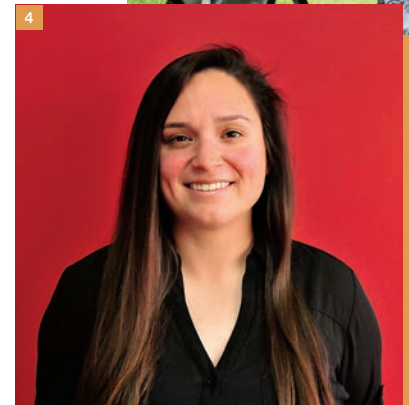
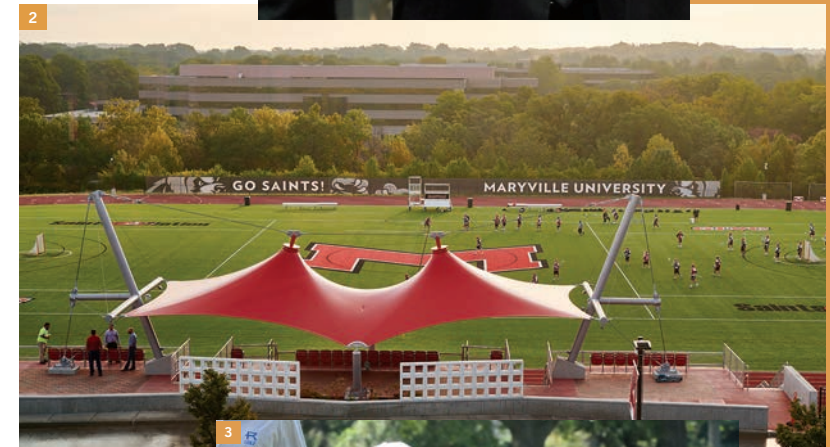
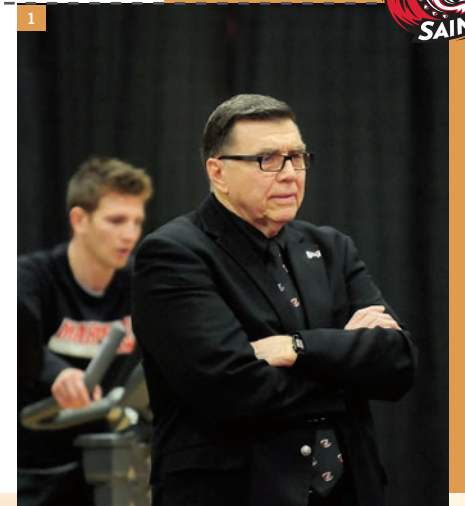
HIGHLIGHTS

1 Golden Anniversary Saints head wrestling coach Mike Denney observes 50 years in the sport in the 2018-2019 season. Denney's remarkable career—10 years at the high school level and 40 years in college—features many milestones. He achieved 350 dual wins in 2017, and he has been named NCAA Division II coach of the year three times. His teams have won seven NCAA Division II National titles, seven NWCA National Dual Championships and 12 NCAA Division II Regional Titles. Denney has coached 281 NCAA Division II National Qualifiers, 202 All-Americans, 142 NWCA Academic All-Americans and 35 individual NCAA Division II National Champions.

2 Saints Facilities Keep Pace with Growth The Saints athletic department is taking strides to keep pace with overall campus growth by offering new sports programs, constructing new athletic fields and renovating existing facilities. Recent updates include new stadium seating overlooking the soccer field; a new eight-lane running track encircling the soccer field; renovation of property adjacent to campus, which includes lacrosse and softball fields, a locker room and tennis courts; and a new ice hockey rink under construction in Chesterfield, Mo., which will serve as "home ice" for the club hockey team. *(For related story, see Page 38).*

3 Men's Golf Coach is Ace in the Hole Glenn Paulus, Saints men's golf coach, has earned Maryville's first Great Lakes Valley Conference (GLVC) Coach of the Year award. Paulus led the team to its first-ever appearance in medal-match play at the 2018 GLVC Championships and its second straight berth into the NCAA Division II postseason tourney. The team also won the McKendree Invitational, finished second at the Music City Invitational and tied for second at the Findlay Spring Invitational. Paulus is in his 12th year of coaching the team.

