



MARYVILLE
M A G A Z I N E

FALL 2020

SAINTSTRONG

RESPONDING  MANAGING  THRIVING  LEADING

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ON THE COVER

In this issue, learn how Maryville University responded to COVID-19 and managed needed changes on campus to ensure the safety of the community. Now, Maryville is thriving and leading the way in hybrid learning in the time of coronavirus. Together, we are #SaintStrong.



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

FALL 2020 circulation: 30,156



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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Friends,

I don't believe any of us will soon forget 2020. And it isn't over yet. We are living through the deadliest pandemic in 100 years as we grapple with the issues of racial and social justice and engage in a fractious presidential election. Despite all of this, I can tell you that your Maryville community, students, faculty, staff and alumni have adapted, persevered, managed and thrived. Their passion and commitment in trying times is a wonder to behold.

This issue will just touch on some of the amazing stories and events that have shaped our response to COVID-19 embodied in the heroes and leaders we spotlight. You will read about our technology forward strategy that not only enhanced learning but helped us navigate the COVID-19 restrictions and supported all students so they could continue to make substantial progress in their education. You will read about innovators who overcome obstacles to reach students, community members and those less fortunate to make a profound difference in their lives. And you will read about our amazing progress in building the **New University of the 21st century.**

Despite the issues we all face, Maryville continues to grow and thrive as evidenced by our being named the **second fastest-growing private University in the nation by the Chronicle of Higher Education. It is also evidenced by reduction of traditional undergraduate tuition by 5 percent this fall.**

This represents our strategic commitment to bend the cost curve back for students and over the next several years we hope to reduce that amount by a total of 20 percent.

This fall we are managing the pandemic with a prudent, hybrid approach to our students' learning in which public health and safety are paramount. Maryville and the nation still have a long way to go, but we have a creative and committed faculty, an energetic staff and the best students anywhere. Together we will emerge as the leaders of a revolution in higher education that expands access and opportunity for all. Please be safe.

Warmest regards,

Mark Lombardi, PhD

“

...your Maryville community, students, faculty, staff and alumni have adapted, persevered, managed and thrived. Their passion and commitment in trying times is a wonder to behold.


”

Maryville Named **Second Fastest-Growing** Private Institution

Maryville University has been named the second fastest-growing private university in the nation by The Chronicle of Higher Education, jumping up two spots from the university's previous ranking. The boost is fueled in large part by Maryville's ever-expanding online programs.

"Students across the country choose Maryville because we offer market-relevant, high-quality online programs that provide the flexibility they need to fit education into their busy lives," said Katherine Louthan, dean of the School of Adult and Online Education. "We are one of the few universities committed to the continual innovation and evolution of the digital learning experience. We've invested in a state-of-the-art video studio and a team of dynamic learning designers who create engaging courses and experiences in collaboration with expert faculty."

The announcement came as the university began its 16th consecutive year of record enrollment growth. Traditional students saw an increase of 7 percent over last year, with online enrollment increasing by 17 percent. Maryville's robust online programs and the faculty's ability to provide high-quality teaching across all learning platforms has given Maryville an advantage as virtual and hybrid learning is relied upon as a way to minimize exposure to COVID-19.

"Because of the amazing commitment of our innovative faculty and creative staff, Maryville continues to set the standard for the new University of the 21st century," said President Mark Lombardi, PhD. "Our amazing growth from all 50 states is the supreme validation of that vision and demonstrates the confidence the students and parents have in our ability to serve their academic needs." 




Tuition Reduced for Undergraduate Students

In August, President Mark Lombardi, PhD, announced the next phase of Maryville's plan to expand affordability and access to a world-class education: a tuition reduction of 5 percent for the traditional undergraduate on-campus student population beginning this school year, Fall 2020.

This tuition reduction is the next step in the university's phased approach to bend the cost curve back for families, which began with keeping undergraduate on-campus tuition flat for the past four years. After 16 years of double-digit enrollment growth and a robust financial profile, Maryville is committed to lowering the cost of undergraduate tuition for students and families throughout this decade, and this is the next step.

"Maryville University's strategic plan has positioned the institution to expand access and opportunity to thousands of additional students," Lombardi said. "Lowering the cost by 5 percent now will make our top-quality education more accessible, and it demonstrates a new, revolutionary model of higher education. Tuition reduction allows students and families to plan out a more affordable path to their Maryville education, which has some of the best outcomes in the nation, including a 97 percent career outcome rate and an 84 percent retention rate."

This strategy, when combined with university financial aid, privately funded scholarships and corporate and foundation support, makes a Maryville education more accessible for years to come. Maryville's tuition and fees cover all course materials, a new iPad with over 200 learning apps, and one of the most connected campuses in the United States, making Maryville a national leader in providing access and opportunity for students of every background.

"Most private universities use enrollment growth as a basis for increasing tuition and making it more difficult for students to get in," Lombardi said. "That approach is exclusionary. In contrast, Maryville is leveraging its enrollment growth and technological investments to pass along savings to the student." 



16TH CONSECUTIVE YEAR OF ENROLLMENT GROWTH

11,200

Overall student enrollment

7,200

Online students

10%

OVERALL GROWTH



ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDENTS DOUBLES

President Mark Lombardi, PhD, has contributed \$500,000 to the Martin T. Lombardi Endowed Scholarship, increasing the scholarship fund he created in 2014 to \$1 million. Recipients of the scholarship receive a 50 percent tuition discount annually to Maryville. This commitment comes as an increasing number of college students face tougher economic circumstances due to the coronavirus pandemic.

“While this pandemic impacts all of our lives in a variety of ways, one of the worst elements is that it places even greater economic challenges on a large number of young people seeking Maryville’s high-quality education,” Dr. Lombardi said. “One way I can help make a difference for students in underrepresented groups is to increase my personal commitment to the scholarship fund. It will help students now and well into the future.”

The scholarship has provided support to more than a dozen students since 2014, and the doubling of Lombardi’s original gift will allow twice as many students to receive this support.

The Martin T. Lombardi Endowed Scholarship was established in 2014 by Dr. Lombardi to honor his late father. **M**



It’s a St. Louis Thing

The Rise Up for Heroes campaign encouraged the St. Louis community to give thanks to those serving on the front lines during the coronavirus pandemic.

During stay-at-home orders issued in St. Louis County and St. Louis City, Maryville University joined St. Louis business, sports and civic leaders to rally the community in a region-wide expression of thanks for heroes who were serving on the front lines against the coronavirus pandemic.

The Rise Up for Heroes campaign asked everyone in the St. Louis community to salute those heroes every day at 7 p.m. in neighborhoods and residential areas. Claps and cheers were heard each night from people standing outside their homes, on their front porches or looking through windows. Many community members also displayed blue lights or added bears or signs to their front windows as a way to say thank-you to health care workers.

Rise Up for Heroes also featured a pop-up “care-avan” that visited neighborhoods and area hospitals to honor health care workers. Louie and Fredbird, respectively representing the St. Louis Blues and St. Louis Cardinals, led the parades, which also featured a DJ truck and guest appearances from St. Louis leaders like St. Louis Cardinals Hall of Famer Ozzie Smith. **M**



Leading Change

Two courageous and passionate leaders who have dedicated their careers to ensuring young people can reach their full potential join Maryville's Board of Trustees.

Internationally recognized physician-scientist Michael R. DeBaun, MD, MPH, and President of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater St. Louis Flint W. Fowler, PhD, have been elected to the Maryville University Board of Trustees.


"The unanimous election of Dr. DeBaun and Dr. Fowler to Maryville's Board of Trustees demonstrates our eagerness to have such talented and distinguished leaders join us as we accelerate efforts to revolutionize higher education," said Ed Ryan, chair of the Board of Trustees. "We look forward to their involvement in our work as we guide and support Maryville's mission."

DeBaun is founding director of the Vanderbilt-Meharry Center for Excellence in Sickle Cell Disease in Nashville. His advocacy and research have resulted in fundamental medical advances in the care of children and adults with sickle cell disease.

DeBaun has a strong connection to Maryville University. His mother, Everlouis Rutledge DeBaun, was Maryville's first


African American graduate in 1958. She served as a longtime teacher in St. Louis Public Schools. In lasting tribute, the DeBaun family supports the Everlouis Rutledge DeBaun Endowed Scholarship at Maryville, established by the Class of 1958 in her memory.

Through Fowler's leadership, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater St. Louis (BGCSTL) provides after-school, teen, sports and summer programs while also providing a safe place for children to learn and grow. BGCSTL serves youth across St. Louis City and County at seven locations, a dropout prevention program in two high schools and through its Mentor St. Louis and St. Louis Internship programs.

BGCSTL has been a longtime partner of Maryville, and the University introduced its successful life coaching model into the K-12 space through its work with the organization. Additionally, BGCSTL members learn to flourish in the areas of technology and STEM through college immersion programs and on-campus and club-site experiences like robotics. 



EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUND ESTABLISHED

Many Maryville students have served as first responders throughout the coronavirus pandemic. From health care workers in hospitals to nursing home staff across the country, these men and women have worked extra-long shifts to provide selfless care for those suffering from COVID-19, all while juggling families and school. With so many already struggling to make tuition payments each semester, Maryville University established the Health Care Heroes Scholarship Fund to alleviate some of their financial burden. Maryville knows that these students and their experiences have enriched our community in countless ways and will continue to do so in the future. For more information, visit maryville.edu/emergencysupport. 



Michael R. DeBaun, MD, MPH

Flint W. Fowler, PhD

“


We look forward to their involvement in our work as we guide and support Maryville's mission.

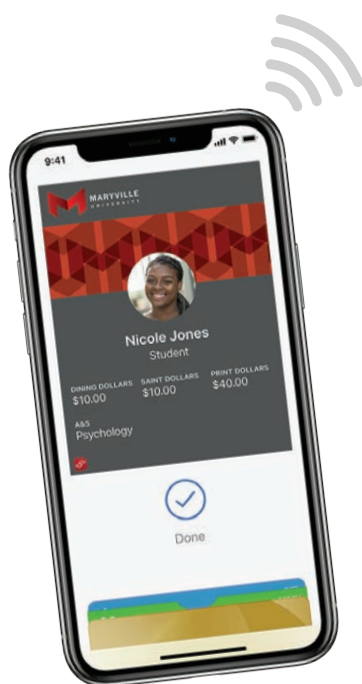
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ED RYAN

Chair of the Board of Trustees

GONE MOBILE

Members of the Maryville community can now leave their physical wallets behind and access campus with just their mobile devices. With the new digital identification system, Saints ID, students, faculty and staff can add their ID card to Apple Wallet or Google Pay, and use their iPhone, Apple Watch or Android to access buildings on campus, purchase meals and much more. Saints ID is not only convenient; it also provides an extra level of security as students, faculty and staff no longer have to worry about misplacing their physical card. School credentials are also protected by two-factor authentication. The Saints ID is part of Maryville's comprehensive digital transformation plan that is enhancing the student experience in today's digital world. 



Promoting a Culture of Inclusion

Maryville has created a new leadership role to promote a culture of inclusion where individuals from various social identities are able to thrive and be engaged.

Turan Mullins will provide thought leadership as senior adviser to the president for access and opportunity. Mullins will report directly to the president and advise all Maryville senior leaders, including collecting and analyzing data to benchmark and promote accountability for diversity and inclusion initiatives.


"My goal is to ensure that every student who comes to Maryville is able to graduate and have a great college experience," Mullins said. "The true meaning of access and opportunity is to provide the necessary support to empower all students to achieve their goals and become engaged, successful members of their professional and societal communities after they leave Maryville."

Mullins has been an instrumental member of the Maryville community for over a decade. He has served as assistant dean of students/diversity and inclusion since 2016. He previously served as director of the Office of Diversity and Inclusion and assistant director of multicultural


programs, as well as assistant director for enrollment.

Under his leadership, Maryville University received the prestigious 2019 Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) Award from INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine, the oldest and largest diversity-focused publication in higher education.

Ashley Storman, EdD, has moved into the role of director of the Office of Diversity and Inclusion. Storman has served as program coordinator for the Office of Diversity and Inclusion since 2017. In that role, she oversaw the Multicultural Scholars Program and developed and implemented various student programs.

As director of the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, Storman plans to implement an extended orientation program for first-generation college students, students of color and students from underrepresented groups. She also plans to incorporate aspects of current events and anti-racism into existing programming and events. 

Announcing the M Store+


The M Store+, Maryville's new e-commerce site, is a digital extension of the on-campus store, featuring rotating apparel, Maryville spirit gear and giftware, as well as customized build-your-own items. Some of the rotating apparel recently featured on the site — available only for a limited time after each exclusive release — included a 2020 Alumni Collection and a Summer Collection. Students, faculty and alumni can continue to access other services such as course materials, stationery, office supplies and scrub orders at the on-campus The M Store and on the existing The M Store website. For more information, visit mstoreplus.maryville.edu. 



"MOCHA TEA" RECOGNIZED

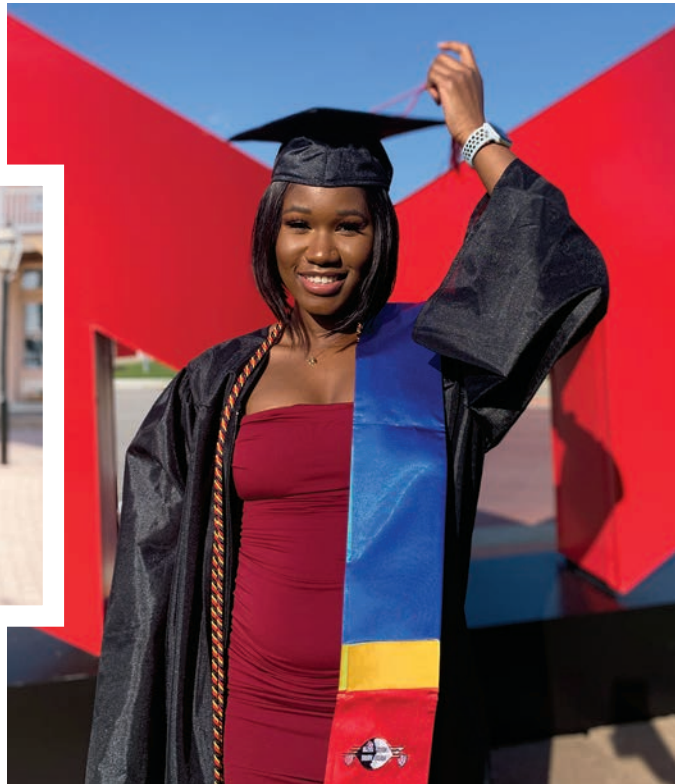
Maryville's Mocha Tea organization has received the 2020 Inspiring Affinity Group Award from INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine. The award honors programs that inspire and encourage higher education professionals to join a campus that features employee resource groups offering mentoring, collaboration, social networking opportunities and more.

