



MARYVILLE
MAGAZINE

SPRING 2020

The background of the cover is a stylized illustration of a superhero's chest. The superhero is wearing a white t-shirt with a large, bold red 'M' on it, which is outlined in white. The superhero is also wearing a dark blue or black jacket. The illustration is done in a bold, graphic style with flat colors and sharp lines. The superhero's hands are visible at the bottom, one clenched in a fist and the other wearing a watch.

UNLEASH YOUR SUPERPOWER

ALSO INSIDE:
Maryville's Response
to COVID-19

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ON THE COVER

At Maryville, we help students unleash their superpowers. Students receive an extraordinary level of academic, personal and career support throughout their Maryville journey. We empower our graduates to become engaged, successful members of their communities.



EDITORIAL

Editor: Constance Gibbs

Design and Layout: Cisneros Design

Contributing Writers: Jong Cambron, Gabbie

Fales, Nancy Fowler, Tim Fox, Minna Onken,

Dale Singer, Chuck Yahng, Maureen Zegel

Contributing Photographers: Max Bouvatte,

Dan Donovan, Casey Neebes, Travis Lufsey,

Jessica Nolde, Kevin A. Roberts, Theo Welling

ADMINISTRATION

President: Mark Lombardi, PhD

Vice President for Integrated Marketing
and Communications: Marcia Sullivan

Vice President for Development and

Alumni Relations: Margaret Onken

Director of Alumni Relations: A.J. Fox

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Other correspondence may be sent to Maryville Magazine Editor, 650 Maryville University Drive St. Louis, MO 63141 or by email: editor@maryville.edu.

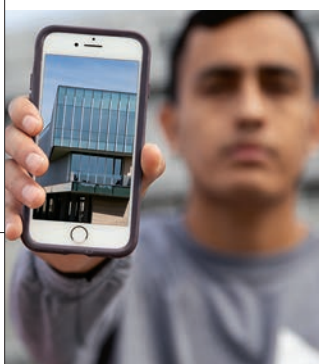
Maryville University is a private, independent institution offering 90+ degrees at the undergraduate, master's and doctoral levels. Maryville has forged its outstanding reputation based on academic excellence, individualized student attention and alumni success.

SPRING 2020 circulation: 33,157



2 The Effect of Coronavirus

Maryville transitioned to a virtual learning format amid the coronavirus pandemic to ensure the health and safety of our campus community.



16 The Sky Is the Limit

Digital technologies are opening doors to new experiences for Maryville students, including the ability to turn campus into an augmented reality gallery.

20 Unlearning Racism

Maryville thought leaders are shining a light on how racism shaped demographic and wealth patterns today and how we can break the cycle of poverty.



24 Differently Abled

Student Madelyn Hubbs was born without her left arm and has devoted her life to breaking down barriers that surround the disability community.

MORE FEATURES

28 Year of the Nurse

Elysia King, '16, saw fellow nurses facing crises of their own with few resources upon which to draw. That need was the genesis of an organization to support nurses in need.

30 Q+A | Digital Transformation

Maryville's new chief digital transformation evangelist is transforming the learning and living experience of thousands of students.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Friends,

I never imagined a few short months ago I would be writing this letter to you in the midst of a global pandemic while our faculty and staff work tirelessly to provide the best educational experience for our students on a digital and virtual platform. But that is our collective reality.

First, I hope and pray that you and your families are safe and healthy. That is the most important thing. Second, we debated long and hard about completing this spring magazine, which showcases the amazing accomplishments of our students and faculty. We ultimately decided during this period of uncertainty and anxiety, you might want an uplifting diversion from the challenges and stress that you face. And what better way than to learn about and reflect upon Maryville's wonderful students, alumni, staff and faculty.

You will read about our students and the difference they make in their communities as well as the cutting-edge innovation of this University across academic fields, technology and student service. You will also hear about the digital transformation of our campus, our commitment to access and diversity and about our Maryville nursing community made up of students, staff, faculty and alumni who are an inspiration to us all – especially during this current pandemic.

Let me say to all of you with great pride, the investment and work our faculty and staff have done over several years has allowed us to pivot during this crisis and provide quality education to our students despite

this pandemic. Our community of learners have come together to make sure that our students get a quality education to not only finish the semester but also position them for graduation or their continued studies as we move forward. Always forward.

We are saddened that we had to cancel or postpone many University events including our May 2 graduation. Rest assured, we are planning a number of activities in the future, once this virus abates, to salute our wonderful graduates. This situation cannot dampen our spirit of celebration for what they have all accomplished.

Finally, I want to dedicate this issue of Maryville Magazine to health care workers (nurses, therapists, doctors and technicians). So many of these incredibly brave people are Maryville graduates and current graduate students who are working night and day under extremely difficult conditions to diagnose, treat and heal thousands across this region and nation. You are the first responders of this crisis, and you are our superheroes.

Please stay safe, be healthy and know I am looking forward to what I pray is a wonderful on-campus fall semester filled with dreams, wonder and inspiration.

Bless you all,

Mark Lombardi, PhD

FLEXIBILITY IN **UNPRECEDENTED** TIMES

The coronavirus pandemic has impacted the world in ways we never imagined. Countless health care professionals are leading heroic efforts locally and across the globe to fight COVID-19. At the same time, most universities in the country have moved to remote instruction for thousands of students and telework for most employees. As we move forward together, Maryville Magazine reflects on our transition to virtual learning and the steps taken to ensure the health and well-being of the Maryville community amidst the coronavirus outbreak.



FEBRUARY 2020

Maryville assembles a cross-departmental coronavirus task force to monitor and plan for a variety of potential scenarios as the virus becomes more widespread.

- ▶ Maryville deploys additional cleaning resources for campus facilities in line with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommendations.



MARCH 4, 2020

Maryville creates a coronavirus website dedicated to resources related to COVID-19, University updates and protocols and study abroad programs.



MARCH 7, 2020

President Mark Lombardi, PhD, addresses the Maryville community prior to spring break regarding a 14-day self-quarantine procedure for anyone choosing to travel to countries under a CDC Level 3 Travel Health Notice.



MARCH 9, 2020

Recognizing the challenges of unforeseen illnesses, Maryville's Human Resources Office announces changes to the University sick leave policy. Staff members are not required to use sick time for coronavirus or flu for absences when advised by a medical provider. A Telemedicine benefit is also announced, with fees and co-pays waived to limit potential exposure of the virus.

Students in study abroad programs are asked to return.



MARCH 10, 2020

Out of an abundance of caution and in an effort to minimize academic disruption, Maryville announces that all on-campus classes will resume the spring semester in a virtual format. The week of spring break (March 9-13) is used to transition courses. Maryville is the first local institution to suspend on-campus classes.

- ▶ All student support services are transitioned to a virtual format including library, student success, counseling and health and wellness services.
- ▶ More than 800 classes are transitioned to a virtual format including lectures, labs and studio sessions.





MARCH 16, 2020

Just a day after the CDC advises no gatherings of 50 or more people in the U.S. for the next eight weeks, Maryville makes the difficult decision to suspend on-campus classes for the rest of the spring semester. Residential students who are able to go home are asked to leave campus.

- ▶ All University-sponsored events are canceled or postponed until further notice, including Commencement.
- ▶ Residential Life coordinates the move out of 892 students from March 17-19.
- ▶ Maryville offers credits and refunds to residential students who move out.



MARCH 21, 2020

St. Louis City and St. Louis County governments enact stay-at-home orders beginning March 23 through April 22. Maryville moves quickly to move all 37 remaining residential students to campus apartments to allow for proper social distancing and prepares food and care packages for them as they plan to hunker down.

- ▶ All buildings are secured and closed with the exception of the Department of Public Safety Office.



Diversity Honors


Maryville receives its third award in honor of the University's commitment to diversity and inclusion.

CoachDiversity Institute recognized Maryville University for its commitment to diversity and inclusion in the collegiate workplace with the prestigious Impact Award.

"Through this award, we seek to honor trailblazers who are uniquely leveraging the power of coaching through their work, thereby empowering diverse communities," said Towanna Burrous, president of CoachDiversity Institute.

Over the past several years, Maryville has intentionally worked toward building a more diverse campus community. Now, an added focus is to break down barriers for individuals desiring to attend college. To this end, Maryville has effectively implemented a life-coaching model that takes a holistic approach toward positively impacting student success.

The Maryville life coach team helps students every step of the way. Each student works closely with a life coach who serves as a knowledgeable academic adviser and mentor. Life coaches are confidants and sources of support when concerns arise, and they are eager to celebrate successes above all. Maryville life coaches also guide students through academic and career planning decisions, helping to ease the personal transition into, during and beyond the Maryville experience.

"We are thrilled to be recognized for our work by CoachDiversity Institute," said Jennifer McCluskey, PhD, vice president for student success. "The Maryville student experience has truly been transformed through the work of our life coach team. Coaching is the singular most cutting-edge tool that has led to the University's expansive 97 percent career outcomes rate. Recent surveys also indicate it is a compelling reason why students are choosing Maryville over other competing brands of higher education." 

Thank you to the Maryville community as we continue to navigate these uncertain times together. For regular updates and answers to frequently asked questions, visit maryville.edu/coronavirus.



In the Palm of Your Hand


Maryville is one of the first universities in the country to issue student-owned digital credentials as part of a blockchain initiative.

Maryville has empowered students and alumni to own the academic credentials they have earned and issue them personally after the University debuted digital diplomas this past fall. Maryville is one of the first universities in the country to adopt this cutting-edge blockchain technology.

Students are able to manage their digital diplomas on a smartphone via an app. Through blockchain technology, the app provides a verifiable, tamper-proof version of their diploma that can be shared instantly with potential employers, other schools and anybody else the student designates. Employers or schools can verify the digital diploma immediately through a link that accesses the blockchain without need to contact Maryville's student services team.

The project is spearheaded by Maryville's chief digital transformation evangelist Feng Hou who previously served as chief information officer and chief learning officer at Central New Mexico Community College where he oversaw a similar blockchain initiative.

"We're very excited to use blockchain technology to help our students better connect with the world around them," Hou said. "Maryville is leading the way for other institutions of higher learning to adopt this emerging technology that is transforming how we serve students and prepare them for careers of the future."

In addition to digital diplomas, Maryville plans to issue blockchain-secured digital transcripts to students. The service will allow students to independently share their records when moving between schools, applying for advanced degrees or starting new careers. Future use cases also include digital badging to include detailed descriptions of skills learned. 



BLOCKCHAIN TECHNOLOGY

HOW IT WORKS

Blockchain technology works like a chain of digital "blocks" that contain records of transactions. Each such block is connected to those before and behind it, making it difficult for a hacker to tamper with.

HOW IT'S USED

- ▶ Fuels Bitcoin and other cryptocurrency
- ▶ Allows users to control their digital identities through digital IDs
- ▶ Provides a secure way to register and store payments and transactions
- ▶ Offers the ability to vote digitally without the concern of voter fraud





In the Zone

Maryville continues to explore virtual reality and 360-degree videos as new frontiers for student learning.

Maryville's unprecedented enrollment growth is expected to continue, primarily fueled by students enrolled in online courses. To that end, the University has made investments in video technology, learning designers and creative developers for Maryville's online programs including embracing technologies like virtual reality and 360-degree videos.

"With virtual reality, the ultimate goal is true immersion: feeling that you're in another place without physically being there," said Thomas James, creative director for the School of Adult and Online Education. "Your screen becomes your world."

A recent partnership with Katherine Kline, PhD, associate professor of rehabilitation counseling, created a virtual reality experience simulating what it's like to have schizophrenia including auditory and visual hallucinations. The simulation, part of the class Perspectives on Disability, was filmed in Gander Dining Hall and included hired actors as well as collaboration with departments across campus like the Office of Public Safety and the Maryville Mascot Team.

Another recent partnership with Geriann Brandt, MA, director of the criminal justice/criminology program and assistant professor of criminal justice and criminology, is the online debut of Introduction to Criminal Investigations. Brandt prepares for the on-ground course by burying a pig carcass and other evidence at Maryville's 92-acre educational reserve in Augusta, Missouri, to teach students about finding and handling evidence. In the online environment, students are immersed in a 360-degree video and click on "hotspots," containing images, videos or other graphics, so students can interact with that same evidence without physically being there.

Congratulations to the faculty and staff who put in many hours of hard work on these projects! In honor of their groundbreaking work with these new technologies, members of Maryville's School of Adult and Online Education have presented at numerous national conferences including events hosted by the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Missouri S&T and the University of Missouri-St. Louis. **M**

FINDING HARMONY

Congratulations to Maryville's Kids Rock Cancer program, which is celebrating a decade of bringing the healing power of music therapy to kids and teens coping with cancer or blood-related disorders. Through therapeutic songwriting, they find a vehicle for self-expression and a distraction from physical and emotional pain. Thousands of kids and teens throughout St. Louis have discovered their inner rock star, working with a board-certified music therapist in a warm, supported environment. In honor of this milestone anniversary, Kids Rock Cancer hosted a 10th anniversary showcase and celebration featuring performances and original songs by Kids Rock Cancer rock stars.

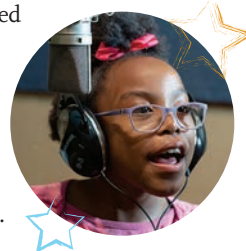


Photo reprinted with permission from Ladue News.

MARYVILLE MAGAZINE IS NOW ONLINE.

When you see this icon, there's more to the story. Follow Maryville Magazine online: **maryville.edu/magazine**



"With virtual reality, the ultimate goal is true immersion: feeling that you're in another place without physically being there."

MARYVILLE RECEIVES
MAJOR GIFT

In honor of an inspiring couple, and with appreciation for their generosity, Maryville University will dedicate the Anna M. and Whitney R. Harris Conference Room, located in Gander Hall.

Anna and Whitney Harris exemplify the power of public service and philanthropy to inspire, motivate and drive change. Both individually and as a loving couple, Whitney and Anna have created a legacy through their generous commitments of time, energy and financial resources to help build a better world.

Whitney’s extraordinary career as an attorney, during which he served as a key prosecutor of Nazi war criminals at the Nuremberg Trials, sparked his lifelong dedication to international justice and peace.

Named an “Ageless Remarkable St. Louisan” by St. Andrew’s Resources for Seniors, Anna has served as a volunteer and champion for civic and cultural organizations like the St. Louis Artists’ Guild, the Children’s Home Society of Missouri, American Cancer Society, International Photography Hall of Fame and many others. 