4 Inaugural Women's Lacrosse Team Women's lacrosse will open its season Feb. 9. Coach Brittany Frankenfeld began her career as head coach at Ottawa University in Kan., where her squad won its conference tournament in 2017 and earned a bid to the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletes (NAIA) Invitational Tournament. As a student, she played at Lindenwood University, where she holds the second highest career save percentage recorded by a goalie. Maryville will play in the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GILAC) this season before moving home to the Great Lakes Valley Conference (GLVC) starting in the 2019-2020 season, when women's lacrosse becomes a sanctioned sport.



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ON A MISSION TO INSPIRE ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT

Andrew "A.J." Fox, '09, '10, is Maryville's
New Director of Alumni Relations | BY SARAH EDWARDS



Andrew "A.J." Fox, '09, '10, Maryville's new director of alumni relations, is no stranger to building community on campus. In fact, he took on his first project connecting future alumni to the University as a student in 2009.

With the support of President Mark Lombardi, PhD, Fox created the class gift project in which graduating students make individual gifts and in return a brick is engraved with their name and degree. The bricks are set in a walkway across campus as a lasting legacy.



"The idea was to give students a physical and philanthropic connection to Maryville," says Fox. Nine years later, the class gift has grown into a beloved tradition.

Fox's personal ties to the Maryville community go back decades. His father, John Fox, attended evening and weekend classes at Maryville, graduating in 1990. "That flexibility allowed him to graduate with a four-year degree while staying ahead in the IT field," Fox says.

When it came time for Fox to pick a college of his own, his father helped him fill out Maryville's application.

"I had the feeling that this was a place where your college experience and education could be of your own making," Fox says.

He graduated with a bachelor's in business management and an MBA. And in 2009, Fox and his now-wife, Amanda Fox, were crowned Fall Festival King and Queen.

But his Maryville story doesn't end there. After graduation, Fox served on the Alumni Board while working in government in Jefferson City, Missouri.


As a newcomer to the role of alumni relations director, Fox says his campus roots helped him to understand the foundations of the Maryville community and hit the ground running. Fox plans to focus his energy on traveling to

establish meaningful connections with alumni and to reimagine ways to engage alumni based on their interests and motivations.

"The alumni office is reconnecting with Maryville alumni around the country and throughout the world," says Fox. "As I meet and talk with alumni, they often tell me they want to mentor students and fellow alumni who are applying for their first jobs or seeking to advance in their careers."

In response to their feedback, Fox hopes to create more opportunities for alumni to share their skills and expertise within the Maryville community. This includes guest speaker roles in classrooms, career mentorship opportunities and resume preparation and mock interviews with students.

Fox also has his eye on Maryville's online alumni community—there are more than 1,000 new alumni in last year's graduating class alone.

"Our online students should feel as much a part of the community as those who attended classes on campus," Fox says. "Our office is here to assist all alumni in accomplishing their personal and professional goals, to celebrate those moments with them and to present opportunities to engage in more meaningful ways with faculty, students and each other." 

A veteran of 340 triathlons, a surgeon-turned-financial advisor and a CFO of the year.



1950s

Sr. Madonna Buder, SFFC, '52, of Spokane, Wash., participated in a USA Triathlon in Cleveland, Ohio, and finished as a National Champion. Over the course of her career, she has competed in more than 340 triathlons and 45 Ironmans.



Sr. Madonna Buder, SFFC, '52

Barbara Larny Cooney, '58, of Sedalia, Mo., exhibited her artwork last August in the show "Some Things Fall Together" at the Liberty Center Association for the Arts. Cooney has won the Missouri Top 50 in the Fine Arts twice at the Missouri State Fair. She shares her knowledge and experience with others across the state through exhibits and lectures.

1960s

Dorothy H. Brooks, '66, of Punta Gorda, Fla., recently published a book of her poetry, *Subsoil Plowing*. The book portrays women's rights and the American feminist movement. Author Joyce Peseroff shares, "Subsoil Plowing is a beautifully written exploration of how we came this far and how far we've yet to go."