Mocha Tea began when two female African American staff began meeting informally to support each other professionally. Their bond began to extend into a more personal realm as they navigated their workplace and the predominantly white St. Louis County in which it's located. Over time, other female African American staff began joining them.

Today, Mocha Tea boasts 50 members including students, faculty and staff. The organization provides support and programming for women of color through events including book clubs, lunch 'n' learns and mental health talks on topics including coping with stress. 


#MaryvilleGrad20

Since we weren't able to gather in person to celebrate the achievements of the Class of 2020, Maryville launched the Show Us How You Celebrate social media challenge. All graduates used #MaryvilleGrad20 and tagged @MaryvilleU in their posts. The challenge fostered a sense of connection and community as our graduates shared how they celebrated this momentous occasion, while maintaining social distancing, of course. 





TALES OF THE BRAVE

It takes courage to earn your college education and pursue your goals. Maryville offers online academic programs to open new doors for people who balance work and family life and require flexible learning environments. These online students are taking the bold step of starting a college program for the first time, finishing an incomplete degree or obtaining a graduate degree. They show us when you're brave, there's nothing you can't accomplish. To read the stories of these brave students, visit maryville.edu/talesofthebrave. 

MARYVILLE MAGAZINE IS NOW ONLINE.

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



WORKING TO END HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Maryville University honored Polaris, a nonprofit combating human trafficking and modern-day slavery, with the annual Sister Mary Byles Peace and Justice Prize & Lecture.

Named after the North Star, a historical symbol of freedom, Polaris works to reshape the systems that make sex and labor trafficking possible and profitable in North America. For more than a decade, Polaris has assisted thousands of victims and survivors through the U.S. National Human Trafficking Hotline and built the largest known U.S. data set on the crime.

With the guidance of survivors, and working with public and private-sector partners, Polaris uses that data to understand and improve the way trafficking is identified, how victims and survivors are assisted and how we can prevent this abuse at the scale of the problem — 25 million people worldwide robbed of the basic right to choose how they live and work. **M**



The Power of Reading

Many students at Barack Obama Elementary School within the Normandy Schools Collaborative cannot afford brand-new books, and some do not even have books at home. Maryville put 400 new books into the hands of these students through a multicultural book fair, hosted by the Maryville Education Club in partnership with EyeSeeMe African American Children's Bookstore and A Red Circle, an organization founded by Erica Williams, '05, '12, to address racial injustice and inequality in North St. Louis County. The students could choose from a range of age-appropriate books from genres like science fiction and sports, and they also participated in a variety of literacy-themed activities like making bookmarks, writing poems and drawing a mural inspired by their favorite books. **M**



FACULTY / STAFF NEWS

Assistant dean for the John E. Simon School of Business and assistant professor of accounting **SOMER ANDERSON, MACC**, was named a regional recipient of the 2020 Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs Teaching Excellence Award.



Chief digital transformation evangelist **FENG HOU** was featured by Toggle business-to-business trade journal for his expertise regarding how the coronavirus pandemic has accelerated digital transformation in higher education.

Program director for music therapy, **LAURA BEER, PHD, MT-BC**, co-wrote an article, Prosocial Behaviors in a Creative Arts Day Camp for Children With and Without Special Needs: A Mixed-Methods Study, which was published by The Canadian Journal of Counselling and Psychotherapy.



Director of the rehabilitation counseling program and professor of rehabilitation counseling **MICHAEL KIENER, PHD**, was featured by the Today Show for his expertise in assistive technologies that could help deaf people or people who are hard of hearing communicate while wearing face coverings.

Director of the clinical mental health counseling program and professor of rehabilitation counseling **ROBERT BERTOLINO, PHD**, participated in the World Record Baseball Game at GCS Ballpark in May 2019. The event raised \$100,000 for St. Louis Children's Hospital.



Director of the exercise science program and assistant professor of exercise science **VICTOR KIZER, CSCS, TSAC-F**, helped transition the National Strength and Conditioning Association's Missouri State Clinic to a fully virtual event amidst the coronavirus pandemic, allowing nearly 300 registrants to secure necessary continuing education.

STEVE COXON, PHD, executive director of Maryville's Center for Access and Achievement and associate professor of education, received the Laura Joyner Award from the Mensa Education and Research Foundation.



CAITLIN LAYER-GASKELL, MSW, LCSW, CCTP, a licensed clinical social worker for Maryville's Counseling Center, created the Survivors Circle, a weekly confidential support group for Maryville students who identify as survivors of sexual assault, rape, intimate partner violence or harassment.

Associate professor of biology **STACY DONOVAN, PHD**, spearheaded Maryville's presence at the STEAM-ing Up STEM Academy, hosted by the Midwest Education Technology Community. Approximately 125 seventh-grade girls participated in a DNA extraction activity and engaged in conversations about future careers in STEM-related fields.



Distinguished writer-in-residence **DANA LEVIN, MA**, was a guest curator for Poem-a-Day, an original daily poetry series that published new work by contemporary poets, hosted by the Academy of American Poets.

"SAVING THE HERD"

WITH ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

BY NANCY FOWLER

Six Maryville students spent hundreds of hours figuring out how data science tools, including artificial intelligence, might reduce the poaching and illegal trafficking of protected animals.

In March, their work paid off when they won the "Saving the Herd with AI" Ideathon at St. Louis' T-REX coworking space.

Their team, the Safari Techno Saints, beat two Saint Louis University teams and one University of Missouri-St. Louis team. The Saints' presentation stood out for its overarching thoroughness, according to one of the judges, T-REX president and executive director Patricia Hagen. "I was very impressed," Hagen said.

The students had been working on the project last October, when the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency collaborated with the Missouri Technology Corporation and SLU to launch the contest. Their team's victory reflects the caliber of Maryville's students, drawn from across the world, and its real-world focus, according to Yuanjin Liu, PhD, director of the data science program and associate professor of actuarial science and data science.

"In recent years, Maryville has created an Active Learning Ecosystem that is student-centered," Liu said. "We frequently update the curriculums in data science based on the job market trends, and we also focus on the latest research progress and developments in data science."

The Ideathon consisted of 30-minute pitches by each team, followed by question-and-answer periods. It was a rigorous exercise, like a "mini

PhD defense presentation," Liu said. In fact, the Maryville team was the only one without at least one PhD-level member, making its winning effort all the more noteworthy.

"The team needed to apply their critical thinking skills and understand the data in a geospatial view," Liu said. "They looked at this project from different angles, then designed and developed several potential solutions, and finally chose a feasible one based on the time constraint."

The Maryville students fit the project around their already demanding academic schedules, including working until 10 p.m. the night before the competition. But they always felt they could count on Liu for assistance.

"He was very available and interested," said project lead and data science major Faiz Ikramulla. "But he didn't tell us what to do. Instead, he provided a framework to help point us in the right direction without giving us the answer."

Maryville's specific project focused on saving the fewer than 400 remaining Ploughshare Tortoises in Madagascar. The proposed solution enhances existing protections through artificial intelligence and machine learning, which involves teaching computers to perform tasks using patterns and inference rather than explicit instructions.

Team member data science major Nisha Verma compared it to humans learning



▼ A team of six Maryville students competed in the “Saving the Herd with AI” Ideathon and came home with first prize, beating out teams from other local universities.

through frequent repetition. “We train the machine with the same data again, again and again,” Verma said. “If something is going on in your life again and again and again, you will never forget that thing, right?”

Verma and others on the Maryville team said the process sharpened not only their technical skills but also their ability to prioritize and divide up tasks, identify and network with subject-matter experts and motivate and negotiate with teammates.


“It feels like a great leap forward,” said cybersecurity major Cullen Mertens, another team member. “Maryville is constantly giving us opportunities for internships and jobs,

but the skills we learned through this competition will be especially beneficial in our future careers.”

Also on the Maryville team were Giniya Gupta, Dipak Sunar and Vamshi Kanderao. Members of each university’s team walked away with many practical benefits just for having participated in the competition, including free T-REX workspace for one year.

The National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency invited each team to give their presentation to a roomful of NGA directors, and NGA’s chief ventures officer Christy Monaco asked each participant to provide the agency with a resume. “We want first access

to your future,” Monaco said. “There’s so much the NGA can learn from you.”

The competition also offered Maryville University its own learning experience, according to Liu. “This competition can help Maryville assess our programs to better benefit our students,” he said. “And it helps us figure out how our programs compare to other similar programs in the greater St. Louis area. Although our win shows we already have one of the most outstanding data science programs in the area.” 





LEVEL UP

BY NANCY FOWLER

Matt Raithel, professor of practice of game design, is riding a wave of triumph with his newest creation, RollerCoaster Tycoon Story®.

Students pursuing a game design concentration within Maryville's Interactive Design Program learn real-world skills from an industry leader.

Matt Raithel, professor of practice of game design, is also the owner and studio director of Graphite Lab, a St. Louis-based company that develops video games for brands like Hasbro, Disney, Cartoon Network and, now, Atari.

Raithel and team's latest creation, RollerCoaster Tycoon Story, is based on the beloved franchise. The videogame, whose objective is to rebuild a decrepit theme park, was recently featured as "Game of the Day" in over 140 countries in Apple's app store. But had Raithel not understood the importance of being both persistent and flexible early on, his company Graphite Lab might never have achieved this level of success.

After graduating from Missouri State in 2004, Raithel began applying for internships and positions with game design companies. "Everybody was like, 'no, no, no,'" Raithel said.

So Raithel and some business partners started their own company. When they began pitching their concepts to game publishers, it was a similar story; no one wanted their ideas. But then they asked if Raithel and his partners could work on their game idea. He didn't hesitate before saying yes. "I've had to be scrappy and resourceful," Raithel said.

Even while developing others' ideas, Raithel pursued his own game concepts. One of the commercially successful games developed by Graphite Lab includes "Hive Jump," released last year on Nintendo Switch and Xbox One. And a few years ago, Raithel pitched another original idea to Atari. "Once

again, we were told, 'No,'" Raithel said. "But then they said, 'If you want to work on this rollercoaster game, it's available.'"

RollerCoaster Tycoon Story, released in January for Apple and Android devices, is inspired by a 1999 franchise called RollerCoaster Tycoon. Players must restore the Eagleland theme park one project at a time by matching brightly colored game pieces on a board, a visual experience not unlike the popular Candy Crush Saga.

Players can purchase boosters or power-ups — including one called Screechin' Eagle — to help them solve puzzles faster and move through the game more quickly. "The reference to Six Flags' Screamin' Eagle is an homage to the St. Louis rollercoaster," Raithel said.

Sixteen Graphite Lab employees — story writers, artists, programmers, designers and sound and music engineers — worked on the family-friendly RollerCoaster Tycoon Story for a year before its release. Two Maryville interns assisted in its development, arranging flowerbeds and other scenery and helping with testing and feedback.

"Students are mostly exposed to shorter-term projects," Raithel said. "This exposed them to something on a larger scale, and to longer-term collaborations."

Michael Treis, a former Graphite Lab intern, worked on RollerCoaster Tycoon Story professionally in the areas of programming and visual design. As Raithel's student, Treis, took to heart his teacher's mantra, "Test early and test often," which he followed in creating the videogame that was his senior capstone project.

"As a result, all the stuff I added onto my game moved it forward," Treis said. "There wasn't a lot of backtracking and fixing things."



▲ This page and opposite page: Matt Raithel, professor of practice of game design, brings the interactive aspect of gaming into his classroom, helping his students level up their education and prepare them for the real world.

Teaching Treis and his many other students has similarities to playing a video game, according to Raithel. "Teaching is also interactive," Raithel said. "And it's like, 'Is the student learning the content and the skills? Can they move up to the next level?'"

In the gaming world, designers keep adding more levels to their video games. Some former Maryville students have reached out to Raithel over social media to let him know they've completed all 600 existing levels of RollerCoaster Tycoon Story — and are ready for more. This kind of feedback is just another part of what Raithel loves about his work.

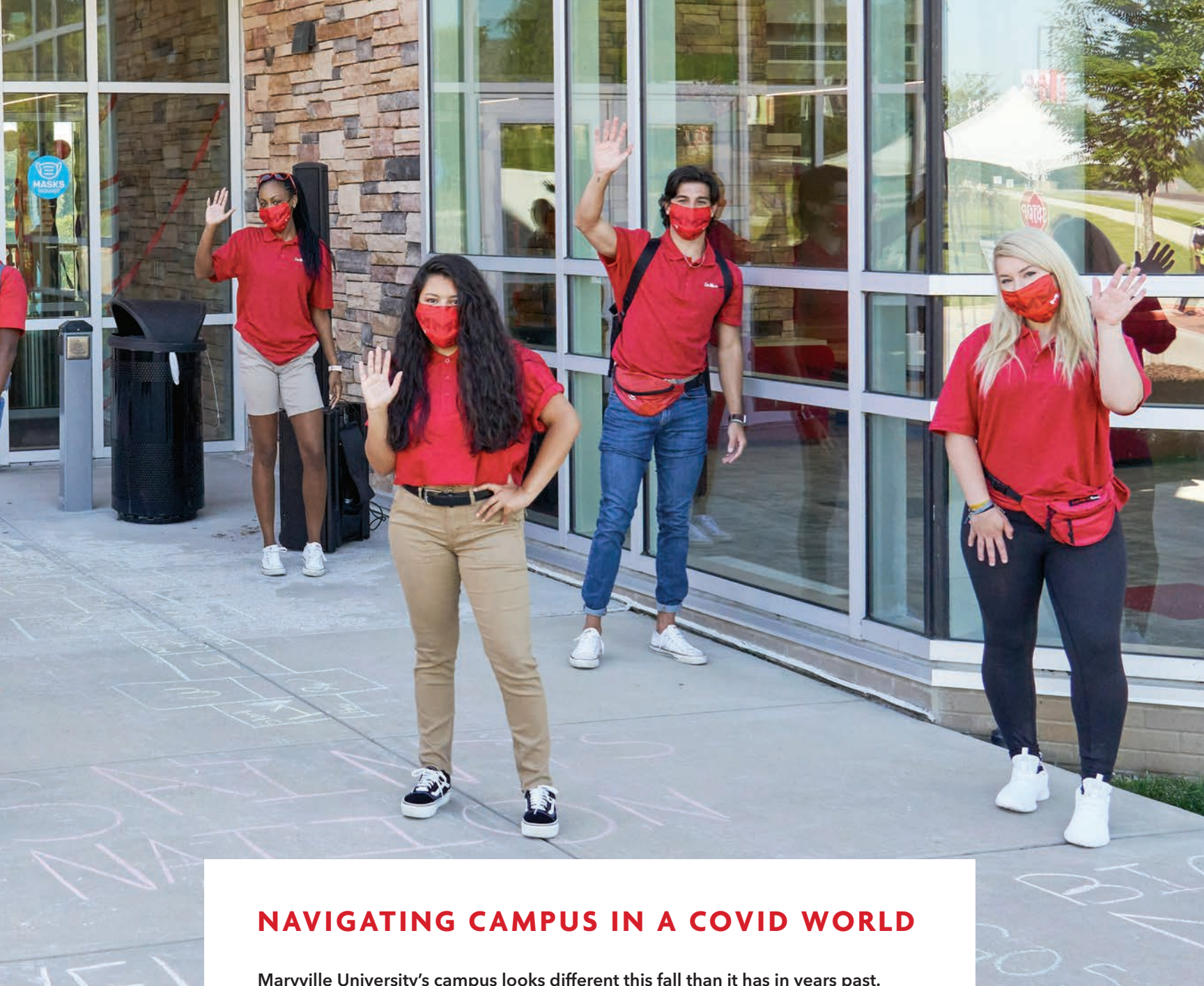
"Being a game designer is very much like having a construction company, where people get paid to build a hotel or similar project," Raithel said. "But I get paid to build video games."