The Results Are In

Maryville’s alumni survey – designed to measure engagement and gather charitable giving data – was completed by nearly 2,000 respondents. Among the key findings: Maryville graduates are loyal and interested in becoming more involved with their alma mater.



NEWS MOST INTERESTED IN

- ▶ University-wide news
- ▶ School, college or department news
- ▶ Events
- ▶ Alumni profiles



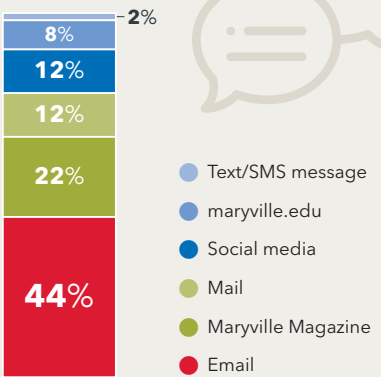
EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES MOST INTERESTED IN

- ▶ Social
- ▶ Educational
- ▶ Career/networking
- ▶ Student mentorship

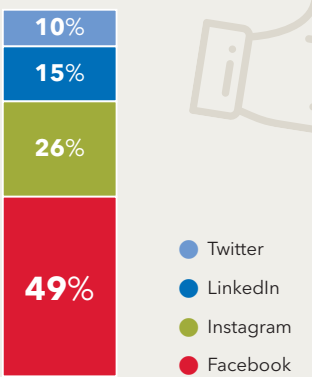
Top Three Reasons to Give to Maryville:

- 1 LOYAL TO MARYVILLE**
- 2 Support scholarships and provide access to higher education**
- 3 SUPPORT SPECIFIC SCHOOL, COLLEGE OR DEPARTMENT**

PREFERRED CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION



PREFERRED SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS



Barriers to making charitable gifts to Maryville include:

- ▶ Student debt
- ▶ Other financial responsibilities and other charitable giving priorities



Radical Optimism

Faculty from the humanities celebrated the 200th anniversary of Walt Whitman's birthday with a semester-long series of events.

In celebration of Walt Whitman's 200th birthday, the Maryville Humanities Department, in collaboration with the St. Louis Poetry Center, presented Whitmania!, a semester-long series of events. Widely considered the father of American poetry, Whitman has had continuous influence on contemporary poets, writers, artists, composers and thinkers in America and abroad. The celebration was led by Germaine Murray, PhD, professor of English, and Dana Levin, MA, distinguished writer-in-residence.

Whitmania! kicked off with the opening of "Whitman: Up Close," an exhibit in the Morton J. May Foundation Gallery. Visitors to the gallery experienced a

three-dimensional anthology of poems by Whitman and his contemporaries, as well as other works of art influenced by Whitman like music, photography, painting and sculpture. The exhibition demonstrated Whitman's cultural influence in the United States and across the globe.

Other Whitmania! events included a lecture by Stephanie Burt, a poet, literary critic, professor of English at Harvard University and transgender activist, and a concert with Peter Henderson, artist-in-residence and associate professor of music. Maryville faculty also discussed Whitmania! on an episode of Saint Louis Speaks Podcast, which highlights civic leaders in the St. Louis region. 

“


Martin Luther King Jr. teaches us that justice is really dynamic and there are so many oppressed groups. It's not okay to be inconsistent. You can't be about social justice for one group and not about social justice for all groups. What affects one, affects us all.

”

ART MCCOY, PHD

Superintendent of schools,
Jennings School District
During Maryville's 2020
Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration

Combating Food Insecurity:

It may come as a surprise that an increasing number of college students don't have the resources to eat regular, nutritious meals. Students without consistent access to enough food are more likely to experience academic difficulty, premature dropout and psychological distress. To address the immediate needs of food insecure students, Maryville created Saints Cabinet, which is located in Huttig Chapel and is open 24/7. Saints Cabinet stocks nonperishable food products like soups, pasta, beans, canned fruits and canned vegetables, and personal hygiene items like toilet paper and tissues. There is no fee to use Saints Cabinet, and inventory is continuously restocked by Maryville Student Government volunteers. 



CORTEX BOUND

Maryville University announced a new Fusion Center located inside Cortex's 4220 building that will be used to engage the St. Louis startup community on cybersecurity topics and create a pipeline of talent. The Fusion Center is Maryville's first academic space in Cortex and will be used by the University's cybersecurity and management information systems faculty and students. In addition to meeting space, Maryville will use the Fusion Center for a series of cybersecurity talks to provide networking and mentoring opportunities for industry leaders. Maryville's new Cortex space is part of the "Protect and Connect" program with funding support provided through a three-year, \$435,000 grant from the PNC Foundation. **M**



White-Glove Treatment:

Students donned white gloves for an in-depth tour of the photography collection housed inside the Maryville University Archives. The active learning experience was part of a History of Photography class taught by art historian and adjunct professor Kelly Scheffer. Under the guidance of knowledge consultant and archivist Emma Prince, '13, students viewed glass-plate negatives, daguerreotypes (images formed on silver-coated copper plates) and albumen prints as well as 20th century prints. In addition to viewing photographs depicting life at the old campus of Maryville Academy, students enjoyed a series of photographs of Winifred Prendergast, Maryville's first resident athletic coach who is famous for introducing the sport of badminton to St. Louis. **M**





Let's Play Ball

The state-of-the-art Maryville Saints Athletic Complex opened to great fanfare.

For the past five years, Maryville has aggressively renovated, upgraded and created new dynamic learning and living spaces on campus. And, the University is well on its way with additional plans to grow and further enhance classrooms, gathering and studying spaces and sports facilities. These include the state-of-the-art Maryville University Athletic Complex, which officially opened in November.

The Athletic Complex houses a competition lacrosse field, a women's softball stadium and tennis courts for the men and women's squads. It also includes 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 Athletic Complex is yet another example of Maryville providing exemplary facilities for its student body," said Lonnie Folks, '82, '98, director of athletics and recreation. "The Athletics Complex is drawing rave reviews from our men's and women's lacrosse players, our softball team and our tennis student-athletes. I'm pleased we're able to give these programs a new home, and one that is top of the line. We look forward to playing at the new Complex and reaping the benefits it will provide for current and future student-athletes." **M**



For more information, including a drone tour of the new Maryville University Athletic Complex, visit maryville.edu/capitalprojects.

FACULTY / STAFF NEWS

ROBIN GREBING, EDD, director of the higher education leadership program and assistant professor of higher education leadership, received a Teaching with Technology Award at the 2019 Focus on Teaching with Technology Conference.



Development director **CARESSA DAVIS** was named a member of FOCUS St. Louis' Fall 2019 Class of Emerging Leaders.

Senior instructional technology specialist **TAYLOR BELL** was featured by EdTech: Focus on Higher Education for her expertise regarding information technology.



Distinguished writer-in-residence **DANA LEVIN, MA**, was a featured artist in "Children of Grass: A Portrait of American Poetry," an anthology by renowned photographer B.A. Van Sise.

DUSTIN YORK, EDD, director of undergraduate and graduate communication programs and associate professor of communication, received a Teaching with Technology Award at the 2019 Focus on Teaching with Technology Conference.



REBECCA DOHRMAN, PHD, associate professor of communication, was named a member of the 2019 Greater Missouri Leadership Challenge.

LEILANI CARVER-MADALON, PHD, associate professor of communication, was a featured speaker at the 2019 TEDx Gateway Arch Bold & Brilliant Women event.



Vice president for integrated marketing and communications **MARCIA SULLIVAN** was a featured speaker at the 2019 Data Over Instinct Summit produced by Anvil Analytics + Insights.

DESTINY REDDICK, EDD, assistant dean for the School of Education and assistant professor of teacher education, was honored as a distinguished leader in the Delux Power 100 Awards.



Marine Corps veteran and men's lacrosse assistant coach **CHRIS BURKE** was featured on Borne the Battle, a podcast and blog produced by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.



COME BACK TO MARYVILLE

to experience Saints Nation pride at a variety of Homecoming programs and events that will reconnect you with your alma mater.

For more information, visit maryville.edu/homecoming

MPOWERED



A NEW WAVE

BY GABBIE FALES

Led by criminal justice student Mariajose “MJ” Ortiz, a Maryville student group is channeling a new wave of energy into the women’s movement.

After transferring to Maryville as a second-year student, Mariajose “MJ” Ortiz checked out the student group Empower as a way to get involved. Over the next two years, she became more and more passionate about the group’s mission — to make an impact in the world through supporting intersectional feminist efforts and educating others about social injustices women face.

When she was asked to take on the role of president, it seemed like a natural fit. “Sometimes it’s hard to remember your worth,” Ortiz said. “As a woman, a person of color and a first-generation college student, I know firsthand how difficult it can be. That’s why I have the determination to let people know they’re not alone.”

Currently, Empower has 60 members and was recently honored as an outstanding student organization by Maryville’s student newspaper, Pawprint. “Community involvement is at the core of what we do,” Ortiz said. Empower puts on numerous events throughout the year to support its mission. Many events, like the annual donation drive, aim to support like-minded community organizations. Last year, Empower collected more than 700 personal hygiene items to donate to St. Louis area women’s organizations and shelters.

In 2018, the group began a partnership with the Zonta Club of St. Louis, a local chapter of the global organization that seeks to empower women through service and advocacy. The two groups collaborated to

present the St. Louis premiere of “Little Stones,” an award-winning documentary following four women who use art to create a global change in human trafficking.

“The Zonta partnership was a great opportunity for students in Empower to not only connect with a like-minded community organization but also to gain some real-world experience,” said Stacy Donovan, PhD, associate professor of biology and faculty adviser for Empower. The movie premiere, which also served as a fundraiser, raised more than \$10,000 for local women’s initiatives.

In her role as president, Ortiz said her largest goal is for Empower to encourage people to be actively engaged. “Even if a particular injustice doesn’t apply to you personally, it’s important to be an ally for those who it does affect,” she said. “I want Empower members to be agents of change.”

Each year, the group attends the St. Louis Women’s March. They meet beforehand to make signs, then attend the march to advocate for the change they hope to see in women’s issues in St. Louis, throughout the nation and worldwide. “Every time I attend the march, it’s so impactful,” Ortiz said. “We celebrate the change that has already been achieved, but we also shed light on the areas that still need work. Though strides have been made for women in general, change is happening much more slowly for the transgender community and for people of color.”

To help bridge this gap, Empower hosts educational programs for the Maryville community. This past fall, they hosted nearly



▲ This page and opposite page: The student group Empower, led by criminal justice student Mariajose “MJ” Ortiz, attends the St. Louis Women’s March to advocate for change.

100 students at a presentation by guest speaker Schuyler Bailer, the first openly transgender NCAA Division I student-athlete. They also hold monthly “conversation cafes” to encourage conversation around difficult topics. “Events like these are just one stepping stone on the path to change for marginalized groups,” Ortiz said.

Through Empower, Ortiz found a community, a voice and a platform to advocate for others.

Her involvement in Empower has even shaped her plans beyond graduation. “I want to be an attorney so I can help those who feel like they don’t have a voice, or feel like they’re not being represented,” Ortiz said. “I want to help them feel heard.” 🍷



THE BOOMING CAREER OUTLOOK

Nurse practitioners are needed more than ever, and there's no sign of demand slowing down. Students in Maryville's online nursing programs learn from expert faculty who openly share their experiences and insights regarding the nursing profession. | BY CONSTANCE GIBBS



In the next few years, as the baby boomer generation ages, health care systems are adding specialized care to meet the needs of this aging population. These individuals have greater life expectancy than previous generations and, because of their lifestyles, will have a greater chance of suffering from heart disease, cancer, chronic respiratory problems and other conditions.

Maryville faculty like Loretta Colvin, ACNP, clinical assistant professor of nursing and coordinator of Maryville's online adult-gerontology acute care nurse practitioner program, are educating the next generation of care providers so they can provide the highest level of care possible for patients.

"When you're a nurse practitioner, your job always involves teaching and counseling patients," Colvin said. "My career has also included opportunities to teach my colleagues. I realized I had worked with everyone in the health care field but students, so it seemed like a natural transition to share my knowledge with them, too."

Colvin brings more than 20 years of industry expertise into the online learning environment. She held positions with Johns Hopkins University and the University of Maryland before returning to her home state 10 years ago. At Maryville, Colvin teaches classes, coordinates a team of faculty and

with their patients, then ask them the right questions and order the right tests to confirm a diagnosis."

Like many nursing faculty, Colvin balances teaching with her clinical practice in the health care field. She works as a nurse practitioner for SSM Health Sleep

"We are allowing students to go back to school and get more training in order to advance their careers, without requiring them to relocate or uproot their lives."

helps craft curriculum including videos, interactive activities and discussions — all online.

"I teach students how to treat people who are suddenly ill and find themselves in the hospital, like individuals who have severe pneumonia or have experienced heart attacks," she said. "It's my job to make sure that when students enter the workforce, they are able to recognize what's wrong

Services. In her role, she works with patients experiencing sleep-related disorders such as snoring, sleep apnea and insomnia.

Inspired by her online teaching experiences, Colvin helped develop a project for SSM Health's first-ever Innovation Challenge, which asked employees for innovative ideas to improve patient care. Colvin's team developed on-demand education videos for patients using CPAP

machines to treat sleep apnea. The team was one of four finalists competing for a \$10,000 award for the winning team.

“CPAP machines are the most commonly prescribed therapy for sleep apnea, but can be overwhelming for patients to navigate,” Colvin said. “We see many patients who stop using the device or are hesitant to begin the treatment. Our videos provide step-by-step instructions to help patients correctly use the device and troubleshoot issues or side effects.”


The videos can be viewed in the clinic or from home as often as needed, and Colvin hopes the convenient and accessible format will help patients successfully learn detailed information in a short period of time.

“It would never have occurred to me to record videos for patients if I hadn’t already been teaching online,” Colvin said. “I would have thought I needed to provide information in person to be effective. But from teaching online, I realized I could tailor education to my patients just like I do for my students.”

For her outstanding contributions in the teaching of sleep medicine, Colvin received the 2019 Excellence in Education Award from the American Academy of Sleep Medicine (AASM). Colvin has been a longtime AASM volunteer and served on several task forces and committees focused on educating health professionals.

The award also honored Colvin’s leadership in advocating for the importance of nurse practitioners. Nearly 40 percent of sleep clinics nationwide are staffed by nurse practitioners, with that number expected to grow exponentially as the number of

physicians declines. Through the AASM, Colvin is helping provide these nurse practitioners with standardized education and training programs as they advance within their clinical roles.