Connie Moeller Bachmann, '68, of Wildwood, Mo., celebrated one year of retirement in May and has since been busy with a lot of exciting activities. She is a Eucharistic Minister and reader at her parish, Most Sacred Heart in Eureka, Mo. Connie also shares that the activity she loves the most is Dinner Club with a group of her classmates. She says, "Our gatherings of 46 years are always a delight in companionship, respect, love and meals."

Ann Geis Boyce, '68, of St. Louis, and **Suzanne Desloge Weiss, '68**, were the 50-Year Class co-chairs for Homecoming reunion activities. Ann and Suzanne participate in Cornerstone Bible Study. Ann is also involved in the church choir.

Laura E. Griesedieck, '68, of St. Louis, is a fitness class teacher and usher at Jazz at the Bistro. She also shares that she recently met members of the extended Griesedieck family tree in Germany.

Mary Trampe Schulte, '68, of Maryland Heights, Mo., is involved at her church as a Eucharistic Minister and volunteer at the food pantry. She is a tutor at St. Louis Oasis and recently celebrated her 50th anniversary with her husband, Richard. As part of their celebration, they visited Israel and Rome.

Donna Smythe Walker '68, of Honolulu, Hawaii, enjoys traveling, reading and renovating homes. She recently traveled to New Zealand, Australia and Italy.

1970s

Julia Duffy Batterberry, '73, of Cincinnati, Ohio, announces her retirement.

Sandra Payne Hardy, '75, of View Park, Calif., has been volunteering at her church and Cedar Sinai Hospital on various healthy living projects.

1980s

Charles R. Bacher, Jr., '80, of St. Louis, is the area manager of the laboratory furniture division at VWR International.

Robert "Bob" A. Hunzeker, '80, of Kirkwood, Mo., announces his retirement.

Carol Ruegge Powell, '82, '88, of Ballwin, Mo., was an honoree at the 16th annual Ageless Remarkable St. Louisans Gala. Maryville was there in full force to cheer her on.

Gary L. Streiler, '82, of Farmington, Mo., received the 2017-2018 Smart Maher National Citizenship Education Teacher of the Year Award. He has taught social studies at West County High School in Park Hills, Mo., for the past 20 years.

Ronald "Ron" Rector, '85, of Georgetown, Texas, is a sales associate at Boy Scouts of America.

Cynthia "Cindy" Rebbe, '86, of Manchester, Mo., is an administrator for the assisted living building at Park Place Winghamen.

Michael "Mike" J. Warden, '86, '04, of Frisco, Texas, is the vice president of laboratory compliance at ManaCare Health in Farmers Branch, Texas.

Thomas "Tom" W. Jackson, '87, of St. Louis, is the owner of Universal Rentals.

1990s

Gilbert "Gil" L. Hoffman, '90, of St. Louis, was an honoree for the Technology Executives of the Year award from the *St. Louis Business Journal*.

Christopher “Chris” G. Baechle, ‘91, of Eureka, Mo., has been named CEO of Cardinal Ritter Senior Services.

Pacial K. Damkam, ‘97, of Omaha, Neb., was inducted into the Maryville University Athletic Hall of Fame during Homecoming 2018. Damkam is a past member of the Saints men’s soccer team.

Jennifer Ponce Godfrey, ‘98, of Maryville, Ill., is a research lab manager at Washington University in St. Louis.

Robert “Bob” E. Tucker, MD, ‘98, of Chesterfield, Mo., was recently featured in *Kiplinger’s* “5 Great Second Career Moves,” an article about rewarding second careers. While specializing in hand surgery, Bob wanted to enhance his business and finance knowledge and returned to Maryville for his MBA. This led to his current career as a financial advisor with Plancorp, LLC.

Julie R. Bollinger, ‘99, of Bloomsdale, Mo., is an operational risk manager at Wells Fargo Advisors. She is a 19-year veteran of the firm and leads a team of operation risk consultants.

Rosalyn “Roz” L. Manahan, EdD, ‘99, ‘09, of St. Charles, Mo., announces that since completing her doctorate in education she has received two recognitions: the 2017 Power 100 by *DELUX Magazine* and 50 Most Inspiring Women by *DELUX Magazine*. She serves on Maryville’s National Leadership Council.

