



MARYVILLE  
M A G A Z I N E

SPRING 2019

# THE FUTURE OF EDUCATION IS **DIGITAL**



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ON THE COVER

Maryville is using all of its talent, skill and innovation to harness the digital tools of today to prepare our students for rich and rewarding life experiences.



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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.



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The University Seminar course changed its format to have a trio—a life coach, a faculty member and a staff member—teaching a group of students together.

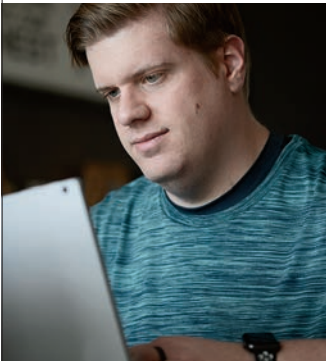


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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Friends,

The Digital Transformation Age is upon us. We see it each and every day in how we access entertainment, how we collect information and how we purchase products and services. It is also front and center in how we educate our students, and Maryville is using all of its talent, skill and innovation to harness the digital tools of today to prepare our students for rich and rewarding life experiences.

From our recognition as an Apple Distinguished School for an unprecedented second consecutive time to our new and expansive online degree programs to our St. Louis American Award for Corporate Diversity to our profound commitment to student learning and living in the digital age, Maryville is leading a revolution in higher education.

In this issue, you will read about the amazing journey of one of our service heroes who found educational fulfillment at Maryville through our robust academic programs and a veteran's support network. You will see how—through the awesome power of social media—our students are experiencing innovative ways of thinking and being. And you will also explore our Active Learning Ecosystem that uses digital tools to understand how to design interior spaces, how to bowl a strike and how to connect with classmates around the world.

At Maryville, we educate thousands of 18- to 22-years-olds, we educate thousands of working adults and we also support K-12 schools with life coaching, learning diagnostics and STEM education programs.

We live in a Digital Transformation Age of ideation, creation, design and entrepreneurship. At Maryville, we support, guide and nurture all of these elements to provide our students with the tools and understanding they need to shape their lives, build their families and make a better and more just world.

It is truly a time of wonder, hard work, adaptation, achievement and success. I could not be more proud of our faculty for leading this effort; our outstanding life coaches and learning designers who work tirelessly to help facilitate this work; and, of course, our students. I also want to salute all of you for your support, good counsel and faith in the power and vibrancy of a Maryville education.

With best wishes,

Mark Lombardi

Mark Lombardi, PhD





## MARYVILLE UNIVERSITY NAMED

# Apple Distinguished School (Again!)

Maryville University has been named an Apple Distinguished School for 2018-2021 – marking the second recognition – for leadership and excellence in providing students with a high-tech, mobile learning environment. Maryville’s Digital World program gives students the digital fluency and personalized learning they need to succeed in the workforce of the future.

“Maryville University is proud to receive our second consecutive Apple Distinguished School designation,” said president Mark Lombardi, PhD. “The recognition reaffirms our active learning approach as a revolutionary


model for the future of higher education. Our students overwhelmingly say Digital World is essential to their academic success. Our commitment to personalized learning using the technology of today and tomorrow is essential to our students’ academic and career achievements.”

Apple Distinguished Schools inspire creativity, collaboration and critical thinking through the innovative use of technology in learning and teaching, with documented results of academic accomplishment.



Our commitment to personalized learning using the technology of today and tomorrow is essential to our students’ academic and career achievements.

Through Digital World, every traditional undergraduate student receives a free iPad loaded with more than 75 learning apps designed to facilitate study in fields from the sciences to math, the humanities and many more. The program creates a faculty-student partnership that puts students at the center of their learning. To enhance this partnership, Maryville has invested significant resources in faculty professional development to expand their understanding of best practices using iPad learning technology.

“Maryville educators are tremendously committed to student learning – and technology is a proven invitation and inspiration to be even more powerful and imaginative communicators,” said Cherie Fister, MFA, vice president for academic affairs. 




Learn more about Maryville’s second Apple Distinguished School designation including special remarks by president Mark Lombardi, PhD, at [maryville.edu/magazine](http://maryville.edu/magazine).



## NEW ONLINE DEGREE PROGRAMS ANNOUNCED

Twelve new online degree programs – two master’s degrees and 10 bachelor’s degrees – will be offered beginning Fall 2019 to allow students to pursue an accessible and flexible education. The expansion of Maryville’s online degree portfolio aligns with the University’s student-centered approach, which aims to meet the higher education needs of all adult learners, regardless of location, age or circumstance.

“We are thrilled to continue our online programs expansion. Maryville University offers increased options to determined students whose life situation may not permit a traditional campus or classroom experience,” said president Mark Lombardi, PhD. “New, specialized programs, including senior living management and data science, will position students to capitalize on growing career fields, while liberal arts staples such as English and history will strengthen the quality of the students’ education.”

The new online programs build on nearly 150 years of academic excellence at Maryville and a tradition of innovation that adapts to meet the changing needs of students. In addition, Maryville continues to build on traditional academic programs and will soon expand cutting-edge learning spaces across campus. Nationally ranked Maryville University continues to grow impressively, reporting a 16 percent overall increase in enrollment this year and more than 80 percent growth in the last five years. 



Maryville University received the 2018 Corporate Diversity Award from the St. Louis American Foundation at the 19th annual Salute to Excellence in Business Awards & Networking Luncheon, which took place in November. The award is presented annually to honor an organization’s continued, progressive commitment to diversity in the St. Louis region.

“We are humbled and thrilled to have received this outstanding recognition,” said president Mark Lombardi, PhD. “Maryville has worked strategically and passionately to build a diverse



MARYVILLE HONORED WITH  
CORPORATE DIVERSITY AWARD

and inclusive learning environment and that work will continue to accelerate and grow.”

To signify the importance of this commitment, diversity and inclusion are core values of Maryville and one of the pillars of the University’s strategic plan.

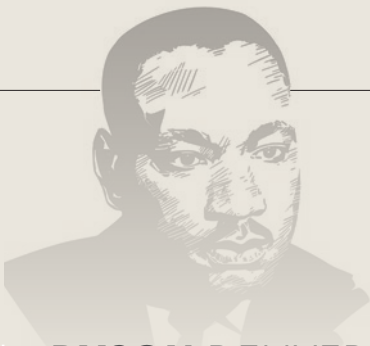
“Through a clear and determined strategy that will not end, we have recruited a more diverse student body, faculty and staff who engage in a wide variety of curricular and enrichment programs designed to build a truly inclusive campus culture,” Lombardi said. “We are by no means finished, but, led by our Office of Diversity and Inclusion, we believe that issues surrounding diversity and inclusion can be addressed and solved through engaged civil dialogue and respect for all people and their experiences.”

Over the past five years, Maryville has intentionally worked toward building a more diverse campus community. Students of color represent 25 percent of the total student population, and that number has doubled since 2008. The number of diverse faculty and staff tripled over the same time period.

Additionally, Maryville University is expanding access to higher education for all students. The University’s Multicultural Scholarship program has grown exponentially over the past five years—the number of scholarship participants increased by 54 percent in the past year alone. The University has also raised millions from generous donors and matched those funds with institutional support to open the doors of access for several hundred students from the St. Louis region and beyond. **M**

▲ President Mark Lombardi, PhD, with emcee Carol Daniel at the St. Louis American Foundation’s 2018 Salute to Business Excellence Luncheon.

Students of color represent  
**25%**  
of Maryville’s total student  
population, and that number  
has **doubled since 2008.**



DYSON DELIVERS ANNUAL  
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. ADDRESS

Michael Eric Dyson, a Georgetown University sociology professor, New York Times contributing opinion writer and contributing editor of The New Republic and ESPN’s The Undeclared website, delivered the 2019 address for Maryville University’s annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration.

Dyson delivered a powerful message about race in America. “We must be concerned about, and pay attention to, the issue of race in America,” Dyson said. “It makes a difference for us to fight for justice, to make sure barriers are lowered, impediments are removed and obstacles eradicated so people are allowed to exist freely in their own bodies.”

Dyson argued the only way to achieve a socially just America is by embracing our differences. “America at its best is about the teeming, bustling diversity that makes us all uncomfortable,” he said. “We must make a space and place for every religion, identity and understanding of the world in which we live.”

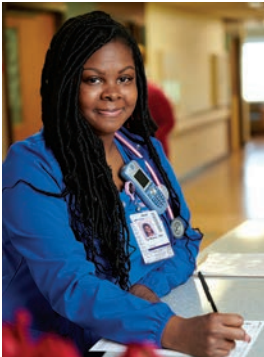
Additionally, Dyson met with members of the Maryville community during his daylong visit. Events included a book signing, a reception hosted by the Office of Diversity and Inclusion and a faculty and staff book discussion around his recent work “Tears We Cannot Stop: A Sermon to White America.” **M**



“AMERICA AT ITS BEST  
IS ABOUT THE TEEMING,  
BUSTLING DIVERSITY  
THAT MAKES US ALL  
UNCOMFORTABLE”

Maryville Named Top Producer of  
African American Graduate Degrees

Maryville University ranks among the top producers of graduate degrees for African American students, according to Diverse: Issues in Higher Education. The University was No. 9 on the publication’s “Top 100 Producers of Graduate Degrees 2018” for master’s degrees awarded to African American students in the areas of registered nursing, nursing administration, nursing research and clinical nursing. Additionally, Maryville ranked No. 13 for master of business administration degrees and No. 45 for master of rehabilitation counseling degrees for African American students. Two Maryville doctorate programs—doctor of nursing practice and doctor of education—were also ranked for African American graduates. The annual list is based on data collected by the U.S. Department of Education’s National Center for Education Statistics. **M**



START YOUR ENGINES

In conjunction with the Rawlings Sport Business Management Program, Gateway Motorsports Park conducted extensive fan surveys following its 2017 and 2018 INDYCAR and NASCAR events. As a result of the surveys, changes have been made to provide a better race day experience for fans. These include the addition of more premium seating options, streamlined branding and naming for seating sections and upgrades to video screens in the grandstand area. Additionally, the surveys provided detailed information regarding fans’ likes and needs for season tickets packages. Now, fans will be able to secure upgrades like souvenir program vouchers and multiple parking options at the time of their original ticket orders. **M**





## A Vision for the New University

Maryville University has gained a national reputation for leading a revolution in higher education. But many universities across the U.S. are facing challenges because of rapidly shifting student demographics and increasing legislative and public pressures. In the new book “Pivot: A Vision for the New University,” authors Mark Lombardi, PhD, president of Maryville University, and Joanne Soliday, co-founder of Credo higher education consulting firm, outline the disruptive changes that must occur for universities to flourish in the 21st century.

*In an interview with Maryville Magazine, Lombardi shares Maryville’s winning strategy.*

**Q: Why is a revolution necessary?**

**A:** Today’s students don’t go to a university for content. They go to a university to facilitate their own intellectual journey. That means universities have to change the way they teach and the way they provide services to students. “Pivot” is designed to help universities understand this reality and figure out how to educate students in this modern world.

**Q: How is Maryville leading the revolution?**

**A:** Maryville is leading the revolution because we understand the way students engage with learning and information is fundamentally different than it was in the past. Learning is not a passive experience with students sitting in rows listening to a lecture. Learning is where students are actively engaged in problem solving, in teamwork and in creating their own learning experiences. We also understand that education for working adults is absolutely imperative in today’s society. Online programs allow these men and women to expand skills needed in their current jobs or start new careers, all while balancing jobs and families.

**Q: What are Maryville’s goals for the future?**

**A:** The future is about access and opportunity for all students, particularly first-generation college students, students of color and students from underrepresented groups. Maryville University will continue to lead the way in creating powerful learning opportunities for all students. We will reinvent existing academic programs and create new programs in emerging



fields to ensure students gain the skills and experience they need for the jobs of the future.

**Q: What can other institutions learn from Maryville?**

**A:** “Pivot” came out of many years of outstanding work by Maryville faculty and staff. The book captures and encapsulates that effort. Even if you aren’t familiar with higher education, you can read the book and understand the changes required for a university to thrive. Every university has the ability to pivot and make changes. But, it requires courage and bravery to act. **M**



◀ A small group of students and faculty curated an exhibit commemorating the 100th anniversary of the 1918 influenza pandemic and its ties to World War I. From left: Emily Street, biology major; Germaine Murray, PhD, professor of English; Wyatt Thurman, education major; Christopher O’Connor, PhD, assistant professor of biology; and Caitlin Allen, English major.

## Interdisciplinary Collaboration Examines Flu Pandemic

To commemorate the 100th anniversary of the 1918 influenza pandemic and its ties to World War I, a team of Maryville University faculty and students curated an exhibit in the Morton J. May Foundation Gallery in November.

Germaine Murray, PhD, professor of English, led the team of researchers. The project involved interdisciplinary collaboration between a small group of English, biology, education and design and visual art students and faculty.

“I wanted to study the flu because it’s a story that doesn’t get told in the history books,” Murray said. “The disease also has close connections to World War I, which was the most important event of the 20th century and affected the arts in a profound way.”

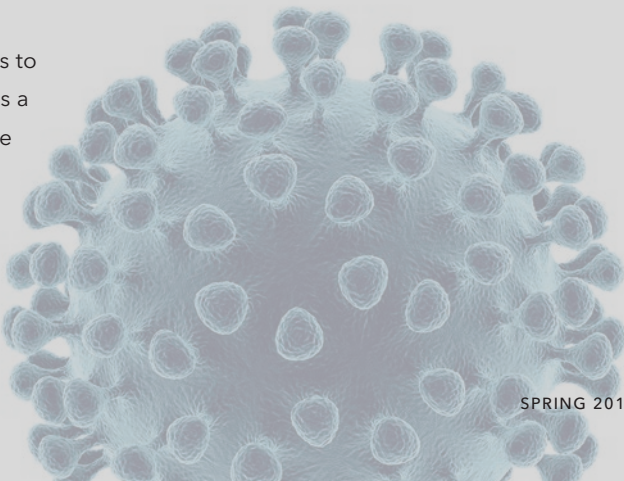
Four years ago, Murray and John Baltrushunas, MFA, associate professor of art and director of the May Gallery, curated “World War I Remembered,” an exhibit marking the 100th anniversary of the start of the war. That exhibit honored the men and women who served or volunteered during the war.