Raithel also incorporates industry best practices he learned in the process into his game design curriculum. These skills are particularly useful when Maryville students are putting together their portfolios and speaking with potential employers, he said.

As a result, Maryville's game design concentration has grown substantially since its launch in 2016. In 2018, the University celebrated its first graduates from the program, with many more on the way. 



**TOGETHER
WE ARE
#SAINTSTRONG**



NAVIGATING CAMPUS IN A COVID WORLD

Maryville University's campus looks different this fall than it has in years past. Students still fill the sidewalks, only this year, they're wearing face coverings. Signs dot campus as reminders to keep six feet apart. Classrooms are occupied, though students view their instructors through a plexiglass barrier. It might seem at first glance that campus is not as vibrant as normal – but beneath the initial sense of strangeness, much about life at Maryville remains the same. Through a community dedicated to innovation, Maryville faculty, staff and students have adapted to living and learning in the time of COVID-19.

When the University's plans to return to campus for the fall semester were announced, behind the scenes a team sprang into action. Over the course of a few months, a cross-departmental coronavirus task force took on the herculean feat of preparing campus to be safe and prepared for myriad possibilities, while maintaining a sense of familiarity and community for students. The initiative was named #SaintStrong to represent the strength of the Maryville community as they navigate the uncharted times together.

The #SaintStrong website was launched as a central source of information for the campus community. Online training modules were created for faculty, staff and students to educate them about policies and protocols that would be put in place for a safe return. Informational videos were created to show the proper ways to wear a mask, how to sanitize classrooms and how to social distance in various places on campus. Each student was equipped with a health kit containing a thermometer, reusable cloth masks and hand sanitizer.

Learn how Maryville prepared for the return to campus, how faculty adapted to hybrid learning and what students have to say about their Maryville experience in the time of coronavirus.

"Maryville made sure we had every tool and resource we needed to be successful."

TRINITY BROOKS

Third-Year Early Childhood/
Elementary Education Student

DAILY HEALTH SCREENING

An online daily health screening survey was implemented to promote self-monitoring of health status and reporting of symptoms, exposure or positive COVID-19 tests.



CAMPUS ENGAGEMENT OFFICERS

Community Engagement Officers were added to Public Safety to act as health ambassadors for the Maryville community. These officers support community engagement and compliance with health and safety policies and protocols.



HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Staff in Health and Wellness were expanded in order to provide increased capacity for medical services, case management and contact tracing, including Suzanne Jaudes, FNP-BC, who takes the helm as the new director of Health and Wellness.





DINING

Campus dining options were modified to provide students with mobile ordering, contactless pickup and delivery.



MOVE IN

This year's move-in was adjusted to provide a safe and contactless experience. All residential students were tested for COVID-19 prior to returning to campus. On-campus housing occupancy was reduced, with supplemental residential housing added at two area hotels.



COMMON SPACES

Furniture placements were modified in common spaces to promote social distancing, and cleaning staff participated in specialized training on CDC-recommended cleaning methods to enhance campus cleaning protocols.

"It truly didn't feel like too much of a transition because Maryville was already so adapted to online work and technology that it transitioned seamlessly."

SAVANNAH WILLIAMS

Fourth-Year Psychology/Pre-Occupational
Therapy Student



◀ Dustin York, EdD, made his home into a studio using multiple cameras, screens and lights in order to take his virtual teaching to the next level.



AMPLIFYING EDUCATION

After moving to fully virtual learning last spring, Dustin York, EdD, was inspired to take his courses to the next level. His online and hybrid courses for the fall semester are taught from his in-home studio and create a dynamic learning environment.

BY TIM FOX

Associate Professor of Strategic Communication and Leadership Dustin York, EdD, has many talents. Sitting still is not one of them.

When York found himself stuck at home teaching classes through Zoom during the pandemic, he knew something had to give.

"It was tough," he said. "I missed the engagement with my students."

York rode out the semester, but when summer came, he and Maryville Media Production Specialist Travis Lufsey went to work. They built a studio in York's home — a moving camera, a stationary camera, two computers, a 42-inch television monitor and lighting — and started revolutionizing the online-teaching format.

"One computer runs the software, called Open Broadcaster Software, or OBS," York explained. "It's available for free over the internet. The other computer is connected to the television. It lets me see my students' facial expressions."

In York's synchronous virtual class, students who log in early see a premade video of him describing that day's subject matter. He stands and moves about throughout the presentation. "It's like a trailer for a movie," he said.

Once class starts, York spends five minutes in front of the moving camera discussing

current events. When he takes his seat behind the stationary camera, the magic starts.


"I use Zoom's chat feature to re-create the feel of a real classroom," he said. "I'll ask a question, and if students agree, they type '1.' If they disagree, they type '2.' And if they agree or disagree strongly, they can type a lot of '1's' or '2's.' It's an easy way for students to engage, and they get competitive with it. The number system has been a true 'win.'"

York found inspiration for his Zoom-on-steroids approach in professionally produced news programs and social media platforms, especially the gaming platform Twitch.

"Twitch takes gaming and turns it into a broadcast. I've taken Twitch and turned it into education," York said.

York suspects some may be skeptical of his approach at first, but he knows the fast-paced broadcast format keeps his students' attention, which helps them learn — and they feel less isolated behind their computers because of the social media-inspired engagement.

"Seeing how these techniques can be used in my class inspires them to explore web-based video production techniques while they learn my course's content," he said.

"Zoom is not going away," York concluded. "My class is not a band-aid. It's an amplifier of education." 



STAY CONNECTED.
maryville.edu/magazine

HUMAN-TO-HUMAN CONNECTIONS

In lieu of a traditional final exam, Angie Walston found a way to connect with her students on a deeper level – via Zoom – while virtual last spring. The alternative was so impactful that Walston hopes to make it a more permanent part of her courses. | BY NANCY FOWLER

As Angie Walston, program coordinator of Human Development and Family Studies, looked for a way to revamp her final exam this past spring, she envisioned a temporary solution. But her pandemic fix may become a permanent fixture.

In past semesters, the final for her Human Development throughout the Lifespan course has been a group project. But Walston couldn't imagine how that might work over Zoom.

"I couldn't do the equivalent of walking around the room and checking in on students individually and understanding where they were," Walston said.

She came up with the idea of conducting individual exit interviews during one-on-one Zoom sessions. Students picked from a list of topics including imagining themselves as middle-aged. Then they signed up for

"Some would say, 'I wouldn't have shared this with the class, but I'm comfortable sharing it here with just you and I,'" Walston said. "And at that moment, I realized how powerful it was."

The conversations also provided important feedback about her instruction. One student confided he was worried about working in a group during the time when the class was still meeting in person, and that he almost dropped the course. But buoyed by her support, he ended up finding the group work beneficial. Another, who barely spoke in class, told Walston, "I was listening the whole time."


Students enrolled in Walston's Psyc 254 course this fall will have the chance to vote on whether their final will consist of an exit interview or a take-home exam. With 60 total students now in two classes versus only 18

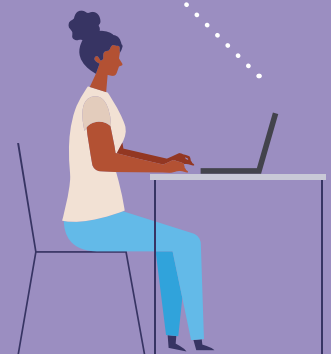
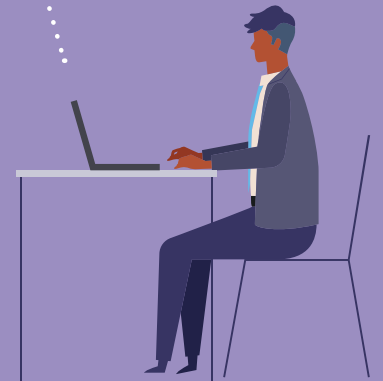
"Some would say, 'I wouldn't have shared this with the class, but I'm comfortable sharing it here with just you and I.'"

a slot and prepared for their sessions. Walston allowed students to look at their notes. Correctly using at least eight terms or theories and the inclusion of a personal story were the keys to an exceptional score.

Several spoke about the pain of watching a beloved grandparent struggle with Alzheimer's.

last spring, Walston estimates she'll spend more than 80 hours over two weeks if they choose the interview option.

"I am willing to find ways to make that happen," Walston said. "I'm excited about how I can continue to use these strategies." 



THERAPY IN A VIRTUAL WORLD



▲ Already familiar with translating their services to a virtual format, Maryville's speech and language clinicians are able to seamlessly provide therapy throughout the pandemic.

Maryville's two speech and language clinics, the Walker Scottish Rite Clinic for children ages two through six and the Maryville University Speech and Language Clinic, harnessed technology to continue offering their services throughout the pandemic. The virtual sessions helped them meet their clients' needs in new ways, so telepractice is now here to stay. | BY NANCY FOWLER

At the onset of the pandemic, Maryville's speech-language clinicians began grappling with how to translate their often hands-on work to a virtual world.

Speech pathologists at the university's Walker Scottish Rite Clinic for children had a leg up. Only a few weeks earlier, they'd test-driven their new Zoom accounts for a meeting bringing together the clinic's seven locations. Within a month, clinicians working from home on their laptops were seeing 100 of the 130 enrolled children, according to director Jacob Gutshall.

"The most difficult thing with telepractice was trying to keep them engaged long enough to work on their goals," Gutshall said.

But new scenarios began to emerge. Before COVID-19, clinicians engaged children

through activities such as playing with toy vehicles or a game of Hungry Hungry Hippos. Parents and other caregivers, who once watched from another room, are now rolling the cars and the dice.

"Now the parent is highly involved and they can take those tools and keep it going for the rest of the week," Gutshall said. "Parents say it feels like the therapist is right there even though it's through a computer screen."

Maryville's on-campus Speech and Language Clinic, which serves children and adults across the lifespan, was also soon up and running with telepractice. Like the Walker clinic, it quickly established security protocols for Zoom and expanded the knowledge of its speech-language pathologists and graduate clinicians through continuing education.

Recently, the clinic used Zoom to connect a 73-year-old client with limited language after

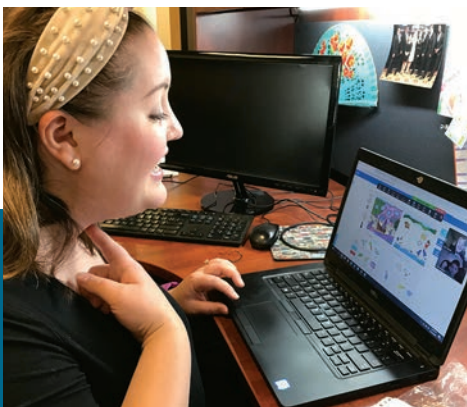
a stroke with his daughter and grandchildren in Algeria. Graduate clinician Nabilah Furqan assisted him with script training and support for an enjoyable family visit, according to clinical coordinator Michelle Vomund.

"The client's daughter wrote a glowing letter about how fantastic the visit was," Vomund said.

In mid-August, pathologists at both the Speech and Language Clinic and Walker Scottish Rite Clinic began seeing some clients in person again, utilizing social distancing measures to ensure safety.

But Vomund and Gutshall say that for other clients — like those with time or transportation issues, or those living in rural communities — telepractice is here to stay.

"Telepractice is innovative," Vomund said. "It's been very successful." 🍷



"Parents say it feels like the therapist is right there even though it's through a computer screen."



FINDING A NEW AUDIENCE

Erika Cross, '20, Casey Gonzales, '20, and fourth-year student Michael Lippincott were looking forward to presenting their research at the national level. Just weeks away from doing so, COVID-19 changed their plans. Instead of presenting to fellow scientists, they found themselves presenting to elementary and middle school students virtually. | BY GABBIE ST. PIERRE

For nearly two years, Erika Cross, '20, Casey Gonzales, '20, and fourth-year biology student Michael Lippincott dedicated much of their free time to research. Led by Lippincott and with the help of associate professor of biology, Stacy Donovan, PhD, they spent hours in the lab with the ultimate goal of presenting their findings at the national level. They submitted a proposal for the National Council on Undergraduate Research (NCUR) conference, titled "Sequencing Shows New Insights to Cellular Stress Response to TA-65 @ / Cycloastragenol," and were accepted.

"Once we were accepted, we were so excited to present our findings," said Gonzales. "It's a big deal to present your research at the national level. It validates that you're part of an elite group and that your work is worthwhile."

At the apex of their hard work, COVID-19 became a reality. Just a couple of weeks before they were set to leave for the NCUR

conference, Maryville University announced it would be transitioning all classes to a virtual format and any university-related travel was banned. A few days later, NCUR announced the conference would be canceled for 2020.

Feeling discouraged at the prospect of not being able to share their research, Donovan found an alternative audience for her students to present to: elementary and middle school students. While finishing their semesters virtually, Cross, Gonzales and Lippincott conducted a Zoom series for a group of children who were interested in the sciences.