Julie Voss Steffens, ‘99, of Eureka, Mo., is the associate director at Lawrence Group, Inc., which is developing the “Foundry” in the Cortex region of St. Louis—a transformational project for the neighborhood.

Benjamin “Ben” A. Unk, ‘99, of Issaquah, Wash., is a senior director of replenishment strategy at Sam’s Club.

Velma Harris Walker, ‘99, of St. Louis, graduated with her master’s in health administration in May 2018.

2000s

Nikki LaBruyere Mamuric, ‘00, of Florham Park, N.J., founded Sprout Innovation. She has been recognized as a 2018 Top 25 Leading Women Brand Builder. Nikki was the keynote speaker at Stamford Innovation Week and a panelist at the Skin Microbiome Congress.

Jason D. Reeves, ‘01, of Florissant, Mo., is an insurance agent at Mutual of Omaha.

Brian M. Gardner, ‘03, ‘07, of St. Louis, is the executive director at White Flag Church.

Erica Hubbard Wilson, ‘04, of Florissant, Mo., is the vice president of IT security and risk at Cass Information Systems.

Abigail “Abby” Brockfield Strother, ‘05, of Lake Saint Louis, Mo., is the associate director of talent at The Wireless Experience.

Bertha Trujillo, ‘05, of Chicago, Ill., is a talent acquisition specialist at Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP. Trujillo writes: “My BFA in interior design from Maryville University and my MBA in human resources played a key part in my hiring process with SOM. I hope to be a resource for future Maryville alumni.”

Kelly Seidel Ravenscraft, ‘07, ‘08, of Myrtle Beach, S.C., announces the birth of her daughter, Scarlett Mae Koeller Ravenscraft, on August 15, 2018.

Christina Engle Shively, JD, ‘07, of Campbellsville, Ky., is the owner of Shively Law Office.

Stephanie Enger-Moreland, ‘08, of Fenton, Mo., and her husband Chris, welcomed their first child, Michael Christopher Moreland, born on February 24, 2018.

Megan Barbeau Probst, ‘08, and **Alan M. Probst, ‘09, ‘12**, of Wildwood, Mo., welcomed their second child, Mila Anne Probst, born on June 25, 2018.

Tyler P. Tate, MD, ‘08, of St. Louis, is an assistant professor of pediatrics, the attending physician in pediatric and adult palliative care and the senior scholar at the Center for Healthcare Ethics at Oregon Health and Science University.

Janessa Toro Tucker, PhD ‘08, of St. Louis, has earned her PhD in English from the University of Missouri-Columbia. Following graduation this past summer, she began work for Edward Jones as a training specialist.

Miranda Avant-Elliott, EdD, ‘09, of St. Louis, was elected as alderperson for Ward 4 of the City of Bellefontaine.

Ashley Wynn-Long Hobbs, ‘09, of Scottsbluff, Neb., is currently working on her master’s in special education at Maryville University.

Janie Carr Meyer, ‘09, of St. Louis, celebrates her fourth wedding anniversary with her husband, Dave Meyer. The couple welcomed their first child, Jackson, on November 21, 2017.



Scarlett Mae Koeller Ravenscraft

Lauren E. Wilson, ‘09, of St. Peters, Mo., is pursuing her doctorate of philosophy in behavioral medicine with an emphasis in medical family therapy at Saint Louis University. She will complete coursework in 2019 and hopes to defend her dissertation in 2020. In July of 2018, she began an 11-month appointment as a Medical Family Therapy Fellow in the Department of Family and Community Medicine at Saint Louis University.

Andrew “A.J.” Fox, ‘09, ‘10, of St. Peters, Mo., is the new director of alumni relations at Maryville University.

Kelsey Kurtz Rice, ‘10, and **Clinton D. Rice, ‘09, ‘12**, of Perryville, Mo., welcomed their third child and first son, William Scott Rice, on September 14, 2018.

Cherie Williams, ‘10, of St. Louis, is a registered nurse first assistant at Des Peres Hospital.