“There are not enough doctors to care for all the patients, and I want to bridge that gap,” Colvin said. “That’s why I love being part of Maryville’s online nursing programs. We are allowing students to go back to school and get more training in order to advance their careers, without requiring them to relocate or uproot their lives. We’re not only supporting students but we’re also supporting the communities in which they live, work and play.” 



▲ Inspired by her Maryville Online teaching experiences, Loretta Colvin, ACNP, clinical assistant professor of nursing and an SSM Health nurse practitioner, created on-demand education videos for patients using CPAP machines to treat sleep apnea. The project was part of SSM Health’s first-ever Innovation Challenge.

NURSING DEMAND IS ON THE RISE

- The population of U.S. citizens age 65 or older grew from 35 million in 2000 to nearly 50 million in 2016
- Chronic illness is projected to affect an estimated 164 million Americans by 2025 – nearly half the population
- Job openings for nurse practitioners are expected to increase by 25% from 2018 to 2028
- The median salary of a nurse practitioner in 2018 was \$113,930

HIDDEN POSSIBILITIES

Students transform
Maryville's campus into
an augmented reality
gallery using new
digital technologies.

BY TIM FOX

Cutting-edge digital technology is not the first thing most students expect when they enter a history classroom, but that's exactly what Maryville University students

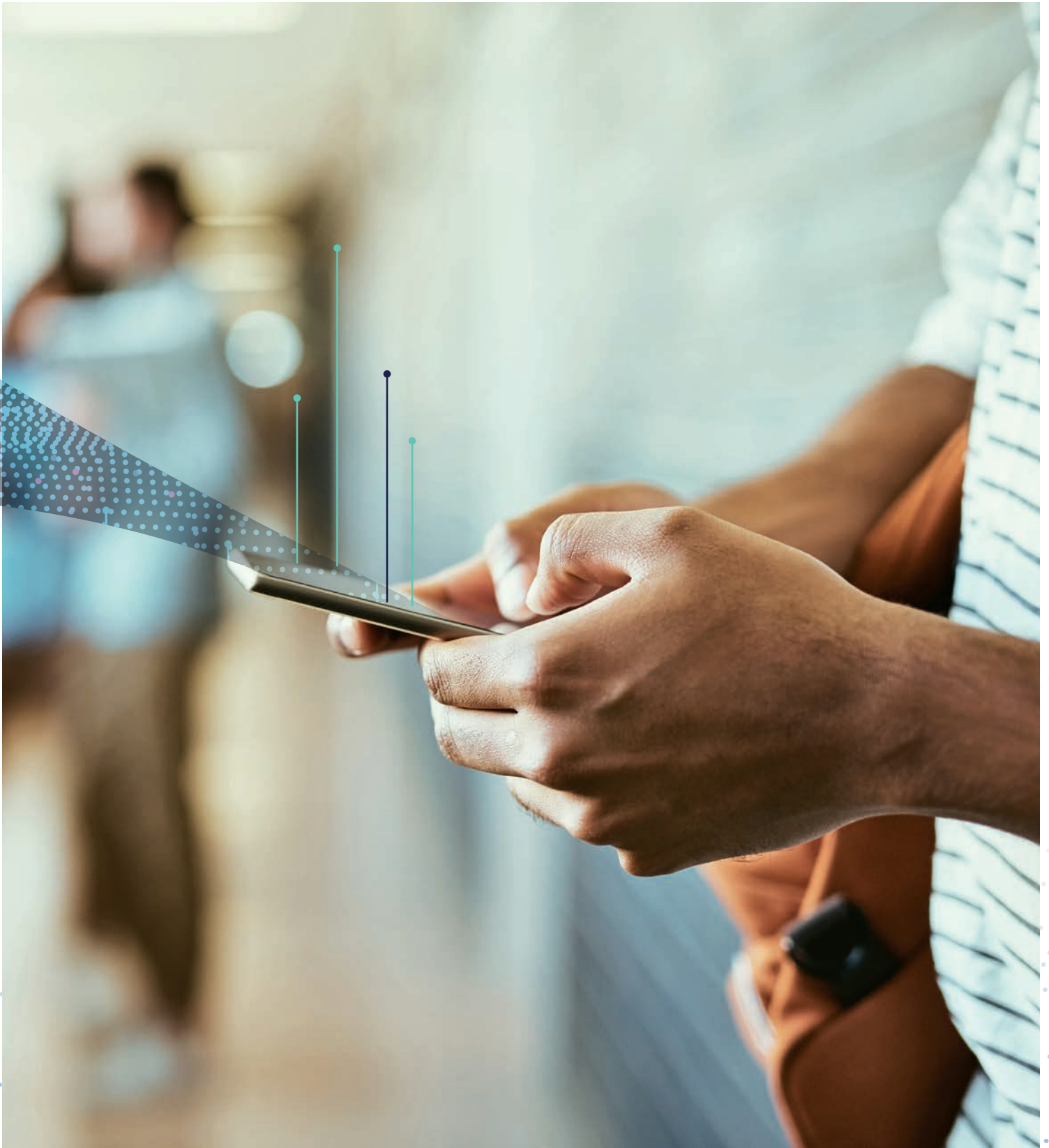
encountered in the classroom of Lisa Lillie, PhD, assistant professor of history and director of the history program.

The innovative class, entitled Historical Methods and Digital Humanities, required students to use augmented reality technology to create guided tours of Maryville's campus. Students used their iPads or iPhones and the HP Reveal app to load historical images, information and even videos about Maryville's nearly 150-year history. The

images, information and videos then instantly appeared on their screens when they hovered over interactive "hotspots" located across campus. The augmented reality content appears onscreen against the backdrop of their surroundings.

The augmented reality technology embeds imagery into the world itself, transforming what you see in a way that's visually convincing. Lillie said using augmented reality technology in the classroom is helpful for students because they already consume information in this way. "Students use augmented reality every time they use a Snapchat lens," she said. "Now, they are using this technology to interact with history the same way they interact with their friends."

For students, the technology not only helped them interact with history, but also



Using augmented reality, students embedded a photo of four Maryville undergraduates posing with the statue of Mary in the 1970s against today's modern backdrop outside Charles M. Huttig Memorial Chapel.



HOW TO CREATE AN AR GALLERY

1. Identify area of Maryville campus you'd like to learn more about
2. Collect videos, photos and narratives in the Maryville University Archives
3. Use your iPad or iPhone to load content into HP Reveal app
4. Assign AR content to interactive "hotspots" located across campus
5. Enjoy your AR gallery as you walk through campus

provided new ways for them to think about their futures. "Before this course, I thought of history as a very traditional subject," said Maryville sophomore Aminata Camara. "This course has shown that it can be modern and open up many different paths."

Courses like Digital Humanities that make history exciting and relevant for today's students are more important than ever before. According to a recent study by Northeastern University professor Benjamin Schmidt, the percentage of history degrees issued by U.S. colleges has declined significantly since the 2008 financial crisis. Meanwhile, the need for historical thinking to understand complex issues like impeachment is great.

That's where Lillie's Digital Humanities course comes in. One of the course's many goals is to help students learn how to use technology in new ways that are not only fun but also educational — and potentially profitable.

"The class gives students hands-on problem-solving and technical skills in high-demand areas like app design and development," Lillie said. "We also work on developing students' online personas and building their own websites. They come out of the class with an electronic portfolio they can share with any potential employer."

Lillie rounds out the class with visits from guest speakers, such as the director of the

Missouri History Museum's Research Library, the Science Center's Collections and Special Projects Manager and St. Louis University's head of Gifts and Scholarships. The speakers introduce students to a range of careers they can pursue with the help of a humanities degree, like history.

"I'm not a history major, but this class is really cool," said junior Alex Locke. "It lets you know what's in the job market and how to get into graduate school, while providing a good base for whatever you want to do."


The first step students took on their journey was around campus. Their mission? To make videos of fellow students discussing their knowledge of Maryville history. "It's surprising how little students know about campus," Lillie said. "They walk by monuments, buildings and historical sites every day and take them for granted, not knowing anything about them."

During the interview process, students took note of sites they would like to know more about. Then, they developed lists of questions about their chosen sites before setting up appointments with Maryville knowledge consultant and archivist Emma Prince, '13. In the Maryville University Archives, they completed visiting researcher forms, identified the boxes of materials they needed, had them pulled one at a time and then paged carefully through each until they found the

information or images they needed. Finally, they used their iPads and iPhones to load content into the HP Reveal app before placing AR content around campus based off specific locations.

"Dr. Lillie and I both wanted students to know what goes into conducting original, archival research, even though the project itself was digital," Prince said. "Just like they need to know the history behind the things they walk past all the time, they need to know what goes into creating website content, just like the websites they use every day."

The process opened students' eyes to regional as well as campus history, including how the two have intersected over the years. "A lot of students were unaware of Maryville's ties to the Religious of the Sacred Heart," Prince said. "Talking with them about that led to discussions about how St. Louis is special because so much of its history comes from French Catholics who migrated from New Orleans and the South, rather than from the East Coast."

But as the students themselves explain, there was nothing trivial about the class. They are now better scholars, problem-solvers and consumers of digital technology who are well-versed in the pros and cons of augmented reality. 

AUGMENTED VS. VIRTUAL REALITY: WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?


Augmented reality (AR) adds digital elements to a live view often by using the camera on a smartphone. Examples of augmented reality experiences include Snapchat lenses and the game Pokémon Go.

Virtual reality (VR) implies a complete immersion experience that shuts out the physical world. Using VR devices such as HTC Vive, Oculus Rift or Google Cardboard, users can be transported into a number of real-world and imagined environments such as the middle of a squawking penguin colony or even the back of a dragon.

Courtesy of The Franklin Institute.



SHAKING UP NORTH COUNTY



While researching St. Louis' real estate history, Erica Williams, '05, '12, discovered that current racial tensions are the result of past racist laws and public policies. She decided a substantial investment into North St. Louis County was necessary to provide equitable relief to the region. | BY CONSTANCE GIBBS

Growing up in North St. Louis County, Erica Williams, '05, '12, remembers visiting movie theaters, public pools and restaurants in her bustling neighborhood. Today, many of those businesses have closed their doors. North St. Louis County is the victim of urban decay, resulting in abandoned buildings, high unemployment and increased poverty and crime.

"As a mother of five, I am always thinking about how we can get our community back in a way that families can actually enjoy North County and don't have to move to find the things they want to enjoy," Williams said.

Fueled by this goal, Williams returned to her alma mater, Maryville University, to earn her MBA and planned to focus her capstone project on the economic development of North County. She began researching St. Louis' real estate history and how racial discrimination in mortgage lending in the 1930s, also known as redlining, shaped demographic and wealth patterns today.

But Williams' trajectory changed following the shooting of Michael Brown, the unarmed teenager killed by a police officer in Ferguson, Missouri. The shooting sparked protests against police brutality and helped spur the Black Lives Matter movement. Months later, a St. Louis prosecutor announced that a grand jury had not indicted Darren Wilson, the officer who killed Brown, setting off a new round of protests.

The Ferguson unrest opened up a national dialogue around racial injustice. "The response from everyone, no matter which side they took, was so strong," Williams said. "I attended my first protest and really began to understand the pain members of my community were feeling. I realized I needed to look at helping my community through a racial equity lens, not just an economic development lens."

Williams founded the nonprofit A Red Circle to foster meaningful relationships within North County for the betterment of the community, reversing the effects of racism, one person at a time. The name was chosen for a specific purpose: "red," because all blood is red, and "circle," to represent safety and unity. She first managed A Red Circle in her free time, but ultimately made the decision to leave her paralegal career to devote herself fulltime to the organization.

"The goal is to explore the interconnection of systems within the region and how racism — past, present and future — impacts a community," Williams said. "We are exploring how healthy food access is connected to education, how education is connected to tax revenue, how tax revenue is related to jobs and transportation and how the arts and civic engagement ties all those things together," she said.

A Red Circle hosts numerous community events throughout the year such as voter registration barbeques, financial empowerment workshops and healthy food markets featuring fresh produce, fitness demonstrations and arts and crafts. The organization also provides opportunities for the arts including

“Part of the experience is soaking it all in, but it’s also about asking questions.”

its “7 Days in 1 Night” Kwanzaa celebration and group trips to the Muny.

Additionally, A Red Circle is a key player in statewide advocacy efforts to improve the well-being of Missouri children. Williams and others have served on work groups and committees that help shape state policy and testified before the state legislature through organizations like Kids Win Missouri and the ACLU of Missouri.

“A Red Circle is a black-led organization doing work in black communities,” Williams said. “Often times, black communities are at the mercy of larger nonprofits who want to help, but don’t have a direct connection to the community. We want to make sure work is being done in North County and for North County, and this includes making sure people from North County have a seat at the table when conversations are taking place.”

A Red Circle also partners with other St. Louis area organizations to further its mission, including Maryville University.

Each year, Williams works alongside School of Education faculty to introduce students to culturally responsive teaching, a concept based on elevating the learning capacity of students who have traditionally been marginalized in education.

“Many of our School of Education graduates will serve in public schools with students who don’t look like them and come from different cultural backgrounds,” said Destiny Reddick, EdD, assistant dean for the School of Education and assistant professor of teacher education. “We are teaching them how to relate to their students, how to work with parents and how to recognize when students’ cultural backgrounds impact their behaviors and communication styles.”

These skills are especially needed in Missouri, where, in line with a nationwide trend, African American students are suspended four times more often than white students. Suspensions frequently mean students spend less time learning in

the classroom, and suspended students are more likely to drop out of school, repeat a grade and become incarcerated. The phenomenon, called the school-to-prison pipeline, is attributed to racial bias that plays out through subjective application of school discipline policies.

As part of their culturally responsive training, Maryville School of Education students learn to recognize socioeconomic and racial disparities in St. Louis. This includes a project where students are assigned a major thoroughfare, like Gravois



Above and right Through a partnership with Maryville University, Erica Williams '05, '12, takes students on guided tours of North St. Louis County so they can learn the intersectionality of poverty, hunger, education and race.




BUILDING A COMMUNITY OF SUPPORT

Avenue or Olive Street, and drive from St. Louis County into St. Louis City, noting differences between housing, businesses, advertisements, health care facilities and healthy food access. Students even note what public trash cans look like and whether bus stops are covered or uncovered or provide seating.