"We were prepared for a national conference where we'd be presenting to a group that knows the jargon," said Cross. "We had to pivot and make our presentation make sense for young students. For example, we compared organelles to people working at a factory. That helped them understand

◀ Prior to the pandemic, students Erika Cross, Casey Gonzales and Michael Lippincott spent countless hours in the lab working on an independent research project.



that each organelle has a different job and function, much like different types of workers in a factory."

Because the children weren't able to attend school in person either, it provided an opportunity for interactive education during the pandemic. "At the time I didn't think it was a big deal, but looking back on it, I think it's really cool that we were able to give them something to look forward to during a challenging time," said Gonzales.

Though presenting their research looked much different than they had planned, it gave them a unique opportunity: showing students what being a scientist is like. "When you don't see something, you don't think about it as being a possibility for you. So showing these kids that females can be scientists, or that you can be a scientist and an athlete, was really important," said Cross. "They were able to see that scientists are real people and it's something they can be, too." 

#SAINTSTRONG BY THE NUMBERS

In preparation for welcoming students back to campus this fall, Maryville faculty and staff went to great lengths to ensure the health and safety of the Maryville community. Through a flexible, hybrid academic experience and new safety protocols and supplies, students were able to be empowered and prepared for academic success, even in these uncertain times.



1,400

student health
kits distributed

206

hand sanitizer stations
installed on campus

177

plexiglass barriers
installed on campus

▲ Classrooms have been outfitted to support both socially distanced and virtual learning, including the installation of microphones, cameras and plexiglass barriers.

980

cloth face coverings
distributed

398

gallons of hand sanitizer
in stock on campus

1,142

participants in virtual
orientation program for
new students

1,050

instructors participated
in virtual pedagogy
professional development

4,500

disposable face
coverings in stock
on campus

60,000

pairs of disposable
gloves available for
classroom use

82%

of staff working remotely
full time or on a hybrid
schedule to reduce
campus density

266

instructors participated
in online instructional
training for platforms
including Zoom and Kaltura

2,747

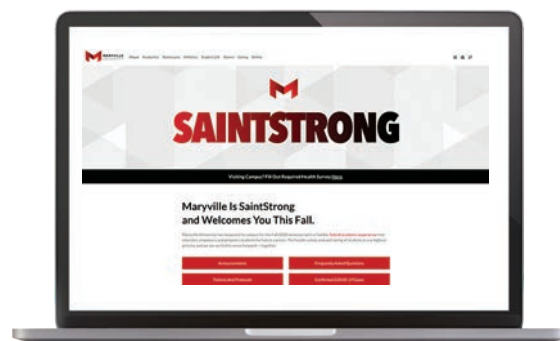
signs and decals placed
on campus reminding
the community of
important health and
safety guidelines

400


face shields and

300

clear masks distributed



To find out more about the University's efforts to create and maintain a safe campus environment for all Maryville community members, visit maryville.edu/SaintStrong.



“We all rose to the occasion and excelled. We were able to make the best of the situation.”

BRYCE PETTIFORD

Fourth-Year Physical Therapy Student



“Coming back to campus felt amazing. Maryville is my safe place, the place I enjoy most and gives me motivation, so not being able to be on campus for five months was hard. Now that we’re back, I just feel a lot happier and relieved.”

ANINE RAMSKJELL

Second-Year Forensic Psychology Student



◀ Kirsten Warman Coonen, '16, credits much of her career success to the skills she learned as a design and visual arts student at Maryville – like her ability to design what the customer wants and needs, especially in the time of COVID-19.

DESIGN WITH A PURPOSE



Local streetwear retailer Arch Apparel has helped St. Louisans thrive during the coronavirus pandemic, thanks to its creative director Kirsten Warman Coonen, '16. | BY GABBIE ST. PIERRE

It's difficult to go anywhere in St. Louis without seeing hats, T-shirts or stickers made by Arch Apparel. The local streetwear retailer is known for its signature City Circle design — a thin circle with the block letters “STL” — as well as their Play Gloria design in honor of the Blues' winning the Stanley Cup. The retailer also has collaborations with hometown brands like Imo's Pizza and Ted Drewes Frozen Custard.

Arch Apparel's creative director Kirsten Warman Coonen, '16, believes the company's success is not just a reflection of their eye-catching designs and brand collaborations; it's because their employees call St. Louis home. “We have our finger on the pulse of what's happening in our city,” she said. “We're able to respond quickly because we're experiencing the same things our customers are experiencing.”

In March, as the number of known coronavirus cases increased in the St. Louis area, the Arch Apparel team knew they needed to do something to help.

“People started saying it was likely schools would close, and we realized that would adversely affect children in our community, especially those who depend on going to school in order to receive meals,” she said. Coonen and the Arch Apparel team decided to donate all their profits from one day of sales to the St. Louis Area Foodbank and Operation Food Search to help provide food and resources to fellow St. Louisans in need. In just one day, they raised nearly \$16,000.

Their support of the St. Louis community during the pandemic didn't stop there. In early April, due to a growing need for face coverings, Arch Apparel began creating masks made from T-shirt fabric. Profits from all face covering sales were donated to local groups providing meals to St. Louis health care workers.

Arch Apparel also collaborated with Bud Select by donating all sales from their collaborative T-shirt design to the Gateway Resilience Fund, which supports those in the service industry who are without work due to the pandemic. Combined, these two



▲ Photo Courtesy of Arch Apparel

Coonen and the Arch Apparel team adapted quickly in order to provide their customers with necessities during the coronavirus pandemic, from face coverings to donations to local charities.



initiatives raised an additional \$24,000 for St. Louis-area nonprofits.

Coonen and the rest of the team feel it's their responsibility to do what's best for their city. "We show up for St. Louis, and they show up for us," Coonen said. "I've gained a new sense of gratitude for my job, this company and the St. Louis community during this difficult time."

Though it feels like a natural fit to her now, Coonen didn't originally imagine herself working for a small business. "I've always thrived in fast-paced environments and am good at making decisions under pressure," she said. She was drawn to the chaos and creativity that go into making a magazine and began considering a career in publication design. "I knew I didn't want to be a writer, so I tried to think of what else I could do in a creative environment," Coonen said. "In high school I had designed T-shirts for my cheer squad, so I thought I could try out graphic design."

Halfway through her college career at another school, Coonen heard about Maryville's graphic design program. She was impressed by the designers it produced and

how well-connected the faculty were with creative professionals in the area, so she transferred to Maryville for her final two years of school.

One of her internships was with St. Louis Magazine, which led to her first full-time job after college. She was doing exactly what she'd hoped to do: working in publication design. However, one of her magazine projects ended up changing her career path altogether.

Assigned to create a holiday gift guide featuring local products, Coonen stumbled across a new company called Arch Apparel. At the time, the company was only making a few items and was run by a single employee, founder Aaron Park. She reached out to Park and asked if she could feature his beanies in the gift guide. "After that, we just kind of clicked," Coonen said. "We stayed in touch and he reached out to ask if I could help with some design work."


By the end of 2017, she was ready for a career change: she wanted to work for Arch Apparel. "In the time I had known Park, I had seen Arch Apparel go from printing one T-shirt at a time, to releasing a full Blues

collection,” she said. When the hockey collection released, there were so many orders, it took days to fulfill them. “I saw the success of that project and knew this wasn’t going to stop any time soon.”

Changing careers required a leap of faith and a little persuasion. Coonen would be leaving a secure job and joining a one-man small business — and Park wasn’t immediately convinced he should hire her. But by then, Coonen had proven she was invested in the brand and could help take it to the next level. “What separates me from other graphic designers is that I learned a lot about the components behind design at Maryville, like how to define your audience and create packaging that helps you sell,” she said.

The abrupt cancellation of the 2018 LouFest two days before its scheduled start also helped put Arch Apparel on the map. No LouFest meant no clear way for Arch Apparel to move the inventory it had stockpiled for the event. The company quickly organized a party they named Arch Fest as a replacement and invited other LouFest vendors to set up and sell their products. Arch Apparel, and many others, were able to sell nearly all of their merchandise.

Today, Arch Apparel has 12 full-time employees and a large team of part-time staff and interns. Once making just T-shirts and hats, the company now sells more than 400 products and recently celebrated its 100,000th order. Last year, the company moved from a small warehouse to a large brick-and-mortar space in Brentwood, Missouri, with plans to open additional retail locations in the St. Louis area.

Coonen’s ability to follow her instinct and a genuine desire to help others has shaped both her career and the success of Arch Apparel. “I like to take chances,” she said. “When I feel like something is going to be a good thing, I go for it. If it doesn’t work out, there’s no better way to improve than learning from my mistakes.” The city of St. Louis is a better place because of her determination and spirit. 

▯▯ **WE SHOW UP FOR
ST. LOUIS,**

**AND THEY
SHOW UP FOR US.** ▯▯



▲ Coonen and Arch Apparel owner, Aaron Park, have seen the brand grow from a one-man operation to a St. Louis staple.



A DIFFERENT APPROACH TO BUSINESS

BY DALE SINGER

Chris Gourdine joined Maryville's John E. Simon School of Business last fall as assistant dean for business administration and assistant professor of business administration.

After attending the Air Force Academy, Gourdine spent 21 years in the service, retiring as a lieutenant colonel. Now, he is using his graduate business degrees to help Maryville's program adjust to the changing times that the pandemic requires.

To Gourdine, learning the principles of management is like studying anthropology and medicine at the same time. You approach a company like you are entering a new culture, studying how the whole enterprise is organized, then you act like a diagnostician to determine how its specialized, individual culture gets things done – or doesn't.

► **How would you describe putting the principles of management into practice?**

"It almost gives you x-ray vision. When you have a good grasp of management and things that work really well, you can pretty much spend time in any organization and within a few weeks get the lay of the land.

"A lot of it is just asking questions. People have a lot of knowledge in organizations, but it's not always being accessed and used to its best advantage."

► **How has teaching business courses changed during COVID-19?**

"It's had less effect on us than on some other courses, like biology or physics, where they have to have a specialized facility to come to, like a lab. We've designed classes to mitigate the risk to students, with social distancing, updated classroom technology, smaller classes and virtual classes.

"Our school is big on technology. Most of our faculty is pretty skilled, and our tech support staff is very responsive."

► **Is it better for students seeking an MBA to start right after they earn an undergraduate degree, or should they gain work experience first?**


"More seasoned adults make better graduate students. The ideal, maybe 60 percent of the time, is to go out and get some work experience in a certain field and get more

maturity and perspective. Then maybe they can transfer to a different kind of business and see who they are and what they want to do.

"But for some students, it's easier to maintain momentum. If you don't mind school too much, it may be easier to continue going to school than getting a job and going to school at night."

► **How have your experiences in the military and as an African American man in the business world shaped your academic approach?**

"Having grown up in the '70s and '80s, I get into some amazing conversations about things I've had to live with. One of the insights I got early in my military career was about how race influences organizations and how people think. I saw the negative impact of this and I didn't want it to be that way, so I strived to be more interpersonal with the people around me — whether with a girl from Louisiana or a guy from Mexico — so I could see their backgrounds and relate to them.

"I brought that to my second career in higher education. I have students from all different backgrounds. Human beings are very, very diverse. Being African American has made me sensitive to people with different backgrounds." 

JOIN THE SQUAD

BY JONG CAMBRON



Maryville is known as a University that is ahead of the curve in the classroom. But you could also say the same about its pace in the athletic department as it was one of the first universities to add a STUNT team in 2018. It was also one of 11 NCAA programs to offer STUNT at the varsity level and only one of two in Missouri and Illinois, according to STUNTthesport.com.

Because of Maryville's early foray into the one of the fastest-growing sports in the country, a Rhode Islander made the 1,300-mile trek to St. Louis.

"STUNT is new and exciting," said Madeline Quigley, the Rhode Island native, who is in her third year majoring in cybersecurity. "I definitely wanted to try something new and continue participating in a competitive sport for as long as possible."

This past spring, STUNT took a step closer to becoming a recognized NCAA sport when the Committee on Women's Athletics recommended that the sport be added to the list of Emerging Sports for Women. Quigley believes this will lead to STUNT being added as one of the 20-plus sports that is sanctioned

by the NCAA, which could help bring additional students to Maryville.

"People will catch on, and games will be very well attended," she added. "I think with our recent success, a lot of recruits will look to come to Maryville for STUNT."

Quigley is one of over 30 Saints who are part of the STUNT team. Most of the roster is dotted with freshmen and sophomores, with Regan Feldott as one of the few upper-class students. While Feldott didn't have any STUNT experience before joining the squad, she had been on a cheerleading team since she was in the fifth grade.

"I didn't even know what STUNT was until the end of my second year when I tried out for the team," she explained. "When I heard there was this thing called STUNT coming to Maryville, I was extremely excited to find out what it was because I love the competitive aspects of cheer, and that's a lot of what this sport entails."

"STUNT removes the crowd-leading element and focuses on the technical and athletic components of cheer, including partner stunts, pyramids, basket tosses, group jumps and tumbling," according to USA Cheer, which created STUNT as another



avenue for young women to participate in athletics after high school.


Quigley also had cheer experience but was new to STUNT when she received an offer from Maryville STUNT coach Kara Krawiecki.

"I had not heard of Maryville prior to recruitment," she stated. "After I looked into the cybersecurity major, and then explored STUNT, it seemed like a really good fit for me."

STUNT has been well suited for Maryville as the squad ranked third in the country in Division II before the season ended early due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"This was a huge accomplishment for us because we are only a second-year team and many of the other teams that have been around for years were cheer teams before doing STUNT," said Feldott, who is in the doctorate of physical therapy program. "I always find it amazing that we're almost as good (if not as good) as those teams that have been doing this for years because all of the girls on our team are only in the STUNT program and none of us had been on any other team with one another until our coach recruited us to be a part of STUNT."

Maryville named Krawiecki as the first head coach of the Saints STUNT team in 2017. She has also coached at Oakland University and has over 15 years of experience in cheering and coaching. In 2005, she won a state championship in cheerleading during her high school career at Romeo High School.

"I am excited to grow the STUNT program at Maryville University," Krawiecki said. "STUNT is currently the fastest-growing women's sport in the country, and I was so excited to get in on the ground floor here at Maryville. Stunting, tumbling and competing were always my favorite and the most exciting components of cheerleading. I am thrilled that the students at Maryville are able to experience this up-and-coming sport, and I look forward to building a fun, competitively and academically successful program." 


WHAT IS STUNT?

STUNT is currently the fastest-growing women's sport in the country. The competitive team sport is derived from traditional cheerleading but removes the crowd-leading element. Instead, STUNT focuses on the technical and athletic components of cheer, including partner stunts, pyramids, basket tosses, group jumps and tumbling.

