



MARYVILLE
MAGAZINE

SPRING 2021

HYBRID LEARNING
COMPASSION
Work from home
TENACITY
WELL-BEING
EMPOWER
PURPOSE
OPTIMISM
Dedication
DISRUPTER
SAINTSTRONG
Healthy
Immunity
COMMITMENT
zoom
BRAVERY
VIRTUAL LEARNING
COURAGE

SNAPSHOTS OF A PANDEMIC

STRONG
FLEXIBLE
ONE YEAR LATER
ACHIEVE CREATIVE
Health Care Heroes
LEADERSHIP
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IMMUNITY
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TOGETHER
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A NEW NORMAL
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INNOVATION
HYBRID LEARNING

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ON THE COVER

The COVID-19 pandemic presented unique challenges, requiring the Maryville community to respond with innovation and creativity. Our incredible faculty, staff and students pivoted, adapted and thrived.



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



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Maryville establishes another collegiate esports dynasty by claiming the Overwatch Collegiate Championships, beating heavily favored Northwood University.



Dear Friends,

When we began this pandemic journey in March 2020, none of us knew what was ahead of us. We only knew that we needed to work, day and night, to transform our educational mission into a hybrid platform that would accomplish two fundamental goals: First, keep our students, faculty and staff as safe as possible and second, provide a robust learning experience for our students no matter what happened.

Today, thanks to the work of hundreds of faculty and staff and the perseverance of thousands of our students, we accomplished these goals. We did it!

This issue, and the amazing stories you will read, is a testament to the Maryville community. It is a clear demonstration of the enormous resiliency of our students, faculty and staff as they carried on creating, nurturing, educating and achieving under difficult and disruptive circumstances, and at times dealing with crisis and tragedy.

Maryville is strong and thriving because of the commitment, passion and grit of the entire community. Our continued rapid growth, our innovative leadership of a revolution in higher education and our commitment to driving the cost of education down to increase access and opportunity are all bright lighthouses demonstrating Maryville's strength and leadership.

Your support and engagement are essential in our march toward revolutionary achievement. Thank you for all that you do to support our students and their career journeys. Be safe and healthy as we emerge from this pandemic. We look forward to hosting you all next year as we return to a normal collegiate experience.

Warmest regards,


Mark Lombardi, PhD

Maryville is strong and thriving because of the commitment, passion and grit of the entire community.

SHIFTFORWARD



SAINTSTRONG

Thank you to our friends at St. Luke's Hospital for providing doses of the COVID-19 vaccine to more than 2,000 members of the Maryville community including President Mark Lombardi, PhD, and Vice President of Student Life Nina Caldwell, EdD. They shared a message with students, faculty, staff and alumni: "If you have a chance to receive the vaccine, please do it. We can all play a role in ending the pandemic and returning life to normal, so we strongly encourage all Maryville Saints to get vaccinated." Plans are in place for additional Maryville community members to receive vaccine doses throughout the summer as they become available. Together we are #SaintStrong. 



“

We can all play a role in ending the pandemic and returning life to normal, so we strongly encourage all Maryville Saints to get vaccinated.

”



MARYVILLE ANNOUNCES FALL PLANS

University Welcomes 'New Normal'

Maryville University has announced plans to fully resume in-person classes, on-campus events and activities and athletic competitions for the Fall 2021 semester.

"After more than one year since the start of the pandemic, we're deeply grateful the Maryville community has continued to respond with vigilance and optimism for the future," said Maryville President Mark Lombardi, PhD. "Our students, faculty and staff have been incredibly diligent about following community mitigation protocols and these efforts have led us to where we are today, allowing us to go into the fall semester with a normal campus experience. We are looking forward to welcoming new and returning students to Saints Nation in August."


Maryville University's Fall 2021 semester will include a return to traditional in-person academic offerings in addition to continuing our hybrid and virtual offerings. Maryville will also return to in-person student engagement activities and athletic events with guest attendance welcomed as well as pre-pandemic residence halls and dining policies.

"The policies designed to protect the Maryville community remained in effect through the conclusion of the spring semester," said Vice President of Student Life Nina Caldwell, EdD. "As the vast majority of our community and the nation at large continue to receive the vaccine, we anticipate an exciting summer for our students and a great, in-person fall start."

For more information, visit maryville.edu/SaintStrong. 



**EXPLORE THE WORLD
FROM HOME**

Maryville's Office of Study Abroad has come up with an innovative way to give students the experience of other lands and cultures while remaining safe during the pandemic. It has unveiled seven virtual study-abroad course opportunities for Summer 2021 at four locations: Oxford, Florence, Dublin and Panama. From the safety of their own homes, students will be able to explore the sights and sounds of a particular locale, interact with live people at the site and reflect on these experiences. Ventures into these other lands and cultures will occur in both real time and as the student's time schedule permits. Additionally, these virtual experiences will remain in place post-pandemic to provide opportunities for those students whose work schedules or budgets do not allow them to participate in on-site programming overseas. 




Meet Emma and Mya

Maryville's new digital life coaches provide personalized, 24/7 on-demand support for prospective and newly enrolled students.

As part of its innovative life coaching program, Maryville introduced two digital life coaches: Mya and Emma. Representing Maryville's diverse student body, Mya and Emma guide both prospective and newly enrolled students through their first few months at the University and beyond. They provide 24/7 access and service to students whenever help is needed.

Instead of impersonal training or sifting through pages and pages of information, Mya and Emma provide a highly personal way of connecting with students and setting them up for success. The digital life coaches help students figure out how to fill their FAFSA application paperwork, share information about Maryville traditions and advise on academic and career planning.

Mya and Emma are powered by artificial intelligence and animated using computer-generated imagery. They process complex information, take input and respond accordingly in real time, similar to human interactions. Mya and Emma also learn over time. The more questions a student asks Mya or Emma, the smarter and more helpful they get.

"Maryville is leveraging digital people to create an unparalleled student service experience," said Jennifer McCluskey, PhD, vice president for student success. "Life coaching, from both people and digital humans, who know our students, know their likes and dislikes, and their personalized learning styles, gives our students a feeling of comfort, familiarity and ease, and connects them to the Maryville community from the minute they first apply." 


**Reskilling Women for
Careers of the Future**

Rung for Women partners with Maryville University to empower women to climb the economic ladder, meet employer demand and support a thriving economy post-pandemic.

Against a national backdrop of women losing jobs at a rate higher than men due to COVID-19, Rung for Women and Maryville University launched a new program to reskill working women. The practice-based training credentials will prepare women for high-demand, middle-skill careers that offer a family-sustaining wage.

The initiative will launch with a Customer Service training program, offering a fast, flexible credential that will ensure students are prepared with the skills they need to enter into a career in customer service, banking or human resources. Commerce Bank, Bank of America, Enterprise Holdings and others served in an advisory role to ensure the program meets the requirements of real-world positions.