Tyler S. Saxton, ‘10, of Green Bay, Wisc., has been named the head girls’ basketball coach at Brookfield East High School in Brookfield, Wisconsin.

Jacquelynn “Jacque” Tasche Nappier, ‘10, of Barnhart, Mo., announces her marriage to Casey Nappier. She is a graphic designer at Explore St. Louis.

Jared J. Wheet, ‘10, of Phoenix, Ariz., is a claims manager at State Farm Insurance.

Aimee Ward Dial, ‘10, and her husband, Alex, of Mount Zion, Ill., welcomed their first child, Jameson Robert Dial, on August 30, 2018.

JoHannah Myers Gordon, ‘10, of Columbia, Mo., celebrated the first birthday of her son, Michael “M.J.” James, on November 29, 2018.

Lisa Payne Smith, ‘10, ‘13, Farmington, Mo., is a physical therapist at BJC Parkland Hospital.

Laura N. Steiner, ‘10, ‘18, of St. Louis, is a certified pediatric nurse practitioner at Gateway Pediatrics in Chesterfield, Missouri.

Abigail Adams Sirevaag, ‘11, of St. Charles, Mo., received her master of science in sustainability from Saint Louis University in December 2017.

Deadyre M. Martin, ‘11, of St. Louis, is a community support specialist at BJC Independence Center.

Margaret “Meg” K. Kurtz, ‘11, of St. Louis, was honored as the Medical-Surgical Nurse of the Year at St. Louis Magazine’s Excellence Awards ceremony.

Kristen M. Bray, ‘11, of St. Charles, Mo., received the 2018 St. Louis Business Journal’s 30 Under 30 Award. She is currently the regional operations manager at Core and Main.

Matthew “Matt” A. Renaud, ‘11, ‘13, of St. Louis, is an award specialist at Saint Louis University.

Emily Wahlfeldt Tiedemann, DPT, ‘11, ‘13, and Luke J. Tiedemann, ‘10, ‘12, of St. Louis, welcomed their first child, Rhett Joseph Tiedemann, born February 3, 2018.

Alecia DeCosty Le, DPT, ‘11, ‘14, of St. Charles, Mo., married Erik Le on September 1, 2018.

JoHannah Myers Gordon and son M.J.



Dana M. Casey, ‘11, ‘14, of Wentzville, Mo., is an accounts payable specialist at Geotechnology Inc. in St. Louis.

Melissa Graham Carlsen, ‘12, of Frontenac, Mo., married Anthony Carlsen on December 31, 2017. The couple lives in their new home with their two dogs, Harper and Henry.



Melissa Graham Carlsen, ‘12,

Eric T. Nehm, ‘12, of Milwaukee, Wis., published his book, *100 Things Bucks Fans Should Know and Do Before They Die*, in October 2018.

Minyu Cao, ‘12, ‘13, and Allen Lu, of St. Louis, welcomed their first child, Ariel Yuhan Lu, on April 24, 2018.

Christopher “Chris” C. Figura, ‘12, ‘15, of Maryland Heights, Mo., runs the Veterans Affairs Vet Center at Scott Air Force Base. He is also an adjustments counselor for the Vet Center.

Abigail “Abby” Duethman Blackstock, ‘13, of St. Louis, married Jesse Blackstock on August 11, 2018, in Kansas City, Missouri.

Christina Grigore Owens, ‘13, of Valley Park, Mo., married Eric Owens on July 9, 2017. The couple welcomed their first child, Bradyn Owens, on March 6, 2018. They are in the process of building their dream home.

Jeffrey “Jeff” Hancock, ‘13, of Eureka, Mo., is a project manager at Fiserv. He works on software implementation for credit union mergers and acquisitions.

Andrea Crowder Decker, ‘13, of Jamestown, New York, is a registered hospice nurse at Hospice Buffalo.

Kellie Mills Blow, DPT, ‘13, ‘15, of Herculaneum, Mo., is a physical therapist at Athletico Physical Therapy.

Ashlee J. Brockenbrough, ‘13, ‘16, of Brentwood, Mo., is a project manager for the finance department at The Boeing Company.