The sport developed a new fan base after the release of "Cheer" on Netflix earlier this year, a docuseries following the ups and downs of Navarro College's competitive cheer squad as they worked to win a coveted national title. Members of the team and its infamous coach, Monica Aldama, became "cheerlebrities" overnight, amassing huge followings on social media.

USA Cheer originally created STUNT as an opportunity for colleges, universities and high schools to meet the strict Title IX

requirements of a college sport, while still preserving traditional cheerleading. With more than 500,000 high school cheerleaders, STUNT will expand participation opportunities for young women at the collegiate level by providing an avenue for female athletes to use their cheerleading skill backgrounds in a new format.

In addition to STUNT, Maryville offers several other spirit activities including a co-ed cheer team, a dance team and the Mascot team, which performs as Louie and LJ. The Maryville Pep Band, or the "Sound of the Saints," also performs for every home basketball game for both the men's and women's teams and at other campus events. These programs bring students from across the country to Maryville to support our athletics programs and the Maryville community. Go Saints! 





HIGHLIGHTS

HOCKEY GOES DIGITAL

In partnership with Maryville University's Rawlings Sport Business Management Program, the St. Louis Blues have established Blues Gaming, a new esports division that will focus on the creation of engagement opportunities with the gaming and esports community. This includes the announcement of the Blues Gaming NHL 20 High School Championship for St. Louis-area high school teams and an open division competition called the Blues Gaming NHL 20 Showdown. Students in sports business classes at Maryville assisted the Blues in the development of these tournaments and also provided operational support while the events were taking place.

LADY DAWGS HIT THE ICE

BY JONG CAMBRON

The St. Louis region and the state of Missouri have become a hotbed of hockey, with registrations increasing by nearly 50 percent in just four years, and with teams and leagues dotting the metro east area.

Maryville University is contributing to this expansion by tripling its ice hockey presence this year after the University announced it would be adding a second club men's team and a new women's ice hockey club team.

"As more and more players enjoy the sport at the youth and high school levels, Maryville wants to offer these same players the opportunity to continue to compete while earning a quality college education," said Lonnie Folks, '82, '98, Maryville's director of athletics and recreation.

Maryville hired Tom Lange, a St. Louis native, to be the first coach for the women's team earlier this spring. He currently coaches the St. Louis AAA Blues U19 women's team. Lange has also coached the AAA Blues U16 and U14 squads.

"His background when it comes to women's hockey in St. Louis the past few years is unmatched," said John Hogan, Maryville's director of hockey operations. "His connections and local knowledge will help us build our women's program quickly and the right way. Tommy's enthusiastic, inclusive and integral approach to the women's side of the game is exactly what we were looking for — many of

the same qualities we pride ourselves on here at Maryville University."

Lange also has a distinguished playing resume as he has played nearly a decade of pro hockey with stops in the International Hockey League, the East Coast Hockey League, the Central Hockey League, the Southern Professional Hockey League and with a professional team in the Netherlands.

As a coach, the first player Lange signed to be a Maryville Saint was Emma Gerwitz, a St. Louisan who played defense for Lange on the St. Louis AAA U19 squad. Lange added another St. Louisan to the team a month later when Emily Shaw committed to play goalie for Maryville.

Since then, he's received commitments from players from Illinois, Washington state and California and has dipped into Canada for several recruits. Paige Stelzer, one of the Illinois recruits, helped lead her high school team to the 2019-2020 Class 1A championships.

Stelzer and her teammates will begin their college hockey careers playing as a member of the American Collegiate Hockey Association (ACHA) at the Division II level. There are over 50 women's teams in the ACHA DII placed in three regions. Maryville will be assigned to the West region with the University of Notre Dame, University of Nebraska, Ohio State University and other schools located in the Midwest. **M**

HISTORY STARTS NOW

Introducing Maryville's First-ever Women's Hockey Team

Emma Gerwitz (St. Louis): Defense

Emily Shaw (St. Louis): Goalie

Meghan Flock (Forsyth, Ill.): Forward

Paige Stelzer (Troy, Ill.): Forward

Maggie Brawley (St. Louis): Forward

Olivia O'Brien (Hamilton, Canada): Forward

Colleen O'Leary (Lake Tapps, Wash.): Forward

Lauren Wasserman (Villa Park, Calif.): Forward/Defense

Sawyer Duncan (St. Albert, Canada): Goalie

Rachel Hierlmeier (Edmonton, Canada): Defense

Mady Johnsen (St. Charles, Mo.): Forward

Sydney Poisson (Defiance, Mo.): Forward

Rachel Hierlmeier (Edmonton, Canada): Defense



SAINTS ANNOUNCE NEW MEN'S BASKETBALL COACH

BY CHUCK YAHNG

Jesse Shaw is the new head men's basketball coach of the Saints program. He comes to Maryville after spending the last four seasons as an assistant coach at fellow Great Lakes Valley Conference member, University of Missouri-St. Louis. Shaw moves across town after helping guide the most successful year in UMSL history.


During his four years as an UMSL assistant, Shaw helped the Tritons to 72 victories, capped by a record-setting 27-6 record, the first GLVC regular-season title and an appearance in the GLVC Tournament finals. He helped UMSL set a program record for victories, achieve the highest national ranking in school history (No. 13) and post an undefeated home record. After amassing 20 victories in 2018-19, the Tritons recorded back-to-back 20-win campaigns for the first time in program history.

"I am humbled and extremely grateful for the opportunity to lead the men's basketball program at Maryville University," Shaw said. "I am indebted to President Lombardi, Dr. Caldwell, Mr. Folks and the entire search committee for entrusting the future of Saints basketball to me. I believe in the positive direction this University is heading and plan to move the men's basketball program along the same parallel path to success. We will put our heart and soul into making Saints everywhere proud!"

Prior to UMSL, Shaw was at Pratt Community College where he was the head coach from 2011-16 and an assistant for three seasons prior to getting promoted. In his first three seasons as head coach, he transformed the last-place team in the region into a regional champion. Shaw



earned NJCAA Region VI Coach of the Year and the KBCA Junior College Men's Coach of the Year honors. His final squad posted a 22-9 record and enjoyed the best record on the east side of the Jayhawk Conference for the first time in more than 25 years. Shaw amassed a five-year record of 92-69 in his five seasons at PCC.

As a player, Shaw helped Northwest Missouri State University become the national contender that it has become today in Division II. He graduated as the second-winningest player in Bearcat history and played on the first two teams to reach the NCAA DII Elite Eight. Shaw was a member of two regional championship teams and helped the Bearcats claim two MIAA Tournament championships and one regular season conference championship. Two of Shaw's playing teams have been inducted into Northwest Missouri State's Hall of Fame. 

HIGHLIGHTS

GAME ON

Maryville's new set of intramural esports leagues launched this past spring with many positive reviews and excitement. Currently, students can compete for Call of Duty, Super Smash Bros Ultimate, League of Legends, NHL 20 and Rocket League. The game options are continuing to grow, with new titles and leagues planning to be added in the future. Students play against other Maryville students, and there is no skill requirement or cap. The new intramural esports leagues are in partnership with Mission Control, an app available via the Apple Store or on Google Play. After downloading the app, students simply need to join the Maryville University organization and then can begin registering for games they already own and play.






FALL SEMESTER INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS POSTPONED

In July, the Great Lakes Valley Conference's Council of Presidents voted to postpone the majority of the Fall 2020 intercollegiate athletics season until the second semester, due to ongoing concerns of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.


"We share our student-athletes' disappointment in moving fall competition to the spring," said President Mark Lombardi, PhD. "Hopefully, we can resume competition soon. In the meantime, we stand by our student-athletes and all of Saints Nation as we weather the disruption of the pandemic together."

Maryville University will honor all current athletics scholarship commitments in place.

"The Maryville University department of athletics stands behind the decision made by the GLVC's Council of Presidents," said Lonnie Folks '82, '98, director of athletics and recreation. "The health, safety and well-being of our student-athletes is our highest priority, first and foremost, while also maintaining the high quality of our athletics programs. Thank you to the Maryville community as we continue to navigate these uncertain times together." 



GO THE DISTANCE

Each year, a small number of Maryville student-athletes are not able to graduate on time. As a result, they lose their athletics scholarships, putting the completion of their degree in jeopardy. For this reason, Maryville created the Go the Distance scholarship fund. Gifts to the fund help provide an unprecedented number of opportunities for these student-athletes. In September, Maryville hosted the Go the Distance Virtual Run in conjunction with virtual homecoming events. Jackie Joyner-Kersey, three-time Olympic gold medalist and East St. Louis native, served as honorary chair of the event. Race participants tuned in virtually for the awards ceremony, featuring entertainment by Soul of Ferguson Revue featuring Brian Owens and the announcement of division winners, at the conclusion of homecoming week. Participants could run or walk one mile, a 5k or a 10k, with \$12,000 raised to benefit the fund. 

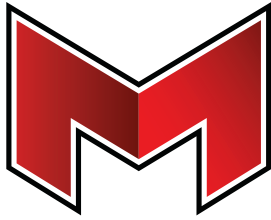


405

Total Event Participants

\$12,000

Raised



MARYVILLE CONNECTS. This year, to ensure the health and safety of the Maryville community, homecoming was held virtually. The week included on-demand activities like cooking demonstrations from Maryville's Chef Bernard Pilon, live virtual events such as Trivia Night and a socially-distanced drive-in movie. Even when technically apart, the Maryville community knows how to connect!

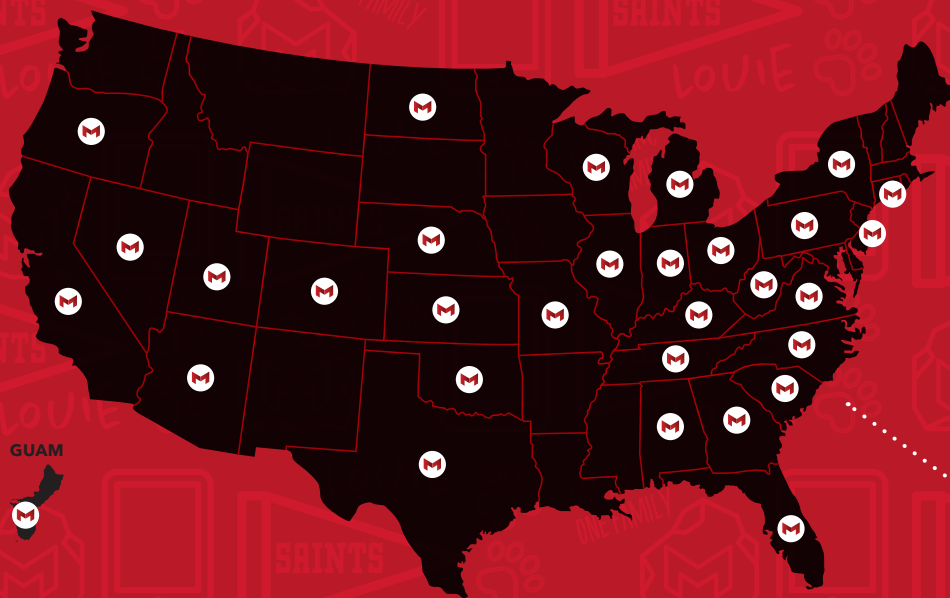
ONCE A SAINT, ALWAYS A SAINT

Maryville homecoming offered something for everyone! Alumni registered for this year's homecoming represented every decade from the 1950s through 2020.



CONNECTING AROUND THE WORLD

Going virtual allowed Saints from near and far to be a part of homecoming. This year, alumni from 30 states and four countries connected for the festivities.



FLAT LOUIE

Like "Flat Stanley," virtual homecoming participants were invited to bring to life the Maryville mascot by decorating Louie and including him as they participated in homecoming events.



SPIRIT SWAG

A special Homecoming 2020 collection was released on the M Store+, featuring give-back shirts. A portion of all sales from the collection were donated back to the schools and colleges and athletics programs at Maryville.



TRIVIA NIGHT

Virtual Trivia Night allowed Maryville alumni, faculty, staff and students to compete against each other in real time in categories like "Let's Talk Books" and "Meet Me in the Lou."

Three Most Influential Business Women, a Hall of Fame induction and a driveway wedding.

1950s

Dorothy "Madonna" M. Buder, SFCC, '52, of Spokane, Wash., celebrated her 90th birthday on July 24, 2020, which included a live auction with items from her many racing adventures. The items included a Cannondale bike given to Sr. Buder for earning the Spirit of Determination Award during the 2006 Hawaii Ironman, which was used for the Nike 2016 Olympics commercial; as well as the 2013 Boston Marathon medal and shirt she earned, despite the Boston Marathon bombing that year.

Jane Venneman Sulze, '58, of Kirkwood, Mo., and her husband, Joe, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary last April. The COVID-19 pandemic caused the cancellation of their celebration dinner and a trip to the Southwest state parks. However, as a lifelong learner, Sulze is using this time to follow the Great Courses, a series of college-level audio and video courses.

1960s

While watching the funeral for congressman and civil rights leader John Lewis, a group of alumnae from the Class of 1966 discussed their memories of the Civil Rights Movement including those who had participated in the Selma

to Montgomery march. Some expressed regret that their parents didn't allow them to attend the march. They also shared what life has been like since the pandemic began and how they miss visiting with family and friends. They all agree that they are living through interesting and historic times. The group included Dr. Margaret "Marge" Hochreiter Bleem; Dr. Virginia "Ginger" L. Drone; Kate Stoll Giordano; Jacqueline "Jackie" Howard, RSM; Patricia "Patty" Tlappek Laughlin; Sharon D. Murphy; Rose Ann Alderson Sharp; Denise M. Stauder; and Dana "Cricket" Van Borssum Vandover.

1970s

Sandra "Sandy" Radel Loftis, '71, of Sterling, Va., received the 2020 Service Excellence Award from the JDRF (formerly the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation) Capital Chapter. Since 2005, Loftis has volunteered for the organization's awareness walks. She also received the 2019 Dulles Area Association of Realtors Jeanette Newton Community Leadership Award for 30 years of volunteering for the association and other local schools and charities.

Paula "Penny" Spencer Teabeau, '73, of Eureka, Mo., retired on January 1, 2020, after 40 years as a social worker with the St. Louis County Jail. She is enjoying retirement with her spouse, **John "Stan" S. Teabeau, '77**. The couple plans to travel, enjoy their Lake of the Ozarks condominium and visit with their three-year-old grandson, Parker, in Springfield, Mo.