While women are learning specific technical aspects of how to engage with customers, they will also gain transferable professional skills, designed to ensure a strong foundation upon which they can build a career past the entry-level job, and ascend the rungs of the career and economic ladder.

With its robust online education and workforce development programs, Maryville University was the best partner to build out this new employer-responsive model. "Rung is thrilled to have found a like-minded partner in Maryville University that shares our vision of ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to find their individualized pathway to a family-sustaining salary," said Leslie Gill, President of Rung for Women. "Together, we are matching employer needs with women who can meet the demands of a growing economy." 



**WOMEN ARE READY FOR
THE NEW ECONOMY**



Women ended 2020 with 5.4 million fewer jobs than they had in February, before the pandemic began.



The pandemic forced many women to choose between working and caring for their children at home, as day cares closed and schools went virtual.



Among women, Latinas have the highest unemployment rate followed by Black women.



A labor market analysis of the region's employers identified talent gaps in customer service, technology and health care.




When we invest in women, we know it's not a singular investment but a ripple effect. It changes the trajectory of their lives, their children's lives and their families' lives for generations to come.

**POWERFUL WOMEN
IN CYBER**

The world of cybersecurity can be a lonely place for women, who are outnumbered four to one by men. But recent events hosted by Maryville University in partnership with Venture Café St. Louis helped strengthen a growing community dedicated to supporting and empowering women in the field. The events included a “Powerful Women in Cyber” panel which addressed how the cybersecurity community can find ways to access and harness untapped female talent. The panel was moderated by Maryville senior Andrea Rodriguez, who studies Cyber/Computer Forensics and Counterterrorism and is president of Maryville’s Women in Cyber Security (WiCyS) student organization. A meetup connecting women interested in or already working in cybersecurity was also held, as well as office hours with Maryville’s Cyber Fusion Center experts allowing startups, small businesses and nonprofits to learn how to protect themselves from security threats. 



Operation Sunscreen

Students made care packages for soldiers in the Missouri National Guard as part of Operation Sunscreen. Men’s and women’s care packages contained a variety of sunscreen, personal care items, disposable pre-pasted toothbrushes or mini toothpaste, lip protectors, an assortment of snacks and drink mixes. A handwritten card or letter was also included in each package to thank the soldiers for their service. Since 2007, Operation Sunscreen has shipped nearly 13,600 care packages as a simple way to let our soldiers deployed overseas know they are remembered and appreciated. 



Your Maryville. Your Impact.

The first-ever Maryville Giving Day was a 24-hour online celebration of all things Maryville – the students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends of the University.


On April 22, Maryville University celebrated its first-ever Maryville Giving Day. In just 24 hours, the Maryville community came together to share their Saints Nation pride on social media and support the #BigRedM. Through the generosity of 176 donors, Maryville Giving Day raised \$343,750, surpassing our goal by over \$90,000!

These gifts will change the lives of Maryville students for years to come. Donors were able to direct their gifts to the College, department, programs or scholarships that were most meaningful to them.

Maryville Giving Day celebrations included videos, photos and stories shared by Giving Day Ambassadors. These individuals shared what Maryville means to them and why they support the University through their time, talent and treasures. They spread excitement about Maryville

Giving Day and encouraged others to join them in giving back.

Groups of generous donors helped increase the impact of Maryville Giving Day by pledging matching gifts and issuing challenges. This included the “Across the USA Challenge”: after gifts were received from donors located in 25 states across the United States, \$2,000 was unlocked toward undergraduate scholarships. When that number increased to 50 states, an additional \$3,000 was unlocked.

Another challenge honored the Sacred Heart Scholarship, which is awarded to a student who exemplifies the values of the Society of the Sacred Heart. After 10 donations were received from alumni who graduated from Maryville prior to 1973, \$1,000 was unlocked toward this scholarship. 

**WHAT DOES MARYVILLE
MEAN TO YOU?**



“I’m so blessed to attend such an awesome university that has aided me in becoming the young Black professional that I am today. I’m invested in giving back to the institution that gave so much to me.”

– Trinity Brooks, '21



“As a scholarship donor, I see that Maryville deeply values each student and makes every effort to ensure that even 50 years after their graduation, these students will believe, as I do, that Maryville made a tremendous impact and difference in their life.”

– Ann Geist Boyce, '68



“One of my favorite Maryville memories is participating in the Habitat for Humanity spring break trip to help clean up after Hurricane Katrina. That experience helped push me toward my career in predictive catastrophe modeling. That’s why I donate to Maryville.”

– Justin Panther, '06




LET THE CELEBRATION BEGIN

This September, Maryville University will kick off its 150th anniversary celebration at Homecoming 2021. The year-long celebration will feature a series of events, programs and initiatives to mark this momentous occasion. All students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends of the University are invited to enjoy the festivities this fall, and throughout 2022.

Maryville was built upon the passion, dedication and faith of the Religious of the Sacred Heart, which has been sustained by thousands of students, faculty and staff. To honor our rich history, Maryville announces the publication of a special coffee-table book.

“Maryville University: 150+ Years” is a visual history of Maryville from its beginnings as a small academy in the Dutchtown neighborhood of South St. Louis to a large, dynamic university in West St. Louis County. The pages feature many voices of wisdom that tell the story of a community that has known good times and bad, victories as well as setbacks.

For more information about Maryville's year-long 150th anniversary celebration, visit maryville.edu/150. 

You're Hired

A new apprenticeship program allows Maryville students to turn rigorous work-based learning into successful careers.

In February, Maryville launched a new apprenticeship program for ambitious undergraduate students looking to grow their career readiness skills.

Apprenticeships were available in various University departments including the Cyber Fusion Center, Information Technology, Integrated Marketing and Communications, Operational Excellence and the video production studio for Maryville’s School of Adult and Online Education. Within each area, faculty and staff provided personal support and guidance throughout the apprenticeship training.

Six students were selected for the program following a rigorous application and interview process. Unlike internships with partner firms, Maryville’s apprenticeship program offered opportunities on campus, which removed barriers such as lack of transportation. Students also earned both academic credit and compensation for their time — a huge benefit compared to some traditional internships that offer little or no compensation.

The program prepared students to graduate not only with knowledge but also with connections and real-world experiences so they could hit the ground running in their careers. “As we think about the future of work, especially as we come out of a pandemic, competition is going to be fierce,” said Tammy Gocial, PhD, dean for the John E. Simon School of Business. “Maryville is a place that really does help students think about life after college and prepare them to be the best they can be in their chosen field.”

Following its successful launch, the program will expand next year to include 15 apprenticeship positions. This year’s participants were grateful for the opportunity to participate and said they learned many valuable lessons. “I saw how everyone works differently from the way I think they should,” said Ryan Davis. “I’ve also become more understanding that there isn’t one right way to solve a problem.” 



Whisk Me Away

From delicious food to handcrafted cocktails, these recipes are guaranteed to awaken your inner chef.