Christopher O’Connor, PhD, assistant professor of biology, joined Murray and Baltrushunas on this new collection, which explored the war through the lens of the influenza virus. Seniors Caitlin Allen, an English student; Emily Street, a biology major; and Wyatt Thurman, who is studying education; worked alongside their professors to explore the impact of the influenza pandemic and present their findings as part of the exhibit.

“We encouraged our students to conduct research because it was a way for us to bring the things we discussed in class into the real world,” O’Connor said. The team spent more than a year researching, collecting artifacts and writing descriptions for

those pieces, and meeting weekly to discuss their findings, he said.

Visitors to the gallery were greeted by a large 3D model of the 1918 influenza virus, printed by the Big Rep One printer from Maryville’s Design & Visual Art Program. Smaller, handheld 3D models of the virus were also on display so visitors could take them apart and put them back together using color-coded keys. **M**



### MUSIC ON THE HILL:

In February, 25 students and faculty from Maryville’s Music Therapy Program traveled to Jefferson City, Missouri, to lobby state senators and representatives about the importance of music therapy and the need for more licensure. During the visit, the group was let into the Whispering Gallery of the Missouri State Capitol to perform “God Bless America.” Legislators and staff at the bottom of the rotunda enjoyed the impromptu performance and gave a round of applause when it was over. From left, Paden Gunlock, Megan Pomilee, Maddie-Rose Ortinau, Cherry Nguyen and Hannah Wright. **M**








**THE SNOWY DAY:** An early-season snowstorm covered the Maryville campus in a blanket of white on November 15, 2018. The snowstorm dumped near-record amounts with some areas of St. Louis reporting nearly 10 inches. Maryville students enjoyed a brief respite from classes to enjoy fresh powder on the hill behind Saints Hall and build snowmen on the Gander Quad.



THE M STORE ANNOUNCES  
**New Package  
Locker Station**

Residential students can pick up their packages 24/7 thanks to a new Package Locker Station offered through The M Store. As deliveries arrive on campus, packages addressed to residential students are placed in individual lockers by the Document and Mail Center team throughout the day. Residential students are sent an email with a unique code they can use to access the Package Locker Station at their convenience. The station is located on the east side of the Donius University Center and can be accessed through an exterior entrance as well as through the Donius University Center atrium. It is custom wrapped and features Louie, with a large “Go Saints!” across the front. 

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NOW ONLINE.**

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**GULAS TO RETIRE AS DEAN OF WALKER  
COLLEGE OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS**

Charles J. Gulas, PhD, dean of the Myrtle E. and Earl E. Walker College of Health Professions and professor of physical therapy at Maryville University, will retire effective at the end of the academic year. In his 20 years of service to Maryville, including 14 years as dean, Gulas led steady growth in enrollment, programs and facilities and oversaw the formation of the state-of-the-art Myrtle E. and Earl E. Walker Hall which houses the University’s health profession programs. “Chuck did an exceptional job of growing one of the very best colleges for the health professions in the U.S.,” said president Mark Lombardi, PhD.

**“MARYVILLE ALWAYS MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR ME TO TAKE RISKS WHEN  
DEVELOPING NEW PROGRAMS AND INTRODUCING NEW TEACHING METHODS.”**

“Equally important, he has been an outstanding manager and leader of an array of high-quality health programs that will serve as a flagship for Maryville in the decades to come. We are deeply appreciative of his service.” Under Gulas’ leadership, enrollment for the Walker College of Health Professions grew from 790 students in 2004 to more than 5,000 students today. This growth includes the addition of new academic programs as well as significant expansion of the Catherine McAuley School of Nursing for online study. Today, Walker College represents more than half of Maryville’s total enrollment. “I am honored to have shaped the future of many health professionals locally and through our online programs,” Gulas said. “Maryville always made it possible for me to take risks when developing new programs and introducing new teaching methods. I am grateful for the University’s continued support of the health professions.” The Walker College of Health Professions prepares students for careers in communication disorders, speech-language pathology, exercise science, health care administration, health care management, nursing, music therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, rehabilitation counseling and senior living management. The Walker Scottish Rite Clinic for young children with speech and language disorders and Kids Rock Cancer

music therapy program are two of the Walker College community outreach programs. Gulas’ involvement in the planning and development of the Myrtle E. and Earl E. Walker Hall, the home of the Walker College of Health Professions, was instrumental. The 70,000-square-foot building includes state-of-the-art classrooms, meeting spaces, laboratories and offices. Students and faculty utilize spaces such as the nursing simulation lab, featuring computerized mannequins mimicking real-life situations, to the human performance lab, featuring conditioning and strength testing equipment used by professional athletes.

“Though I initially hired Gulas as the clinical coordinator for the Physical Therapy Program, it was obvious he had the skills and knowledge to be program chair,” said Mary Ellen Finch, PhD, senior associate for the Finch Center for Teaching and Learning and former vice president for academic affairs. “But it wasn’t until he was elevated to dean of the Walker College of Health Professions that his skills and ability truly became clear. He has built the Walker College into a major player in the U.S., and his work in the community building partnerships has been critical to Maryville’s growth. He will be missed.” Michelle Jenkins-Unterberg, PT, DHS, ’89, will move into the role of dean following Gulas’ retirement. Jenkins-Unterberg has served as assistant dean for the Walker College of Health Professions since 2015. She also serves as director of the physical therapy program and as a professor of physical therapy. “As a Maryville graduate, I feel fortunate to have been able to see the transformation that the University has undergone over the years,” Jenkins-Unterberg said. “I believe in the vision and strategic plan of the University, and I am excited to guide the Walker College of Health Professions to prepare students not only for health care today, but also to prepare innovative professionals who will shape health care for the future.” 



Walker College represents **MORE THAN HALF** of Maryville’s **TOTAL ENROLLMENT**



**ENROLLMENT** for the Walker College of Health Professions is **MORE THAN 5,000 STUDENTS**



**WALKER HALL** includes **70,000 SQUARE FEET** of **STATE-OF-THE-ART** classrooms, meeting spaces, laboratories and offices



# Future Saints to Compete at State-of-the-Art Athletic Complex

Over the next several years, Maryville University will be working on a series of state-of-the-art campus improvement projects, including a new athletic complex. All projects are designed to enhance and expand Maryville’s Active Learning Ecosystem so that students can enjoy the very best environment to achieve their goals and activate their full potential.

In November, construction began on the Maryville University Athletic Complex. The project is located on the land next to the existing practice fields off Conway Road. Access to the Complex will be through campus along a road located behind Saints Hall.

The Complex will house a competition lacrosse field, a women’s softball stadium and tennis courts for the men and women’s squads. It will also have athletic offices, storage and locker rooms for those sports and a concession area for fans. Additionally, the Complex will greatly enhance intramural and club sports venues for students competing in those activities.

The new facilities are required to match the growth of Maryville’s athletic programs. Maryville teams frequently have to move home contests due to multiple matches on the same day. Having additional fields alleviates this issue, and allows for future growth of those programs. **M**



For more information and project updates, visit [maryville.edu/construction](http://maryville.edu/construction).



**SOO-JIN KWOUN, PHD** associate professor of music therapy, authored the article “Service Learning Within the Community Music Therapy Approach,” which was published in Voices: A World Forum for Music Therapy.



**MATT RAITHEL**, instructor of game design, is the owner and studio director of Graphite Labs, a St. Louis-based company that recently released “Hive Jump” on Nintendo Switch and Xbox One.



Development Director **JAMI DOLBY** was named a 2019 Young Leader by the St. Louis American Foundation.



**NINA CALDWELL, EDD**, vice president for student life, was named a member of the American College Personnel Association (ACPA) Diamond Honoree Class of 2019.



**STACY HOLLINS, PHD**, assistant dean for the John E. Simon School of Business and associate professor of information systems, was named a member of the FOCUS St. Louis Spring 2019 class of Coro Women in Leadership –STEM.



Development Director **EBONEE SHAW** was named to the St. Louis Business Journal’s 40 Under 40 Class of 2019.



**LADONNA WHITTEN, PHD**, associate professor of nursing, co-authored the article “A Crosswalk Between the Omaha System and Guiding Undergraduate Public Health Nursing Education Documents,” which was published in Public Health Nursing.



**OLAIDE OLUWOLE-SANGOSEN, DPT, PHD**, associate professor of physical therapy, was named a Distinguished Fellow of the National Academies of Practice (NAP) in Physical Therapy.



Library director **SANDRA HARRIS** presented at the 2019 Association of College & Research Libraries Conference about Maryville’s adoption of OverDrive to digitally distribute books, audiobooks, music and videos.



**JESSE KAVADLO, PHD**, professor of English, is a guest writer for PopMatters, a magazine about popular culture. He recently interviewed bestselling author Paul Auster for the publication.



## A SMOOTH SEA NEVER MADE A SKILLFUL SAILOR

NAVY VETERAN FINDS FELLOWSHIP THROUGH MARYVILLE STUDENT VETERAN ORGANIZATION | BY CONSTANCE GIBBS

Eric Skelton is not your typical college student. Before coming to Maryville, he worked on naval aircraft carriers, had a full-time job in the aviation industry, met the love of his life and welcomed his first child. Now, he's on campus with the goal of furthering his career. His success is largely due to the fellowship and camaraderie he's discovered through the Maryville Student Veteran Organization (SVO).

Skelton's story begins after his high school graduation. He attended a college close to home, where he got mixed up in the wrong crowd. His studies quickly declined, and he was forced to leave school. Looking for a new direction, he decided to follow in the footsteps of his grandfather, father and aunt and join the Navy.

Skelton enlisted as an aviation structural mechanic. He would spend the next four years in Japan, working on aircraft carriers stationed at Naval Air Facility Atsugi and then at U.S. Fleet Activities Yokosuka. A normal day was a 12-hour shift on the flight deck working on F-18 fighter jets, building ejection seats, installing air conditioning systems and conducting other routine repairs. In his downtime, Skelton worked out at the gym and studied baseball in his bunk.

The work was rewarding, but Skelton faced challenges. Fellow military personnel in his unit struggled with high anxiety and mental illness. That stress, coupled with the demands of military life and his high-risk job, took their toll. When Skelton returned home to Missouri, he turned to alcohol to help him deal with the loneliness and fear.

"Civilian life didn't treat me well for a while," Skelton said. "I battled some personal demons and was going down a hard path until someone took a chance on me."

That someone was his now-fiancée, Tiffany. She encouraged Skelton to seek treatment and helped him secure a job. In the process, Skelton was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder. The diagnosis helped him seek out additional help, including being paired with Gemma, a yellow Labrador retriever. Gemma provides support in coping with emotional overload and has greatly contributed to Skelton's healing.

Shortly thereafter, Skelton found Maryville. He was drawn to the University because of its small student-to-faculty ratio. He also discovered academic programs aligning with his interests. He's

**"CIVILIAN LIFE DIDN'T TREAT ME WELL FOR A WHILE. I BATTLED SOME PERSONAL DEMONS AND WAS GOING DOWN A HARD PATH UNTIL SOMEONE TOOK A CHANCE ON ME."**

currently majoring in communication and plans to pursue sports journalism after graduation.

While Skelton loves Maryville, he admits the transition to college life was tough because he is older and has more life experience than most students in his classes. "I met some people in class, but I didn't go out of my way to make new friends. I just wanted to get my schooling done and get good grades," Skelton said. But this past semester, he learned about the new Maryville SVO, which has brought him out of his shell.



◀ Navy veteran Eric Skelton is often seen on campus with his service dog, Gemma, and his son, Micah.

"I met other student veterans, and we have so much in common," he said. "These men and women are easy to talk to, and we can relate to each other's experiences. An hour-long conversation feels like just a few minutes."

Skelton helped organize the group's first-ever donation drive during the holiday season. Maryville SVO collected arts and crafts supplies, clothing, hygiene items and toys for Youth in Need, a nonprofit

organization providing resources for at-risk children and teens. Skelton also helped manage Maryville SVO's Facebook page and Instagram account to promote the event.

"If you had asked me last year, 'Would you consider being a member of a student organization?' I would have told you 'No,'" Skelton said. "But if I could go back and give myself advice, I would say, 'Go look into this! Get involved with something around campus. You won't regret it.'" **M**



**STAY CONNECTED.** [maryville.edu/magazine](http://maryville.edu/magazine)





# DESIGN THINKING IS THE STORY

BY NANCY FOWLER



Solving a design problem by visualizing it in your head while simultaneously sketching it takes a lot of concentration, especially for a student just learning the craft. So imagine doing all that while also explaining it out loud to the whole class.

The process may sound intimidating, but Mike Keller, '00, assistant professor of interior design, believes it helps students come up with creative, more effective solutions. The method Keller calls "Live Drawing with Narration" began to take root as he worked with a student who was struggling with a project.

"I said, 'Let's get through this together,'" Keller remembered. At issue was the backdrop of a reception area. How should it be assembled? First Keller drew, and then the student ended up drawing as they talked it through. "We figured out that it could be prefabricated, not piece by piece, because that would be flimsy, hard to build and very costly," Keller said. "We realized together, 'This makes a lot of sense.'"