Jamie Kloss Jacobs, DPT, ‘13, ‘16, and Patrick “Pat” T. Jacobs, DPT, ‘13, ‘16, of Highland, Ill., were married on May 5, 2018 at Highland’s St. Paul Church.

Patrick C. McPartland, ‘14, of Florissant, Mo., is the union president for the Parkway National Education Association.

Tim M. Murrell, EdD, ‘14, of University City, Mo., is the district career and technical education director at Kansas City Public Schools.

Amber Peterson Hart, ‘14, of St. Peters, Mo., has been promoted to events coordinator at St. Charles Community College. She also celebrated her first anniversary with her husband, Josh Hart, on November 3, 2018.



Christina Grigore Owens, ‘13, and family

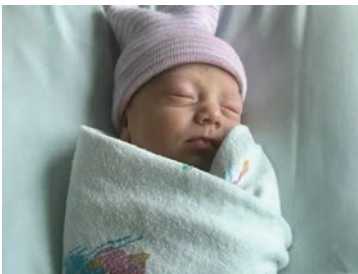


Jamie Kloss Jacobs, DPT, ‘13, ‘16, and Patrick “Pat” T. Jacobs, DPT, ‘13, ‘16

Asa H. Toney, J.D., ‘14, of Memphis, Tenn., recently received his JD from University of Memphis. He is an associate attorney at Farris Bobango PLC with a concentration in areas of corporate law.

Aileen C. Patton, ‘14, ‘16, of St. Louis, is manager of talent development at FleishmanHillard Inc.

Matthew “Matt” T. Baker, ‘14, ‘16, and his wife, Jamie, of Lenexa, Kan., welcomed their first child, Natalie Marie Baker, on August 19, 2018. Baker was inducted into the Maryville Athletic Hall of Fame during Homecoming 2018. He was a National Champion wrestler for the Saints.



Natalie Marie Baker

Jessica D. Tayloe, ‘14, ‘17, of Ballwin, Mo., is an integrated health specialist for adults with chronic medical and mental concerns at Crider Health County for St. Charles, Lincoln and Warren counties.

Sheila Hargiss Dubman, ‘14, ‘18, of Chesterfield, Mo., is an addiction counselor at Assisted Recovery Centers of America.

Ngoc “Nancy” T.T. Nguyen, ‘14, ‘18, of St. Louis, and five team members won first place at the National Organization of Minority Architects Student Design Competition in October 2017. It was her first group competition. Nguyen recently graduated with her master’s in architecture.



Ngoc “Nancy” T.T. Nguyen, ‘14, ‘18

Lauralee Gilkey Nelson, ‘14, ‘18, of St. Charles, Mo., completed her MBA in human resource management in December 2017. She also announces her marriage to Tony Nelson on June 16, 2018.

Beth Doerr Turner, ‘15, of Cape Girardeau, Mo., celebrated her second anniversary in December with her husband, Melvin Turner.

Daniel G. Cross, ‘15, of London, U.K., is studying for a Master of Science in Economics and Strategy. His goal is to use his degree in either consultancy in global economics or in political economic development.

Emily Blackshear Ryckman, ‘15, of O’Fallon, Mo., is a content manager at Keeley Companies.

Beth Doerr Turner, ‘15, of Cape Girardeau, Mo., is a music therapist at Easterseals Midwest.

Jacqueline “Jackie” Bader Morris, ‘15, and Dr. Ricky R. Morris, DPT, ‘15, ‘17, of Ballwin, Mo., were married on October 20, 2018, in Hermann, Missouri.

Kate E. Bolick, ‘15, ‘16, of Waterloo, Iowa, is an advanced registered nurse practitioner at Unity Point Neurology in Waterloo.

Leah Bohl Leicht, DPT, ‘15, ‘17, of Rosebud, Mo., married J.J. Leicht on June 23, 2018, at White Mule Winery in Owensville, Missouri.

Rita Flynn Hermann, DPT, ‘15, ‘17, and Cory W. Hermann, DPT, ‘15, ‘17, of St. Louis, were married November 10, 2018, in St. Paul, Missouri.