Williams and her North St. Louis County expertise play a large part in this lesson. She narrates a “model drive” for the students before they explore the region on their own. “Part of the experience is soaking it all in, but it’s also about asking questions,” Williams said. “We want students to see how different things impact education and the ability to learn. For example, a child may come to school wearing dirty clothes, but it’s possible that child doesn’t have running water at home to do laundry. Students are learning how to separate behavior issues from needs and challenges children face.”

Maryville and A Red Circle plan to expand their partnership in the future. Preparations are underway through the Maryville Education Club to host multicultural book fairs in North St. Louis County elementary schools. The book fairs will introduce students to children’s books that promote positive images and stories about African American culture and history as a tool to help increase literacy.

“Maryville is a special place, and the experiences I had while I was a student were invaluable,” Williams said. “To be able to work with the University today is huge for me.” 

At Maryville, we know students’ success is shaped by the educational experiences that begin well before college. As part of our commitment to students’ lifelong learning journeys, the University builds partnerships with numerous community organizations to expand access and opportunity for all.

A longtime partner is the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater St. Louis. Maryville has brought the University’s successful life coaching model into the K-12 space through its work with Club members and staff. Maryville’s life coaching team hosts half-day professional development workshops where Club staff use learning diagnostic tools to assess their strengths and explore how they can best apply those attributes when working with students.

Members of Maryville’s life coaching team also host workshops for sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade Club members at Southeast Middle School in Hazelwood, Missouri. Each workshop includes identifying and discussing the students’ strengths and introducing careers in emerging technologies like data science, artificial intelligence and cybersecurity.


Additionally, Club members who are approaching their junior and senior years and who are interested in attending college after high school graduation participate in an overnight college immersion experience. The program is held on the Maryville campus and includes activities that resemble those offered during the school year such as participation in a mock University Seminary course and sessions about time management and study skills.

“We appreciate Maryville’s ongoing partnership and commitment

to our youth members,” said Flint W. Fowler, PhD, president of Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater St. Louis. “The University is helping to equip our children and teens with the skills needed to flourish in the areas of technology and STEM, while prepping them for life after high school. On-campus and club-site experiences like robotics, college



immersion programs and life coaching have transformed our post-secondary readiness efforts. We are also grateful for the scholarship opportunities and tuition support made available to our graduating seniors. We look forward to continuing to work together in order to build great futures for students.”

In honor of our growing partnership, Maryville announced that Fowler will join the University’s board of trustees later this year. His strategic leadership will help Maryville continue to lead a revolution in higher education. 

Madelyn Hubbs was born without her left arm and has spent her life sharing her story of perseverance in the face of adversity. Now, she's sharing that story with the Maryville community to let us know...

Differences Can Be Beautiful

BY MAUREEN ZEGEL

When Madelyn Hubbs was born 19 years ago, doctors told her parents that despite being 10 weeks premature, their tiny three-pound baby was in good health. But she was born without her left arm.

Hubbs was three months old when she first visited Shriners Hospitals for Children – St. Louis, and it became a major influence on her life and that of her family. Shriners medical personnel helped Hubbs learn to function and interact in the world. She credits her family — parents, Jeffrey and Melissa, and younger brother, Kyle — for her can-do attitude and never saying she couldn't do something.

"From my earliest memories, Shriners never felt like a hospital to me," Hubbs said. "I was always met with hugs and smiles from everyone there. The medical staff taught me how to cut up my food, tie my shoes, button my coat. It's where I met my first best friend, who was missing her left leg. And we are still best friends."

Today, the dynamic Madelyn Hubbs is a second-year student at Maryville University and has learned all those skills and then some. She and her family continue to work closely with Shriners Hospitals for Children. Hubbs was recently named one of the 2019-2020 National Patient Ambassadors for Shriners. The ambassadors travel a few days a month sharing their life stories and how Shriners Hospitals has made a dramatic, life-changing difference in their lives. The ambassadors



even had the opportunity to ride on the Shriners Hospitals for Children float in this year's Rose Parade.

Currently, Hubbs is working toward changing other people's lives. It came as no surprise to anyone who knows her that she would pursue a career in occupational therapy.

"Maryville was my top choice," she said. "The campus is so welcoming and inclusive. I was treated like any other person the first time I visited. And I qualified for early direct admission to the post-baccalaureate Master of Occupational Therapy program. I am a psychology major now in my second year, and then I go right into the master's program after completing my undergrad."

Hubbs was also drawn to Maryville because she was selected for the Tomorrow's Innovators scholarship, which is awarded by the University in partnership with the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. Given annually to 30 students, the scholarship is valued at \$3,000 annually and is renewable for up to 10 semesters with a 3.0 GPA. High school counselors, principals, teachers or homeschool educators can nominate St. Louis area students for the award.

Since arriving at Maryville, Hubbs has taken on leadership roles in several student organizations. She serves as secretary of the Honor Society and is co-vice president of the Students of Pre-Occupational

Therapy Club, which encourages occupational therapy students to build relationships, volunteer in the community and advocate for the profession.

She also works on disability awareness and inclusion by serving as secretary of ABLE (Abolish Barriers through Leadership and Empowerment).

"ABLE is open to all students, disabled or not, and is designed to break down the barriers that surround the disability



▲ Madelyn Hubbs, who was born without her left arm, has shared her story with thousands of students and adults to promote disability awareness and help prevent bullying.



"I was eight years old when my Mom and I first visited other elementary schools. We read stories to the kids. They got to know me and my message then and still is:

It's okay to be different."

impossible. If I see a problem, I adapt and work around it.

"My family had been working with the Special School District where we received services from occupational therapists like how to tie my shoes, or button my coat," she recalls. By the time she reached elementary school she realized some of her classmates didn't know how to react to someone who was different.

"We discovered early on that my story was more impactful when I got out into the community," Hubbs said. "I was eight years old when my Mom and I first visited other elementary schools. We read stories to the kids. They got to know me and my message then and still is: It's okay to be different."

By middle school, she expanded her mission reaching out to kids with disabilities via creative videos: demonstrating how to tie their shoes, jump rope, make a ponytail with one arm, put on nail polish. Her T-shirt boasted, "Two arms are so overrated."

When she reached high school, Hubbs turned an early elementary school bullying incident into a positive outcome. Working with Shriners Hospitals for Children, she and her mother helped develop an anti-bullying toolkit for schools, students and their families. Today, she has spoken to thousands of students and adults throughout the St. Louis area to promote disability awareness.

community," she said. "And those barriers are not just physical but mental barriers as well. Being part of this group opens your eyes to everyone. People without disabilities become more accepting. They become allies, spokespersons for those who are disabled."

A recent event hosted by ABLE, "Donut Use the R Word," encouraged all students to make a pledge in exchange for a free donut. The event helped build community for students with and without disabilities, and was a meaningful way to spread an important message.

Hubbs said everyone on the Maryville campus works on inclusiveness, from University leadership to faculty to students. Additionally, through one of Maryville's most

expansive partnerships, Apple technology and educational resources fuel the University's Digital World 1:1 iPad program, which accelerates innovation and personalized study for all students. "Technology is especially accessible," she said. "I record lectures on my iPad and I use speech software to type my papers and homework."

Hubbs has been working toward a career like occupational therapy for most of her life. Shriners Hospitals for Children – St. Louis fitted her with a prosthetic arm when she was a year old. Her self-confidence and desire to help others were evident early on.

"I used the prosthesis mostly for balance," she said. "But by the time I was in middle school, I felt I didn't need it anymore, so I stopped using it. In my mind, nothing is



▲ Occupational therapists helped Madelyn Hubbs master some of the tasks of daily living like tying her shoes. Now, she is studying occupational therapy at Maryville so she can help other children. The digital tools provided by Maryville, like an iPad, make learning personalized and inclusive for Madelyn.



“Technology is especially accessible. I record lectures on my iPad and I use speech software to type my papers and homework.”

It seems there’s nothing Madelyn Hubbs can’t do. Her brother, Kyle, plays water polo competitively at Pattonville High School. So did Madelyn. She even competed with him on a coed, competitive water polo team. She also swam for the Disabled American Sports Association and the Bridgeton Swim Club. She rides horses, plays the ukulele with her feet, knits with a loom and still visits schools in the St. Louis region each semester, advocating for and inspiring others.

Hubbs is quick to credit her family and Shriners for her success. And now Maryville University is helping her continue to build on her lifelong dream of helping other children help themselves.

“My hope is to work in an elementary school or a clinic, in a place like Shriners,” she said. “Differences can be beautiful, not limiting. If I was born with two arms, I wouldn’t be the person I am today.” 🍷

▼ Original artwork by Elysia King, '16, like this design honoring cardiovascular intensive care unit nurses, is sold on apparel and accessories to raise support.



RAD NURSE

To support nurses in need, Elysia King, '16, founded Rad Nurse. The organization raises a community of financial and emotional support through storytelling and art. | BY CONSTANCE GIBBS

While working in the emergency department at St. Luke's Hospital, Elysia King, '16, met a nurse whose 20-month-old son had just been diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia.

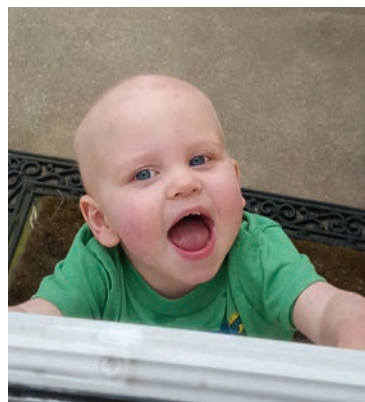
The diagnosis meant long-term chemotherapy, hospital stays, blood transfusions and endless doctor visits were on the horizon.

The nurse, Lesley McKeever, who graduated from Maryville in 2011, had little paid time off available. She had recently returned from maternity leave, and spent the last several months taking off intermittently to care for her sick son, whose symptoms included recurring high fevers. She was forced to make the difficult decision to quit her job so she could be with her son fulltime.

"I saw Lesley struggling and realized nurses don't have enough resources," King said. "Lesley held people's hands when their world was falling apart. But when she faced the unthinkable, there was no one to take up for her. I believe one day when we face a crisis, we're going to need a nurse like Lesley to hold our hands. I knew I needed to find a way to take care of the people who take care of us."

Inspired by McKeever's story, and countless others she had encountered in her nursing career, King began Rad Nurse. The organization identifies nurses in need and raises a community of financial and emotional support to ensure they can avoid burnout, get back on their feet and return to providing exceptional patient care.

The first step? Sharing McKeever's story. The two recorded an intimate video interview and posted it to social media. The video was quickly shared dozens of times, with nearly \$1,000 raised over a few days to help pay for McKeever's mortgage and utilities. Without a steady paycheck and mounting medical bills, the family home was close to foreclosure.



Left and Right: After Lesley McKeever's 20-month-old son was diagnosed with leukemia, Rad Nurse helped the family pay its mortgage and utilities through the sale of T-shirts featuring a tiger and a gold ribbon, the symbol of childhood cancer.

"Nurses give and give, but you can't pour from an empty cup."

But Rad Nurse wasn't created to serve as just a glorified GoFundMe page. "I wanted to help alleviate the emotional burden, too," King said.

The next step was creating an exclusive design honoring McKeever that would be sold on apparel and accessories. King hand-drew a tiger, the words "Fight On" and a gold ribbon, the international awareness symbol for childhood cancer. Friends, family and supporters proudly wore the design to show their support for McKeever, with 50% of proceeds benefiting the family.

King also organized a postcard campaign where anyone who couldn't give financially could share words of encouragement and prayers. The postcards were mailed to McKeever so she could read and re-read them on hard days.


"I was always looking for more support," McKeever said. "Having a child with cancer is very lonely. Even though you have close friends and family supporting you, it's difficult for others to understand what you're going through."

Today, McKeever's son is five years old and enjoys playing video games, eating chicken fingers and taking ice skating lessons (so he can play hockey one day).

His last chemotherapy treatment was over a year ago. Rad Nurse has helped McKeever heal and rebuild her life.

"That's why I think Rad Nurse is a fantastic idea," she said. "I wholeheartedly believe this is a great mission. I'll do whatever it takes to continue spreading the word."

Rad Nurse recently identified its third nurse in need, with the goal to sponsor a nurse every three months. Plans also include rallying volunteers to help provide meals, house cleaning, babysitting and more for the nurses in need. The Rad Nurse board of directors, which includes Robyn Massey, '12, MSN, clinical assistant professor of nursing, is helping make King's vision a reality.

"Ultimately, I want to radically change the health care field," King said. "Lesley's story is not the only one I want to tell. I want to build a mindset that you have to take care of your nurses if you want them to take care of you. Nurses give and give, but you can't pour from an empty cup." 



As we move deeper into the Digital Transformation Age, Maryville created a new position to lead the University through the great change and disruption that comes from these kinds of advancements. Feng Hou, chief digital transformation evangelist, in working with Maryville's Digital Transformation Team, has developed a comprehensive digital transformation plan that is helping Maryville achieve its strategic goals.

LEADING A DIGITAL

► What is digital transformation?

At its simplest level, digital transformation means transforming an organization's core business processes to better meet customer needs by leveraging technology and data. In education, that target customer is often students, though it could also be faculty, staff, alumni and others.

Digital transformation is a journey; it's not a list of things we can do so we can claim mission accomplished. Rather, it's about how we think, how we behave, what we value

and what drives decisions at Maryville. In other words, it is about applying the culture, practices, processes and digital technologies to respond to our students' expectations in today's digital world.

► **Why does digital transformation matter?**

We're in the midst of a Fourth Industrial Revolution in which disruptive technologies and trends have emerged that are reshaping the fabric of the modern world. These core technologies — including virtual reality, augmented reality, mixed reality, deep learning, machine learning and facial recognition — will remake society including health care, commerce, social relationships, politics and, of course, education. With new technologies advancing almost by the minute, we must act now if we are to survive and thrive.

The second project is the creation of a digital student ID that will replace physical student ID cards and keys. This digital ID will be installed on a smartphone or mobile device and be used for residence hall access, on-campus dining, purchases made at The M Store and more.

The third project is incorporating blockchain technology into University operations to increase efficiency and save costs. Blockchain technology, which fuels Bitcoin and other cryptocurrency, works like a chain of digital "blocks" that contain records of transactions. Each such block is connected to those before and behind it, making it difficult for a hacker to tamper with.

► **Can you tell us more about Maryville's new digital diploma program?**

Maryville is one of the first universities in the country to issue digital diplomas using

digital credentials via email or text message, or paste a link into their resume or LinkedIn profile for easy verification. All digital credentials are available free of charge.