Arlene "Bernie" Prather-O'Kane, '74, of Cedar Falls, Iowa, reflected back on her time at Maryville as a nursing student, and said some of her favorite memories include the parties on "The Hill" and watching St. Luke's Hospital construction. After working as a nurse in a variety of areas and teaching students at the University of Northern Iowa and Wartburg College, she is grateful for the many achievements she's had since graduating from Maryville. Besides nursing, she remains busy volunteering for the Red Cross, teaching and spending time with her five grandchildren.

Donald L. Ebner, '75, of Farmington, Mo., is running for chief law enforcement officer of St. Francois County. He retired from the City of St. Louis Police Department after 20 years of service, from 1972 to 1993.

1 Barbara "Barb" Kohl Finbloom, '77, of Kirkwood, Mo., retired after 31 years as an elementary and middle school language arts instructor in the Parkway School District. Her husband, Neil, is also a retired educator from the Parkway School District. In retirement, the couple has turned their attention to gardening and antique collecting. Their hard work in this new hobby paid off, as they were selected first place in the 2020 St. Louis Post-Dispatch Great Gardening Contest. Their garden provides a casual and welcoming environment by incorporating vintage garden items with a variety of herbs, perennials and annuals. Finbloom also volunteers her time as vice president of the St. Louis Herb Society. The couple also enjoys traveling around the Midwest and New England with their antiques business, Schoolhouse Antiques. *Photo courtesy of Hillary Levin*





Rosemary O'Neil

(1923-2020)

The Maryville University community mourns the loss of Rosemary O'Neil, '46. In the tradition of Sacred Heart alumnae, O'Neil devoted much of her life to service and volunteerism on behalf of both religious and other Sacred Heart alumnae, as well as community and cultural organizations in the Chicago area.

O'Neil served as Maryville's representative to AASH, the Associated Alumnae of the Sacred Heart (AASH). She was honored by AASH in 2013 with their Cor Unum award for embracing the philosophy of the Sacred Heart in her everyday life. O'Neil was also instrumental in helping raise \$100,000 for an endowed scholarship at Maryville in memory of Mother Marie Odéide Mouton.

In 2016, O'Neil received a Spirit of Maryville Award in honor of her extraordinary service to the community at large. **M**

Karen "Kacey" Cowdery '78, of St. Louis, graduated with honors, earning a BFA, majoring in Interior Design. Barbara Zappulla is a retired adjunct instructor in Maryville's Design and Visual Art department. The two had known one another through commercial interior design in St. Louis. They also shared a love of fiber art and worked together on the exhibitions committee for Missouri Fiber Artists. With expertise gained from their work together, the next step seemed to be, write a book. That book, "Produce Successful Art Exhibits, Events, Workshops," is now available for purchase on Amazon.

1980s

Mark E. Conley, '86, of Hurricane, W. Va., was honored as a West Virginia Soccer Association Hall of Fame member. For more than 25 years, Conley has been committed to the growth of youth soccer in West Virginia and the development of the state's Olympic Development Program. Conley also achieved success while wearing a

Maryville Saints soccer jersey and continues to support the men's soccer program.

Terrence "Terry" Likes, PhD, '86, of Starkville, Miss., is head of the Communications department at Mississippi State University. Likes is also a tenured professor at the University, teaching one class per semester, including radio news reporting and podcasting, sports announcing and media careers.

1990s

Nicholas "Nick" B. Toenjes, '90, of Littleton, Colo., has enjoyed careers on cruise ships, in radio broadcasting and with Dish Network. This year, he is excited to begin a career as an RV sales consultant. Toenjes and his wife, Janet, are celebrating 25 years of marriage in 2020.

Michael "Mike" G. McGrath, '91, of Wildwood, Mo., is the CEO and owner of UniformsAndScrubs.com, an e-commerce retailer of health care apparel and accessories. After a successful career with PricewaterhouseCoopers, in a

variety of leadership roles in the management consulting practice, McGrath came to a point in his life where he wanted to pursue a purely entrepreneurial endeavor. So, in 2006, he closed a deal to acquire UniformsAndScrubs.com and has since developed it into a successful e-commerce health care business.

Kristina "Kristi" McDermott Higgins, '92, '93, of Manchester, Mo., is the general manager of Bemes, Inc. The company specializes in the service and rental of respiratory-related equipment to hospitals, clinics and medical facilities.

Diane Kloeppel Ray, '93, '05, of Wildwood, Mo., was selected as a recipient of the St. Louis Business Journal's 2020 Most Influential Business Women Award. Ray is the senior vice president, chief operating officer and network chief nursing officer at St. Luke's Hospital.

Anthony "Tony" G. Rothermich, '93, of Wentzville, Mo., has been named 2020 auxiliary board chair for the United Way of Greater St. Louis

West Region. Rothermich serves as administrator for Mercy Hospital Lincoln and vice president of operations for Mercy Hospital St. Louis. Rothermich earned a bachelor's degree in health care management from Maryville in 1993.

Todd E. Meiser, '94, of Bethalto, Ill., is a physical therapist for Alton Memorial Hospital's new Human Motion Institute.

Sarah Roe Sise, '94, of St. Louis, was selected as a recipient of the St. Louis Business Journal's 2020 Most Influential Business Women Award. Sise is a partner at Armstrong Teasdale, LLP.

Tony M. Spielberg, '96, of Chesterfield, Mo., joined SensrTrx on March 11, 2020, as the chief business development officer. SensrTrx is a leader in manufacturing analytics software. Spielberg has experience in business operations, sales and manufacturing, which will help him in his new role.



JOSH HAMEL, '09

BLUE COURAGE

BY DALE SINGER

Whether he's working with students, teachers or the public at large, Josh Hamel, '09, concentrates on both protection and connection as a police officer.

Hamel, who graduated from Maryville's criminal justice program, fills several roles for the Town and Country Police Department. He helps manage the Citizen Police Academy, where the public can learn what it's like to be on the force, and he works as a certified school resource officer. There, he wants to make sure students see police officers in a positive light.

"One of the things we try to do every single day is have each officer go to a school," Hamel said. "It helps children feel comfortable around police. They don't think, 'Oh, the police are here because of something going on.' It humanizes us."

The Citizen Police Academy gives Hamel another way to help civilians feel comfortable with officers. Members of the public learn about procedures like traffic enforcement, crime scene investigation and criminal law.

Class members also do ride-alongs with officers, where they can see firsthand the kind of training police personnel need. "It really helps to show the split-second decisions we have to make," Hamel said. "It makes them understand how difficult some of our decisions are."

Hamel came to Maryville to play baseball and was drawn to criminology, with a minor in psychology, to learn how the mind works. He also met his wife, Danielle, who graduated with a nursing degree.

His latest connection with Maryville has been working with faculty and staff on a sadly necessary fact of modern life – active violence training, to be prepared if the unthinkable happens on campus.

He teaches four possible courses of action: educate, evade, escape or engage. Which course to take depends on the situation, Hamel said, but the basic goal is to make everyone understand what might have to be done before any emergency happens.

"An active shooter or people being killed is not a very easy topic to talk about," he adds, "but whenever I do my presentation, it's amazing to see the eyes open and the brains start to really work and go through the scenarios. They're really thinking about it." **M**

2 **Darin W. Sorrell '97**, of Brentwood, Mo., a member of Maryville's National Leadership Council and Alumni Council, ran into fellow alumni and siblings **Heather Eickenhorst Lewis, '92**, and **Marcus P. Eickenhorst, '01**, this summer. They were accompanied by their children and mother, Pat Parker, professor emerita from Maryville's John E. Simon School of Business. The group enjoyed reminiscing about their favorite Maryville memories during their chance encounter.

Christina "Chrissie" Hren Cutler, '98, of St. Augustine, Fla., was promoted to partner at Swindell, Bohn, Durden & Phillips, PL. She will continue to serve as director of small business accounting where she oversees the firm's services for small to medium-sized businesses, not-for-profit organizations, trusts and estates. Cutler has been part of the Swindell, Bohn, Durden & Phillips, PL team since August 2015, and her team is appreciative of her continued commitment to the mission and values of the firm.

Maria Gettinger Rottler, '98, of Bloomsdale, Mo., is a physical therapist for Potential Therapy Services in Ste. Genevieve and Bonne Terre, Mo., with a specialty in women's health and pelvic floor physical therapy. She received her certification in health coaching and is a co-manager at Potential Fit gym, coordinating health and fitness programs and serving as a certified health coach. Rottler also works for First Steps Missouri treating pediatric patients, from birth to age three.

2000s

Brandon E. Labertew, '00, of McPherson, Kan., has been employed by RehabVisions for the last 19 years. He is an area manager over four hospitals in central Kansas. Labertew is also



actively involved in providing sports coverage for the local high school. He and his family have been in McPherson for 19 years and share that it has been a great community in which to raise their family, which includes their children: Drew (20), Brycen (18) and Lauren (16).

Susan Kerpash Toedebusch, '00, '15, of Troy, Mo., is a second-grade teacher in the Lincoln County R3 School District. Her daughter, Megan, is also a freshman this fall at Maryville University, majoring in interior design.

3 **Derek A. Lagemann, '01**, of Alexander, Ark., is the owner of Physical Therapy Institute, a private physical therapy practice. Lagemann shared that life as a small business owner in the middle of a pandemic was "unique, to say the least." In order to survive, he had to make continuous adjustments to his business. Lagemann continues his small rehabilitation facility and also recently celebrated 16 years of marriage with his wife, Jo.



Julia D. Michels, '01, of Noble, Ill., started the year as president and chief executive officer of Magura USA. Prior to her promotion, she was the chief financial officer and treasurer on Magura USA's management team.

Brian M. Gant, '03, of Florissant, Mo., accepted the position of instructor of cybersecurity at Maryville University this past fall.

Jessica R. Flannery, '04, '07, of Pacific, Mo., joined St. Louis' Spellman Brady & Company as office manager in March 2020. In her role, she supports human resources, information technology and senior management while overseeing administration processes.

Joyce "Joy" Rosell Medley, '04, of Orange Park, Fla., and her husband, Chris, welcomed daughter, Cora, on July 30, 2019. The couple enjoyed celebrating Cora's first birthday this past summer.

Kristen Westbrook-Tatum, '04, of St. Louis, joined N.B. West Contracting as their human resources director in January 2020. Westbrook-Tatum graduated from Maryville with a Bachelor of Arts in organizational leadership in 2004.

Alexis E. Burnett, '05, of St. Louis, joined Area Resources for Community and Human Services (ARCHS) as director of family support initiatives. She will support some of ARCHS' workforce development initiatives and provide technical support to these organizations.

Bethany A. Moran, '05, of Ballwin, Mo., is vice president of the Higher Education Strategy Consultants for the West Region of ACT | NRCCUA. Moran is also an online graduate instructor for Maryville's John E. Simon School of Business.

Justin M. Panther, '06, of Chicago, was recently granted the credential of Certified Catastrophe Risk Modeling Professional (CCRMP) by the iCAS and ISCM. It is a new credential which was developed specifically for catastrophe modeling and is intended to mirror the actuarial credentialing process.

Currently, there are approximately 50 people who have this credential. He was approved via the Experienced Industry Professional pathway, following a review of his experience by a panel of industry experts.

4 Rebecca "Becky" Wesche Filipek, '07, of Lidgerwood, N.D., earned her Master of Arts in English from Southern New Hampshire University in April 2020. The commencement ceremony was canceled because of COVID-19, so she celebrated with a private ceremony at home with her family. Filipek homeschools her four children, the oldest of whom will be in eighth grade this fall.



Sara Hotze Lane, '07, of Tolono, Ill., was promoted to director of human resource operations and compliance for FE Moran Security Solutions in January. Lane and her husband, Robert, welcomed their third child, Elise Kay, on June 15, 2020. Big siblings Alexis and Henry love their little sister and enjoy helping mom and dad.

Stephanie M. Stegman, '08, of Eureka, Mo., was recognized as a Mission Champion by Memory Care Home Solutions. Stegman was honored to be recognized, as she believes strongly in their mission and the incredible work they do to help families care for people with dementia and pushing research and evidence-based practices forward.



DAVID CHOPIN, '20

MUSICAL CONNECTIONS

BY NANCY FOWLER

David Chopin was looking for a blockbuster idea for an app. A colleague was seeking a way to meet musicians like himself. Together, they came up with a concept they hope will revolutionize musical collaborations in St. Louis and across the country.

Chopin, who studied cybersecurity and app development at Maryville, met guitar, bass and trumpet player Daniel Olert through an internship with a St. Louis startup called Tallify, a workflow management company. Last year, the pair began brainstorming an iOS app called Bandmate.

"I'm a big music fan," Chopin said. "So I wanted to find a solution that would connect musicians with each other."


But Bandmate isn't only for musicians. Users can sign up as one of three different profile types: a band, a musician or a music lover. Each category breaks down into numerous subcategories; for example, a music lover can further identify as a manager or venue owner.

"So, a venue could find talent that they like and maybe reach out to them and say, 'Hey, would you be interested in performing a gig for us?'" Chopin said.

The app also provides a concert calendar for fans who want to discover and go listen to local musicians. The list pulls from the database of another app Chopin created called Hoot, which lets users upload events.

Through his Maryville classes, Chopin gained a critical baseline of development knowledge. But just as important, he came away with the tools to figure out solutions on his own. "That's actually a skill that's essential to being a programmer in 2020," Chopin said.

Chopin and Olert are hoping to monetize the platform's premium features, which also include the ability to connect with people in other cities. They envision a national network with Android and web versions, which may necessitate bringing in a third partner. What they'd both ultimately like to see is for Bandmate to become a full-time job.

"But even more than that, we want to facilitate connections between musicians that hopefully will create new music that wouldn't have existed otherwise," Chopin said. 



Jacob J. Crust, '09, of Ballwin, Mo., is a family nurse practitioner in the emergency department at St. Luke's Hospital. During the pandemic, he worked long and exhausting shifts where he treated many patients impacted by COVID-19. He is among many admired health care heroes.

Curtis J. Goodwin, '09, of Keller, Texas, joined the Houston Texans NFL football team in June 2020 as a performance data scientist. Goodwin received his Bachelor of Science in management and leadership from Maryville.

5 Kevin S. Johnson, '09, of Denver, is the cemetery director of Fort Logan National Cemetery. He is also responsible for Yellowstone National Cemetery, Fort Missoula Post Cemetery and Fort Douglas Post Cemetery. He is currently overseeing the construction of two new national cemeteries in Cheyenne, Wyo., and Cedar City, Utah.