Victoria Hargis Tobias, DPT, ‘15, ‘17, and Joshua “Josh” Tobias, ‘16, of Rancho Cucamonga, Calif., were married on March 10, 2018, in Murrieta, California.

Joshua “Josh” H. Bonds, ‘16, of Bentonville, Ark., is a traffic coordinator at Walmart.

Regan Holland Schwent, ‘16, and Nicholas “Nick” J. Schwent, DPT, ‘15, ‘17, of St. Peters, Mo., were married on September 29, 2018, in Ste. Genevieve, Missouri.

Karli Hanna Lees, ‘16, and Nicholas “Nick” T. Lees, ‘15, of Annapolis, Md., were married on June 2, 2018, in Annapolis.

Katie Malone Wright, ‘16, of University City, Mo., is a music specialist and teacher at Kol Rinah Early Childhood Center.

Jacqueline “Jackie” Bader Morris, ‘15, and Ricky R. Morris, DPT, ‘15, ‘17



David D. Boyd, ‘16, of St. Louis, is a regional sales manager at MiTek USA.

Kayla Mercurio Terschluse, ‘16, of Foristell, Mo., is an emergency room nurse at Mercy Hospital. She was nominated by her employer as the Nurse of the Year through the March of Dimes. Kayla recently celebrated her two-year anniversary with her husband, Jake.

Kellie N. McCarthy, ‘16, of Valley Park, Mo., is teaching the Nurse 303 Clinical course at Maryville University as an adjunct instructor.

Blair Stabile DePew, ‘16, and Kaleb J. DePew, ‘15, of St. Charles, Mo., were married on October 6, 2018, in St. Charles.

Keygan O. Foster, ‘16, and his wife Megan, of Kansas City, Mo., welcomed their first child, Athena Jade Foster, on September 5, 2018.



Athena Jade Foster

Kristina Henderson Tibbits, ‘16, of Troy, Mo., celebrated her first anniversary with her husband, James, on September 16, 2018. They were high school sweethearts. Kristina is currently a financial analyst and internal accountant at L.J. Hart & Company.

Renietta Dias, ‘17, of Ballwin, Mo., and her husband, Konrad Dias, welcomed their third child and third son, Kian Joseph Dias, on September 5, 2018.

Steven H. Mandeville, EdD, ‘17, of Maryville, Ill., was named a Chief Financial Officer of the Year by the *St. Louis Business Journal*. The honor recognizes individuals who have helped their companies grow beyond projections because of their skills and expertise. Mandeville is vice president for finance and facilities at Maryville University.

Natalie Harada Barnett, ‘17, and Daniel “Danny” J. Barnett, ‘15, ‘16, of Des Moines, Iowa, were married on May 27, 2018, in Des Moines.

Shawnda J. Turner, ‘17, of St. Louis, says that shortly after graduating from Maryville University in May 2017, she was selected as an intern for the White House. She worked in the vice president’s department, where she had the opportunity to work within the speechwriting and public liaison office. Following her Washington, D.C., experience, Turner joined Congresswoman Ann Wagner’s re-election campaign, where she worked as a volunteer coordinator.

Emily Bush Goedecker, ‘17, of Havelock, N.C., announces her marriage to Bob Goedecker on November 25, 2017. The couple moved to Havelock, where her husband is stationed. She works with Vocation Rehabilitation in New Bern, N.C., where she counsels high school students. Goedecker says that without her Maryville education in rehabilitation counseling, she would not be where she is today in the field: “Maryville is doing such great things by truly developing great counselors to add to our field. Thank you to all of the rehabilitation counseling staff for being excellent role models and amazing educators.”

YOUR LEGACY, THEIR FUTURE

“Maryville University as a whole, and the Catherine McAuley School Of Nursing in particular, pursue excellence in every facet of education, and as a result, prepare their students for success in whatever field they choose for their life’s work. We are humbled and gratified to be a part of this effort and extend our thanks to the nursing faculty and staff for their continuing commitment to excellence.”

– Robert E. Schoor & Joan Luttig Schoor
Robert E. Schoor & Joan Luttig Schoor
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Natalie Harada Barnett, '17, and Daniel "Danny" J. Barnett, '15, '16

Donnell Walker, '17, of St. Louis, is an assistant wrestling coach for the Maryville University wrestling team.