Keller began to integrate Live Drawing with Narration into the curriculum of his interior design classes at Maryville, a decision that

has led to many "a-ha" moments. Recently, a student was sketching and describing aloud a glass front building. The activity led her to solve the pressing problem of where to hide a radiant heater in a transparent display.

"In this way, the process starts to work like a forensic tool," Keller said. "She began to see where to put the heater so that it would be invisible on the outside."

Many students are understandably apprehensive about drawing while talking. "You take a position of authority when you stand up in front of the class," Keller explained. "If you grab a pen and you start to draw, it seems to say, 'I know what this is and I'm going to share it with you.' It builds trust."


This semester, Keller is experimenting with a different—and perhaps less formidable—twist on Live Drawing: placing students in an office-type setting in which they sketch an idea on an iPad and project it onto a larger screen. "This way, they're not standing up in front of the class but they're still leading the discussion," he said.

When it's time for students to enter an actual workplace, they will have a leg up with

▲ This page and opposite page: Assistant professor of interior design Mike Keller is teaching his students to sketch a design and revise it in real time. The technique is building confidence and communication skills in his students that they will take with them into the professional realm.

the technique in their toolbox, Keller said. He believes sketching a design and revising it in real time can help convince a boss or client that you're onto something.

"If you just say your idea, people can more easily shut it down," Keller said. "But if you start to put a drawing or some sort of sketch to it, people are going to take a little bit more time with it and it's harder for them to deny the idea."

In addition to its practical applications, Live Drawing with Narration builds confidence and communication skills that students will take with them into the professional realm, Keller said. "It helps them with sharing their ideas," he said. "And that's what the profession of design is about: sharing those ideas and selling them effectively to others." 





# #YOUTHQUAKE

## University Seminar Helps First-Year Students

### Explore Their Personal Identities | BY JONG CAMBRON

One of the many exciting opportunities for a first-year Maryville student is the University Seminar course, which all first-year students enroll in during their first semester. But the University Seminar is much more than a required course. It provides a distinctive opportunity for students to work closely with peers and a trio of instructors on an important topic of mutual interest.

Maryville University is known for its high level of collaboration among faculty and staff. This past fall, that collaboration took on a new meaning when the University Seminar course, commonly known as USEM, introduced a new concept: team teaching in the classroom.

Previously, the University Seminar course was taught by just one faculty member. The format changed this fall to have a trio—a life coach, a faculty member and a staff member—teaching a group of students together.

The University Seminar course offers first-year students an introduction to higher education and helps them develop skills that will support them during their transition to life at Maryville, as well as enhance their experience as students from first year to graduation. Throughout the semester-long course, students participate in activities such as writing, research, critical reading and presentations. This past year, course themes included “Setting My

College Soul on Fire,” “Life Hacking Your Way Through College” and “Developing Your Personal Brand.”

“It was my favorite class,” said Lacey Snell, a first-year student majoring in communication.

“I loved the way all three of my USEM instructors taught. But I also loved that all three were more than just teachers, they were also great connectors. If I needed something, I knew they would be there and listen to me, and give me the same advice they would give their own children.”

Snell’s trio of instructors—Laura Ross, associate director of the Finch Center for Teaching and Learning; Alex Wulff, assistant professor of English; and Brittney Williams, life coach—gave themselves the nickname “The Dream Team.” The three taught the theme

of #YouthQuake, which was the 2017 Oxford Dictionary Word of the Year. The term is defined as “a significant cultural, political or social change arising from the actions or influence of young people.”

Ross explains the trio wanted their students to make a significant change in their communities by creating off-campus and on-campus group projects. The students met the challenge with flying colors. They completed projects such as raising money through a bake sale for the St. Louis Crisis Nursery, advocating for mental health on campus, volunteering at a veterans hospital and hosting a diversity dialogue.


“I think our students were successful because they had access to all three instructors,” Ross said. In past years, Ross taught the University Seminar course by herself. But she found the new structure to be more rewarding. “It was incredibly exciting to see how much our students grew over the semester,” she said.

The trio of #YouthQuake instructors said that team teaching did offer up some challenges, and required them to step out of their comfort zones. “At first, I was nervous about having three instructors,” Wulff said. “I have limited experience team teaching, and all

of my experiences as a student in team-taught classrooms were quite bad.”

But Wulff explains the team teaching concept was beneficial to the students, which is the most important takeaway from the experience. “We had the chance to get feedback from our students after the semester was over, and what we heard is that they enjoyed the course,” he said. “The students felt they had a chance to make good friends, get involved in the community and do some interesting work. We were thrilled to receive this positive feedback.”

But the work doesn’t stop now. The trio is already planning for next year’s University Seminar course. They will continue teaching together and have started discussing how they can improve the #YouthQuake curriculum.

“I’m looking forward to sharing more of our personal perspectives on the subject matters we cover in class,” Williams said. “I believe by sharing our personal narratives, our students are better able to understand different viewpoints. That skill is so important during their time at Maryville and when they leave this campus.” 



# How to Throw a STRIKE in the World of Physics

BY MAUREEN ZEGEL

Maryville is changing the way students learn physics thanks to new wireless sensors, which allow students to design and conduct their own experiments outside of the classroom.



This page and opposite page: Using wireless electrocardiogram sensors, students measured the electrical activity of the Maryville women's bowling team's hearts. They first measured the bowlers' resting heart rates, and then measured their increased heart rates after they had bowled for a few minutes. Scientific concepts around electricity, like these, are taught in Maryville's introductory physics classes.

Candace Chambers-Colbeck, PhD, professor of chemistry, spreads a handful of small plastic gadgets out on her desk. She introduces the gadgets: lightweight, wireless, portable sensors that allow students to literally immerse themselves in their physics classes.

"Our experiments aren't inside in the traditional lab anymore," Chambers-Colbeck said. "These sensors allow our students to work outdoors and measure physics in the real world. Students can go anywhere they want and find physics on their own, instead of being confined to a room and working from an old-fashioned packet with 50-plus recipe-style directions."

During the once-a-week lab period, students pair up and venture outside on their own, using what they have learned in class to design their own physics experiments. They use the various wireless sensors to measure real-world experiences like sound, light, velocity and rotation. After collecting the data they've gathered on campus, they report back to the classroom to create reports of their work on their iPads.

Students use words like "cool" to explain what they're doing. Professors refer to the process as "inquiry- or project-based learning." For students, a big part of the cool factor

is using their iPads at every phase of the experiments. From interacting with the wireless sensors through Bluetooth, collecting and storing data and taking photos and videos to create an online publication for each experiment, the iPad helps give the whole process high marks.

Abigail Johnson, a pre-med student, and her partner set out one unseasonably warm day in February to test how barriers and temperatures affect the speed of sound. "It was very hands-on," Johnson said. "We set up the sensor, then clapped our hands to measure the speed of sound in the air. We then created an interactive report on our iPads explaining what we did, why we did it and how we did it. It was a different, more engaging way to learn—instead of being told what to do and how to do it."

A second group of students tested the same concept on another, colder day. They got very different results, providing another teaching moment. The colder the temperature of the air, the slower sound traveled.

The wireless sensors were also used for an experiment at a local bowling alley while the Maryville women's bowling team practiced. Bowling provides an excellent real-world example of dramatic changes in forces,

directions and accelerations. Students used the sensors to capture the speed of the bowling ball as it moved down the lane.

The students also used a wireless electrocardiogram sensor to measure the electrical activity of the bowlers' hearts. They first measured the bowlers' resting heart rates, and then measured their increased heart rates after they had bowled for a few minutes. Results immediately displayed on the students' iPads. Scientific concepts around electricity, like these, are taught in Maryville's introductory physics classes.

Assistant professor of physics Kelly Lave, PhD, said the new wireless sensors send a message to students that the professors trust them to think for themselves. "Instead of







*"We're able to show students the connection between science and their everyday lives."*

physics being a theoretical thing, students can go outside and record the motion of a car or a person passing by," Lave said. "They come up with a way to explore the concepts instead of faculty thinking for them. As a result, they get the opportunity to be creative and have ownership over their ideas."


Lave said requirements for an experiment are usually centered on a specific goal, and guidance is always provided to students, if needed. "Most of the time it's me simply pointing them in the right direction," she said. "I tell them to zero in on what we've been studying. And I explain what the data will look like when it starts coming in so they know if they're getting useful stuff from the wireless sensors. Some ask a lot of questions beforehand. Others say, 'I've got this' and they're gone."

Charleigh Koch, a second-year physical therapy major, readily admits to once dreading two semesters of physics. In the beginning, she would call her father, an engineer, if she got stuck on a problem. "Physics was a challenge for me because

some of the concepts were difficult to understand," she said. "Sometimes, I just couldn't get it from the book."

But now, she looks forward to her physics classes. "Getting out and using the wireless sensors, and being able to actually see how all the pieces go together, really helped me master the concepts. I don't have to call my dad anymore."

The wireless sensors have not only changed the way students learn, but they have also changed the way faculty teach. "The wireless sensors give faculty the opportunity to ask more open-ended questions and challenge students to think deeper," said Jennifer Yukna, PhD, interim dean for the College of Arts and Sciences and associate professor of chemistry.

"We're able to show students the connection between science and their everyday lives," Yukna said. "And the more we interact with students in that way, the richer the learning experience has been for them and for us, too." 



This page and opposite page: Wireless sensors record the speed of the bowling ball as it moves down the lane. With the data collected on their iPads, students learn about acceleration, forces, momentum and impulse. Experiments such as these were not possible before Maryville's adoption of the new wireless sensors.

*"Our experiments aren't inside in the traditional lab anymore."*





# FOUR YEARS LATER

BY CONSTANCE GIBBS

To support student success in an ever-changing society, Maryville launched its Digital World Program in 2015. Digital World provides an iPad to all traditional undergraduate students and select graduate programs. Traditional undergraduate students who arrived on campus when Digital World launched four years ago are the first class to graduate after having used an iPad their entire college career.

The iPad has enabled Maryville University to revolutionize the passive model of education by moving to an Active Learning Ecosystem, where the student is the central focus and hands-on learning with technology is built into the fabric of the curriculum. The iPad offers students a personalized learning approach and the freedom to learn anywhere, anytime. Simply put, the iPad enables students to develop the skills they need to be successful.

"Maryville is remarkably different than it was four years ago," said Sam Harris, director of learning technology and support. "Digital World caused a cultural shift in the way our faculty teach and the way our students learn. Today, faculty are no longer standing at a podium above the students—they are side by side. Students are active in their learning and faculty are active in helping them understand."

## DIGITAL WORLD: BY THE NUMBERS



4,000 iPads



200+ Curated apps



75 Apps provided to students at no cost



Annually save \$300,000+ on academic software



### GOALS

- Promote and build digital literacy through course work
- Use the iPad as a meaningful learning tool
- Identify and incorporate high-quality digital learning content
- Equip students and faculty with technology that levels the playing field for all



### RESULTS

- 94%** of students agree technology is **instrumental to their success at Maryville**
- 91%** of students agree the iPad helps them **better connect with classmates**
- 81%** of students agree the iPad **contributed** to their learning experience **in a positive way**
- 95%** of full-time faculty **have attended semester-long professional development** related to using the **iPad in the classroom**



Four years ago, Maryville University launched its Digital World Program. We interviewed several students as incoming freshmen, and revisited their experiences four years later. Learn more at [maryville.edu/digitalworld](http://maryville.edu/digitalworld).

## HIGHLIGHTS

**SPRING 2014**  
President, faculty member and senior administrator visit Apple

**FALL 2014**  
Digital World committee forms

**SPRING 2015**  
First students (incoming freshmen) receive iPads

Faculty receive iPads

First Maryville faculty member named Apple Distinguished Educator

**FALL 2015**  
First time students have iPads in the classroom

**SPRING 2016**  
All traditional undergraduate students receive iPads

**FALL 2016**  
Maryville named Apple Distinguished School

**SPRING 2017**  
Four faculty members named Apple Distinguished Educators

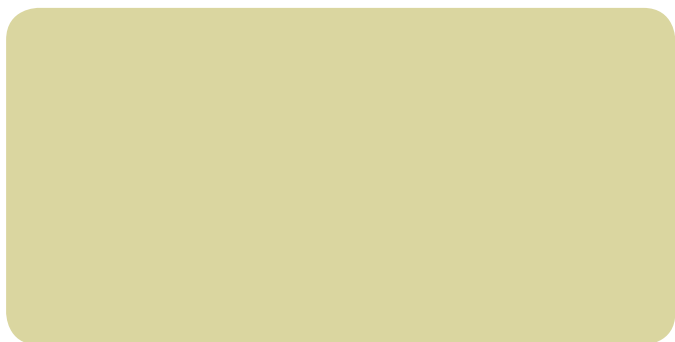
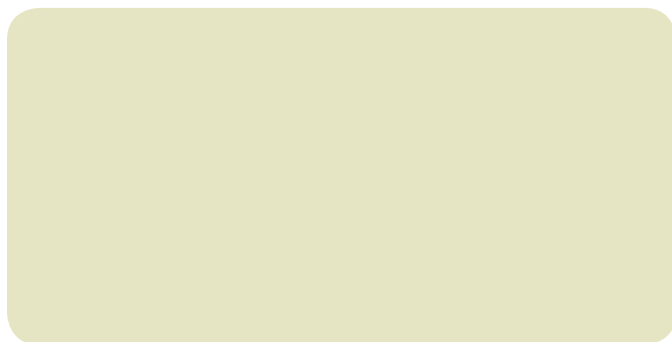
**FALL 2017**  
Digital World expands to include strategic communication and leadership graduate program

**SPRING 2018**  
Digital World expands to include occupational therapy, speech-language pathology and rehabilitation counseling graduate programs

**FALL 2018**  
Maryville renewed as an Apple Distinguished School

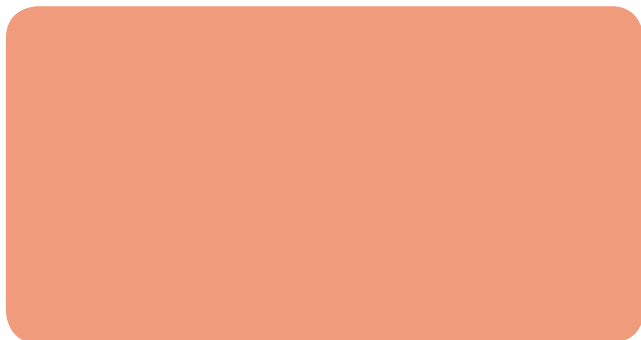
**SPRING 2019**  
One faculty member named Apple Distinguished Educator





# Education is a Family Affair

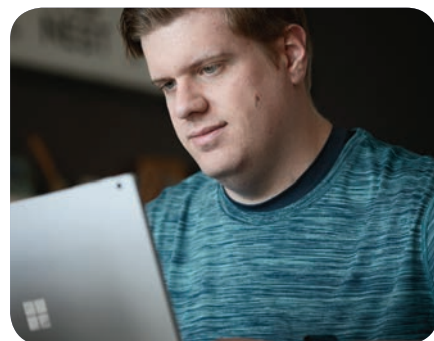
BY CONSTANCE GIBBS



Education is a way for working adults to expand on skills needed in their current jobs or start new careers, ultimately changing their lives.