Many families have looked for new ways to celebrate birthdays and holidays since the pandemic began. These include adding new recipes to time-honored family favorites and scheduling virtual feasts with family and friends. In this spirit of connecting from afar, Maryville’s Office of Alumni Services partnered with Fresh

Ideas, Maryville’s exclusive dining partner, to launch Maryville Cooks. The new series features both food and drink recipes from Maryville community members such as sweet potato crisp, bacon-wrapped little smokies and sugar cookie martinis. It also contains several unique recipes from around the world created during Maryville's 2020 International Education Week. Bon appétit! 

Have a recipe you’d like to share? Submit your recipe and a photo of the dish to alumni@maryville.edu.

SALTINE TOFFEE

Recipe courtesy of Pamela Kramer, Director of Alumni Services

INGREDIENTS

- 1 sleeve of saltine crackers
- 1 cup of brown sugar
- 1 cup of butter
- 12 oz. chocolate chips
- Chopped pecans or walnuts, optional


DIRECTIONS

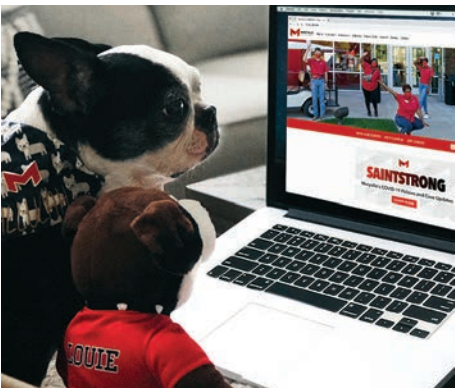
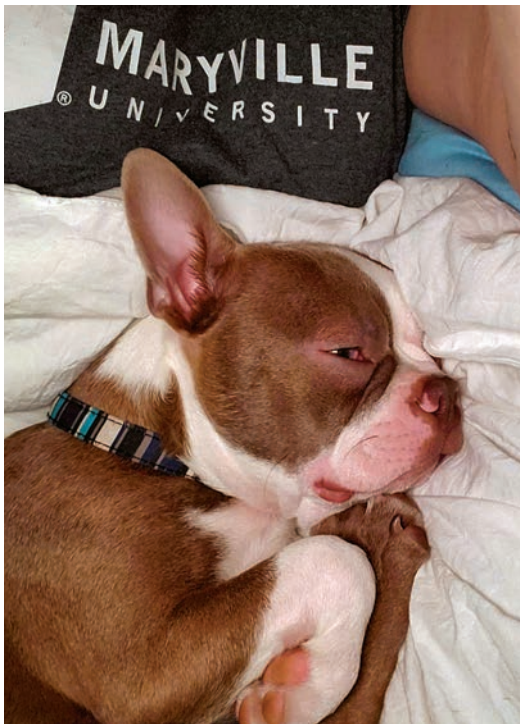
1. Pre-heat oven to 400 degrees.
2. Line cookie sheet or jelly roll pan with parchment paper. Lay out saltine crackers, salt side up, side by side on cookie sheet.
3. Melt brown sugar and butter in saucepan on medium heat. Once combined, pour mixture over layer of crackers.
4. Smooth mixture across the crackers to create a sheet. Bake for 5 minutes.
5. Remove saltines from oven. While hot, sprinkle chocolate chips over the top and spread as chips melt. Sprinkle with chopped nuts if desired.
6. Refrigerate to harden.
7. Tear apart to serve.



Louie's Study Buddies

What do you do when your study partner drools on your desk, demands extra treats and repeatedly asks to take breaks outside? Tell him he's a very good boy! These furry friends from around the nation offer unconditional love and boost energy for Maryville students studying from home.

Want to have your pet featured on our social channels? Share your photos using #MaryvilleOnline. We may just feature them as official members of Louie's Study Buddies. 




Digital Stories of Learning

The new digital career portfolio provides a unique way for Maryville students to illustrate their skills and achievements and differentiate themselves when entering the workforce.

As workplaces focus on employee engagement, employers want to truly experience an individual instead of reviewing a flat resume. Maryville's new digital career portfolio ensures these employers will be able to quickly and easily get to know Maryville graduates.

Through the new digital career portfolio, students can showcase academic work, personal achievements and demonstrate acumen in their chosen field. Students can upload artifacts like presentations, videos, papers, labs and experiences to illustrate skills learned, which are then searchable by thousands of employers.

Maryville will soon certify all digital badging using blockchain technology, which will provide verifiable, tamper-proof versions that can be shared instantly with employers, other schools and anybody else the student designates.

Additionally, Maryville will offer eight digital badges to certify achievements within the digital career portfolio. The badges align with competencies associated with career readiness as identified by the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE). Plans are underway for additional digital badging to capture skills learned such as badges for Maryville's Core Values Distinction Program as well as badges for alumni. 



TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADERSHIP

Laraine Davis, '17, has been named vice president for community and government relations. In addition to leading Maryville's community and government relations efforts, Davis will provide executive oversight for the development and alumni relations division that promotes Maryville's strategic plan to key constituencies with the objective of raising friends and funds.

"President Lombardi's vision for revolutionizing higher education is inspiring, and serving in this role is an exciting opportunity for me," Davis said. "Maryville is providing access and opportunity to a high-quality education for underserved populations and is also creating a unique workforce training program to support the reskilling needs of businesses in the area. I'm eager to get to work."

Davis has 23 years of experience in financial services including government and industry relations and community relations. Throughout her 17-year tenure with Wells Fargo Advisors, she worked on building strategic partnerships across Wells Fargo while working to serve those communities most in need. 

Prompted

We asked Maryville alumni and friends: If you could travel back in time, what advice would you give your younger self about starting at Maryville?

Ask for help when you need it, whether it's mentally, physically, academically.

It's not a sign of failure, it's a sign of strength. Everyone is in your corner and wants to see and help you succeed. It's okay to "fail" – whether it's in regards to your personal standards or academics. It happens. You learn from it and you'll grow. Go to every event you can, whether it's athletic, through an academic club or the "just for fun" events. Study abroad. Take all of the pictures, make the memories. College is a balance of work and play, but finding that balance helps you with having a great experience and Maryville is a wonderful place for this. Enjoy every moment you have because time really flies.

– **Taylor Poole, '16, '19**

Early on, consider all opportunities:

clubs, intramurals, on-campus jobs, small groups. You'll quickly find what interests you and, maybe more importantly, what doesn't. And you'll likely learn something about yourself in the process.

– **Matt Harrer, '08**

Say yes more often.

Let mistakes happen and learn from them. Take all the opportunities you can to make relationships; they'll be the forever ones.

– **Brie Howerton, '19**

Spend time with your teachers

... they have great wisdom to impart. Be open to new opportunities and people. Stay in touch with your classmates.