Nathan "Nate" A. Rodriguez, '17, of Joplin, Mo., announces his marriage to Morgan Rathmann Rodriguez on July 21, 2018, in Joplin.

Laura A. Zambrana, '17, of Tampa, Fla., is director of sports marketing and promotion at the University of Tampa.

Abby L. Rogers, '17, '18, of Des Moines, Iowa, is a cyber security analyst at Principal Financial.

Brianna I. Lore, '18, of St. Clair, Mo., is a speech-language pathologist clinical fellow at Phelps County Regional Medical Center.

Rebecca "Becky" L. Hermes, '18, of Cottleville, Mo., is a speech-language pathologist at East Elementary K-1 in the Wright City School District.

Julie Post-Smith, '18, of Geneva, Ill., is the senior business director at Kerry Ingredients.

Jennifer Hecktor, '18, of O'Fallon, Mo., is an assistant superintendent of human resources for the Wentzville School District.

Erin L. Hollenbeck, '18, of Chesterfield, Mo., is a preschool teacher at Chesterfield Kids Academy.

Taylor Zerbe, '18, of St. Louis, is a compliance coordinator at Maryville University.

Mathew S. Broughton, '18, of Tucson, Ariz., is an information systems security officer at Raytheon.

Cassandra "Cassie" K. Shipley, '18, of O'Fallon, Mo., recently moved to O'Fallon to work as a speech-language pathologist at RehabCare. She provides speech therapy in four different skilled nursing facilities in the Missouri area. Cassie looks forward to completing her clinical fellowship and continuing her career speaking with children and adults in a medical setting.

Haley N. Klockenga, '18, of Effingham, Mo., is a multimedia specialist at Glamour Farms Boutique.

Folashade Oladoye Oyekunle, '18, of Mason, Ohio, graduated in August 2018 with her DNP. She is a hospital nurse practitioner at Kettering Health.

In Memoriam

1940s

Mildred "Midge" Magee Heiple, '46
Susan Stocker Leiphart, '47
Anne "Fritzi" Nurre Heidt, '48
Sally J. Schiller, '49

1950s

Vivian Schwarz Wilcutt, '51
Rosemary "Rosie" Renoe Blasé, '52
Adrianne "Dianne" Mouton Landry, '52
Elizabeth Lilly Cox, '53
Donna Schlappacasse Joyce, '53
Barbara Maley Eberle, '54
Genevieve "Sissy" Erker Fleming, '54
Dorothy "Dottie" Gantner Brennan, '55
Claire Farrell Entrup, '56
Kay Libel Percy, '56
Martha Vail, '56
Shirley Furstenberg Wall, '56
Ann Gould Flynn, '58
Patricia "Pat" Mindrup Rettig, '58
Mary Ethel Booker Siefken, '59

1960s

Nancy Slomer Auld, '60
Marie "Theo" T. Kendall, '68
Virginia "Ann" Christian, '68

1970s

Jacqueline "Jackie" Hartmann Behrendt, '70
Susan "Susie" M. O'Donnell, '71
Joan P. Corcoran, '73
Stephanie DeGrand Doody, '73
Theodore D. Pugh, '73
Virginia "Mary" Perkinson Autrey, '74
Joseph A. Winkler, '79

1980s

Barbara L. Shinn, '89

1990s

Charles J. Slade, '90
Patricia "Patti" M. Castelli, '91

2000s

Jonathan D. Renaud, '04
Vivian Lynn Key, '05
Jessica M. Wood, '11



Leah Bohl Leicht, DPT, '15, '17



SURPRISE BALLOON FEST: As a perk of Maryville's sponsorship of St. Louis' annual Great Forest Park Balloon Race held in September, six pilots inflated their hot air balloons on Commencement Lawn two days before the event. They allowed onlookers to get a closer look and ask questions, then lifted off for a pre-race flight. The exclusive event was staged as a surprise for the Maryville community and featured the Maryville balloon, which came in third place during the main race on the following Saturday.

SHARE YOUR NEWS!

Submit a class note for the Spring 2019 issue of *Maryville Magazine*.

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