High school sweethearts Hannah and Zeb Walton are pursuing their advanced degrees in the hopes of providing a better future for their children. The husband and wife team balance full-time jobs (she works for a financial services company and he as an information technology administrator for a local construction company) with raising a three-year-old son, an eight-year-old daughter and three fur babies. They sneak in schoolwork after bedtime or during lunch hours, when they're not doing dishes or paying bills or designing their dream home, which they hope to break ground on this summer.

Hannah and Zeb are able to pursue their education thanks to Maryville's online programs. The couple's hometown in rural Indiana prevents them from coming to campus, though they don't have time to sit in a classroom anyway. Maryville's online programs offer flexible learning environments so Hannah and Zeb can attend class whenever and wherever they want.







"The kids realize how hard we both work. We really want to instill that education is important."

Most days, that's from the comfort of their own home, sitting across from each other at the dining room table. They're pursuing two different degree programs, cyber security and business administration, but that doesn't prevent them from brainstorming ideas together and proofreading each other's assignments.

The couple has seen how rapidly the demands of today's working world change. Higher-level positions require a higher degree of education. Skills that were never needed 10 years ago are now in high demand. The job market in their small town is competitive, and higher-paying positions are often secured through personal connections, not through experience or hard work.

That's why they are turning their ambitions into action. "For our generation, having a bachelor's degree is like having a GED: everyone has it," Zeb said. "But I don't want to be complacent. I want to be continually improving, and stand out in a crowd. That's why I'm pursuing my master's."

The couple also wants to set an example of lifelong learning for their two young children. Hannah is the first member of her family to graduate from college. Zeb is the second of his family; his mother completed her bachelor's degree through night classes when he was growing up. "The kids realize how hard we both work," Hannah said. "We really want to instill that education is important."

Hannah and Zeb are not alone. Nearly 30 million working adults in the United States aspire to complete a college degree they began years ago, and more than 40 million others could enhance their career prospects, but have never attended a higher-education institution. These tens of millions of people want to go back to school and pursue their dreams, but often face multiple obstacles in their path.

A new generation of online learning that utilizes the best of technology and learning design is opening doors for more and more institutions and learners to come together in a more effective way—a far cry from the early days of online programs. When online education began 25 years

ago, it was rudimentary, static and broadly a passive exercise of watching traditionally produced lecture content disseminated on a computer screen.


Today, online learning has undergone a fundamental and dynamic rebirth. The delivery system has evolved to include more robust content, expanded interactive experiences and greater faculty-student engagement. At Maryville, a talented team of learning designers and instructional tech wizards partner with faculty to build these engaging online classes. Hannah and Zeb credit their ease of online learning to this new delivery system.

They especially appreciate Canvas, the digital platform for Maryville's online programs. Canvas is cloud-based and can be accessed on computers as well as mobile devices through an app. "It's very clean and easy to navigate," Zeb said. The couple also enjoys interacting with other online students on the platform. "I'm not just posting to a discussion board, I'm actually talking with other students," Hannah said. "We're having meaningful conversations and the friendships are very real."

Another large part of the couple's success is the support they receive from Maryville's academic advisors. "Even though you're an online student, you have the support as if you were sitting in a classroom," Hannah said. Both Hannah and Zeb participate in monthly phone calls with their advisors, who answer questions and provide resources around registering for classes, financial aid and more. Their advisors are also available day to day via email, online chat or even text messaging. "It makes it so much easier when you have that person cheering for you," she said.

But some days, it's difficult for Hannah and Zeb to shake off the weight of it all. There's a lot riding on their success. So on hard days, the couple remembers that their education is not just about earning a degree, it's about achieving their dreams. They think about the plot of land they've picked out for their dream home, and about providing opportunities for their children that they didn't have.

"One of our goals is to be able to fully fund our children's college education so they don't have to take out student loans like we did," Hannah said. With the rising costs of tuition, it's estimated that the average American has more than \$30 thousand in student loans. Paired with other financial burdens, that debt could be crippling. But because of Hannah and Zeb, their children may never have to bear that burden.

"We know long-term this is exactly what we need to do to better ourselves, be a positive image for our children and to have a chance for career opportunities in areas we are passionate about," Hannah said. "Throughout all of this, we have our kids and our family in our mind. That's the reason we're doing it all." 



"Throughout all of this, we have our kids and our family in our mind. **That's the reason we're doing it all.**"





# Pirates, Princes & Popes

BY TIM FOX

## History Class Immerses Maryville Students in Renaissance Europe

**F**or most of her senior year, Brie Howerton was a mild-mannered pre-med student, working hard to balance her full course load with her extracurricular activities. But for a few days last semester, she became Baldino and Isabella Malapensi, scions of a property-holding family in 15th century Florence, Italy.

Howerton's transformation was part of an ambitious Active Learning Ecosystem project designed by Lisa Lillie, PhD, assistant professor of history and director of the history program. The project was for one of her honors courses entitled "Pirates, Princes, Popes: Medici and Renaissance Europe."

"The challenge was to find a way to help modern-day 18-year-olds wrap their heads around the complex social world of Renaissance Europe," Lillie said. "How could I make it come alive for them?" Lillie's ingenious solution: create an interactive game around the concept of vendetta.

In the ancient world, a vendetta, or blood feud, was an act of vengeance set off by a family member being killed or injured by another family. Wrapped in strong feelings of honor and loyalty, vendettas could last for generations before being finally resolved. In the process, many innocent people could die.

The game began by Lillie assigning groups of students to one of four Renaissance families. Three of them—the Alberti, the Foresi and the Medici—were real historical families. Lillie invented the fourth, the Malapensi ("bad thoughts"). She then carefully crafted scenarios for each family. For example, the Malapensi were an ancient family with extensive property holdings, but little revenue.

raucous!" Lillie said. "It was definitely not part of the usual teaching plan. I knew that some students would emerge as natural leaders, but the game brought out many different aspects of their personalities."

Howerton agreed. "It got intense really fast," she said. "People were becoming pregnant out of wedlock, killing each other, becoming widows or widowers. We realized right away how important it was to be in the top family, and how easy it was to drop in status."

Grouping students by privilege, or lack thereof, opened larger conversations about contemporary issues of identity and privilege. By playing both a male and a female family member, Howerton realized how little power

*"There is great value in learning through play. One of the exciting things about being at Maryville is that the leadership has asked the faculty to rethink what learning looks like."*

Over the course of the game, families received points for significant events, like the baptism of a child or a successful marriage as well as acts of civic charity, like funding a public art project. Teams lost points for practicing usury, the illegal action or practice of lending money at unreasonably high rates. At the end of the game, the teams were ranked based on how much money they had accrued. But the most points went to the family that had completed a successful vendetta.

As the students—now family members—schemed ways to increase their fortunes, Lillie played "God," going about the classroom letting each family know that various events had occurred. In the tenuous world she created for the game, the birth of a child, the loss of property or a murder could lead to chaos in the social order.


"Students had to get into the mindset of a culture where things like your family, the part of the city you lived in and your genealogy controlled all aspects of your life," she explains. "And if you crossed those dividing lines you could get into trouble—even becoming part of a vendetta."

Needless to say, in the game, things became very interesting, very quickly. "It was kind of

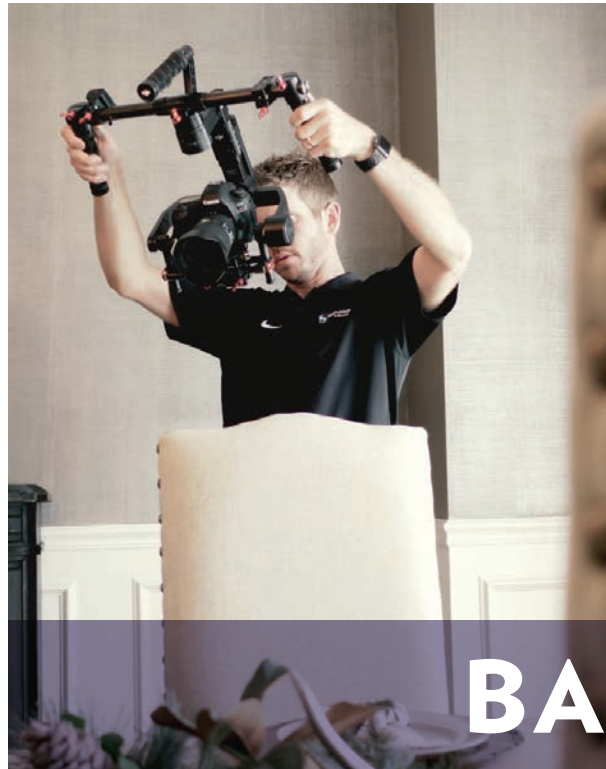
she would have had as a young woman at the time. If she spoke up with an idea as "Isabella," Lillie was quick to swoop in and remind her that she didn't have a voice.

"It was so frustrating!" Howerton said. "When I had a good idea, I had to wait my turn to voice it. But by the time I did, one of the guys had already made the decision. It made me thankful I didn't live in that society. It also made me think more about the struggles women still face today."

Another of Howerton's takeaways was that in this world, spiritual currency ultimately counted for more than material wealth. Many students expected the well-known Medici family would win the game because of their vast holdings and political power. But in the end, it was the Alberti family who gathered the most points because they made investments with lasting significance, such as funding buildings and art.

"There is great value in learning through play," Lillie said. "One of the exciting things about being at Maryville is that the leadership has asked the faculty to rethink what learning looks like. This project allowed my students to shift their perspectives and grasp difficult concepts, all while working together as a group and having fun." 





BACK TO

# SQUARE ONE

The entrepreneurial mindset of two Maryville alumni was so strong that they gave up traditional jobs to create the company of their dreams.

BY CONSTANCE GIBBS

The first video Brandon Monzyk, '10, remembers making was with his family's camcorder as a child. Later, during snowboarding trips as a 20-something bachelor, Monzyk always had a GoPro camera on hand. He would receive his first drone as a gift from his wife after they returned from a float trip, during which Monzyk wished he'd been able to film the clear spring-fed water and bedrock-lined riverbeds from above.

When a family friend heard that Monzyk owned a drone, he was asked to capture an aerial shot of Parkway West High School for a wall display. Monzyk happily obliged, capturing the requested shot and also putting together a short campus tour video. The video was posted

to social media and garnered thousands of views in just minutes.

"I became known as 'the drone guy,'" Monzyk said. He started receiving requests to create similar videos for local businesses and real estate listings. When the calls and emails started coming in at all hours of the night, Monzyk decided it was time to pursue his passion professionally. He quit his full-time software job and started Square One Media Productions.

"It was a little scary because I didn't necessarily know where my next paycheck was going to come from," Monzyk said. "But that was the fun part, too. I got to choose my own path."

As business grew, Monzyk's best friend and business partner, Nick Profancik, '09, joined

the team. The two had met while playing on Maryville's men's golf team and remained friends over the years, even standing up in each other's weddings. "We're family," they explained.

Today, Square One Media has found their niche in the real estate industry. Currently, real estate agents work with large marketing firms or freelancers to build their creative assets. Square One Media is designed to serve the "in between" customers who don't have large marketing budgets but are seeking high-quality products. "We found a spot where we're not competing with other companies, but instead we've created something new," Profancik said. The company specializes in interior and exterior photography and videography, aerial

drone photography and videography, virtual staging and website creation.

Square One Media has also found success because of the trust they've built with their customers. Nearly all their business over the

"BEING AN ENTREPRENEUR IS ALL ABOUT COMING UP WITH NEW IDEAS AND TURNING THOSE IDEAS INTO ACTION."

last five years has come from word-of-mouth referrals. "We ensure there is a human element when working with our clients," Monzyk said. "You're going into people's homes and it's a

◀ Business partners and best friends Brandon Monzyk, '10, and Nick Profancik, '09, own Square One Media Productions, a new media agency providing enhanced media and marketing support for today's real estate and small business professionals.

very personal experience. They could be selling because of a divorce or a death. We're there to help them."