– **Bridget Harvey Nations**



Somewhere Over the Rainbow

A rainbow appeared over the Maryville University campus after rainstorms rolled through on March 11, 2021. The rainbow seemed to stretch across the entire campus from Gander Hall to Myrtle E. and Earl E. Walker Hall. Second-year biochemistry student Elizabeth "Ellie" Schilling took the photo during her work-study shift in the Maryville science lab office, located in Kernaghan Hall. "I thought it was a very beautiful sight and wanted to capture the scene," she said. Is this a sign of good things to come? **M**

Vice president for student success **JENNIFER MCCLUSKEY, PHD**, was featured in Degrees with Less Debt, a virtual series presented by St. Louis Graduates discussing barriers facing low-income and Black college students.



Women's bowling head coach **BRANDI BRANKA**, a player in the Professional Women's Bowling Association, set a new Illinois women's three-game bowling record by scoring an 868 at Bel-Air Bowl in Belleville, Illinois.

Assistant professor of interior design **MIKE KELLER, '00, MFA**, was featured by Zippia for his expertise regarding the interior design industry and emerging trends resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.



MICHAEL MEEHAN, PHD, adjunct professor of psychology, was named chief clinical officer for Great Circle, a behavioral health organization providing counseling, crisis programs and support for children and families.

Director of athletics and recreation **LONNIE FOLKS, '82, '98**, was a featured speaker for the Capital One Listening and Leading Series hosted by College Sports Information Directors of America.



Dean of the School of Adult and Online Education **KATHERINE LOUTHAN** was featured by University Business for her expertise on how to teach remotely in ways that are engaging and meaningful.

Associate professor of biology **KYRA KRAKOS, PHD**, explored the connections between humanity and a sustainable world as a featured speaker for Pivot, a TEDx St. Louis virtual event.



Life coach **LESHAY MATHIS** launched the podcast Disrupt U, which discusses innovation in universities and colleges and features Maryville faculty.

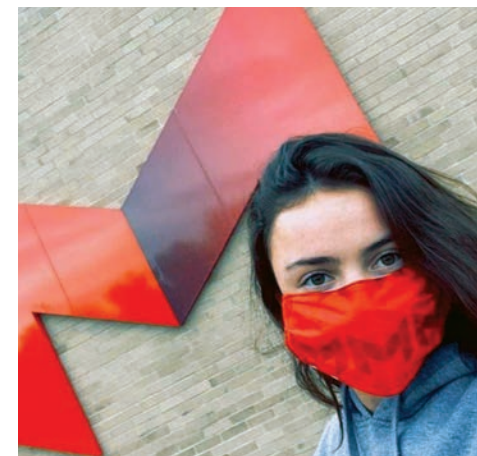
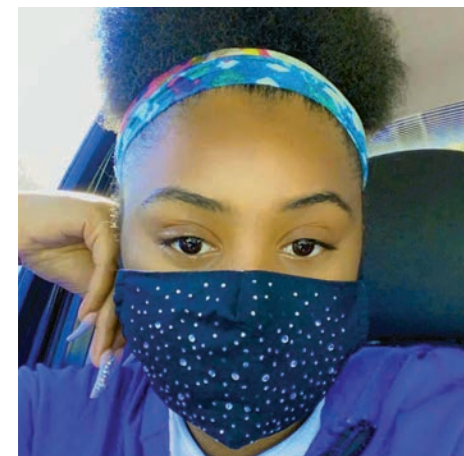
ELIZABETH BUCK, PHD, RN, adjunct professor of nursing and past assistant dean for nursing, was named a Lift Up St. Louis honoree, representing educators and healthcare heroes, by The Great Forest Park Balloon Race.



Instructor of cybersecurity **BRIAN GANT, MS**, examined cybersecurity threats of the new U.S. administration on The CyberWire Daily, a podcast providing cybersecurity news and analysis for industry leaders.

MASK UP

BY TIM FOX



Five students launched a creative social media campaign to encourage the Maryville community to wear masks to help minimize the spread of COVID-19.

Maryville's University Seminar (USEM) courses have changed a lot of lives over the past two years. But 2020 is the first time it may have saved lives — or at least slowed the spread of COVID-19.

Last fall, the team-taught course, which helps new Maryville students adjust to life on campus, again included an opportunity for them to become social-media influencers.

"The class helps students understand social media influencers and their world," said Leshay Mathis, the Maryville Life Coach who co-taught the class with Academic Assistant

Dean Cecelia Perry and Maryville University Library Reference Specialist Kyle Jenkins. "Influencers have a really negative stereotype, so we wanted students to understand the hard work that goes into that role."

Five students took an especially novel approach to the class. They decided to use its keystone project to promote mask-wearing on campus.

"If you think about an 18-year-old coming to college for the first time, it can be very scary. But now you have to wear a mask, you have to figure out in-person and virtual classes — it's a lot!" Mathis added. "These students decided to embrace this scary thing going on and celebrate it creatively."

One of those students was Hailey Hudson. "We decided we wanted to spread positivity with our project," Hudson explained. "We brainstormed and decided to do something with masks, but we had to figure out how to build social media content around wearing masks."

Generating rich, engaging content several times a day is the first challenge influencers face. Hudson and the other students — Haley Bedwell, Mia Garguila, Harry Edwards and Toni Jackson — discovered that for themselves as they started seeking pictures of mask-wearers to post on their @maryvillemasksandmotivation Instagram page. But with everyone social distancing,

it was a challenge — until they had a brilliant idea.


"We decided to do a 'most creative mask' contest," Hudson said, "and we asked students to include a motivational quote with each submission. That way, the participants could help us generate content and engage as our followers."

The contest was a hit. Nearly 50 people entered, with three of them receiving \$25 gift cards for their winning submissions. The motivational quotes were important, too. They not only drove engagement but also underscored the campaign's message.

"One of my favorite quotes was, 'If it doesn't challenge you, it doesn't change you,'"

Garguila said. "Meeting people in a pandemic was challenging, but this campaign helped us do that and learn more about each other. It let us bring out the positive of what everyone was dealing with and see how it united us. After all, we are all working for the same thing."

Meanwhile, a special session of the class featuring three professional influencers provided other useful advice and career guidance.

"Members of Gen Z have so many interesting job opportunities, and employers are creating more every day," Mathis said. "Companies need people who know digital marketing, how to build social media presence and how to get the company to the top of Google. The possibilities are limitless." 



BREAKING THE CODE

BY NANCY FOWLER

New sequencing technology allows students to analyze DNA from three Midwestern rivers under the guidance of Alastair Pringle, PhD, professor of biology.

Growing up in Tynemouth, England, biology professor Alastair Pringle, PhD, loved his high school science classes, especially when the classroom was the adjacent North Sea.

He was fascinated by the life swimming in shallow pools between the water and the beach.

“A complex ecosystem of seaweed, fish, crabs, shrimp and sea anemones was right at my front door,” Pringle said.

Now, the nearby Missouri, Mississippi and Illinois Rivers provide aquatic opportunities for his students. Their work is shining a national spotlight on Maryville as students gain attention for their research and impress heads of graduate programs. Thinking outside the box and employing innovative technology have played a crucial role.