Dr. Stephanie Long Prinster, '09, '11, and **Sarah Pollock Spain, '17**, both of St. Louis, found creative ways to brighten up the spirits of nursing home residents during the pandemic. The two brought in shower supplies, lotions, nail polish and other spa-related items. They called themselves the S&S Spa Service to help keep things fun and positive during a time of uncertainty and stress. The residents loved and appreciated the activities.



6 Katrina Archambault Vitale, '10, and **Paul J. Vitale, '12**, both of Eureka, Mo., welcomed their first child, Maxwell Joseph, on January 20, 2020.

Lisa M. Meredith, '11, of St. Peters, Mo., serves on the state board for the Missouri Literacy Association.

7 Erica M. Virgin, '11, of St. Cloud, Fla., is celebrating three years of employment at Entertainment Outfitters Incorporated, where she designs merchandise for a number of clients including Disney, Universal Studios, Hard Rock and Top Golf. She shared, "Knowing that my designs bring a bit of joy to people is the most rewarding part of my job." Virgin also recently celebrated her first year as a homeowner. Additionally, last year, Virgin took a Mediterranean cruise with family and saw some of the art and architecture she had read about in her Maryville art history classes. Highlights of the trip included seeing Michelangelo's David, the Sistine Chapel, the Trevi Fountain, St. Peter's Basilica and the Colosseum.

8 Travis J. Agne, '12, and **Sarah Graham Agne, '13**, of St. Charles, Mo., welcomed their second child, Graham Ryder, on June 18, 2020. Graham is doing well, and his big sister is getting along great with him.



Callan A. Howton, '12, of St. Louis, was recently awarded a grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to serve as principal investigator of a new National Peer-Run Training and Technical Assistance Center for Addiction Recovery Peer Support through the University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC)'s Collaborative to Advance Health Services. Howton will coordinate this new national center through UMKC, and a steering committee comprised of persons in recovery from substance use disorders will drive efforts and guide the work plan. UMKC will collaborate with the University of Wisconsin Great Lakes Addiction Technology Transfer Center, the University of Texas and the National Council for Behavioral Health to implement the project. Leveraging the capacity of multiple institutions, this peer-run center will serve as a robust resource for the nation.



Kimberly "Kim" Hester Norwood, '12, of St. Louis, was selected as a recipient of the St. Louis Business Journal's 2020 Most Influential Business Women Award. Norwood is a professor of law at Washington University in St. Louis.

Aaron R. Weston, '12, '14, of Scottsdale, Ariz., left his role in organ transplantation at Saint Louis University Hospital in December 2019 for an opportunity in stem cell transplantation at the Mayo Clinic in Arizona. He changed positions

Kent Addison


(1937-2020)

Kent Addison, Maryville University emeritus professor of art, passed away on April 26, 2020.



Addison spent his entire teaching career at Maryville and started the University's art department. He began his art career in sculpture and was commissioned publicly and privately. His St. Louis landmark pieces include White Pine Statue in Forest Park and West County Assembly of God's cross at Highway 40 at Maryville Centre Drive, as well as various sculptures on the Maryville campus.

Later, Addison transitioned to watercolor painting and became nationally recognized. He was recently awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Watercolor USA Honor Society.

Outside of his career, Addison devoted himself to his family and his faith. He is survived by his wife, Sharon Lee Addison, children and grandchildren. 

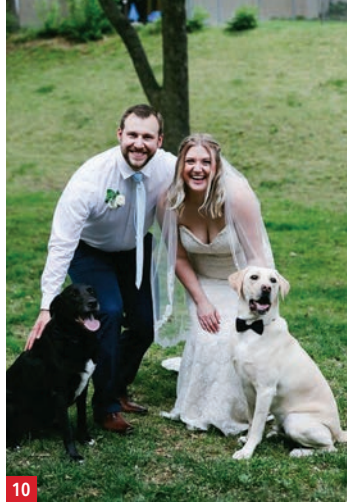
to learn a new branch of medicine and work with a new patient population. Weston shared that he enjoys his new job and living in the Southwest.

Kaitlin "Kate" J. Childs, '13, '14, of Lake Oswego, Ore., is transitioning from assistant coach to head coach of the women's basketball team at Lake Oswego High School. Childs has been an assistant coach and math teacher at the school for three years and is excited about her new role.

Dr. Kristy M. Frey, '13, '15, of Highland, Ill., is a physical therapist with HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital. Frey shared, "While none of us could have prepared for this pandemic, I do feel Maryville has prepared me to handle change. All the clinical experience I gained while attending school and during my clinical education placements has really prepared me to be flexible and adapt to the unpredictability this career has thrown at me."

Dr. Kendall R. Giles, '13, '15, of Teutopolis, Ill., married Kourtney on May 30, 2020, at Immaculate Conception Church in Mattoon, Ill. Giles is a physical therapist at Sarah Bush Lincoln Bonutti Clinic in Effingham, Ill.

9 Brittney Curtis Sniezak, '13, and Daniel "Dan" T. Sniezak, '14, of Florissant, Mo., recently celebrated one year of marriage. The couple also welcomed daughter, Myla Anne, on April 13, 2020, and shared that they love being parents. Brittney is a full-time student at Webster University pursuing her master's degree in clinical mental health counseling. She is set to graduate in Spring 2021. She shared, "Life has been full speed, but I process each milestone one day at a time."



Wyatt E. Essenpreis, '14, of Lebanon, Ill., celebrated his fourth year as the owner and operator of Essenpreis Carpet Care. After serving as an assistant coach for five seasons, along with coaching club teams as a head coach, he will be named the new head coach of the Mater Dei Catholic Girls soccer team in Spring 2021. Wyatt also recently accepted a new position as the college advisory program director at Gateway Rush Soccer Club.

10 Brady K. Griffith, '14, of Overland, Mo., married Christa on May 2, 2020, on their driveway. Due to the pandemic, the couple had to bump up their wedding date by a few months and hold a private ceremony. They invited their friends to a drive-by reception after the ceremony, where they visited briefly with people in their cars and handed out decorated cookies. Two of Griffith's groomsmen were Maryville alumni: **Kevin O'Gorman, '14, '15, and Matt Renaud, '11, '13**. The couple was featured in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch for celebrating their wedding in a creative way during a time of upheaval.



JAYVN SOLOMON, '14, AND TYSON BAKER, '17

CREATING ART FROM DESTRUCTION

BY CONSTANCE GIBBS

After a peaceful protest over the death of George Floyd, the Minneapolis man who died in police custody, ended in chaos, several St. Louis businesses boarded up their storefronts. Instead of seeing damaged buildings, Jayvn Solomon, '14, and Tyson Baker, '17, graduates of Maryville's design and visual arts programs, saw blank canvases.

The two came up with the idea of having Black artists paint the boarded-up storefronts, and paying them for their work. They co-founded PaintedBlack STL to empower Black artists to share their messages on these damaged buildings.


The first project was completed by Solomon on the exterior of Bella's Frozen Yogurt. He created a mural of black dots and lines over purple semi-circles. The center features a Black fist inside a white heart with the letters "STL BLM" – St. Louis Black Lives Matter.

Other projects include George Floyd's face in shades of gray with the words "One man can change the world" outside the Big Shark Bicycle Company. Colorful vines on a Medicine Shoppe Pharmacy include the names of people who have died at the hands of police.

The community response was overwhelming. "We had a huge outpouring of support from so many individuals that have offered to help," Baker said. "We even have people who have found creative ways to start their own fundraising initiatives. It was incredible."

But for some St. Louisans, the artwork was polarizing. "Some perceive that these buildings were destroyed by the Black Lives Matter movement, but we know that isn't true," Baker said. "That's the point we were trying to make. It's our hope that these works of art become symbols of community pride, hope, cooperation and equity."

PaintedBlack STL is looking to the future and how it can continue to support Black artists, even after the boards come down.

"We're growing right now, and sometimes growing has a little pain in it," Solomon said. "I think the only real solution is a just system, which means fixing or replacing some of the systems we currently have in place." 



STEPHANIE HOLLY, '18

HEALING HARMONIES

BY TIM FOX

Stephanie Holly, '18, has always had a passion for music, but Maryville University's music therapy program gave her the opportunity to combine it with another love – helping people.

Holly had just earned a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts when she decided to apply her talents to music therapy.

"I looked at about 50 schools, and Maryville was in the top three," Holly said. "Though music and music therapy can seem similar, they are totally different professions." After talking with an admissions counselor at Maryville, she applied, was accepted and has never looked back.

Today, she is planning to work with new and expectant parents as the music therapist for her own organization, Little Beats LLC.

"So many colleagues, friends and supervisors had small children, and seeing them interact with their kids reminded me of my personal life and my relationship with my mother," Holly said. "It inspired me to find a way to provide music therapy for parents and children, because that relationship is so important."

Holly's dream builds on the work of L.I.F.E. Arts (Leadership, Innovation, Faith, Excellence), an organization founded by soul singer, songwriter, producer and community activist Brian Owens. As a Maryville student, Holly was the first graduate assistant for a pilot program, now called Compositions for L.I.F.E. Therapeutic Songwriting. The program fosters positive expression through music for at-risk youth. L.I.F.E. Arts was recently awarded a \$100,000 grant from Maryville University to support future graduate assistants.

Today, L.I.F.E. Arts is thriving – and so is Holly. She is Director of Programs at L.I.F.E. Arts, overseeing not only Compositions for L.I.F.E. but also Strings for L.I.F.E., Lessons for L.I.F.E. and L.I.F.E. Labs. She also provides music therapy services three days a week to middle school and high school students in a Missouri alternative school. Her goal is to use therapeutic songwriting, recording and performance to help young people manage life's adversities.


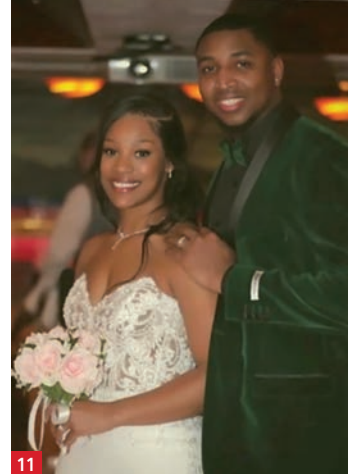
But Little Beats takes her work one step further. "Many families don't have the resources for music therapy available to them, but I believe that it can be helpful for both parents and their children," Holly said. "One of my goals with Little Beats is to make music therapy more accessible for everyone." 

Photo courtesy of Casey Needs

11 Kassiana Richardson Johnson, '14, of Houston, married Rodrick on March 2, 2020, during a cruise. The couple had an at-sea ceremony while also enjoying places like Key West, Belize and Cozumel. The couple is enjoying life together and time with their fur baby, Ace.



Dr. Ta'Keshia M. Parker, '14, of Ballwin, Mo., was recognized as an Exemplary New Principal by the St. Louis Suburban Elementary Principal Association. Parker is in her third year as the principal at Sappington Elementary School. She has helped implement "Lesson Study" for Sappington's teachers, where they can observe one another and learn best practices to include in their own classrooms.

12 Shelby Miller Giebe, '15, of New Albany, Ind., was named head coach of the women's basketball team at New Albany High School. Previously, she was head coach at Clarksville High School.



Dr. Cory W. Hermann, '15, '17, of St. Charles, Mo., is a physical therapist at Premiere Home Health. When treating patients during the pandemic, he shared, "With current isolation, I feel that we are not only treating patients physically, but providing them with avenues for emotional and social connection. I love seeing my patients and I'm getting used to smiling with my eyebrows."

Dr. Rita Flynn Hermann, '15, '17, of St. Charles, Mo., is a pediatric physical therapist at Mercy Kids, where she assisted the clinic in successfully moving patients to virtual treatment sessions during the pandemic. Hermann also took on many other roles during the pandemic, such as patient screening and family support, while continuing to treat her patients.

13 Dr. Kelsey Sites Hirth, '15, '17, of Eureka, Mo., married Zach on February 29, 2020, at Silver Oaks Chateau in Wildwood, Mo. Five Maryville physical therapy alumni attended the wedding, two of whom were bridesmaids. The couple celebrated their honeymoon in Oyster Bay, Jamaica. Shortly after, they purchased their first home, located in Eureka.

Martel Hulsey, '15, of Chesterfield, Mo., joined the Kwame Building Group, Inc. as a business developer and diversity monitor. He is responsible for maintaining client relationships while creating business and marketing opportunities.



14 Jacqueline "Jackie" Bader Morris, '15, and Dr. Ricky R. Morris, '15, '17, of Tacoma, Wash., celebrated the birth of their son, Julian Alexander, on March 15, 2020, exactly one day before Washington state issued a stay-at-home order for residents because of the coronavirus pandemic. Julian was born weighing 7 lbs, 1 oz and measuring 19 inches. The couple is loving parenthood and shared, "Being mom and dad is literally the best thing ever! Some days are more exhausting than others, but he makes us smile every day and is growing up way too fast."



Dr. Monica Lee Schnitzler, '15, '17, of North Salt Lake, Utah, is an acute care physical therapist. During the pandemic, Schnitzler shared, "I love my job, but I am scared because if I social distance, I can't do my job. And right now, my job is getting infected and uninfected people out of the hospital and home." Schnitzler continues to serve patients and works to keep everyone safe and well.

Nicholas "Nick" J. Schwent, '15, '17, of St. Peters, Mo., is a home health physical therapist in the St. Louis area with Premiere Home Health. During the months of the pandemic, Schwent experienced a lot of shifts in the way he treated patients but shared that his training at Maryville and time at the University helped him get through those challenges.

16 Stephen "Brad" Thompson, '15, of Ballwin, Mo., and his wife, Christine, opened a new Primrose School in Ballwin in late Spring 2020. This will be the first school in St. Louis County that is a part of this national system of accredited early education and care schools, serving infants through kindergarten. The couple shared that they look forward to the opportunity to help future Saints grow as well as provide internship and career opportunities for Maryville's School of Education graduates.



15 Dr. Amanda E. Peters, '15, '17, of O'Fallon, Ill., plans to wed on November 14, 2020. She shared, "It has been very interesting being a bride amidst the pandemic, but we are making the best of it! We are trying to enjoy every step of the planning process in the hopes that the show will still go on." Peters also recently received a promotion to facility manager at the Athletico Physical Therapy Belleville clinic. She has been a physical therapist for two-and-a-half years and is excited about the advancement; she will still be treating patients full time while learning more about the business side.

Shadrick "Shad" W. Tillotson, '15, of Eagle Mountain, Utah, joined Vitality Unlimited on the integrated programs team. Tillotson graduated at the top of his class from Maryville with a Master of Science in nursing.