Monzyk and Profancik are sharing their entrepreneurial spirit and expertise with current Maryville students. They recently participated in a capstone class for the Strategic Communication and Leadership Program. Maryville students treated Square One Media as their "client," creating and implementing a marketing campaign to promote the company. In the process, the Square One Media duo provided real-world feedback and advice for the students to use when they enter the workforce.

Square One Media will also serve as mentors through Maryville's Alumni & Friends Industry Expert Program, hosted by the Division of Student Success. The program matches undergraduate students with alumni based on career interests and areas of study. Monzyk and Profancik look forward to communicating with students over the course of the next academic year via in-person meetings, email exchanges and phone calls.

"Being an entrepreneur is all about coming up with new ideas and turning those ideas into action," Profancik said. "My No. 1 piece of advice is: Be a sponge. You need to be very observant of what's going on around you. You'll learn so much – more than you'll ever learn from a book – because experiences are key. Then, if you apply that knowledge to yourself, you will be successful." 🍷



# HAVE QUESTIONS? THE SOLUTION SQUAD HAS ANSWERS.



**P**aul Vitale, '12, assistant director of the Solution Squad, is a friendly face on campus for many Maryville students. He is easily recognizable, along with other members of the Solution Squad, thanks to his branded red and black polo shirt, laptop and pull-up banner, which all proudly display the words “Solution Squad” in capital letters. On any given day, Vitale can be found working in the dining hall, the library, the campus Starbucks or the lobby of an academic building, helping students on the spot with their questions and concerns.

*In a recent interview with Maryville Magazine, Vitale shares how the Solution Squad has streamlined student services and made it easier for students to get help with financial aid, student accounts, registrar services and more.*

► **The Solution Squad is a part of the new Division of Operational Excellence. What is the goal of the team, and how is the team positively affecting the Maryville community?**

Excellent customer service is our No. 1 goal. The Division of Operational Excellence was created to centralize and automate processes to make them more efficient, thereby improving the service we provide to students. We want things outside of the classroom to be easy, and things inside the classroom to be challenging—not the other way around. The Division of Operational Excellence has a wonderful team of more than 50 people focused on students' needs, and the Solution Squad is one part of that team.

► **How does the Solution Squad help students?**

The Solution Squad team is trained to answer an array of student questions ranging from financial aid to registration to account payments. We answer those questions as quickly as possible, with accuracy and empathy.

We are also there to direct students to the correct building, look up event times and answer any other questions that may come our way. For example, when we're stationed in the library, we often get questions about printing and we can help troubleshoot those.

If we don't know the answer, Solution Squad members are trained to navigate the issue and get students in touch with the correct resource. We know who to send them to and where to send them so they can get their issue resolved.

► **Why is the Solution Squad an important part of student success?**

We are a key resource for students both on and off campus. The concept behind the Solution Squad is to simplify the process for students. Our team has created an environment in which students can reach out to us and have a multitude of questions answered all in one stop. By providing this service, we are allowing students to focus their attention on what's most important: their studies.

► **How has the new state-of-the-art Visitors Center in Gander Hall changed the way the Solution Squad interacts with students?**

We are really enjoying the new technology in the Visitor's Center. When a student or guest arrives at the Visitor's Center, they check in via touch screen computers. We receive an immediate notification that the individual needs help. It has streamlined the process of helping students and guests, especially during our peak times.

Additionally, every Solution Squad member is equipped with a laptop and iPad to quickly aid with various tasks.

► **What does a typical day look like for a Solution Squad member?**

A typical day consists of working with students, faculty and staff in order to solve everyday problems. Our days are spent divided among live chats, answering phones, responding to emails, greeting those who come into the Visitor's Center and making rounds with the Mobile Unit. Each day with the Solution Squad is a little different, but it is ultimately centered on building relationships with the students.


► **Tell us about a time when a student needed help, and you provided a solution.**

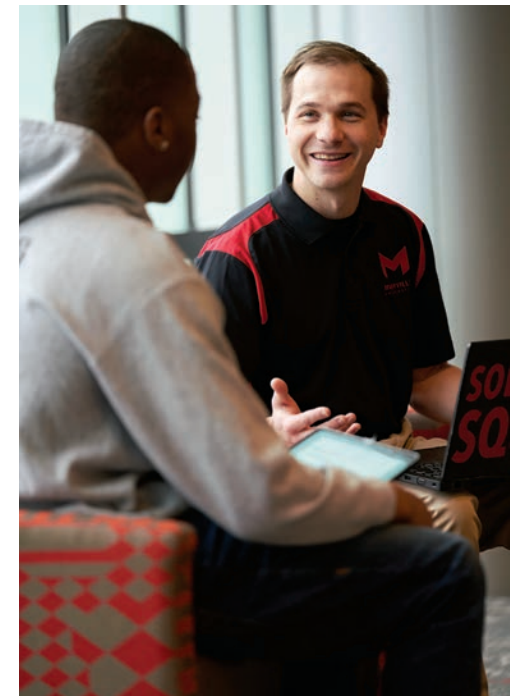
I recently helped a student who was new to Maryville and unfamiliar with the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, known as the FAFSA. Together, we were able to map out the steps of the financial aid process so she could successfully complete her application. I love that I'm able to help students in the moment, but I'm also able to provide them with tools they will need for years to come.

► **What is your favorite place on campus to meet with students?**

One of my favorite things about the Solution Squad is the Mobile Unit. It make our services more accessible to students and provides them with multiple opportunities to obtain the help they need. My favorite spot for the Mobile Unit is the Center for Student Engagement. There is always music playing and students studying together or working on projects. The space allows me to see students in their comfort zone and gives me a glimpse into campus life.

► **What is your favorite part of your job?**

Maryville is a wonderful university, and as an alumnus, it is an honor to be back on campus. I remember many of the excellent staff members who assisted me during my time here as a student. Now, I am fortunate enough to work with an amazing team that is doing the same thing for the next generation of Maryville students. 



▲ Paul Vitale, '12, assistant director of the Solution Squad





*Head coach Mitchell Shafer and attackman Lucas Shafer have been part of the main catalyst in the turnaround of the Saints' men's lacrosse program.*

# BROTHERLY LOVE

BY JONG CAMBRON

After spending nearly two decades attacking opposing teams' defenses while on the same squad, and then one year on opposing sides, the Shafer brothers are, once again, on the same sidelines – albeit in different positions.

Mitchell Shafer, the older brother by two years, is the head coach for the Maryville men's lacrosse team. Lucas Shafer joined the team as an attackman this year, after transferring from Lake Erie College to complete his senior year at Maryville.

The two Buffalo, New York, area natives were together on youth teams, their high school team and then two years at Lake Erie College. While Mitchell moved to Maryville to begin his coaching career as an assistant in 2017, Lucas stayed at Lake Erie, which is only about two and a half hours away from their hometown, before transferring.

"I've been with my brother my whole life, and then he came here, so we were separated for a little bit," Lucas said. "It's fun to be back together again and playing lacrosse, something we both love."

Mitchell wasn't sure Lucas would transfer to Maryville since he had made friends and committed to Lake Erie, but he was grateful when it happened.

"I think he wanted to help me be successful," Mitchell said. "We have a good relationship, and it's easy to talk about everything on the field and off the field. He's making it easier for me by helping to coach on the field. I'm grateful for his help."

With Lucas on the field and Mitchell on the sidelines, the two have been part of the main catalysts in the turnaround in the Saints' men's lacrosse program. In just his second year of being head coach, Mitchell led the team to a 4-1 record in the first month of the season. The lone loss was an 8-7 defeat to No. 10-ranked Colorado Mesa University.

Lucas is tied for first on the team, with 36 points on 18 goals and 18 assists. He has been named to the Division II Team of the Week twice already this season. "Those awards come from all of the players on the team," Lucas said. "I wouldn't be getting those awards without those guys."

Lucas has also set the school record for most points in a game (16), tied for second most in Division II history. He also set the school record for most assists in a game (9) and tied for most goals in a game (7) that same day.

Having both Shafers at the same school has also helped their parents pare down their university apparel. Last season, Maryville had a match against Lake Erie, and their parents wore red and green to represent both schools.


"They had on Lake Erie hats and Maryville shirts during the game last year," said Lucas of the matchup that pitted brother against brother. "It was a cool experience having all of our friends and family there since the game was just a couple of hours away from where we grew up."

Last year, Tim and Colleen, their parents, attended nearly all Lake Erie games, since that school is much closer to their home. They could only support Mitchell and his Maryville career from afar. This year, they have been able to support both sons at the same time and place, making several trips to St. Louis to watch them play.



▲ Brothers Mitchell and Lucas Shafer played together on youth teams, their high school team and then two years at Lake Erie College before joining forces at Maryville.

"Our parents love it," Mitchell said. "They know we have a good relationship. They love seeing us do what we are doing together."

Maybe even in the future, according to Lucas. "I'll be in the St. Louis area next year," he said. "The team is going to keep growing, and I would love to stick around and help coach, if I can." As usual, on the same sideline with his brother. 





◀ Maryville men's soccer team captured the Great Lakes Valley Conference championship by beating second-seeded Bellarmine in a penalty-kick shootout after the teams played to a draw through regulation and two overtimes.



# MARYVILLE MEN'S SOCCER CLAIMS FIRST GLVC CHAMPIONSHIP

BY JIM POWERS

The Maryville men's soccer team captured the Great Lakes Valley Conference championship title, earning an automatic berth into the 2018 NCAA Division II Soccer Championships. This marks the program's second consecutive bid to the tournament.


"Winning was unreal," said sophomore midfielder J.D. Sohn. "There were so many mixed emotions. We had seniors crying. We had freshmen jumping up in the air. It was just awesome."

The team celebrated its win alongside many Maryville alumni, some of whom started the soccer program in the 1970s. "There are many players and coaches from throughout the years who played a hand in getting to this point, and it was fun to celebrate with them," said head coach David Korn. "But I'm most proud of our current players and coaches. It's been an honor to see them grow and mature, and this title is a testament to the quality of work they put in throughout the year."

The Saints won a shootout victory over Bellarmine to claim the title. The two teams were locked into a defensive struggle for the first 38 minutes of the game. The Knights had a few opportunities to score,

but Christian Kjaersgaard made a pair of outstanding saves to keep the game scoreless. Ricardo Andrade put Maryville in the lead in the 38th minute as he took a touch from Zulfikar Karimi and scored from 10 yards out to put the Saints on top 1-0.

Bellarmine evened the match in the 43rd minute with a goal that sent the teams to the locker room deadlocked at 1-1. The Knights took the lead in the 57th minute, but Maryville answered just 16 seconds later. J.D. Sohn grabbed a long pass from Dom Riggio and slotted a shot past the Bellarmine keeper into the right side of the goal to tie the score 2-2.

The game turned back into a defensive battle as the teams went to a shootout with the score tied at 2-2. Gavino Carranza opened the shootout with a goal while Kjaersgaard stopped the Knights first attempt. After both teams missed their second attempts, Mirza Hasecic and Diego Coy found the net to give the Saints a 3-2 advantage. Karimi sent Maryville home a winner as he put his kick into the upper right corner of the goal to give the Saints their first conference title. 



◀ Maryville's new softball head coach Courtney Conley and new baseball head coach Patrick Evers are helping their teams make an impact on the mound and in the lineup.

# TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALL GAME

BY JONG CAMBRON



**COURTNEY CONLEY**, a former NCAA Division I Women's World Series champion, hopes to add another championship ring, but this time as the Maryville softball head coach. Conley hit an RBI double and scored a run in the deciding game of the 2012 College World Series her junior year at the University of Alabama.

After graduating, she started her coaching career at Missouri State University before moving on to become an assistant coach at Lindenwood University in 2017.

In addition to her championship pedigree, the former Missouri Gatorade Player of the Year (2007) also collected some coaching tips from her former Alabama coach Patrick Murphy, one of only 22 coaches to have racked up more than 1,000 victories at the Division I level.

"I spent a lot of my time as a player observing him," Conley said. "Like with any career, having

great mentors to lead you along the way is a big secret to success."


She hopes to bring that success to Maryville as she takes over a team that finished 26-21-1 and just two years removed from a team that went 39-16 and made a trip to the NCAA tournament.

"We expect to make it to post season this year," Conley said. "We were only one game away from making the conference tournament last year. When we do get there this year, our goal changes to winning the conference tournament."

**PATRICK EVERS**, Maryville's new baseball coach also brings a winning pedigree to Saints Nation. Evers had 172 wins in just four seasons at Jefferson College, and also led the team to an appearance in the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) playoffs and a district championship in 2018.

Evers began his coaching career as an assistant coach at St. Louis Community College before moving on to the University of Central Missouri as a pitching coach. His first head coaching role came with the St. Charles Mules in 2009, a team in the St. Louis Metro Collegiate League.

He was out on a recruiting trip in Oklahoma when he received his own recruiting call from Maryville's athletic director Lonnie Folks. Evers knew instantly it was the right decision to continue his coaching career at Maryville.

"I'm thrilled to be the Saints head coach and am excited to get to know my players as they mature as student-athletes," Evers said. "Being able to see your players grow up on and off the field as they go through college is extremely rewarding." 





1

Esports Teams to Compete for National Titles

For the first time in program history, Maryville’s League of Legends Esports team and Maryville’s Overwatch Esports team will both compete for national titles. The championship tournaments will take place this spring with winners to be announced in late May. Both teams are poised for success, said Dan Clerke, Maryville’s director of Esports. The teams also made history earlier this season when they were both ranked No. 1 in North America at the same time. Additionally, in April, Maryville University was a major sponsor of the first national Esports finals in St. Louis, the League of Legends spring finals hosted by Riot Games.