In 2019, Pringle and his student Fujr Ibrahim worked together to develop a cost-effective method for extracting and purifying DNA from waterway samples. But they still needed an efficient, affordable process for sequencing the DNA. Standard technology costs as much as \$100,000, something only elite research institutions can afford.

But Pringle learned about a tool called the Nanopore sequencer, a small, robust DNA sequencing system. Two years ago, he got the go-ahead to order a \$1,000 starter kit. “This is all brand-new stuff, almost too good to be true,” Pringle said. “But you have to be comfortable with the new and different.”

The relatively inexpensive setup has more than paid off by thrusting Maryville into the realm of top-level research. Using their river samples and the sequencer, seniors Ibrahim and Haneen Butt were able to identify different microbial species and antibiotic resistance markers within their genomes. In 2020, their pilot study was presented at the annual American Society for Microbiology conference. “I was thrilled,” Pringle said.

New methods and technology are also paying off for Maryville students looking into graduate programs. They’re dazzling interviewers not only with their experience with DNA sequencing but also their ability to talk through the process, Pringle said.

“They’ve been able to do the work and also able to understand the science and explain it,” Pringle said. “It makes them more attractive to these schools.”

Indeed, Ibrahim has been accepted into the PhD program in Human Genetics and Molecular Biology at The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. She believes working on the pilot study, which was made possible by the Nanopore sequencer, was a factor in her acceptance, Pringle said.

Following his golden days as a high schooler studying the North Sea, Pringle began learning more about biology as a university undergrad. But he found the study of chemical reactions and enzymes too abstract to hold his interest. Then he had his first lab. He was fascinated by the way invisible microbes from his hand proliferated




▲ Students gather samples from Duckett Creek, near a wastewater treatment plant, from which DNA will be extracted and studied.

on a plate containing certain nutrients. “I was hooked,” Pringle said.

Now when Maryville students first walk into Pringle’s Introductory Microbiology lab, he introduces them to a similar hands-on experience so they can see for themselves the abundant life forms that exist on our bodies. “We’re in Missouri, right?” Pringle said. “And Missouri is the Show-Me State.”

Pringle came to Missouri through a circuitous route that began in the 1970s with a post-doctoral position in Kansas City. He later relocated to St. Louis after being hired by Anheuser-Busch as a yeast expert.

Before the pandemic, yeast, malt and hops were ingredients in Pringle’s lecture classes. Introductory students ended the term with a tasting of foods made by microbes, including a tiny sip of beer. “The students would leave saying, ‘This was the best lecture ever,’” Pringle said.

Lectures are online for the time being, but in-person labs still present opportunities for enjoyment. Pringle awards the student whose hand produced the most microbes a prize that’s especially useful right now: hand sanitizer. “It cracks the class up,” Pringle said. “And it gets them interested.” 

MARYVILLE IS **DIGITAL NOW**

We're revolutionizing what it means to learn with and from technology. Our emphasis on digital innovation has prepared our students for the most advanced and next-generation technologies of tomorrow, today.



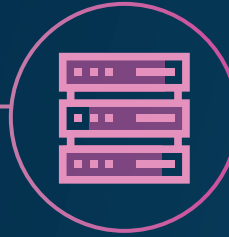
DIGITAL HUMANS

Our digital humans were born to take our individualized student services to the next level through machine learning. Instead of impersonal training, our digital humans provide a highly personal way of connecting with students and setting them up for success.



DIGITAL CAREER PORTFOLIO

Students illustrate their skills and achievements and differentiate themselves when entering the workforce via our digital career portfolios. Students upload artifacts like presentations, videos and papers, which are then searchable by thousands of employers.



DATA LAKE

Maryville's data lake is a centralized repository allowing us to store data at any scale. We run different types of analytics to guide student support services. This includes identifying students who may need additional academic support and proactively reaching out often and early.



APPLE TECHNOLOGY

Maryville has been recognized as an Apple Distinguished School for its extensive smart classroom and faculty expertise. Our campus runs on Apple technology including our student and faculty iPads loaded with more than 200 free learning apps.



BLOCKCHAIN CREDENTIALS

Maryville is one of the first universities to offer transcripts, diplomas and other credentials on a secure blockchain. Our students and alumni now have the freedom of owning their educational records with the security of institutional verification.



SAINTS ID

Our authenticated Saints ID allows students, faculty and staff to securely access buildings, purchase meals and more. Community members access campus with just their mobile devices, leaving their physical wallets behind.



WI-FI 6

Today's student needs optimal technology performance to learn and explore. That's why we invested in Wi-Fi 6 and 6e infrastructure on campus. Wi-Fi 6 uses artificial intelligence and machine learning to transmit data to more devices, faster and with less battery drain.

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maryville.edu/digitalnow



Getting Lost

BY LINDSAY RUSH




Brothers Bailey and Logan Roehr saw beyond the challenges of the pandemic and took their studies on the road trip of a lifetime.

Bailey and Logan Roehr, both students in the Maryville Online bachelor's in business administration program, decided to hit the trails while they hit the books. The brothers embarked on a socially distant road trip through 13 national parks across 15 states on a journey spanning roughly 9,000 miles. And they did it all while logging on to learn in America's most scenic places like Yellowstone, Redwood, Glacier and Zion National Parks.

"I think a lot of people always have a dream of going on a crazy trip like this — and people kind of just wait for the perfect opportunity to fall into their lap," Logan said. "With the pandemic going on, I realized there's never going to be a perfect time."

The Roehr brothers both credit Maryville's flexible online learning environment for helping to make their travels possible and enabling them to balance schoolwork with exploration. Having the ability to learn from anywhere gave them the freedom to take a trip of a lifetime.

The brothers quickly garnered national attention for their unique remote learning style, mixing adventure with coursework. They shared their journey across social media

 GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK



and YouTube, and eventually inspired a Forbes article and an interview with a local St. Louis NBC news affiliate.

Logan and Bailey planned how to make their education disruption-proof by downloading their assignments ahead of time so they could continue working even when Wi-Fi wasn't available. They also took turns studying in the car as they drove from one park to another.

"Traveling and studying together on the road was an extraordinary opportunity for us, which would have been impossible without the flexibility of Maryville's online programs," Bailey said.

Indeed, the ability to grow their skills and build industry knowledge while enjoying breathtaking views is an experience they'll never forget. The brothers surfed down sand dunes, rode all-terrain vehicles through densely wooded forests and cliff-jumped into crystal-clear lake water. They hiked hundreds of miles, including reaching Yosemite's Half Dome summit.

The most memorable part of their road trip was watching the sun rise over the Grand Canyon. "We hiked to our campsite and set up our tents in the pitch-black, so we didn't realize how close we were to the rim until we woke up," Bailey said. "We couldn't believe the incredible view all around us!"

What started as a wild idea transformed into a reality — but not without planning, saving, working and budgeting. The brothers both worked to earn money for their trip, as well as strategized a strict budget for their adventure. Logan and Bailey said they ate simple meals like eggs, granola bars and peanut butter and jelly sandwiches to help accommodate.