► **How does Maryville compare to other universities when it comes to digital transformation?**

Maryville is one of the most innovative universities in the country. Our digital transformation projects are leading a revolution in student learning that expand access and opportunities for all. Digital transformation is not only changing the way our students learn, it's changing the type of curriculum we offer. This semester, we introduced a blockchain course as part of our graduate-level data science program. This class is the first of its kind in the country, and the beginning of many opportunities unleashed by digital transformation.

TRANSFORMATION

► **What digital transformation projects is Maryville working on right now?**

Maryville has three projects as part of its digital transformation roadmap, with the ultimate goal to transform the student experience. We are calling these three projects our lighthouse projects, because they are model projects that aim, in addition to their original purposes, to have significant inspiration and guidance for numerous follow-up projects.

The first project is the implementation of a digital employee, which uses virtual and augmented reality to provide a variety of student services. This digital employee will be especially beneficial for our online students.

blockchain technology. Currently, Maryville students are given the option to receive their diploma digitally in addition to the printed copy sent via mail. In the future, students will receive other digital academic credentials, too, including digital transcripts and digital badging to include detailed descriptions of skills learned. They can receive, manage, search and verify their credentials on their smartphones and mobile devices. Simply put, their credentials are always at their fingertips, and ready for them to send and share when needed — without having to get original copies from the registrar every time a new opportunity arises. Students can send their

Additionally, one of my goals is to foster collaboration between academic institutions, policymakers, vendors and other education stakeholders. I lead the Hyperledger Education Architecture Special Interest Group through the Linux Foundation, which is exploring and showcasing key educational uses of blockchain. Many universities across the U.S. are slow to adapt and evolve, but these institutions must adopt new technologies like blockchain to successfully educate students in this modern world or their doors will close. **M**

WHAT WE LEARNED FROM

COACH PAULUS

Each hole on a golf course is measured in yards, but to Glenn Paulus, the retiring coach of the conference champion Maryville men's golf team, the most crucial span in the game is measured in much smaller increments. | BY DALE SINGER



“Once you’ve developed the skills,” Paulus said, “this game is played on the smallest field you’re on — the six inches between your ears.”

Whether you’re judging by physical skills or mental toughness, Paulus’ teams fared well during the 12 seasons he served as head coach of the Saints’ men’s and women’s squads. Three straight trips to the Division II tournament, the 2019 men’s championship in the Great Lakes Valley Conference and selection as men’s golf conference coach of the year are just part of a stellar record leading up to a well-earned retirement.

Paulus, who will remain with the golf programs as an assistant coach, looks back on a fulfilling coaching career and looks forward to spending more time on the links, where he played on professional senior tours before becoming a coach, first at Saint Louis University, then at Maryville. He also spent 25 years in the commercial finance business.

All of that experience, Paulus said, has helped him develop the way he approached his coaching duties. He wants to make sure that golfers who are gifted physically have the mental approach that can help them succeed.

“By the time they get to college,” he said, “they have their swing and they know the basics. We don’t necessarily change their swing, but we find things that we can refine and help them become more competitive.

“You can see when a kid starts wobbling mentally. That’s a chance to get them back into what they’re doing. They’re pretty much on their own out there. It’s like a

cross country runner — once they’re off the starting line, they’re on their own.”

Scott Thomas, who succeeds Paulus as head golf coach, points to Paulus’ technical expertise and thoughtful approach to the game as hallmarks of his successful career.

“It’s a combination of recognizing a player’s strength, helping them to build a solid golf course attack plan for each and every tournament and putting together a strategy to play that course,” Thomas said.

“Once you’ve developed the skills, this game is played on the smallest field you’re on – the six inches between your ears.”

“Golfers have so much time to think between shots. It’s important to remind players to stay in the present. He has the ability to teach the game and to help players continue to improve and believe in themselves in competitive situations,” he said.

And, Thomas adds, both in recruiting golfers and coaching them once they arrive on campus, Paulus has always made sure his players can succeed in the classroom as well as on the course. “Academics come first,” Thomas said. “That’s well understood.”

One of Paulus’ most successful players, Nick Profancik, was a conference player of the year in 2007, 2008 and 2009, as well as earning academic All-American honors. He said that Paulus helped him most by teaching the right way to approach the game, rather than simply lowering his score.

“Golf is a very simple game,” Profancik said. “You can have it one day and not have it the next. He can pull you aside, put his arm around your shoulder and ask, ‘What are you thinking about?’ You have to figure out how

to grind it out and put up a better score. It’s all about getting the right mindset. Golf in a way is all about confidence. If you can have somebody reinforce that in you by pulling you aside, that can mean everything. That can change your whole day, change your whole round, change your whole life. That’s a huge part of it,” he said.

Looking back, Profancik sees how Paulus helped him in ways that didn’t always appear to be directly related to the sport at hand.

“Oh, my gosh,” he said. “It’s twofold: lessons as a man and lessons as a golfer. Both stick with me. I like to think that relationships I’ve built since then have been by and large attributable to how I treat people, and a lot of that is what coach Paulus taught me. I think everybody knows that there are some people in your life who make an impact more than others. He’s one of those people. You’ll hear the same thing time and time again, about the impact he has on people.”

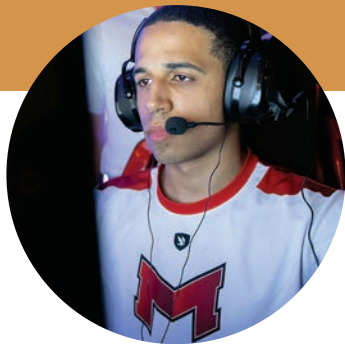
Paulus has appreciated his time helping to mold players like Profancik. Now, he said, it’s time to leave a coach’s heavy travel schedule behind, spend more time with his family and return to the links as a player.

“I really miss competitive golf and playing in a competitive environment,” Paulus said. “So that’s on the horizon for next year. Lately, my game has been very suspect. Ten years of rust has grown on it, so I just have to get to work to get my game back to the point where I can compete again.” 

HIGHLIGHTS

ESPORTS TEAMS
POISED FOR SUCCESS

Maryville's League of Legends Esports team continues to dominate in its fifth season of play. The team currently has a set count of 6-0 and expects to compete again this spring at the League of Legends Collegiate Championships. Maryville's Overwatch Esports team currently has a set count of 11-0 in its second season of play. Both teams captured the 2019 Harrisburg University Esports (HUE) Invitational title. The HUE Invitational is one of the largest collegiate esports events in the U.S. with 64 teams from 30 schools competing. Maryville beat host team Harrisburg University in finals for both League of Legends and Overwatch.

PLAYING AT
THE HIGHEST LEVEL

Childhood cancer survivor Olivia Jarvis wants her story of recovery to inspire those overcoming illnesses or other obstacles. | BY NANCY FOWLER

When women's softball pitcher Olivia Jarvis was four years old, her young life was sidelined by cancer.

Despite the attention her illness brought — like articles in her hometown newspaper and an appearance on the local TV station for her family's participation in Relay for Life — Jarvis doesn't think of herself as different, and certainly not special. Her parents did everything they could, "to make me feel like a normal kid," she said.

But as a sophomore at Maryville, Jarvis does stand out, for her potential to become a star softball player. She was an integral part of the Saints' 2019 winning season which took them to the Great Lakes Valley Conference tournament.

Conference losses were heartbreaking, Jarvis said. But in step with her own comeback mentality, the Saints ultimately swung their way to fourth place out of 14 teams. "Everybody was jumping up and down and hugging each other," she recalled.

Throughout the season, Jarvis demonstrated both a "fighter mentality" and a "kind spirit," according to Courtney Conley, head coach of the Saints softball program. "Olivia is truly the epitome of Maryville softball," Conley said. "There is nothing this woman can't do."

Jarvis began playing softball at age seven, with her father coaching the team. In her senior year of high school, she was named to the All-State first team as a pitcher, and she finished the year

with a .346 batting average with 21 runs batted in. As a Maryville freshman, her earned run average was under three and her walks plus hits per inning pitched were 1.30.

But Jarvis downplays her accomplishments and praises her teammates for the successful season. Eyeing 2020, she and the other players are busy practicing and pushing themselves at the gym. "If there are days when I'm struggling, I can count on my teammates to pick me up," Jarvis said. "We all want to win and we want to do it together; it's not just about any one person."

In remission from cancer since the age of eight, the accounting major never misses a yearly checkup. She doesn't remember much about her days in the hospital except for knowing that she never felt alone. She wants the story of her recovery to help people who are working to overcome illness or other obstacles.

"I just hope I can be an inspiration to anyone that's going through a hard time," Jarvis said. "I want them to know they can still play at the highest level." **M**





WE ALL BLEED BLUE

BY JONG CAMBRON

Like the St. Louis Blues, which finished as the top team in the National Hockey League last season, Eric Renaghan wants Maryville's Exercise Science program to be the best in the country. Renaghan, an adjunct professor of exercise science at Maryville, incorporates the experiences he has learned as the head of sports performance for the Blues into the classroom.

"We are setting ourselves to the side and we are advancing to the point where we are one of the top two in the country," Renaghan said. "We are definitely trying to make this program one of the most advanced in terms of providing students with the opportunities to excel at real-world practices."

Victor Kizer, director of the exercise science program, facilitated the partnership with Renaghan and the Blues to have development and training camp testing performed at Maryville in Walker Hall in 2018. That relationship led the pair to become good friends, and Kizer asked him to become an adjunct professor.

Renaghan is in his second year of teaching at Maryville, but has nearly a decade of experience working with professional athletes in strength conditioning and nutrition. He established his career in the NHL with the San Jose Sharks then moved north to ply his trade with the Vancouver Canucks before landing with the St. Louis Blues for the 2016 season. **M**



HIGHLIGHTS

HISTORIC START FOR SOCCER SEASON

The 2019-2020 season began with a historic start for the Maryville soccer program. With a combined 10-0-0 record, Maryville was the only school in the NCAA (Division I, Division II and Division III) that had a pair of undefeated and untied soccer programs in September. The women's team had the best start for the Saints in the Division II era. The men's team had the best start in program history and was also the top team in the United Soccer Coaches Midwest Regional rankings. The good news was shared by the NCAA and went viral on social media.

JUST KEEP SWIMMING

BY CHUCK YAHNG

The Maryville University men's and women's swimming teams participated in the national fundraiser Swim Across America Open. The event was held in August at Lake Alpine at Innsbrook Resort in Wright City, Missouri. Nearly 500 participants were allowed to swim three different open-water distances, starting at a half-mile, increasing to 1.2 miles or the long distance of 2.4 miles.

The Saints were one of many St. Louis area schools that participated in the event, which raises money for immunotherapy clinical trials and research at Siteman Cancer Center. The Maryville swim team raised \$1,680 this year and helped the Swim Across America St. Louis chapter raise

more than \$180,000 this campaign. The team members each donned a color representing the different types of cancer afflicting a loved one.

The event held special significance for Maryville Saint Hannah Schrag, whose mother passed away from cancer last year. "After losing my mother this past year, the swim community has wrapped their arms around me with support," she said. "Like my mom did, my coach continues to encourage me to swim to be the best version of myself. I wanted to participate in the Swim Across America Open because it's another opportunity to do my best, just as my mom did her best at everything she attempted." **M**

HIGHLIGHTS

HOME OPENER

Saints men's hockey battled the University of Iowa during the historic home opener at the Maryville University Hockey Center. President Mark Lombardi, PhD, dropped the ceremonial first puck to mark the end of pregame festivities and the start of the game. The Saints lost by one point but then claimed victory over the Hawkeyes the next day following a shootout win. Go Saints!



We Salute Our Spring Athletes

The greatest victories lie ahead. Amidst the coronavirus outbreak, the Great Lakes Valley Conference's Council of Presidents voted unanimously to suspend all activities related to intercollegiate athletics and cancel the remaining 2020 GLVC Championships. To our many student-athletes, know that you will find victory again and the bonds that you've made with your teammates will last a lifetime.

We are #OneTeamOneFamily.






Experience THE SPIRIT OF MARYVILLE

AWARDS RECOGNIZE DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

Seven alumni and others are 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 are honored by the Spirit of Maryville Awards. The Awards also recognize people or organizations that provide extraordinary service to the community at large. Following are the distinguished recipients of the 2020 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
LARAINÉ DAVIS, '17

When Laraine Davis was growing up, she and her two brothers were the only black students at their predominantly white school. Now, Davis's job is to ensure that her Wells Fargo Advisor's global workplace is diverse. As vice president of next generation talent and community champion program manager, Davis helps to create a pipeline to bring more minorities into the positions of financial advisor and branch manager.

Since joining Wells Fargo in 2004, Davis has helped manage national partnerships including mitigating risk and influencing policy with those partners. While working in community relations, she led the development of the Wells Fargo Finance Education Center at Harris-Stowe State University which features a real-time trading floor. She also worked with St. Louis Public Schools to help middle schoolers learn money management skills.

Throughout her career, Davis has navigated professional challenges while also raising children and completing the bachelor's degree that helped her land her dream job. "I see a lot of people, especially black women, who often feel defeated," Davis said. "I hope by sharing my story, they will feel encouraged and valued."

John E. Simon
School of Business
MELISSA LENZ, '97

In her work as an Edward Jones financial adviser, Melissa Lenz loves seeing her clients realize their dreams, from sending a child to college to embarking on a happy retirement. But her efforts to give back extend beyond the workplace.

The Maryville marketing major is past president of the Kiwanis Club of Crestwood-Sunset Hills and has worked with the Arts and Education Council of Greater St. Louis. She's also a member of the United Way's de Tocqueville Society Cabinet.

Lenz sees her community work as a way of paying forward the support she's received. Her family, friends and Maryville professors, including John Lewington, PhD, retired dean and past professor of marketing and management in the Simon School of Business, encouraged her as she worked her way into her position at Edward Jones. In her role, she's earned numerous accolades including a 2019 Spirit of Caring Award. "People have gone to bat for me," she said. "I want to make a difference in people's lives because so many people have made a difference in mine."



School of Education
ROSALYN MANAHAN, '10

When Rosalyn Manahan, EdD, was a teenager growing up in a troubled home, her Pattonville High School principal took a special interest in her. Now, as assistant principal at her high school alma mater, Manahan is following in her mentor's footsteps by helping students set and achieve academic and personal goals.

For her efforts, Manahan was honored as a distinguished leader in the Delux Power 100 Awards and received a Beyond the Best Award from StreetScape Magazine. She is active with Maryville's National Leadership Council through which she supports numerous campus organizations. Her work is completed in gratitude for the support she received as a student in Maryville's Doctor of Education program.