Harrington Finishes Fourth to Lead Three Wrestling All-Americans

The Maryville wrestling team finished with three All-Americans at the 2019 NCAA Division II National Championship which took place in March. Tyler Harrington finished in fourth place at 165, Ethan Sherertz brought home a sixth-place finish at 197 pounds, while Tyler Kreith took sixth in the 125 division. Heading into the final championship session, the Saints were in 10th place in the team standings. Maryville qualified seven wrestlers for the national championship.



2

Inline Hockey Wins Championship

The Maryville University Club Inline Hockey team finished the 2018-19 season with a 10-3-1 record in the GPCIHL division of the National Collegiate Roller Hockey Association (NCRHA). In February, the Saints defeated Missouri S&T to win the Division III regional and received an automatic bid to compete at Nationals. In April, the inline hockey team will be traveling to Rochester, New York, to compete against 20 other universities for the NCRHA National Championship. Make sure to follow @MUROLLER on Twitter for up-to-date information regarding games and fundraiser opportunities.



4

Soccer Alumnus Honored

Matt Crawford, '81, was honored in October for his dedication, passion and commitment to the Maryville men’s soccer program. Over the past seven years, he researched and reconstructed the missing results and rosters for the first 29 years of the men’s soccer program. He located nearly 300 former players to form the Soccer Alumni Network and assisted the team with fundraising. Crawford also published the Men’s Soccer Alumni Newsletter eight times a year.



3



Maryville welcomes all alumni, students, faculty and staff to join in the weeklong excitement of Homecoming 2019, to be held September 23-29, 2019. For a complete listing of events, visit [maryville.edu/homecoming](http://maryville.edu/homecoming).





# Spirit of Maryville

## AWARDS RECOGNIZE DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

Seven alumni and others will be honored

*Alumni and friends who give generously of their time and talents to*

*Maryville University as well as those whose work brings distinction to*

*their profession will be honored during the sixth annual*


*Spirit of Maryville Dinner on May 18, 2019. The Spirit*

*of Maryville awards also recognize people or*

*organizations that provide extraordinary service*

*to the community at large. Following are the*

*distinguished recipients of the 2019 Spirit*

*of Maryville Awards. *

**DEANS' AWARDS** recognize graduates who bring distinction to their professions, to their communities and to Maryville.



### College of Arts and Sciences **DANIEL ABEBE, '97**

How does a kid with a 2.8 high school GPA wind up at Harvard Law School? The road begins at Maryville, according to Daniel Abebe, PhD, JD, now vice provost at the University of Chicago Law School. Abebe chose Maryville at the urging of his parents, along with a family friend—Maryville's then-president Keith Lovin, PhD.

Lovin kept a watchful eye on him, as did another family friend, Margie Wade, PhD, who was dean of Admissions & Enrollment. Abebe also credits the support of two iconic Maryville professors and mentors: the late Marshall King, PhD, and the late Radko Jansky, JD, along with Residence Hall Director, James Ingram. As the only African American in his class, Abebe leaned on this support while involving himself in activities across campus: working as a resident adviser, playing soccer, serving on student government and more.

Graduating summa cum laude, with the honor of speaking at Commencement, a more seasoned and mature Abebe was on his way to Harvard for his law degree, and eventually to the University of Chicago for a master's and PhD in political science. Now, he is helping that institution's law school shape its programming and strategic planning. Looking back warmly at his Maryville experience, and the relationships that helped bring him where he is today, he notes the well-worn adage, "It takes a village."

### John E. Simon School of Business **MICHAEL RETH, '02, '04 AND SERGEY ABROSIMOV, '06**

Michael Reth, chief executive officer of Axiom Product Administration, and Sergey Abrosimov, chief technology officer, are riding the success that comes from creating a company that disrupts traditional and outdated business practices. A relatively new entry in the field of automotive finance and insurance, Axiom was recognized by the St. Louis Business Journal as the fastest-growing company in 2018. Revenue increased by 700 percent, a statistic made even more astounding by the fact that Axiom grew from only five dealer clients in 2013 to more than 500 dealer relationships in 2018 and now 600 in 2019.

The idea for the company grew out of Reth's MBA capstone thesis, encouraged by his instructor Maha Alul. Reth was pursuing his degree through Maryville's Weekend and Evening College and worked with Abrosimov at a nearby company at the time. At Reth's urging, Abrosimov also earned his MBA at Maryville. Years later, as the auto industry evolved, Reth put his thesis ideas into action by creating Axiom. He brought Abrosimov in as a consultant before inviting him to join the senior executive team. With operations in major cities throughout five countries, this duo has proven that what happens at Maryville does not always stay at Maryville!



### School of Education **CHARLOTTE IJEI, '14**

Charlotte Ijei, EdD, is director of pupil personnel & diversity for the Parkway School District in St. Louis County. Her passion for moving the district toward educational equity has been both personal and professional. As a Parkway parent, she experienced her own children's struggles to fit in at a predominately white school in the early 1980s. Joining Parkway North High School as a college counselor in 1996, she found a more diverse student population, but one still segregated



by classrooms and teacher expectations. Students of color earning A's were not encouraged to take honors and Advanced Placement (AP) courses.

Changing the mindset among counselors, teachers and administrators was a challenge. But under Ijei's leadership, Parkway has implemented a "Whole School Justice" program, requiring faculty and staff to participate in intensive social justice training. As a result, African American students are better represented in AP and honors classes, and suspensions have decreased dramatically. Parkway also won a 2018 National School Board Association diversity award and is narrowing achievement and opportunity gaps. For Ijei, who brought her "social justice lens" to Maryville's doctoral program, it's about more than changing minds; it's about "change of heart."



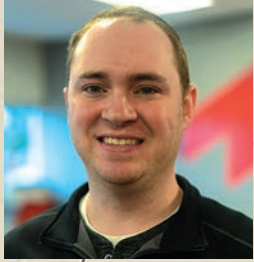
### Myrtle E. and Earl E. Walker College of Health Professions **CY WOODROME, '84**

Cy Woodrome has built a nontraditional career in a field dominated by traditional methods. Having previously earned an undergraduate degree in anatomy and physiology, Woodrome enrolled in Maryville's Weekend and Evening College to become a cardiothoracic nurse. Later, as a working nurse, he earned a master's degree in Health Systems Management elsewhere, spurring his next career change to health care management.

This path also led him to found a company that delivers health care in a nontraditional way: through remote cardiac patient monitoring. Mobilis Health provides Bluetooth-enabled kits (with components like blood pressure cuffs, finger probes and digital scales) that enable certified technicians to monitor a patient's condition 24/7.

Woodrome feels the Dean's Award recognizes and confirms the importance of nursing. But it also shows how nurses can think outside the box and apply their expertise to deliver high-quality health care in new and different ways. Another common theme throughout Woodrome's career is his belief in altruism, which also harkens back to nursing. Nurses, he says, "carry it in their DNA."





#### Young Alumni Award

##### GREG SCHWARTZ, '10

Life has been sweet for Greg Schwartz. Not only did he discover his career interest as a student at Maryville; he also met his wife, Tracey Schrock Schwartz, '09, on campus. Most telling of all, his career path took him to the "Sweetest Place on Earth": Hershey, Pennsylvania. For more than five years, Schwartz has worked as a brand manager for The Hershey Company, promoting products like Kisses and Bliss.

Schwartz likens his job to running his own business, a concept he learned from his former professor, John Lewington, PhD. On any given day, he moves from developing packaging to directing consumer communications to managing a financial portfolio. Most recently, he and his wife moved with their infant son to Austin, Texas, where Schwartz is managing two brands purchased by Hershey: Skinny Pop and Pirate's Booty.

At Maryville, Schwartz and his roommate created an organization that ran student programs on weekends like skiing and laser tag. As an alumnus, he has reengaged as a member of Maryville Hillel's Advisory Council. Fittingly, Schwartz is dedicated to providing as much candy as possible for the group's annual "Chocolate Seder"; a Passover Seder done completely in—what else?—chocolate!

#### Volunteer of the Year Award

##### SCOTT DENNEY

Scott Denney owns Denney Lumber Company, a family business he began with his late father, Les Denney. But Denney has carried his dad's legacy into another "family business" too: the Walker Scottish Rite Clinic at Maryville University. The Clinic wasn't always Denney's passion; it was his dad's. A 33rd Degree Mason and active member of the Scottish Rite, Les was a driving force in creating the original Clinic in 1988 with a mission to provide free



speech and language therapy for young children. Les tapped his good friend, the late Earl E. Walker, to help fund the Clinic. Eventually, Earl brought the Clinic to Maryville.

For his part, Denney wrote the original articles of incorporation for the Clinic, but then sat on the sidelines until his dad passed away in 2010. An invitation to join the Clinic board soon afterward ignited the same passion that drove his dad. Not only did Denney join, he became board chair in 2015. Now Denney calls himself "the messenger," spreading the word about the Clinic to everyone he can, helping grow the annual Golf Tournament and raising funds to serve more children. Denney says that volunteering is good for the heart, and the Walker Clinic is grateful his heart is in the right place.



#### Heart of Maryville Award

##### BARBARA LAMY COONEY, '58

Barbara Cooney exemplifies a life of service through the arts, the Society of the Sacred Heart and more. After earning a Bachelor of Arts at Maryville, she earned a master's in English literature and a teaching certificate elsewhere. She went on to teach high school French and English for 15 years. Cooney also studied fine arts at State Fair Community College in Sedalia, Missouri, where she taught an arts outreach program for senior citizens.

Cooney has received awards from the Missouri Arts Council and the Liberty Center Association for the Arts, and she exhibited her own artwork with lectures and workshops across Missouri. Twice winner of the Missouri State Fair Top Fifty, she has had two feature exhibits at the Kansas City Artists Coalition and a solo exhibit at State Fair Community College.

In service to her Sacred Heart Parish, Cooney has organized and taught religious classes as part of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine; completed two terms as a member and chair of the Christian Education Commission; and served as a Sacred Heart School Board member. Cooney received a Sacred Heart Alumni Award in 2012 and, along with her husband, James, the Sacred Heart 2017 Hall of Fame Award.

#### Myrtle E. and Earl E. Walker Medal

##### NURSES FOR NEWBORNS

Nurses for Newborns was born out of a need to prevent infant mortality, child abuse and neglect in low-income neighborhoods where resources are scarce. Since its founding in the early 1990s, it has employed a successful home visitation model—sending specially trained pediatric nurses to the homes of pregnant women, as well as parents of infants facing medical, social or environmental risks. Referrals come from physicians, clinics and social service agencies as well as from families themselves.

Initial home visits include health and developmental assessments of both mothers and children, and screening for additional risk factors like maternal depression and domestic violence. Nurses then prepare a plan of action designed to



ensure the baby's health, safety and development. In subsequent visits, nurses monitor the infant's health and progress, while also providing educational tools to support the family and improve parenting skills. They also assist with access to necessities like diapers, formula and safety equipment.

To date, Nurses for Newborns has successfully assisted more than 110,000 infants and their families, in eastern Missouri and mid-Tennessee. Among other honors, program founder Sharon Rohrbach, RN, was presented with a Use Your Life Award by Oprah Winfrey in 2001.

## CLASSNOTES

# A new creative director, a future husband at the airport, five babies and a lieutenant commander in the Navy.

## 1970s

**Eugene "Roscoe" Dorriere, '76, '88, '19**, of Creve Coeur, Mo., graduated on May 5, 2019, with his Bachelor of Science in nursing. He said this is his third and final degree from Maryville University.

## 1980s

**Shelly Roberts-Wilson Lagermann, '85**, of Piedmont, Mo., is a youth specialist with the Osage Team at the Sierra Osage Treatment Center in Southeast Mo.

**Jonna L. Temmen, '88**, of Springfield, Ill., is a project manager at HSHS St. John's Hospital.

## 1990s

**Suzanne Norris Levy, '93**, of Prairie Village, Kan., became senior integrated marketing manager of global companies at Dell Technologies in November 2018. In this role, she will drive marketing campaigns and demand generation activities for RSA Security Solution and RSA SecurID Suite.

**Christine Schulte Huber, '95**, of Imperial, Mo., is an IT quality assurance manager at Centene Corporation. She shared that four years ago, she volunteered with a special needs boy scout troop. She supported their fundraising mission

to visit a Navajo Nation gospel church in the Arizona desert. She was asked to go on a second trip with the group, and little did she know that trip would end in finding love. On her way to Arizona, she met her now husband, Andy, in the airport. A little over a year after that, the couple was married on October 24, 2015. The couple had their mission trip group open the wedding ceremony.

**Vincent C. Flewellen, '98**, of St. Louis, was promoted to chief diversity officer at Webster University. Prior to that, he served as the director of equity and inclusion at the College School of Webster Groves.

**1 Cathy Brierly Lippert, '98, '03**, of St. Louis, was one of 109 St. Louis area educators to receive an Emerson Excellence in Teaching Award. The award pays tribute to educators—from kindergarten teachers to college professors—for their achievements and dedication to the field of education.



## 2000s

**Jamie Wessel Nix, '00**, of Chaffee, Mo., completed the 10-year recertification for geriatric clinical specialist from the American Board of Physical Therapy Specialists. She is currently working as a home health physical therapist with Southeast Health.

**Brandon J. Raphael, '00**, of Warner Robins, Ga., became president of the Macon Bacon Baseball Club in August 2018. He also was named vice president of SRO Partners.

**Dr. Jeffrey "Jeff" A. Klein, '03**, of Madison, Wis., is a radiologist at Madison Radiologists.

**Joseph R. Wagner, '04, '06**, of Evanston, Ill., is a social science and department leader at The Chicago High School for the Arts. Wagner also celebrated the birth of his daughter on November 22, 2018. He said it was a long way to parenthood, but he is enjoying every moment with his little one.