"We're sharing our story about what we refer to as our 'untethered education' so other students are inspired to rethink where their college experience can take them."

The Roehr brothers have redefined the possibilities of remote learning and are hoping to inspire other students to do the same.

"Despite the curveballs COVID threw us, we were able to explore 13 national parks in 15 states and never really missed a beat with our classes," Bailey said. "We're sharing our story about what we refer to as our 'untethered education' so other students are inspired to rethink where their college experience can take them."

Traditional and remote classrooms offer different benefits to different kinds of learners. For those open to remote learning, an online option provides the most flexibility to determine your schedule and create your own path. Maryville's online format allowed Logan and Bailey to stretch their schedule and coordinate their coursework with their travel plans. Most importantly, they were able to stay on track with their goals and graduation.

"It's something to look at as another opportunity. It's a pretty disruptive world out there once you graduate," Logan said. "There are going to be things thrown at you that you did not expect, and this trip is just another opportunity to get used to that and really embrace it and run with it." 



To read the stories of more brave Maryville Online students and alumni, visit maryville.edu/talesofthebrave.

SNAP SHOTS of a Pandemic

After more than one year since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, we asked the Maryville community to reflect on their significant moments. Amid the move to a hybrid academic experience, we're deeply grateful that Saints rose to the occasion in ways we could not have imagined, responding with resilience, ingenuity and compassion. Here are some of their stories. | BY GABBIE ST. PIERRE



At first, I was intimidated with the transition to hybrid learning and the new technology required to make it happen. But now, it's smooth sailing.

Initially, seeing the iPads and the switching back and forth between screens and some students being virtual while others are in person, to the attendance and seating charts and having to manage it all that was a bit intimidating to me. I went to a couple of trainings, and Director of Learning Technology and Support Sam Harris and his team did a great job. The transition actually changed my approach to some of my courses. I teach operations management and so I find a lot more time now to interact and do the problems with students. Seeing the learning that's occurring from slowing down a little bit more than I would have before has shown me the difference it can make in the classroom, and it's something I want to do now each time I teach.

Chris Gourdine, DM

Assistant Dean for Business Administration and Assistant Professor of Business Administration
John E. Simon School of Business



I was able to think in non-traditional ways.

In terms of how I approach education, but also how people learn in general. I've had some projects that I put aside that I just didn't have a lot of time for before. I was interviewed by the St. Louis Business Journal in October of 2016, and one of the things I mentioned was that I was working on some music with a group of guys called Another Mystery. Well, that kind of went into limbo, but the pandemic gave me an opportunity to work on and finish that project. During the pandemic I finished recording an album and released it. I think that creativity really helped me to engage myself differently and bring a different level of spontaneity that I don't know if I would have otherwise gotten into. And now we're getting ready for our second album.

Bob Bertolino, PhD

Director of the Clinical Mental Health Counseling Program and Professor of Rehabilitation Counseling

Being surrounded by coworkers who were clear about their intention to thrive kept me going.

When you're met with that type of optimism at every turn, it's very motivating and also extremely contagious. Being surrounded by all of that positive energy and all that resilience helped me overcome challenges I was facing.

Matt Raithel

Professor of Practice of Game Design



Having fewer events to cover caused us to dream up projects we wouldn't have done otherwise.

We really had to pivot and think of other things to do and say on our social media. We drove all over Missouri and Illinois to interview students at their homes, from a socially safe distance. The interviews ended up being amazing content. It was great to hear from them, it was great to get out of the house and it was great to see the creativity that we came up with.

Chris Reimer
Director of Creative Services

It was the patient tutorials from the Maryville technology team that taught me how to use Zoom.

My day job as a middle school teacher was not quite as good about training the faculty. So, my Maryville training actually helped me not only with my Maryville job, but my full-time teaching job, too. Knowing how to operate Zoom also helped me get together with friends and family remotely for cocktails and social hours and reconnecting. Even though we couldn't interact together in person, it was great to see their faces. I'm very grateful for my association with Maryville University and the support that was given to me.

John Gerdes
Adjunct Professor of Music

IT'S BEEN NEARLY 500 DAYS SINCE I LAST SAW MY GRANDPARENTS. AND NOW, THEY WILL FINALLY BE ABLE TO COME HOME.

My grandparents typically spend their winters in Florida and the rest of the year in St. Louis, where most of our family lives. When they headed to Florida in October of 2019, they didn't know they wouldn't be able to return to St. Louis until 2021. They fall into the high-risk category for COVID-19. Both of them are over 65 and have other conditions that place them in that category. Once the pandemic began, they knew traveling back to Missouri wasn't safe for them.

On February 5, 2021, 14 members of our family woke up at six in the morning to try and register my grandparents for the COVID-19 vaccine. They had already tried to register themselves every time new appointments became available since early January, but each time the available slots filled up quickly.

Between the 14 of us we had 58 browsers open, refreshing the page every 60 seconds hoping to secure a spot for them. After nearly an hour and lots of anticipation, we were finally successful! They were fully vaccinated by March, allowing them to travel back to St. Louis—just in time to see three of their grandchildren graduate (my brother, Jonathan, from De Smet Jesuit High School; my cousin, Hannah, with her bachelor's from Maryville; and me with my master's from Maryville) and meet their very first great-grandchild!

Gabbie St. Pierre, '21
Marketing Coordinator

I've grown closer to my family.

We've instituted a family movie night. Every Saturday night we rotate who gets to pick the movie. So far, we've watched 48 movies. It's really brought us together. We look forward to it, and it's something we plan to continue even after the pandemic passes.

Jennifer Henry, LPC, CCATP
Director of the Counseling Center

I missed the best part of my senior year, the last lap.

I was a senior in high school when the pandemic put the nation in full-force shut down. Many of my classmates and I will always be able to recall that last day of high school: March 16, 2020. It was not filled with happy goodbyes and the feeling of accomplishment; it was filled with fighting back tears as we all knew the shutdown would not only last two weeks.

That August came my first semester at college, where you are supposed to make the friends and memories of a lifetime. However, it was extremely difficult as everyone was socially distanced and wearing masks. I constantly felt scared to approach someone new, as I was not sure if it would make them uncomfortable. There were many moments I broke down because I felt so alone.

Future generations should take this experience many of us faced to realize that life can change in the blink of an eye. Nothing is worth taking for granted. Love everyone as much as you can, cherish memories with those you care about and allow yourself to be okay with being alone at times, because when it happens, it can change the way you see yourself and everything around you.

Anonymous Student

Zoom fatigue is real.

Because I work with students, there were some days I would be working from 8:30 a.m. all the way to 9 p.m. because of student organization events. There were a lot of times when I was just really, really tired. At those times, I was really thankful for being able to have the camera turned off or for being able to show up on camera with a T-shirt on (and not having to dress professional all the time). I could be authentic and give myself grace.