Blair Stabile DePew, '16, of St. Charles, Mo., has been a labor and delivery nurse at The Family Birthplace at St. Joseph Hospital - St. Charles for four years and loves her job.

Katie E. Flynn, '16, of St. Louis, has worked in the Level 4 neonatal intensive care unit at Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital for almost four years. In Spring 2020, Flynn became a certified critical care nurse. She shared, "I love continuing to learn and care for the tiniest humans."

Nicole K. Gorris, '16, of St. Louis, started her career as a nurse at the Burn Center at Mercy Hospital St. Louis, treating patients in the

Burn Center's intensive care unit. Following that role, she received her critical care certification and floated all the ICU floors. Recently, she has transitioned to floating almost every unit of the East Region Mercy Hospitals. She shared, "I love how nursing is always changing and keeping me on my toes."


Krista Potts McCord, '16, of O'Fallon, Mo., is an intensive care unit nurse at St. Joseph Hospital West. McCord loves working as a nurse and is thankful for her time at Maryville.

Tammy L. Sasse, '16, of Brownstown, Ill., joined the HSHS Medical Group as a primary care provider. Sasse received her master's degree in nursing in 2016 and is an advanced practice registered nurse.

Barbara Stegen (1946-2020)

The Maryville University community mourns the loss of Barbara Stegen, a valued and treasured employee for more than 32 years.

Stegen held various roles in the Weekend and Evening College (in Fenton and Sunset Hills) and most recently in Academic Records.

Stegen never met a stranger and she made everyone in her life feel special. Her laugh was contagious, and her joyful smile lit up every room she entered. Barb loved reading, going to the beach, birdwatching, attending musicals and Christmastime. But she found her greatest joy in her family. If she wasn't with them, she was talking about them. She was especially proud of everything her grandkids did. 



Brittany E. Seper, '16, of St. Louis, is a nurse on the medical-surgical unit at St. Clare Hospital. She recently became a certified medical-surgical registered nurse. Seper shared, "I love learning something new every day and getting to know my patients."

Richard "Drew" Simmons, '16, of St. Louis, was recognized as Public High School Coach of the Year in 2020. He is the head Boys' Basketball coach and athletic director at McKinley Classical Leadership Academy High School.

Donald "Donny" T. Thorsen, '16, of Lake Saint Louis, Mo., is an occupational therapist and facility manager at Athletico. Thorsen and his team successfully transitioned their patients to a telehealth practice during the pandemic, which helped to provide a true activity-based care within the patient's environment. While things were tough, he also found the times of chaos a great opportunity to reflect and see the silver linings in the midst of the pandemic.

Amanda "Mandy" M. Wagner, '16, '20, of Hillsboro, Mo., received the DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurses. She shared, "The teamwork, appreciation and generosity that I have received from coworkers and nursing leadership has made a huge difference as I care for patients."

Virginia "Ginny" L. Batie, '17, of Hugoton, Kan., joined Gundersen Moundview Friendship Clinic as a nurse practitioner.

Dr. Jessica L. Hair, '17, '19, of St. Louis, is a physical therapist with SSM Health. She treated many patients with COVID-19 and shared

that it was heartbreaking to work with patients who were unable to see their families in person; those patients were only able to see family members through hospital windows. She shared, "Many of the patients hadn't seen their families in weeks or even a month or more. If you have the opportunity to work from home and spend time with your family every day, do not take this time for granted. Some people don't get the chance to see their loved ones during this difficult time."

Jordan Coker King, '17, '20, of St. Louis, will join Maryville's Communications department as an adjunct professor. She also started a new full-time role with U.S. Bank for campus recruiting and loves it.

17 Nicholas "Nick" F. Smith, '17, of Cape Girardeau, Mo., married the love of his life, Lexi Vandeven Smith, on May 23, 2020. Nick was also recently promoted to assistant program coordinator of the EDGE Program where he works to help parents with child support find work in Southeast Missouri.



Brenna Bohatec, '18, of Hopewell, Va., joined Oral Roberts University's Anna Vaughn College of Nursing in Tulsa, Okla., on August 5, 2019. She serves as director of the nursing program and associate professor. Bohatec shared, "Obtaining a doctorate of nursing practice from Maryville provided me the education needed to launch a brand-new doctoral nursing program. My Maryville education has been beneficial as I learn to do things I have never done before. Now that I am part of a wonderful nursing faculty, I realize how hard my professors worked in sharing their knowledge and expertise with me. Thank you to all my Maryville nursing professors."

Nicole Jackson, '18, of Hazelwood, Mo., is a nurse in the Neurosurgical Step Down Unit at Barnes Jewish Hospital. Jackson shared, "Being able to facilitate and witness a patient recovery from initial treatment to rehabilitation is extremely rewarding. I am serving on the front lines of the coronavirus pandemic, and I promise to take care of my patients even if that means putting my own life on the line."

18 Kelsey E. Martin, '18, and Dr. Carter L. Montgomery, '15, '18, of Ballwin, Mo., met at Maryville in 2017. The two often saw each other around campus and more frequently on the third floor of Myrtle E. and Earl E. Walker Hall. After realizing they had a connection as physical therapy

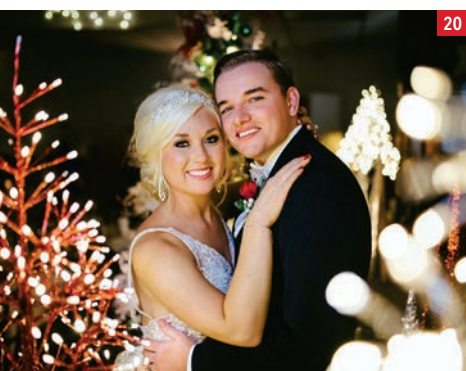


majors, they wanted to see if they had more in common. From their first date on, they learned they also both love sports, dogs, winery trips and helping others. Exactly two and half years later, Montgomery popped the question at Chandler Hill Winery surrounded by their family and friends. Martin said yes, of course, and the couple plans to wed on May 15, 2021, in Palmyra, Mo., in Martin's parents' backyard.



19 Mario Morgan, '18, of St. Louis, got engaged to his fiancée, Hayley, on March 30, 2020, in the middle of stay-at-home orders. The couple met at a local St. Louis brewery, which set the stage for their relationship from day one. They continue to tour every brewery they can find in town as well as on vacations. Their love of breweries and trying new beer led to the proposal being centered around it. Mario had a custom branded beer label made to ask the question, and of course she said "yes!" The couple will be wed on December 31, 2021.

20 Madisyn “Madi” May Reuter, ‘18, and Conner “Chance” Reuter, ‘17, ‘18, of Nashville, Ill., recently married. The couple started dating in high school and continued their relationship through college. Madi joined Chance at Maryville after spending one year playing golf and earning her general education credits at Kaskaskia College. She was then recruited to play for the women’s golf team by Chance’s head golf coach, Glenn Paulus. Although Madi was skeptical at first, she quickly learned how great a community Maryville was. The couple shared a lot of great memories at Maryville, made many friends – both on campus and on the golf course – and continue to share those friendships today.



Aleah Scharfenberg, ‘18, of Washington, Mo., is a graduate of Maryville’s Evening and Weekend Program. She is an emergency room nurse at Mercy Hospital Washington. In reflecting on the months of the pandemic, Scharfenberg was grateful for the support from the community and local businesses.

21 Emily Buhnerkempe Arndt, ‘19, of St. Louis, has had a lot of exciting changes since graduating in May 2019. She is a nurse in the Mercy Hospital St. Louis Cardiovascular Progressive Care Unit. She also married her husband, Billy, on February 8, 2020.

Matthew R. Brayfield, ‘19, of St. Louis, completed Maryville Online’s Master of Business Administration program in December 2019.

Kelly L. Briggs, ‘19, of Oklahoma City, is a board-certified family nurse practitioner. She joined the team of advanced practice nurses at INTEGRIS Health to help launch palliative care in that health care system.

Kayla Bubach, ‘19, of Ashley, N.D., is a family nurse practitioner and a member of Trinity’s pediatric team at Health Center – Medical Arts. She earned her Master of Science in Nursing – Family Nurse Practitioner degree from Maryville in 2019.

Logan T. Chiri, ‘19, of New London, Iowa, began a new job as a nurse practitioner at Family Medicine with Great River Health in West Burlington, Iowa, during the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. She has been able to use the skills she learned from Maryville to adapt to a pandemic world.

Kara De la Pena, ‘19, of Edmond, Okla., noticed a growing trend in mobile clinics and identified the need for one in the Edmond region. After much research, she decided to take a leap toward this medical innovation. She started a mobile urgent care clinic in September 2018. A registered nurse, Kara graduated from Maryville with a Master of Science in nursing.



MICHELLE STADING, MOT, ‘19

GRATEFUL GOODS

BY GABBIE ST. PIERRE

Michelle Stading, MOT, ‘19, has always loved to bake. When she found out her hours as an occupational therapist would be reduced due to the COVID-19 pandemic, she thought back to the new sugar cookie recipe she had recently tried out. She began making smiley face-shaped cookies to share with family and friends. The cookies went over well and requests for more started to come in. In need of some additional income and with plenty of time on her hands, Stading decided to take her cookie baking to the next level.

Over the course of a week, Stading came up with a company name, drew a logo on her iPad and created a website and social media channels. The name of her company came from how Michelle was feeling.

“I was so grateful that people were even interested in buying my cookies and even more grateful that baking was able to provide me with a source of income during this difficult time,” she said.

After graduating in May of 2019, Stading passed her board exams and began working at Shriners Hospitals for Children – St. Louis and at First Steps Missouri. “I was just getting used to the transition from college into the working world and my hours were starting to ramp up when the pandemic hit,” she said. “I knew I needed to find another way to have an income.”

In just a few weeks’ time, Stading went from baking small quantities of cookies for family and friends, to receiving orders from all over the United States and fulfilling orders of more than 500 cookies. A recent order was from the owner of a company who was looking to spread a little positivity to his employees. He ordered cookies from Grateful Goods with messages like “#workingfromhome,” “stay healthy” and “thank you” – and, of course, Stading’s signature smiley faces but with the addition of face masks.

But Stading isn’t alone in figuring out her new business. Her fiancé, Mark Cohen, ‘18, also started his own business during quarantine, a marketing agency called 212°. “Six months ago, neither of us would have thought we’d be running our own businesses,” Stading said.

The couple credits much of their success to the values they were taught while students at Maryville. “Faculty and staff members and their examples of leadership helped make us into the people we are today,” she said. **M**

In Memoriam

1940s

Rosemary Kisling Doerr, '46
Rosemary O'Neil, '46
Carol Bialock, RSCJ, '49

1950s

Margaret "Margo" Villar, '51
Ann Callahan Harris, '54
Rita Allen Glastis, '55
Patricia Rose Hardy, '58

1960s

Sherry Galanos Schindler, '61
Charlotte Mause
Stutzmann, '64
Catherine "Cathy" Eardley
Foust, '68
Frances Vohsen Ross, '67
Kathleen Beam Grant, '69

1970s

Mary Fran D'Esposito
Aunchman, '76

1990s

Barbara Harris Gwinn, '90
James "Randy" R.
Williams, '93
James "Jim" S. Lunan, '96



22 Melinda Luka Hector, '19, of Columbia, Mo., married her high school sweetheart, Tristan, on January 4, 2020. Hector works for the Missouri State Police as a criminalist in the toxicology section of the crime lab.

Sheila O. Jourdain, '19, of Reading, Penn., is a psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner serving patients at Lancaster General Hospital. She is also a member of the American Psychiatric Nurses Association, which helps her maintain her continued education and stay connected to other psychiatric mental health nurses.

Brittany N. Pomilee, '19, of Columbia, Mo., is now a second-year graduate student at the University of Missouri pursuing her Master of Education in Student Affairs Leadership. She serves as the graduate assistant for Tiger Pantry, an on-campus resource to those facing food insecurity within the Mizzou community.

Erica D. Shaw, '19, of Jerseyville, Ill., joined Centerstone as a board certified psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner. Shaw has more than five years' experience in the mental health industry and graduated in 2019 from Maryville University with a Master of Science in Nursing in psychiatric mental health.

Aaron P. Stover, '19, of St. Louis, is a Level 1 Trauma-Neuro ICU nurse at Mercy Hospital St. Louis. His patients have critical needs, and while the work is very fast paced, he spends a significant amount of time with his patients. Many are there for weeks, even months. Stover takes this opportunity to get to know his patients and their families on a personal level. He was honored as a top nurse in St. Louis and nominated for The Heart of Health Care program, a series that recognizes nurses for their incredible work.

Ashley M. Stuedle, '19, of Cameron, Mo., joined the staff at Saint Luke's Mercer County Clinic as an advanced practice provider. Stuedle received her Master of Science in Nursing from Maryville in 2019.

Timothy "Tim" Vires, '19, of St. Charles, Mo., was promoted to data analytics senior advisor at Cigna and Express Scripts.

23 Yasmine Gholami, '20, of Manchester, Mo., accepted a position as a sixth-grade teacher at Selvide Middle School in the Rockwood School District. Gholami is also pursuing her master's degree at Maryville.

Susan Nankya, RSCJ, '20, of St. Louis, graduated this past May with a master's degree in strategic communication and leadership. Upon graduating, she received an award for academic excellence, honoring her achievements.

Nnenna Onwuzo, '20, of Brooklyn, N.Y., overcame many obstacles during her final months as an online graduate student. She was battling COVID-19 while working to complete her professional conversation, the last step of Maryville Online's Doctor of Education – Higher Education Leadership program. Onwuzo completed the professional conversation from her home via Zoom, stopping to catch her breath when needed. She shared, "Once it was over, I can't explain the happiness I felt. It was like a weight had been lifted from my shoulders. Getting a doctoral degree was my dream, and I finally achieved it."

Melanie C. Wilmert, '20, of Chesterfield, Mo., accepted a position as a math teacher at Parkway North High School.



SHARE YOUR NEWS!

Submit a class note for the Spring 2021 issue of Maryville Magazine.

maryville.edu/classnotes



SIX FEET APART, TOGETHER AT HEART: Move-in is an exciting time for residential students – from first-year students seeing their dorm room for the first time to students unpacking for their last year at Maryville. Residential Life reimaged the weekend to provide a contactless move-in process for new and returning students alike. Favorite start-of-school-year events like Orientation and Convening of the Class were held virtually, and Maryville move-in volunteers wore masks and gloves to ensure the safety of the Maryville community.



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