Manahan keeps up with the individuals she's mentored long after their high school graduations. Now that many are adults, some with families of their own, she's gratified to see them achieving their goals and helping others: feeding the homeless, coaching sports teams and being strong parents to their own children. "It's pretty amazing to see that life comes full circle," she said.

Myrtle E. and Earl E. Walker
College of Health Professions
ALISON TOMPKINS COLE, '04

Infusing joy into a person's final days is a passion for Alison Tompkins Cole, MT-BC. A graduate of Maryville's Music Therapy program, she works with patients and families of BJC Hospice and Evelyn's House hospice facility to foster connections through music while also relieving patients' pain and anxiety.

Cole's work may begin by matching the rhythm of her guitar with one patient's anxious breathing, gradually lulling her into a peaceful slumber. A more alert patient may request a song. In one instance, two daughters joined their dying mother to sing a rendition of "Amen," using drums and sandwiching the words, "We love you, Mama" between repeats of the chorus.



Cole recently instituted the Heartbeat Project, a program in which a patient's recorded heartbeat becomes part of a song their family can cherish after they're gone. She feels fortunate that she spends her professional life in close communion with families at such pivotal moments. "I love helping people and I love music – and I can't believe I get paid to do this," she said.



Online Learning **TARYN DENEZPI, '19**

The ability to earn her degree online is why Taryn Denezpi, DNP, ACNPC-AG, is able to help stroke victims today. Through the flexibility of virtual classrooms, Denezpi navigated moving across the country, managing a high-risk pregnancy and caring for a new baby – all while earning a doctorate in nursing practice.

In her schoolwork, Denezpi focused on stroke patients who miss the narrow window of time for a life-changing intervention called tPA, an intravenous clot-busting drug. She wondered: might these patients benefit from another, minimally invasive procedure called mechanical thrombectomy? Denezpi was instrumental in adding this treatment for stroke patients at Lovelace Medical Center in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Now she's using her expertise to help her new employer, the University of New Mexico Hospital, prepare for certification as a Comprehensive Stroke Center.

Denezpi knows how a traditional campus program, requiring her to attend classes in person, could have thwarted or postponed the education that makes her work possible. For her, online learning provided the best of both worlds, especially because of the constant support she received from Maryville. "It's compassion you don't get everywhere," she said. "It's like I always had a family keeping close tabs on me."

Young Alumni Award **ADAM BOYER, '10**

Every day, as Adam Boyer makes sure 60,000 people have well-functioning computers and cell phones, he's really working toward a larger goal: sending astronauts to the moon, and eventually to Mars. In his job with the information technology firm Leidos, Boyer is the senior finance and business operations manager for an almost \$3 billion services contract with NASA.

Boyer is working to set up Space Bars, similar to Apple's Genius Bars, at all 11 NASA centers, and implementing a new backup system for all of NASA's data. He arrived at Leidos from Boeing, where he was hired after four semesters of internship, secured with the help of Barbara Petzall, PhD, past professor of management and leadership.



But Boyer's life isn't just about work. When he was a junior, a baseball teammate's family lost their home in a fire. Boyer helped pass a baseball helmet around campus to raise money, collecting \$1,750. They also approached the administration, and the University agreed to waive the student's tuition for the semester. Boyer wants to make sure his career path leaves time for working for causes that are dear to his heart. "I want to be successful as an executive, but I also want to have the flexibility to be successful in other areas, like helping people."



Heart of Maryville Award **SUZIE WEISS, '68**

Suzie Weiss' love of Maryville runs as deep as her family legacy, which stretches back more than 100 years. Her grandmother studied at the old campus of Maryville Academy and in 1940, her mother, Kathleen Desloge, graduated from the original Maryville College. Two aunts and numerous cousins also earned degrees from Maryville.

Much of Weiss's life's work is focused on honoring her Maryville ties, her family and her Catholic heritage. She served two terms as board president for Villa Duchesne-City House Alumnae, and received their Alumnae Association's Très Bien Award in 2001. She is a co-leader of Maryville's Sacred Heart Advisory group, eager to carry out its mission of keeping alive the Sacred Heart tradition. She also serves as board secretary for Friends of the Cathedral Basilica. The group raises money to improve and maintain the century-old St. Louis landmark, located in the parish in which her grandparents lived and where her mother was baptized.

To commemorate her Maryville class' 50th reunion, Weiss and her husband, Charles, made a substantial gift. The money was earmarked to support scholarships, the value of which Weiss can appreciate from her own experience: "Scholarships helped me get through Maryville," she said. She first chose the University because of her mother and now, decades after her mother's and her own graduation, Weiss feels "It's important to give back."

Myrtle E. and Earl E. Walker Medal **MISSOURI FOUNDATION FOR HEALTH**

The Missouri Foundation for Health (MFH) works to improve the health and well-being of individuals and communities most in need through partnership, experience, knowledge and funding. Since its founding in 2000, MFH has supported 1,505 organizations in 84 Missouri counties and the city of St. Louis to benefit a range of programs.

Several programs have a direct association with Maryville. In 2010, MFH awarded a four-year, \$323,587 nursing retention grant to alleviate a shortage of health care professionals by helping nontraditional students complete programs in what is now Maryville's Catherine McAuley School of Nursing.

In 2017, MFH committed to a \$452,192 five-year grant to ensure that more children in North St. Louis County receive speech and language therapy sessions through the Walker Scottish Rite Clinic, a program of Maryville. Children receive these services at the Clinic's partner site at YWCA Head Start North County Center. The grant also helps educate teachers to identify Head Start children who may be in need of services.

Investments like these not only address current health disparities but may also have wider implications. "These students and children will be our future civic leaders, championing positive changes for their communities," said MFH senior strategist Doneisha Bohannon.



Missouri Foundation
for **Health**

A veteran world traveler, a career change to nursing after 20 years in business and three sets of twins.

1950s

Ann Williams Bugg, '59, of Chesterfield, Mo., and her husband, Dick, work with the Society of St. Vincent de Paul for their food scarcity program. Bugg also tutors grade school students every week in the Parkway School District and is a member of the Class of '59 book club, which has met every first Wednesday of the month for 57 years. The Buggs recently returned from a trip with their family to the Canadian Rockies.

Margaret Amidei Galbraith, '59, of West Lebanon, N.H., and her husband, Michael, visited Spain in Fall 2019 and then traveled to St. Louis to celebrate the 60th reunion of the Class of '59 at Homecoming.

Helen "Mimi" Connaughton Jackson, '59, of St. Charles, Mo., continues to find teaching and working at the Lewis & Clark Boat House and Museum to be interesting and enjoyable. She also volunteers with the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and enjoys the monthly book club discussions with Maryville classmates.

Colette Barclay Walsh, '59, of Chesterfield, Mo., enjoys traveling with her family and volunteering at the local food bank. Her grandson, Brandon, graduated from Maryville's actuarial science program in 2019.

1960s

Eileen Shaughnessy Jarc, '64, of Bay Village, Ohio, and her husband, Gerald, are selling their bed-and-breakfast, The Five Bells Inn, after 22 years.

1 Rose Ann Alderson Sharp, '66, of Del Mar, Calif., received the 2019 Women of Distinction Award from California assembly member Todd Gloria in honor of her leadership and dedication to end gun violence. Shortly after receiving the award, Sharp spoke to state assembly and state senate committees about ending gun shows on the Del Mar Fairgrounds. She continues to be actively involved in the NeverAgainCA group, which advocates for gun control.



Denise M. Stauder, '66, of Chicago, is the strategic planning chair for the League of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association. She is also an active participant and coordinator of music, civic and cultural engagement classes at Northwestern University's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute.

Julie Chopin Michelson, '67, of Bay Village, Ohio, regularly attends the Chautauqua Institution in Chautauqua, N.Y., and is active in her local church.

2 Patricia "Pat" O'Brien Dolan, '68, of Houston, married Joseph "Joe" Guignon on January 3, 2020. **Constance "Connie" Moeller Bachmann, '68**, and her husband, John, attended the wedding. Connie and Pat were Maryville roommates, in each other's weddings and worked at Famous-Barr department store together. John and Joe attended St. Louis University High School together.

Maryann Bushey Brink, '69, of Radnor, Pa., is an avid golfer and enjoys spending the cold winters with her husband, Alan, at their home in Naples, Fla.



Pamela Pope Hock, '69, of Annapolis, Md., enjoys boating and frequent trips to Europe. She and her husband, Randolph, are expecting their first grandchild in 2020. She feels lucky that all three of their children live on the East Coast.

Susan "Sue" O'Callaghan Lorenz, '69, of Chesterfield, Mo., has illustrated a children's book, "Julianne's Big Move," with author DeDe Peterson.

Dorothea "Doss" Brodhead Margiotta, '69, of St. Louis, serves as a Eucharistic minister for a local nursing home and as membership chair for the Wednesday Club of Saint Louis. Doss wrote a children's book, "Molly Green Likes Worms," and has enjoyed extensive overseas traveling. She was recognized as a Lindbergh Leader and is retired from the Lindbergh School District.



Peter F. Benoist

(1947-2020)

The Maryville University community mourns the loss of Peter F. Benoist, who served as a member of the Maryville University board of trustees from 1992 to 2010, including six years as chair from 2001 to 2007.

Benoist led Enterprise Bank & Trust and its parent company, Enterprise Financial Services Corp., for 15 years. During his tenure, Enterprise, which serves privately held businesses and their owners, grew from \$550 million in total assets to \$5.1 billion, expanded its operations to Kansas City and Phoenix and increased its stock valuation 200%.

In addition to Benoist's exemplary record in the banking industry and his great philanthropic works in St. Louis, he was a great supporter of Maryville as a board member. He led Maryville through two leadership transitions and, in 2011, he received an honorary doctorate from the University for his outstanding service. Benoist's wife of 50 years, Carol, is a Maryville alumna from the Class of 1970 and a tireless supporter of the University and its mission. In addition, many of Benoist's relatives attended Maryville as far back as the 1890s.

Benoist is survived by his wife, his four children, grandchildren and siblings. **M**

Margaret "Molly" Fitzgerald Morrison, '69, of Rochester, Mich., retired after serving for more than 20 years on the finance committee for her local church.

Kathy Dowling Neill, '69, of St. Louis, enjoys traveling and spending time with her 20 grandchildren.

Alice McCaffrey Spitznagel, '69, of St. Louis, and her husband, Ed, celebrated their 48th wedding anniversary cruising the Columbia and Snake Rivers retracing Lewis & Clark's trailblazing expedition through the Pacific Northwest. Their daughter, Casey, earned a master's degree from Maryville.

Alice Holmes Weber, '69, of Chesterfield, Mo., and her husband, Bob, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a trip to Italy.

They have four children married to wonderful spouses and are very blessed to have 12 grandchildren. They are parishioners of Ascension Catholic Church.

1970s

James "Jim" D. Eaton, '74, of Dawsonville, Ga., serves on the board of directors for The Bowen Center for the Arts, volunteers with the Dawson County Humane Society and enjoys boating and painting.

Priscilla "Sella" M. Roman, '74, of Shiloh, Ill., is principal technical field engineer for Medtronic. She is also involved with her local church and stays in touch with some of her fellow Maryville graduates.

Elmira M. Batchelor, '75, of St. Louis, is a veteran world traveler at the age of 91. Batchelor recently returned from an overseas trip. She and her traveling companion, Aldonis Hudson, visited Denmark, Germany, Russia, Estonia and Sweden. Of their stop in Berlin, Batchelor said the city has experienced much change since her last visit there in 1989 shortly after the fall of the Berlin Wall.

1980s

James G. Kargus, '80, of Arnold, Mo., is the owner of Kargus Accounting & Tax.

Stephen C. Huckstep, '81, of Fenton, Mo., retired as director of donor services for Mid-America Transplant after nearly 30 years of service. He can now be found

enjoying his retirement while fishing with his grandchildren.

Sandra "Sandy" Schreier Jameson, '83, '85, of Omaha, Neb., presented efficiencies in a chemistry lab in Beijing in June 2019.

Shawn Blowers Conley, '84, of Hurricane, W. Va., ran on the St. Jude Heroes team for the New York City Marathon. Conley has completed two marathons and nine half-marathons, all to raise funds for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Conley enjoys physical fitness, hiking with her dogs and loads of family time with her two children, Patrick and Austin.

Robert "Bob" J. Noss, '84, of Beavercreek, Ohio, retired after 34 years in intercollegiate athletics, with the last 27 years as assistant athletics director at Wright State



ELISE MCCLINE, '97, '15

NEVER GIVE UP

BY NANCY FOWLER

In the early 1990s, Elise McCline, '97, '15, was set to begin classes at Maryville. Then her father had a heart attack and died, a tragedy that strained the family's finances.

"I remember thinking, 'This is never going to happen,'" McCline said.

But her accounting adviser, Jeanette Sanfilippo, told her not to give up, that she could get her basic courses out of the way at a less expensive community college. She also said to stay in touch.

After McCline eventually landed an accounting job, Sanfilippo told her to ask her employer for tuition assistance toward an accounting degree, something usually available only after a six-month probation period. "But after Jeanette got involved, they started paying my tuition immediately," McCline said.


While attending classes at Maryville, McCline didn't think much about being one of only a handful of African American students on campus. But Sanfilippo was concerned. She told McCline, "Most of the black accounting students here end up transferring to another school."

"Then she told me, 'I will always be here for you, and if you're struggling, let me know,'" McCline said. "And I looked at her and said, 'You just challenged me. I'm going to graduate from Maryville.'"

In 1997, McCline did just that. When her name was called during the graduation ceremony, Sanfilippo set her stack of diplomas down to give McCline a hug instead of a handshake.

Nearly two decades later, McCline returned to Maryville to earn her MBA. Now she's the first African American female to become a vice president in her company, Lockton Dunning Benefits. Splitting her time between Dallas and St. Louis gives her the opportunity to mentor Maryville students and attend events such as Homecoming.

But she knows she won't run into her beloved adviser during campus visits. Sanfilippo passed away in 2003, though her advice lives on.

"If you have a goal in mind, it might not work out the way you thought it would, but the main thing is that you get there," McCline said. "You just have to be resilient, even if you have to take a few lefts instead of going right." 

University. Earlier in his career, Noss spent time at Southern Illinois University, University of Central Missouri and Saint Louis University. Shortly after retirement, he became volunteer coordinator for United Rehabilitation Services of Greater Dayton.