Maricella Reyes
Program Coordinator for the
Office of Diversity and Inclusion

It's the little things, like meeting up for a cup of coffee or studying safely with friends, that meant the most.

Having those opportunities where I could have little moments of human interaction were important. And as a student leader, it was one of the most challenging times to be a leader, but people had a need for engagement more than ever. So planning virtual events and reaching out to people were some of the ways I could do my part to help others keep going, too.

Destinie Jones
Student



I LEARNED THAT I CAN'T CONTROL WHAT HAPPENS, BUT I CAN CONTROL HOW I REACT.

I'm not one to focus on the negatives; it's just not who I am. I've always been a very optimistic, bubbly and happy person. Even in tough times, I find something be positive about. But honestly, finding positives about 2020 was hard. I've seen a lot in my 20 years, but it feels like I've seen 20 years' worth just in 2020 alone. Wildfires, COVID-19, protests, shutdowns, elections, losing actor Chadwick Boseman ... the list goes on.

Now, looking back at the past year, small positives do stand out even among the negatives. I believe that everything happens for a reason, and the external locus of control is out of my hands. With my anxiety, I need to feel a sense of control, but I've had to learn that I can't control everything. Things happen to teach us lessons for our lives. I learned, in the face of uncertainty, to stay strong and keep fighting; to not hide away. I've learned to be grateful for everything that I had before COVID-19, and I now cherish every memory a little more and appreciate every moment in my present and future.

Stephanie Stock
Student



WATCH MORE.
maryville.edu/magazine



The social isolation was really difficult for me

I'm a social person, and even if I would do Zoom with someone it would bring me to tears because I wanted to be in person and have contact with people. But I've learned that I am resilient and that things will go back to normal. I will get to be out and about and see everyone in person again, and I'm looking forward to it. So, keep your chin up! And I'll see you soon.

Renee Smola
Adjunct Professor of Psychology

I'm very grateful for the faculty.

Together, we had something like a teaching emergency where we needed to entirely rethink the way that we do things from the ground up. We have risen to the challenge. We have thought a lot about active learning at Maryville, and much of the time it meant taking students places or using different kinds of spaces on campus, getting them to move around or work in groups. All of a sudden, we couldn't do any of those things, and we had to realize that active learning doesn't mean physical activity. Active learning could take place entirely in our minds.

Jesse Kavadlo, PhD
Professor of English

We celebrated our wedding in a creative way during a time of great upheaval.

My wife and I were scheduled to get married on July 20, 2020. It was around April of last year that we were wrapping up our premarital class, and we were wondering 'what is going to happen?' Things were really weird and a little scary, and no one knew what was going to happen moving forward. We didn't know if things would still be open in July. We didn't know if things would be better — we hoped that it would be just a few weeks and we'd be back to work and things would be better, but we didn't know. And so we decided to take a risk and move our wedding up to May 2, 2020.

We had a small ceremony at home. We built a copper pipe arbor, decorated our driveway and invited people over for a drive-by wedding reception. We had friends and family there who were socially distanced and it was just a beautiful day. It was obviously sad that we couldn't have this wedding day that we originally envisioned. But in the grand scheme of things with all the other challenges that people were dealing with, we were just so grateful to be together and be able to make it happen.

Brady Griffith, '14
Lead Life Coach



Class was still engaging through Zoom.

The hybrid format of classes was beyond successful. My professors were understanding of the stress and chaos of the pandemic that we endured while attending school, work and other activities in life, and they were flexible with us. The school year was a huge success. Maryville really worked hard to keep the students engaged and gave us lots of opportunities to stay connected.

Anonymous Student

There's kind of an interesting thing we started to realize: bees are socially distant.

My student researchers typically work outside tracking ecosystems, particularly pollinators and plants. We didn't know if we'd be able to do all of that research because things were shut down. But around June, we got permission to go back out to our field sites. You can't get too close to each other while doing observations and collecting data. And so, even in the midst of a pandemic, 10 Maryville students were able to complete their research projects as normal and are ready to go present at national conferences this year.

Kyra Krakos, PhD
Associate Professor of Biology



It's the students. It's always the students.

They keep me energized to do my job to the best of my ability. I feel I have an obligation to them to do that regardless of the situation. And a big win we had is that all of the rehabilitation counseling students over the past three semesters got hired or received a promotion.

Michael Kiener
Director of the Rehabilitation Counseling Program and Professor of Rehabilitation Counseling



When it comes down to it, everyone's just trying to make it through this.

I know the pandemic will pass and things will go back to some semblance of normal at some point, but in the meantime, really take stock of the things that you care about, the things that you believe, and the way that you want to see the world change and what you want the world to become. Then do everything in your power to make sure you can make that change happen.

Kyle Jenkins
Evening Operations and Reference Specialist, Library

I was able to clear my mind by reading a lot more and by listening to podcasts.

I've read many, many books that have been on my shelf for a while. I've tried to keep up with some new ones that have been recommended by colleagues and friends. And really to be completely honest, the kind of podcast that I go to when I really need to stay motivated and feel inspired is stand-up comedy.

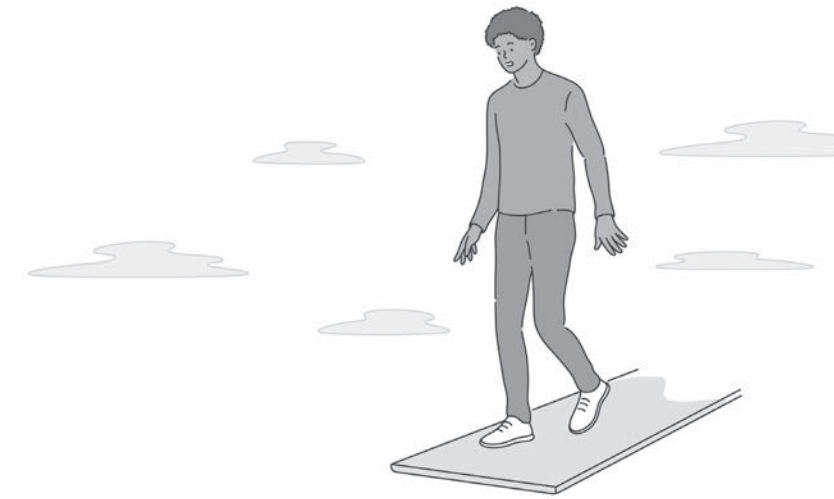
Jen McCluskey, PhD
Vice President for Student Success



Being part of this 'one team, one family' has never meant more than it has this year.

My team helps onboard all new Maryville students, and to do that well in a pandemic was hard. Every day I was concerned about every decision that we were making. I was constantly thinking about what parents and new students were going through and what they might be worried about. It required a lot of energy and love and dedication from not just me, but everyone in the Maryville community. But we got through it, and we got them here and we got them onboarded. I'm really, really proud to be here and to be surrounded by my Maryville family.