**Erica Hubbard Wilson, '04**, of Florissant, Mo., was named to the St. Louis Business Journal's 40 Under 40 Class of 2019. She described herself as a "highly motivated and results-driven leader with more than 18 years of information technology experience, 15 of which are in the field of cyber security."

**Christa Hendrickson Barr, '05**, of Florissant, Mo., is a designer and account manager at Spellman Brady & Company. In October 2018, she received her National Council for Interior Design qualification. She also holds her Evidence-Based Design Accreditation which she received in August 2016.

**Christopher "Chris" J. Huff, '06**, of Wentzville, Mo., shared that a lot has happened in the past four years. He graduated with his master's in environmental science in 2015. Huff and his wife, Dr. Jillian Huff, welcomed their daughter, Emma Majorie Huff, on June 1, 2018. This year, they will celebrate the third birthday of their son, Jonathon. On top of fatherhood, Huff works in research and development as a microbiologist at bioMerieux.

**Matthew "Matt" L. Regan, '06, '09**, of O'Fallon, Mo., received a new position in November 2018 with Honkamp Krueger & Co., P.C., as a manager of construction audit services.

**Rina Lueck Schroeter, '06, '10**, of Arnold, Mo., was recently promoted to pension analyst and qualified domestic relations order specialist at BeneSys Incorporated.





MEG KURTZ, '11

RELATIONSHIPS ARE EVERYTHING

BY NANCY FOWLER

Meg Kurtz, '11, will never forget her turn at a daunting initiation every nursing student faces as they venture from the classroom to clinicals in the hospital: starting her first IV line in a patient's arm.

Nervously, Kurtz prepared the patient and sought out a vein. When she inserted the needle, it went in too far and at the wrong angle. She was startled by her instructor's response. "She said, 'Meg, you're not spearing a fish!'" Kurtz recalled.

The comment stung. Later, when Kurtz began instructing students at St. Luke's Hospital, she implemented a more nuanced method: Telling students they did a good job, suggesting a different approach and then wrapping it up with kudos for trying—a "compliment sandwich," she calls it.

"For my whole life, whenever I've gone through something, I like to reflect on, 'How could I make that better for the next person that goes through it?'" Kurtz said.

Kurtz, winner of St. Louis Magazine's 2018 Excellence Award for Top Medical-Surgical Nurse, strives to create plenty of space for students' questions. "Being approachable is so important—and relationships are everything," she said.

Fostering connections can also encourage camaraderie among staff and motivate patients, she said. Kurtz maintains a "Shout-Out" bulletin board on her St. Luke's Hospital floor with themes ranging from nurses' and doctors' baby photos to a display of their prom pictures.

"It's fun because if you couldn't convince your patient to walk, you could say, 'Hey, if come down the hall, you can see your surgeon in his powder blue tuxedo,'" Kurtz said. "And they'd be like, 'Oh, OK!'"

Another of Kurtz's brainstormers is a quick-reference booklet called "The ABCs of 8700," named for her floor. It's both practical and humorous, designating "A" for appendectomy, "H" for hypoglycemia and "U" for U can do it. Other floors have also adopted the guide and call it the nurses' survival kit.

In all her efforts, Kurtz keeps in mind that every patient is somebody's loved one. "As I'm training nurses, I'm always thinking that one day they might take care of my parents and maybe even me," Kurtz said. "So I've got to be sure they are good enough to take care of my family." 🍷

Dr. Jenna Puricelli Wright, '06, '18, of St. Louis, recently graduated with her Doctor of Education from Maryville University in April 2018. She is now an assistant principal at Lindbergh Schools.

Katherine "Katie" Messmer Luner, '07, of St. Louis, is a social work case manager for Progeny Health, supporting families of neonatal intensive care unit babies as they navigate the first year of life.

Erin Henson Schepis, '07, of Eureka, Mo., recently received her master's in executive leadership from Lindenwood University. She is currently a clinical supervisor at Mercy Hospital in St. Louis.

Derek B. Strauser, '07, of Crestwood, Mo., was promoted to lieutenant commander in the United States Navy on August 1, 2018. He has served in the Navy since 2008.

2 Laura Amelung Boden, '08, of St. Ann, Mo., and her husband welcomed their first child, Charlotte Ann Boden, on June 27, 2018. They are looking forward to celebrating her first birthday this summer.



Stephanie Enger-Moreland, '08, of Fenton, Mo., is the director of volunteers and special events at Circle of Concern, a food pantry serving families in West St. Louis County.

Sally A. Kleekamp, '08, '10, of Washington, Mo., is an order manager at Schneider Electric of St. Louis, LLC.

Dr. Deann McCann Myers, '09, of St. Charles, Mo., was named Affton High School principal for the 2019-2020 school year. She will begin serving as principal on July 1, 2019.

Daniel "Dan" L. Pozzo, '09, of Chesterfield, Mo., was one of 109 St. Louis area educators to receive an Emerson Excellence in Teaching Award. The award pays tribute to educators—from kindergarten teachers to college professors—for their achievements and dedication to the field of education.

Nicholas "Nick" A. Profancik, '09, of St. Louis, recently made a career shift. He is now the owner and CEO of Square One Media Productions, founded with fellow alumnus, Brandon C. Monzyk, '11. The company delivers media content to clients to help them market their product. Profancik and his wife, Katelyn, also welcomed their daughter, Vera Marie Profancik, on January 1, 2019.

Tracey Schrock Schwartz, '09, and Gregory "Greg" M. Schwartz, '10, both of Austin, Texas, welcomed their baby boy, Everett Avi Schwartz, on June 1, 2018. The couple shared that Everett is happy and healthy. They recently moved to Austin, Texas, where Schwartz continues to work for The Hershey Company in the newly-acquired Amplify Snack Brands. Tracey continues her work in higher education.

Jamie Weaver Martin, '10, '12, and Scott A. Murfin, of Tamaroa, Ill., celebrated their twins' first birthday. The Murfin family welcomed Nolan Allen and Noelle Marie on November 22, 2017. The twins joined their three-year-old big sister, Nora.

Monica Kaup Robertson, '10, of St. Louis, recently celebrated her fifth anniversary with her husband, Nate, the first birthday of their son Levi. The couple was married on January 25, 2014, and welcomed their son on March 10, 2018. Levi joins big sister, Aida.



Dr. Caroline Jaycox Sirmon, '10, '12, of Maryland Heights, Mo., recently celebrated her third anniversary with her husband, Timothy, on April 22, 2019. The couple welcomed their first child, Adeline Marie Sirmon, on November 13, 2018. Sirmon works as a sports physical therapist with SSM Health Physical Therapy.

Dr. Krisandra "Kandy" K. Worley, '10, of Montgomery City, Mo., was named the Jim L. King MoASSP Middle School Principal of the Year. She has been working in the Francis Howell School District for 24 years where she is currently a principal at Saeger Middle School.

Dr. Kelsey Bock Kessler, '11, '13, of Hermann, Mo., recently celebrated her third anniversary with her husband, Patrick, on March 19, 2019. The couple welcomed their first child, Caroline Ann Kessler, on December 27, 2018. Dr. Kessler currently works as a physical therapist in Hermann, Mo.

John F. Murar, '11, of St. Louis, and his wife, Melissa, celebrated the first birthday of their son, Grayson on May 27, 2019. Grayson is the couple's first child. He is, of course, being spoiled by his grandparents.

4 Alison Conley Dulle, '12, '15, and Jacob B. Dulle, '12, '13, both of Webster Groves, Mo., celebrated five years of marriage in June along with the first birthday of their daughter, Claire. Claire was born on January 5, 2018.

Christina "Christy" Hughes Stricker, '12, of Kirkwood, Mo., was promoted to creative director at HLK Agency.

Dr. Lindsay E. Eichaker, '13, '15, of Clayton, Mo., is a physical therapist at The Rehabilitation Institute of St. Louis. She recently became one of seven newly certified orthopedic manual therapists in the Midwest Region.

Mycah Hudson Faulkner, '13, of Fenton, Mo., and her husband, Kory, welcomed their first child, Graham Michael Faulkner, on December 11, 2018. Graham was born weighing 7lbs 3 oz and measuring 20.5 inches. The couple shared they are overjoyed to be parents and are enjoying every moment with their new baby.

3 Christina "Tina" Grigore Owens, '13, of Valley Park, Mo., shared her enjoyment of life after graduation. She is working at her dream job as a labor and delivery nurse at Mercy Hospital. She also found and married the love of her life, Eric. The couple bought a home together and also are loving every moment of parenthood with their son, Bradyn.



Kristin Scherer Renaud, '13, '15, and Matthew "Matt" R. Renaud, '11, '13, both of St. Louis, will celebrate their two-year anniversary in June. The couple was married on June 3, 2017, at St. Ambrose Church. Their wedding had 11 Maryville alumni in attendance. Also, Renaud graduated in December 2018 from St. Louis University with his Master of Business Administration.



TONY SPIELBERG '95

HIGH FIVES AND HUGS

BY MAUREEN ZEGEL

Three years ago, Tony Spielberg, '95, walked into a noisy packaging plant, a not-for-profit serving adults with disabilities in St. Peters, Missouri. A successful entrepreneur and business executive, Spielberg had just sold a business and was looking for a career change.

"I saw a posting for a CEO of this organization, and I thought I'd apply," Spielberg said. "When I walked through that door, I thought, 'How did I not know this place existed?' Take a tour and you'll know why it's hard to have a bad day in this place."

The place is BCI, formerly known as Boone Center, Inc., founded in 1959 by two women who wanted to serve the employment needs of people with disabilities. Today, BCI's St. Peters campus boasts a production center and a warehouse. A second packaging facility opened in Moscow Mills, Missouri. The two packaging facilities employ more than 350 adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

On that tour, Spielberg hugs, fist bumps and high fives his way through the noisy 100,000-square-foot production space. He seems to know everyone by name and at times can be found working right alongside the employees. The CEO wants you to know his contract packaging and assembly business

boasts a 99.6 percent accuracy rate and the men and women who work there lead productive lives.

"We have a dual mission that focuses on business and social objectives," he said. "We package things you use every day like Woolite, Lysol and Dial. At the same time, we emphasize skill development with individual work plans that are tailored for each employee. We ensure the highest level of success for each person we serve."

That dual mission is reflected in BCI's fiscal growth, with expected revenue to reach \$25 million in 2019. Community accolades include the 2018 Community Builder award by the St. Charles County Community Council. Additionally, StreetScape Magazine recognized Spielberg in 2017 as one of 50 Top Business Leaders making significant contributions to their communities.

A major advocate at the state and federal level for employment opportunities and choice, BCI opened a commercial cleaning company called Show Me Shine in 2011. And, in January 2019, they opened a first-of-its-kind vocational training facility specifically for people with disabilities. BCI's goal is to offer 10+ vocations to 100+ students at the center by 2021. 🍷





**Chad M. Bachmann, ‘14**, of St. Louis, announced his proposal to Lindsey Evans on December 1, 2018. He popped the question in their home attic—a place they plan to make a master suite in the future. He lit a pathway with candles to lead Lindsey to where he was waiting on one knee. The couple met three years ago through mutual friends (and Maryville alumni) on a float trip. Bachmann explained they do not have a wedding date set as they are trying to enjoy the moment and have the stress of wedding planning be at a minimum.

**5 Alison Werner Demetrulias, ‘14**, of Pacific, Mo., and her husband Aaron, welcomed their son, Kairos Clark Demetrulias, on August 30, 2018. Kairos was born weighing 7lbs 7oz and measuring 19.5 inches long.

**Jordan D. Mazuranic, ‘14**, of High Ridge, Mo., was recently promoted to promotional design supervisor at BridgeTower Media St. Louis.

**Esra Uysal Baker, ‘15**, of Chesterfield, Mo., is a life coach and coordinator of international student success at Maryville University. She celebrated one year of marriage with her husband, Bradley. The couple was married on April 25, 2018.

**Lacey L. Bender, ‘15**, of St. Louis, has been working at St. Louis Children’s Hospital since July 2015. She truly loves being a nurse and is working to further her education to become a pediatric nurse practitioner. Bender was recently honored by the Daisy Foundation with the Daisy Award for Extraordinary Nurses.

**Brooke E. Bennett, ‘15**, of St. Louis, shared that after four years in the classroom as an elementary school teacher, she will work for a nonprofit called Wings of Hope as the education and outreach manager.

**6 Dr. Zachary “Zack” W. Bohr, ‘15, ‘17**, of St. Charles, Mo., recently proposed to fiancée, Demi Botonis, on October 13, 2018. The couple plans to wed on September 21, 2019, in St. Louis. Bohr is an outpatient physical therapist at Advanced Training and Rehab St. Charles.

**Cassara R. Cook, ‘15**, of St. Charles, Mo., is a housing resource specialist at Doorways Housing. She was recently elected to the board of directors for the Midwest Endometriosis Society, a nonprofit providing awareness, support and education regarding endometriosis.

**7 Jennifer “Jen” Jung Evans, ‘15**, of St. Louis, married Zach Evans on October 13, 2018, at The Butterfly House in Chesterfield, Mo., followed by a reception at Tapawingo Golf Course in Fenton, Mo. The couple had five Maryville alumni in attendance.

**Dr. Lisa R. Henderson, ‘15, ‘17**, of Pattonville, Mo., announced her engagement to Kory Mouser on December 19, 2018. The couple plans to get married on July 27, 2019, in Pattonville, Mo. Henderson is a physical therapist at Southeast Healthpoint Rehab in Cape Girardeau and Jackson, Mo. She treats patients with lymphedema and orthopedic conditions.



**Dr. Monica L. Lee, ‘15, ‘17**, of Salt Lake City, Utah, got engaged on December 30, 2018, to Alec Schnitzler. The couple plans to wed on November 9, 2019, in St. Louis. Lee is an acute-care physical therapist on the surgical floor at McKay Dee Hospital in Ogden, Utah.