Gary E. Jones, '86, of Chesterfield, Mo., became the owner and college planning advisor for Class 101 on June 1, 2019. The company opened a location in Ballwin, Mo., where Jones assists St. Louis area high school students and their families with the transition to college.

Lori Buss Stillman, '88, of Manassas, Va., joined the National Association of Convenience Stores as the vice president of research. She oversees the Association's industry-leading research portfolio, monthly data insights from the CSX database and other research and insights programs like the NACS/Coca-Cola Retailing Research Council. Stillman has a deep background in data analytics, decision support, business development and consulting.

Cathleen "Cathy" Walkup Vollmer, '88, of Lee's Summit, Mo., is vice president of operations for Conexus Medstaff, which specializes in providing international nurses to health care facilities in the United States. In this position, she uses her nursing degree alongside her operational, financial and business development expertise.

1990s

David L. Meers, '91, of St. Peters, Mo., is the executive director of the Christian School District, an independent and inter-denominational prekindergarten through 12th grade program in St. Charles County, Mo.

Laura K. Derickson, '93, of St. Louis, accepted a position as marketing content strategist with Booksource,

a family-owned company that partners with prekindergarten through 12th grade educational institutions to bring a rich and diverse selection of books into today's classrooms.

Alessandra "Ali" Falcone Pennycuik, '94, '99, of Eureka, Mo., was one of 102 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. Pennycuik teaches first grade at Ridge Meadows Elementary School and holds a National Board Certification in Early and Middle Childhood/Literacy: Reading-Language Arts.

Amy Holmes Brinkley, '95, of Wentzville, Mo., is the operations manager of graduate online nursing for The Catherine McAuley School of Nursing at Maryville University.

Jennifer "Jen" Matusiak Brooks, '94, of St. Louis, is serving her 26th year at Ursuline Academy, 24 of which have been in the role of athletic director.

Jaime J. de la Cruz, '96, of Findlay, Ohio, is director of organizational capability for Marathon Petroleum Company. He recently celebrated his 20th anniversary at Marathon, where he has spent his career post-law school in various legal and human resource roles. In his current position, de la Cruz is accountable for the company's recruiting, human resource compliance and diversity and inclusion programs.

Nancy Alonzo Jasper, '97, '11, '15, of St. Louis, decided to make a career change to nursing after working at Anheuser-Busch for more than 20 years. During the day, she continued to work at Anheuser-Busch and took nursing classes at Maryville in the evenings and weekends. In 2011, she graduated

with a bachelor's degree in nursing. Following that, she worked at Anheuser-Busch during the day, worked as a nurse at night and began taking classes in Maryville's nurse practitioner program in the evenings and weekends. In 2015, Jasper graduated with her master's degree in nursing. She celebrated her graduation alongside her son, Neal Jasper, '15, who graduated with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice. Jasper currently serves as an emergency room nurse, where she holds an emergency room certification. Jasper shared, "Maryville is a wonderful hidden treasure, and I am so proud to be an alumna."

Ellie Poulis Wideman, '97, of High Ridge, Mo., received her doctorate in social work from the Brown School at Washington University in St. Louis.

Gina Whittingham Harris, '98, of Chesterfield, Mo., is the regional vice president of Select Rehabilitation.

Sr. Harriet A. Agnew, '99, of Akron, Ohio, celebrated her Golden Jubilee as a Dominican Sister of Peace. Agnew entered the Sisters of St. Catharine in 1969. In the 1990s, she began ministering as a nursing assistant in St. Louis, where she later earned her nursing degree from Maryville. She remains active in her nursing ministry at the Akron Motherhouse.

Mikhail "Mike" A. Kirks, '99, of Westfield, Ind., is the director of partner strategy for the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. Mike oversees and manages the company's largest corporate partnerships. He is also the internal liaison working with the IndyCar departments and the Indianapolis Motor Speedway to ensure clients' contractual deliverables are fulfilled.

2000s

Carrie Arness Bequette, '00, and Paul R. Bequette, '97, of Tampa, Fla., enjoy living in the Florida sunshine. Carrie is an independent executive director with Thirty-One Gifts and Paul is a tax manager at Brighthouse Financial.

Brandon J. Raphael, '00, of Warner Robins, Ga., is the president of Macon Bacon Baseball and vice president of The Ultimate Toolkit sports consulting company. He was named 2019 Coastal Plain League Executive of the Year.

Brooke Cole Bilby, '01, of Ballwin, Mo., received a bachelor of arts in elementary education and a gifted education certificate from Maryville. Years later, she chaired the School of Education's Dr. Seuss birthday celebration. Bilby currently serves as an adjunct professor for curriculum and instruction for gifted education at Maryville and has worked in the Ladue School District for 13 years as the gifted coordinator, where she oversees the gifted program including curriculum and testing. Bilby is actively involved in the Education of Gifted and Talented Children of Missouri as an advisory council member. She and her husband, Chad, enjoy watching their son play hockey for the Chesterfield Falcons, a team that plays at the new Maryville University Hockey Center.

Rachelle Bollinger Kamper, '02, of Robertsville, Mo., and her husband, Harley, welcomed twins Alexis "Allie" Raquel and Corbin Robert on October 3, 2019. Allie was born weighing 3 lbs, 8 oz and Corbin was born weighing 4 lbs, 10 oz. The twins spent their first few weeks in the neonatal intensive care unit, but both babies are now home and doing well.

Mindy S. Krawiecki, '00, of Chesterfield, Mo., is a vice president at Citibank where she is in her 33rd year of service. In October 2019, Mindy was promoted from technical specialist to senior manager of apps development. In her role, Mindy manages team members around the world and is responsible for critical risk management infrastructure.

Erica Hubbard Wilson, '04, of Florissant, Mo., participated in Microsoft's DigiGirlz Day hosted at the Microsoft Technology Center. During the event, she shared her experience about a career in cybersecurity. Additionally, for the second year, Wilson participated in Maryville's Ada Lovelace Day to celebrate women working in STEM fields. Being a part of the celebration was an amazing opportunity for Wilson to connect with current Maryville students who are pursuing careers in science, technology, engineering and math. Lastly, Wilson served as a panelist for the American Heart Association STEM Goes Red event where she encouraged more than 200 high school women to consider a STEM career.

Abigail "Abby" Swartz Landolt, '06, of Pittsfield, Ill., was promoted to vice president, finance officer

of Farmers State Bank in Pittsfield. She began working at the bank in 2012 as an accounting assistant followed by a promotion to a bank accountant in 2016 before moving into her current role.

Julie Wiese Marco, '06, of Maryland Heights, Mo., and her husband, Rob, welcomed their daughter, Ava Marie, on August 23, 2019. Ava was born weighing 7 lbs, 13 oz and measuring 20 inches.

Ryan M. Faulkner, '08, of Murfreesboro, Tenn., and his wife, Brittany, welcomed their daughter, Isla Marie, on June 26, 2019. Isla was born weighing 8 lbs, 11 oz and measuring 20.5 inches.

Abbey E. Gradle, '08, of St. Louis, is head cheer coach at Marquette High School in Chesterfield, Mo. Under her leadership, the team has won the Missouri Cheerleading Coaches Association (MCCA) St. Louis Regional Cheerleading Competition for 10 consecutive years. In November 2019, the team placed first at the MCCA Missouri State Cheerleading Competition in the 5A small division, marking the fourth state title for the program and the third title with Gradle as coach.



Daniel “Dan” J. Krewson, ‘08, of Ballwin, Mo., married Brittany Lyons on September 14, 2019, at the Missouri History Museum.

Jennifer “Jenny” Laurentius Parmeter, ‘08, ‘09, and Michael “Mike” J. Parmeter, ‘09, ‘12, both of the Washington, D.C., metro area, welcomed twins Aubree and Elise on September 16, 2019. Their siblings, Emma, Mason and Liam, are excited to have two more playmates.

Paul J. Savoia, ‘08, of Red Bank, N.J., is the district testing coordinator and database manager for Union County Educational Services Commission, a public school district serving special needs students. Savoia oversees state testing requirements for the district for the general state test as well as alternate assessments for students with disabilities. He also serves as the district registrar where he enrolls new students and manages the database of demographic information for district and state reporting. Savoia shared, “I love my job! It’s been a strange transition from 10 years of being in the classroom to being in a supervisory role in an office,

but it’s an interesting challenge learning the behind-the-scenes of a school district.”

Abby Butler Hall, ‘09, of St. Peters, Mo., and her husband, Andy, welcomed their third child, Genevieve Grace, on August 9, 2019.

David M. Wiggins, ‘09, of St. Louis, married Abby Haida on February 1, 2020, in Webster Groves, Mo. Shortly after Wiggins proposed in 2019, he was named head baseball coach for his alma mater, Webster Groves High School.

Rachel M. Brown, ‘10, of St. Charles, Mo., passed the exam to become a Certified Regulatory Compliance Manager. She is a senior compliance specialist for Enterprise Bank & Trust.

Kayla R. Henry, ‘10, of Moberly, Mo., is a teacher with the Missouri Department of Corrections.

Robert S. Huckstep, ‘10, ‘13, of Eureka, Mo., and his wife, Lauren, welcomed Redmond “Red” William on September 22, 2019. Red was born weighing 7 lbs, 3 oz and measuring 20.5 inches. Red joins big brother, Chip, who recently turned four. Huckstep

was also promoted to director of sales and marketing at Capture Technologies, LLC.

Liza Hackmann Paulsmeyer, ‘10, of Chamois, Mo., and her husband, Matt, welcomed Louis Edward Arthur on August 12, 2019. Paulsmeyer is an emergency room nurse at SSM Health St. Mary’s Hospital – Jefferson City.

Sarah Paulus Robbett, ‘10, of Alexandria, Va., purchased her first home in September 2019. She is enjoying life as a newlywed with her husband, Billy, and their four-year-old beagle, Max. In November 2019, she celebrated her nine-year work anniversary with ReachLocal. She is also training for her fifth half-marathon.

4 Brittany Kastelein Reynolds, ‘10, of San Antonio, Texas, and her husband, David, celebrated the first birthday of their twin daughters in September. Reynolds’ husband is in the Air Force and the family is currently stationed in San Antonio.

Madeline Held Sloan, ‘10, of Kansas City, Mo., and her husband, Taylor, welcomed their first child, Milo, on August 7, 2019.



Milo’s arrival was extra special as it coincided with Sloan’s 30th birthday. Sloan is a practicing dentist in the Kansas City area.

Kelly Winking Torres, ‘10, ‘12, of Round Rock, Texas, and her husband, Armando, welcomed Mia Blake on September 17, 2019. Mia was born weighing 8 lbs, 1 oz and measuring 21 inches. Additionally, in 2018, Torres was promoted to manager of the Baylor Scott & White Institute for Rehabilitation, an outpatient sports medicine clinic in Round Rock. In addition to treating patients, she manages a staff of 14 physical therapists, occupational therapists and front desk personnel.




Ann Duggan

(1970–2020)

Ann Duggan, a valued and treasured employee of Maryville for 22 years, passed away on January 8, 2020.

Working as the University receptionist, she approached her work with professionalism, warmth, good cheer and an abiding love for Maryville and our students. She cherished her time at Maryville and the many wonderful friendships that she formed here.

Duggan enjoyed her Westie puppies, Kelly and Francie, and vacationing in Macatawa, Michigan. She also exhibited a courage and grace each and every day that is not only extraordinary but was, and is, a profound example for each and every one of us.

Duggan is survived by her mother and father, Samuel W. and Lily Trout Duggan, four siblings, nieces, nephews and cousins. 

5 Michelle M. Wirick, '10, of St. Louis, was one of 102 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.

Jenna M. Bartak, '11, of St. Peters, Mo., was promoted to senior training specialist at Edward Jones. Additionally, Bartak had an activity-filled 2019 including skydiving, backpacking the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu in Peru and completing her first triathlon, where she finished third in her age group. She also adopted a new adventure companion, Henley, an American Bulldog.



Abigail Adams Sirevaag, '11, of St. Charles, Mo., is a project coordinator with Edward Jones and an adjunct faculty member for Maryville's Design and Visual Art program. In August 2019, during a trip to New York City, she was in the audience for a taping of "Late Night with Seth Meyers." Sirevaag and her husband, Kristofer, closed out the summer at the Gorge Amphitheatre in George, Wash., attending a three-day outdoor Dave Matthews Band concert.

6 Melissa Laurentius Telander, '11, and Marc E. Telander, '11, '15, of O'Fallon, Mo., welcomed their first child, Wesley Edward, on July 17, 2019. The couple is loving every moment with their son.



7 Erik J. Carretero, '12, '14, of St. Louis, began a new position as director of enrollment at Chaminade College Preparatory School. Carretero and his wife, Kaitlin, also welcomed their daughter, Genevieve Louise, on November 2, 2019.

Michael "Mike" A. Gilbert, '12, of Festus, Mo., commissioned into the U.S. Navy as an aerospace maintenance officer serving in Strike Fighter Squadron 11 with the USS Theodore Roosevelt. Later, he was on board the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower as the ship's quality assurance and support equipment division officer. Gilbert is now back home in St. Louis where he is a program manager for the Defense Contract Management Agency at The Boeing Company.

Rhonda A. Pepmiller, '12, of St. Charles, Mo., joined Mercy Wound Care in Washington, Mo. Pepmiller received her Master of Science degree in nursing from Maryville. She is also board certified with the American Nurses Credentialing Center and the American Association of Nurse Practitioners.



KRISTA KOORS, '18

BOTH SIDES OF THE TABLE

BY GABBIE FALES

When Krista Koors, '18, walked into the Donius University Center for a career fair during her final semester at Maryville, she knew she would be meeting with potential employers. What she wasn't expecting was to leave that day with an interview lined up that would lead to her first full-time job.

Now a cybersecurity analyst for Burns & McDonnell, Koors puts her cybersecurity degree to good use. "I'm proud to be a Maryville alumna," she said. "People recognize Maryville's cybersecurity program and know that because I went here, I have a really strong background in the field."

In addition to her experience in cybersecurity, Burns & McDonnell was attracted to the skills that Koors developed through her extracurricular activities. As a first-year student, Koors became involved with the Campus Activities Board (CAB). She stuck with the group all four years, eventually becoming the vice president. Her experience planning and executing events as a student was a perfect match for her now employer.

Each year, Burns & McDonnell puts on an annual conference, the Critical Infrastructure Security and Compliance Symposium. At the helm of conference planning this past year was Koors. The conference hosted industry executives over two days in Phoenix. "My experience with CAB translated into an impactful skillset that I have been able to bring into my career," Koors said.