**Dr. Jessica M. McFadden, ‘15, ‘17, and Casey M. Humphrey, ‘14**, of St. Louis, got engaged on November 18, 2018. The couple know each other through mutual friends at Maryville. They began their relationship after Humphrey asked McFadden on a date after evening mass. After a few years of maintaining a long-distance relationship, Humphrey moved back to St. Louis to work for MetLife, where he now works as an actuary. McFadden is a physical therapist at Elite Physical Therapy. The couple is excited to get married on October 5, 2019, at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in St. Louis.

**Jordan E. McKinley, ‘15, and Tyler P. McKinley, ‘16**, both of St. Louis, announced their engagement on December 18, 2018. The couple met in the library at Maryville University. Their relationship began over a study session for an accounting exam. Five years later, the rest is history. The couple recently bought a home together and got a puppy. They are looking forward to planning their wedding.

**Shelby E. Miller, ‘15**, of Clarksville, Ind., announced her engagement to Adam Gliebe on December 21, 2018. The couple plans to get married on September 1, 2019, in Louisville, Ky. Miller was recently promoted to finance manager at Carriage Ford in Clarksville, Ind.

**Dr. Carter L. Montgomery, ‘15, ‘19**, of Ballwin, Mo., is an outpatient physical therapist at Athletico in Washington, Mo.



**Dr. Hannah Seitter Ridings, ‘15, ‘17, and Bradley “Brad” W. Ridings, ‘15, ‘16**, both of St. Louis, were married on December 22, 2018, in Washington, Mo.

**Dr. Nicholas “Nick” J. Schwent, ‘15, ‘17**, of St. Peters, Mo., recently began a new job as a physical therapist at Premiere Home Health in St. Charles, Mo.

**Dr. Kelsey R. Sites, ‘15, ‘17**, of St. Louis, got engaged to her high school sweetheart, Zach Hirth, on August 18, 2018. The couple has been together for eight years and plans to wed on February 29, 2020. Sites is a physical therapist at Friendship Village Retirement Community in Chesterfield, Mo.

**8 Heather A. Sprengel, ‘15**, of Maryland Heights, Mo., met Abeer “Abby” N. Butt, ‘16, of Ballwin, Mo., at Maryville University while she was her math tutor and then classmate. After college, the two worked together in the oncology department as Washington University School of Medicine before Butt moved to Atlanta to pursue her Doctor of Philosophy at Emory University. The two have stayed in touch since then and have become longtime friends. They recently took a trip together to visit Butt’s family in Dubai. During their time there, they went on a lot of adventures like camel riding in the desert and dune bashing. They also visited the beach at the Gulf of Oman and went to the top observation floor of the tallest building in the world: the 148th floor of the Burj Khalifa.

**Stephen “Brad” B. Thompson, ‘15**, of Ballwin, Mo., welcomed his third son, Charlie, on September 11, 2018. He shared that he is enjoying fatherhood. Thompson is a digital marketing manager at Commerce Bank.



NICOLE NARDI, ‘16

CLEAR EYES, FULL HEARTS, CAN’T LOSE

BY TIM FOX

**Nicole Nardi, ‘16**, grew up with sports—especially football. So naturally, she was thrilled to land a position with the Oakland Raiders after completing her studies in Maryville’s Rawlings Sport Business Management Program. “I love to talk about football every day, and that’s what I do in my job,” Nardi said. “Working in corporate partnerships for the NFL was my dream.”

As coordinator of corporate partnerships activation for the Oakland, California-based professional football team, Nardi ensures that all contract terms between the Raiders and its corporate sponsorship partners are fulfilled. She also manages day-to-day contact between the team and the partners.

“Right now we’re working on ‘recaps,’” Nardi explains. “At the end of the season, we present a PowerPoint to each partner showing them how we activated things like game day promotions, company ticket day and signage at the games.”

Nardi said the education she received in the Rawlings Sport Business Management Program—and one class in particular—set her on her career path. “My corporate sponsorships class helped me figure out exactly what I wanted to do in the field,” Nardi said. “I realized it was a perfect match for my personality and what I wanted to do professionally.”

But it wasn’t an easy path. Nardi transferred to Maryville as a junior after attending and playing soccer for Hannibal-LaGrange University in northeast Missouri. At Maryville, she worked two waitressing jobs, played club soccer and completed an internship in the St. Louis Cardinals’ ticketing office.

“I love being busy, but I was afraid the internship might be too much,” Nardi said. “One of my instructors, Jason Williams, director of the Rawlings Sport Business Management Program, convinced me to do it. That decision helped me get a job in the Raiders’ ticketing office. I was promoted to my current position less than a year later.”

Nardi’s academic advisor, Daniel Schmidt, program coordinator for the Rawlings Sport Business Management Program, helped as well. Schmidt previously worked for the St. Louis Blues and has connections in professional sports. “Even after I had earned my degree, they helped me prepare for my interview with the Raiders. Maryville faculty are never too busy for students,” she said.

For Nardi, the most exciting times may be ahead. In 2020, the Raiders will be moving to Las Vegas, and she plans to move with them. “It will be a lot of work, but I love my coworkers, and every department has gone out of its way to help me,” she said. “I feel very prepared for what lies ahead, thanks to the education I received at Maryville.”

**Dr. Tyler A. Archer, ‘16**, of St. Louis, is the assistant principal at Stix Early Childhood Center in St. Louis Public Schools. Archer has worked in the St. Louis Public School district for eight years. He said the most rewarding aspect of his job is “building relationships with students, families and staff, along with supporting staff learning and growth through professional development opportunities.”

**Jamie N. Brugger, ‘16**, of St. Louis, met T.J. Findeiss through mutual friends. She is happy to announce that the two are now engaged. They plan to wed on December 31, 2019.

**Alicia Farrington Clancy, ‘16**, of Boise, Idaho, moved to Des Moines, Iowa, upon graduation in 2016 to work as an occupational therapist in a pediatric outpatient clinic. While there, she met her husband, Nick Clancy. The couple was married in November 2017. They moved to Boise, Idaho, one year ago and are loving their time there. Clancy is now an aquatic pediatric therapist at Lullaby Waters, and really enjoys her job.

**Katharine “Kate” M. Hunt, ‘16**, of Kirkwood, Mo., is a traveling pediatric nurse.

**9 Kathlyn “Katie” Kennedy Kew, ‘16, and Christopher S. Kew, ‘18**, of Manchester, Mo., announced their marriage of four months. The couple was married on November 3, 2018. Katie is an occupational therapist at Symbria Rehab while Christopher is a registered nurse at St. Luke’s Hospital.

**Megan Korte Mandziara, ‘16, and Andrew M. Mandziara, ‘17**, both of Ballwin, Mo., celebrated their marriage on March 16, 2019. Andrew shared he was thrilled to marry his college sweetheart and thrilled Maryville brought them together.

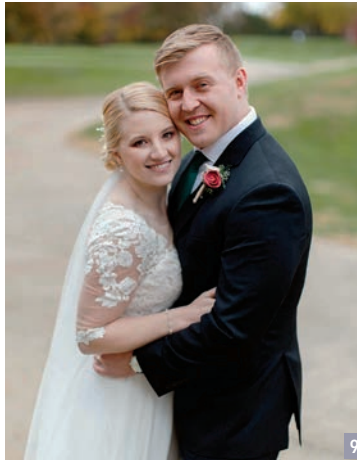


**Katie Clayton Pennington, ‘16, and Scott A. Pennington, ‘14, ‘16**, of Wentzville, Mo., was married on September 15, 2018 in Jacksonville, Ill. Nearly 20 Maryville alumni were in attendance at the wedding.

**10 Kayla Yetke Taszarek, ‘16, and John D. Taszarek, ‘16**, both of Kirkwood, Mo., announced their marriage on September 2, 2018. Kayla also shared her new employment as a development coordinator at JDRF, a nonprofit funding Type 1 diabetes research.

**Danielle “Dani” R. Williams, ‘16, and Dr. Justin S. Wedel, ‘15, ‘17**, both of Creve Coeur, Mo., celebrated their engagement on June 20, 2018. The couple will wed on July 5, 2019, in St. Petersburg, Fla.

**Ashlyn Archer, ‘17**, of St. Louis, works with Girl Scouts of Eastern Missouri. She completed Mayville’s online, one-year Master of Business Administration program. Archer said she loved her MBA experience and is implementing her education in her current role.







**Amy Kohl Butz, '17**, of St. Louis, recently began a job with Spectrum. After completing the web development track of CoderGirl, a program offered by the local nonprofit LaunchCode, Butz was hired by Spectrum as a software developer for the corporate IT department. In January, she became a mentor in LaunchCode's Liftoff program.

**Jenna M. Endres, '17**, of Chesterfield, Mo., recently started a new job as an interior designer at PGAV Destinations in St. Louis, one of the world's leading design firms. Prior to that, Endres worked in interior design with NewGround, Arcturis and Christner Inc.

**11 Gregory "Greg" S. Hegarty, '17**, and his wife, Kaitlyn, both of Blue Springs, Mo., announced they became parents to their beautiful daughter, Hailey, on December 11, 2018.



**Nicole M. Nardi, '17**, of Alameda, Calif., was promoted to coordinator of corporate partnerships activation with the Oakland Raiders.

**Nicholas "Nick" F. Smith, '17**, of Jackson, Mo., is a financial representative at Northwestern Mutual. He is engaged to Lexi Vandeven and looks forward to marrying her on May 23, 2020.

**Mathew S. Broughton, '18**, of Tucson, Ariz., is a cyber defense technologist at Raytheon Missile Systems.

**Mark W. Cohen, '18**, of St. Louis, is an assistant marketing manager at The Cordish Companies—Ballpark Village. Mark also announced his engagement to **Michelle Stading, '19**. The couple met in 2014 during the Maryville START program and have been together ever since.

**Hannah Kauffman Dignan, '18**, of Champaign, Ill., graduated in December 2018 with her Master of Science in nursing. On January 4, 2019, she passed the American Nurses Credentialing Center boards and has accepted a position as an oncology nurse practitioner at an oncology and hematology clinic in Danville, Ill.

**Erin L. Hollenbeck, '18, and Donny T. Thorsen, '16**, of Chesterfield, Mo., announced their engagement. The couple met at Maryville University and have been together for four years. They are excited about planning their wedding.

**Dari Jones '17**, of St. Louis, Mo., announced her new position with RGA's Global Security and Privacy Office (GSPO) as a security risk analyst. Jones will work with clients to ensure they understand RGA's security posture. She will also assist other teams within the Global Security and Privacy Office with different projects.

**Alisa "Ali" K. Myers, '18**, of Rogers, Ark., a nurse practitioner, joined Mercy Clinic Cardiology Physician Plaza. Myers has 14 years of nursing experience in intensive care and telemetry at Mercy Hospital. She earned an associate's degree in nursing from Northwest Arkansas Community College, a bachelor's degree in nursing from the University of Arkansas and a Master of Science in nursing from Maryville University.

## In Memoriam

### 1940s

Marie Perabo Wilds, '40  
Dorothy O'Hallaron Kaletta, '41  
Jeanne Benz Des Parois, '42  
Rosalie Harrison Ruoff, '46  
Clare "Bookie" Boland Cribbin, '47  
Anne DeBold Trahan, '47  
Rosemary Lundergan Heinkel, '48  
Martha Kieffer Smith, '49

### 1950s

JoAnn Greene Brinkman, '52

### 1960s

Gwynn Mothe Birchfield, '63

### 1970s

Joan Flynn, '70  
Barbara Freschi Matteson, '71  
Grace Murphy Purcell, '71

### 1980s

Bettye Jo Kennedy Binder, '83  
Timothy J. McCoy, '84  
Charles W. Whitehead, '89

### 2000s

Jeanette Gindler, '01  
Nancy H. Elswick, '05  
Jamie Watson Bax, '09  
Jason M. Nesbit, '18

**Sarah K. Rose, '18**, of Collinsville, Ill., is a data analyst at Centene Corporation.

**Brendan D. Schaefer, '18**, of Maryland Heights, Mo., co-founded RSYE Digital, LLC. He is primarily the vice president of operations but also assists as creative director. As the vice president of operations, Brendan oversees different teams in the company, is a project manager and handles company projects and financial statements. As creative director, he pitches various ideas to business owners. Schaefer is proud to announce the company has grown since its launch.

**Benjamin "Ben" Ekberg, '19**, of Colorado Springs, Colo., was able to take the next step in his career due to his education at Maryville University. He recently earned a position as a business intelligence analyst at Hero Practice Services, a fast-growing medical company in Colorado Springs, Colo.

**Dannielle S. Lewis, '19**, of St. Peters, Mo., received an offer from the Boeing Company as a software engineer. She said, "The offer is largely due to my master's degree in software development that I obtained from Maryville University, and the content I was exposed to during the program."

## SHARE YOUR NEWS!

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

[maryville.edu/classnotes](http://maryville.edu/classnotes)



**CAMPUS TRADITIONS:** Each year, the Maryville campus comes together to pack more than 1,000 people into Moloney Arena to cheer on the women's and men's basketball teams. The #1000Saints event has become a beloved tradition for students, faculty and friends of Maryville. Additionally, the event raises funds for Kids Rock Cancer, Maryville's innovative music therapy program for kids and teens who have been affected by a cancer diagnosis. This year's event raised more than \$40,000 for the program.





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Every fall, Homecoming welcomes Maryville Saints past, present and future back to campus for a week filled with Saints Nation pride. Bring your Maryville spirit home September 23-29 and celebrate Homecoming 2019 with us!

For more information, visit [maryville.edu/homecoming](http://maryville.edu/homecoming).