Koors' job responsibilities don't stop there. Since joining Burns & McDonnell, she has stepped into the field of recruiting. The company was looking to grow their cybersecurity talent in St. Louis, so Koors was tasked with representing the company at a variety of career fairs in the area. One of the fairs stood out to Koors in particular. Just a few months after graduating, Koors was back on Maryville's campus at a career fair – this time, on the other side of the table.

"It was neat to be back on campus and see a lot of the students I knew pursuing careers in cybersecurity," Koors said. She has now attended three Maryville career fairs as a recruiter for Burns & McDonnell, and said "I see a lot of talent coming from Maryville."

Her advice for current Maryville students? Take advantage of career fairs – you never know what you're going to get out of it. **M**

Photo courtesy of Kevin A. Roberts



MATTHEW BENDER, '02

HANDMADE SIDE HUSTLE

BY MINNA ONKEN


At the home of Matthew Bender, '02, handmade lamps sit in every corner and a wooden coffee table is proudly displayed in the center of the room. His basement workshop shows off even more of his woodworking, as joint blueprints and wood samples line the walls.

Bender believes that design and function lay on a parallel path and credits Maryville University as teaching him that principle. Professors like Cherie Fister, MFA, now vice president for academic affairs, gave Bender the confidence to believe in himself and inspired independence.

His favorite class, however, was taught by a professor that he followed from Meramec Community College. A packaging class led by former design and visual arts instructor Chuck Groth taught Bender to think outside the box, and to always give a three-dimensional look to graphic design.


When he and his brother, Josh, started Blackhall Woodworks, their two different backgrounds made a good fit. Bender fondly describes the business as a "side hustle" and "retirement fund." He said the major difference between it and his fulltime job at 2-E Creative is that, with Blackhall, "For the most part people are buying because they like it." And people do love Blackhall Woodworks' designs. As Matt pulls out a wheeled rack of finished lamps, he notes that they're all getting ready to ship to customers.

"I wear amateur like a badge of honor," Matt said proudly. Despite the amateur claim, much of Bender's and his brother's backgrounds are evident in their work. The lamps are designed to make for easier packaging while still retaining their beautiful form and functionality, a clear reminder of Matt's packaging background and his brother's architectural knowledge. "You learn each time from the process," he said, and Blackhall Woodworks is a prime example of what can be accomplished with persistence.

Though he comes from a creative family, Bender said Maryville brought his creativity "up another level." He hopes to pass that creativity onto his son, who recently helped make a lamp for his bedroom. However, like most children, Bender's son wants to be a Lego engineer. "Hopefully by the time he's ready for college, Maryville has a Lego program as top tier as our design and visual art program," Bender said. 




Ashlee J. Brockenbrough, '13, '16, of Brentwood, Mo., started a new position at The Boeing Company as a contract management specialist for Boeing's F-15 program. In this role, she will develop and lead proposals and negotiations for new contracts for the F-15. She will also administrate and execute transactions.

 **Kristen Montag Rettenmaier, '13**, of Kirkwood, Mo., and her husband, Dan, welcomed their first child, Blake Daniel, on June 9, 2019.

Laura Ewersmann Schlag, '12, '14, of Boise, Idaho, moved to Boise with her husband, Joshua, to be in a smaller city, but still somewhere outdoorsy. The couple recently traveled to Chamonix, France, to watch the largest ultra race in the world, the Ultra-Trail du Mont-Blanc, and to run on some of the famous trails. The Schlags also run on trails in the Sawtooth Mountains in Idaho on the weekends. Laura has run eight ultramarathon races in the past three years and completed her first 100K in Phoenix in October 2019. When not running, Laura works as an outpatient orthopedic physical therapist at a clinic in Boise. The couple is looking forward to their next adventure.

Rachel Holdmeier Allender, '14, '15, of Washington, Mo., and her husband, Steve, welcomed their baby girl on August 27, 2019.

 **Dr. Kathryn "Kate" Wagner Hill, '14**, and **Richard "Rick" P. Hill, '14**, both of O'Fallon, Mo., celebrated their second wedding anniversary. The couple met at Maryville in a class taught by John Wickersham, PhD, professor of philosophy. Kate and Rick married on April 13, 2018,

and had four Maryville alumni in their wedding: **Vanessa Long, '14**; **Kimberly Hill, '14**; **Neal Jasper, '15**; and **Dylan Ottofy, '13**. Dr. Hill works in the biology department at Maryville.

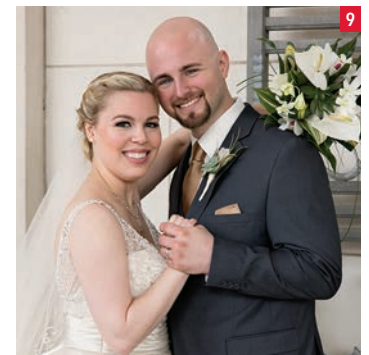
Jessica Zorn Kleine, '14, of Kansas City, Mo., married William Kleine on August 10, 2019.

Jessica Burgess Solomon, '14, and **Javyn O. Solomon, '14**, both of St. Louis, married on September 28, 2019. The ceremony and reception were held at the Majorette in Maplewood, Mo. Jessica and Javyn, both graphic design alumni, met at Maryville their freshman year. The couple shared a lot of classes together where their interest was sparked. They began dating their sophomore year and have been together ever since.

Michael A. Thompson, '14, of Chesterfield, Mo., joined Kwame Building Group, a construction management firm, as a marketing business developer. Thompson is responsible for supporting the company's business goals and objectives while building relationships with clients.

Blake M. Woods, '14, of Metropolis, Ill., joined Baptist Health Medical Group Family Medicine in Metropolis as a nurse practitioner.

Rebecca "Becca" Lorton Hawthorne, '15, of St. Louis, and her husband, Daniel, were blessed with the arrival of their daughter, Sarai, on September 25, 2019. Becca shared, "Sarai is a biblical name meaning 'my princess' in





Hebrew and that is exactly what she is to us. We have loved every minute of being her parents, from every sleepless night to every snuggle. She is perfect in every way and we could hold Sarai and stare at her precious face forever. It's been great to see how our teamwork has grown to care and provide for her." The couple is also excited to explore the children's attractions of St. Louis as a family.

Dr. Jessica McFadden Humphrey, '15, '17, and Casey M. Humphrey, '14, both of St. Louis, married on October 5, 2019, at Our Lady of Lourdes in Clayton, Mo. The reception was held at Windows on Washington. The couple celebrated their honeymoon in Jamaica where they enjoyed snorkeling, paddle boarding and soaking up the sun.

Dr. Leah Bohl Leicht, '15, '17, of Owensville, Mo., and her husband, J.J., welcomed their first child, Jase Christopher, on August 26, 2019.

Kaitlynn "Kat" R. McConnell, '15, of Milwaukee, is enrolled in a doctoral program in counseling psychology at Marquette University.

Jordan McKinley Omlid, '15, and Tyler P. Omlid, '17, both of St. Louis, married on October 6, 2019, at Concordia Lutheran Church. The couple celebrated their honeymoon in tropical Grenada.

Alexander B. Reed, '15, of Overland Park, Kan., was promoted to senior solutions consultant with Lockpath. Last year, Reed left public accounting and moved into consulting in the governance, risk management and compliance area. He is on the professional services team, where he assists clients during and after implementation. Additionally, Reed is an active stock and options trader with involvement in a few Kansas City trading groups. When not at work or following the markets, Reed is an avid golfer.

Dr. Monica Lee Schnitzler, '15, '17, of North Salt Lake, Utah, married Alec Schnitzler on November 9, 2019. The couple celebrated their honeymoon in Hawaii.

LaTonia C. Smith, '02, of St. Louis, was elected chair of the Martin Luther King Jr. State Celebration Commission. She is the interim provost and vice president for academic affairs at Harris-Stowe State University.

Brett W. Grempler, '16, of St. Louis, married Alexandra Grempler on October 12, 2019. The couple spent their honeymoon soaking up the sun in St. Kitts.

10 Victoria "Tori" A. LeMunyon, '16, of Ballwin, Mo., opened a gymnastics facility in Fenton, Mo., called Mid America Gymnastics Academy. LeMunyon is the head coach for the competitive team.

Andrew D. Myer, '16, '18, of Moro, Ill., is the ticket sales and experience manager for XFL's St. Louis BattleHawks football team.



Kristina Henderson Tibbits, '16, of Troy, Mo., and her husband, James, welcomed their daughter, Adalind Grace, on November 6, 2019. Adalind was born weighing 7 lbs, 2 oz and measuring 19.5 inches.

Jennifer L. Carroll, '18, of Ballwin, Mo., is a production artist at Ariel Premium Supply. She is in charge of helping customers gather designs on Ariel products. Carroll shared, "I love coming into work and seeing my coworkers; there is never a dull moment. I am proud to be part of the Ariel family."

11 Jessica "Jess" Sauer Freiner, '18, of Valley Park, Mo., celebrated her first wedding anniversary with the love of her life, her husband, Taylor, on July 27, 2019. Jess is an elementary school teacher and Taylor is a software developer.



Leah Leah (nee Lauf, later Jansky and Schwartz) 1939-2019

The Maryville University community mourns the loss of beloved former humanities professor Leah Leah (nee Lauf, later Jansky and Schwartz), who passed away on October 31, a few weeks shy of her 80th birthday.

For 48 years, Leah challenged Maryville students to think twice about what they "know," and learn more about themselves in the process. She taught classes ranging from Russian literature to St. Louis theater. She inspired students with her wisdom, her curiosity and her famously independent, generous spirit.

Leah was also an actress and performed with small professional theater companies in St. Louis. She was known for several original, one-woman shows.

Leah is survived by her loving husband Bob Schwartz, her sister, her children and many grandchildren. ❧

In Memoriam

1940s

Jane Thomas Ericson, '49

1960s

Barbara Boudreau Kehew, '61
Virginia "Ginny" Treat
Hufker, '62

Jane "Janie" Hackett Roth, '62
Barbara L. Wentworth,
DHM, '62
Kathleen A. Ryan, '64

1980s

Bobette Everhart-Boal, '82

2000s

Evelyn "Evie" J. Drummond

Sierra E. Holiman, '18, of Cape Girardeau, Mo., is the manager and head nurse of the new SoutheastHEALTH New Madrid Clinic. Holiman is an advanced registered family nurse practitioner.

Allison A. Kennedy, '18, of Smithton, Ill., got engaged to her high school sweetheart, Donnie Francescon, on June 20, 2019, in Las Vegas. The couple plans to wed in September 2020 with some of Kennedy's occupational therapy classmates as bridesmaids in the wedding party.

Sami Sbei, '18, of Ballwin, Mo., began graduate school at The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston as a doctoral student of human pathophysiology and transitional medicine.

Jordynn Martin Sims, '18, and Grant A. Sims, '18, '19, both of St. Louis, married on September 29, 2019, at The Coronado. Jordynn and Grant met at Maryville, where they both played basketball. During the wedding reception, the couple

announced their wedding party like a starting lineup presentation including stating their names, heights and hometowns. Another basketball-themed component was their guest book: the couple had a Team Sims basketball jersey for guests to sign. The couple celebrated their honeymoon in Cancún, Mexico, where they enjoyed piña coladas by the pool.

12 Amanda "A.J." Schuermann Bell, '19, and Taylor C. Bell, '13, of Wildwood, Mo., married on June 17, 2019, in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic. A.J. graduated from Maryville in May 2019 with a master's degree in rehabilitation counseling and, in September, passed the national counselor examination from the National Board of Certified Counselors. Taylor is the senior instructional technology specialist for Maryville's School of Adult and Online Education.

Austin L. Davis, '19, of St. Louis, is an admissions communication coordinator at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. In this role, Davis communicates with admitted and prospective students while also managing the social media accounts for the admissions office. During his time at Maryville, Davis began exploring music production and, in October 2019, he released his first album, "Prosper."

Dylan G. Farmer, '19, of St. Louis, is a customer service representative and archives technician with the U.S. National Archives and Records Administration.

Laura Kreher, '19, of New Athens, Ill., joined St. Louis-based interior design firm Spellman Brady & Company as a designer. Kreher earned a Bachelor of Arts in interior design from Maryville. While attending the University, she served as an intern with Spellman

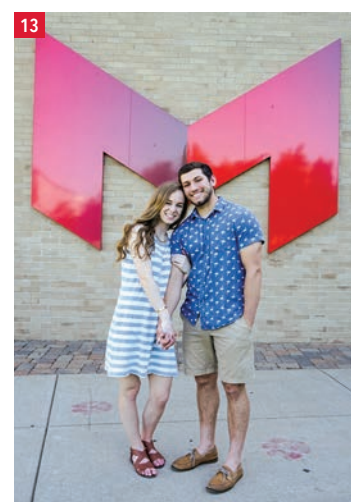


Brady & Company and studied abroad in Florence, Italy, at the Santa Reparata International School of Arts.

13 Amanda J. Blanton, '19, and Mark N. Manera, '19, both of Hazelwood, Mo., got engaged in Rome in May 2019. The couple plans to wed in August 2020.

Brooke C. Martin, '19, of Lorimor, Iowa, joined Clarinda Regional Health Center as a pediatric nurse practitioner in October 2019. She also sees patients at the Bedford Family Health Center. Martin received her Master of Science from Maryville in 2019. During her clinical rotations as a nursing student, she worked at Clarinda Regional Health Center. That experience helped her secure her new position.

Abigail "Abbi" Anthony Parrish, '19, and Josh A. Parrish, '19, of St. Joseph, Mo., married on August 19, 2019.



Thai Ly Schmidt, '19, and Daniel S. Schmidt, '10, '17, of St. Charles, Mo., traveled to New York City for the first time in November 2019 to attend the Rawlings Gold Glove Award ceremony.

Marcee Stewart, '19, of Tillamook, Ore., joined Adventist Health in Tillamook and Pacific City, Ore., as a family nurse practitioner. Stewart received her Master of Science from Maryville in 2019.

SHARE YOUR NEWS!

Submit a class note for the Fall 2020 issue of Maryville Magazine.

maryville.edu/classnotes



FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS: A family-friendly evening brought the sights and sounds of Indian culture to life as Maryville celebrated Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights. Maryville faculty, staff and students as well as local talents donned traditional Indian clothing to perform a variety of Indian dances and Bollywood songs. Highlights of the evening included the Diya Dance, a sitarist and a performance by Pradip Ghosh, PhD, professor of physical therapy, who helped organize the event.



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