Erin Boswell
Director of New Student and First-Year Experience Programs



NEVER GIVE UP.

When it looks like there's not going to be a light at the end of the tunnel, just keep going. If COVID-19 has not taught us that, then I don't know what else will. When you're confused, you're scared, you don't know what to do, know you will get through it. The pandemic has taught that we will get through it, no matter what it is.

Morgan Tiemeyer
Student

Five hundred twenty five thousand six hundred minutes

How do you measure a year of living through the pandemic? Maryville students, faculty and staff said despite all the challenges, they will always look back and remember a season of love for these things:

COFFEE **My quarantine pod**
DoorDash A quiet space to work **Exercise**
Cooking **My dog** **My family**
Podcasts **Netflix** **Going for walks** **Puzzles**
Extra time with loved ones **COMEDY**

DESIGN THINKING ONLINE



A dedicated team of learning designers empower Maryville faculty to reimagine how curriculum can be delivered dynamically and effectively online. Melissa Childers, assistant director, learning design and faculty engagement, has helped develop hundreds of online courses. She shares how Maryville creates online learning experiences that are engaging and meaningful for every student.

► **Tell us about transforming classes to an online environment.**

At the start of an online course development project, faculty will tell me about how they teach when they're inside a classroom. They'll explain they don't like to lecture a lot; instead they like to present an idea and have students work through it. Or they'll say they like to incorporate role playing to engage students in real-life scenarios. Or they'll say they like to have hands-on learning in the classroom.

Then the faculty almost always say, "But I know I can't do that online." And it throws up a red flag. Because I can show them how they can do those things online. What's important is the questions the faculty are asking students. Those learning structures are just the catalysts to having conversations. We can replace those catalysts with something else like a common experience students must go through or having them leverage everyday items in their homes. Those new catalysts result in the same conversations.

► **What does a normal day look like for a learning designer?**

Research shows that the way people learn is as unique as their fingerprints. We are ensuring that curriculum is designed from the start to minimize barriers and maximize learning for all students. Faculty create the content, but learning designers are responsible for developing an ecosystem where students can see material, read material and hear material, and ultimately understand the material.

On any given day, we're completing tasks like copy editing, graphic design and sourcing imagery. We're making web content accessible to people with a wide range of abilities, like creating alternative text descriptions for complex graphics or adding captions to videos. We also help identify places where additional resources may be needed.

Some course development projects span several months, while others are much shorter. But online courses are always growing and changing and evolving. So we are always gathering ideas and imagining what's possible.

► **Why is partnering with faculty throughout the online teaching and learning process a powerful differentiator for Maryville?**


Maryville has such a community of innovation in teaching and learning. There is also a lot of emphasis placed on professional development around teaching and learning, so the faculty have a lot of ideas and inspiration to draw from. When we sit down together and start applying those ideas, it encourages the faculty to reflect on how they teach and how they approach learning for their students. Having those conversations makes doing something new and different

more achievable. And a lot of faculty I've worked with said they've come out of an online course development project and are more aware of their strengths as a teacher. They've even started applying what they discovered in the online space into their on-ground classrooms.

► **Why is it important to use technology to engage students?**

Maryville has made investments in state-of-the-art production studios and technologies including virtual reality, a green screen and a Microsoft Surface Hub and Lightboard. We use these technologies to create custom-designed content interactions.

For example, our team worked with Geriann Brandt, MA, director of the criminal justice/criminology program and assistant professor of criminal justice and criminology, to create an impressive investigation experience that utilizes 360-degree camera technology to create a staged crime scene that students can interact with virtually. Our criminology department has also created a "choose your own adventure" experience in which students respond to dispatch and make a series of choices that lead to different outcomes.

An important factor in Maryville's approach to online learning is that high-tech and high-touch go hand in hand. One way we ensure this high-touch learning environment is through smaller class sizes. Another way is for faculty to establish more social environments including providing multiple ways for students to engage with their peers. Implementing high-touch learning environments is critical for helping students feel more engaged and is one of the most important components of online learning. 



Two Maryville esports student-athletes joined the Golden Guardians, becoming the first Saint to turn professional.

GOING PRO

BY CONSTANCE GIBBS

Maryville University said goodbye to two members of its League of Legends Esports Team as they started the next chapter of their careers by playing for a professional organization.

Aiden “Niles” Tidwell and Ethan “Iconic” Wilkinson joined the League of Legends Championship Series (LCS) roster for the Golden Guardians, an esports affiliate of the NBA’s Golden State Warriors. They are the first players to turn professional from the Maryville Esports Program.

“Playing for a pro organization is truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience,” said Tanner “Zeu” Deegan, head coach for Maryville’s League of Legends Esports Team. “We’re proud to have made a positive impact in their progression towards pro play, and it provides us with a bit of reassurance that we’re on the right path, and doing our jobs well. I’m looking forward to seeing how we grow the Maryville program in the future.”

Tidwell and Wilkinson helped Maryville earn several major titles including the 2019 and 2020 Harrisburg University Esports (HUE) Invitational titles. HUE is one of the largest collegiate esports events in the U.S.

Tidwell also helped Maryville secure the 2019 League of Legends Collegiate Championship, the team’s third collegiate national championship in four years. The Saints also won in 2016 and 2017.

“I would like to thank everyone at Maryville for giving me the opportunity to grow,” Tidwell said. “Before coming here, I was lost and didn’t know what I wanted to do.” He credits his teammates for helping him

develop as a player, garnering the attention of several professional teams before he was selected by the Golden Guardians.

“The people I met at Maryville have been the largest contributing factor to where I am right now, especially Andrew ‘CKG’ Smith, who challenged me the most,” he said. Smith is the former captain of Maryville’s League of Legends Esports Team and currently serves as Maryville’s assistant director of esports where he focuses on player growth and management of the program.

Wilkinson also stressed how Maryville’s team dynamic is an important part of their

“The people I met at Maryville have been the largest contributing factor to where I am right now.”

winning strategy. “We are all really good friends and have a lot of fun together, and I find that takes off a lot of the pressure so everyone can perform their best,” he said.

While Wilkinson will miss playing for Maryville, he looks forward to competing on the professional level — especially with a fellow Saint by his side. “It feels good to go pro with one of my teammates,” he said. “It’s someone I can vent to and someone I can have fun with. We’ve already created a relationship here at Maryville, so it will be nice to be in the LCS together.” 

HIGHLIGHTS

SHOOTOUT WIN

With a thrilling finish decided by penalty kicks, and for the second time in three years, the Maryville men's soccer team won the 2021 Great Lakes Valley Conference Championship. After playing Indianapolis to a 1-1 tie after 110 minutes, the Saints claimed the title by a score of 5-3 over the Greyhounds in the shootout. The championship win marks back-to-back GLVC titles for the Saints, pairing the 2021 championship with the last one contested in 2019. Congratulations, Saints, for bringing home new hardware and etching 2021 onto the history books.



OVERWATCH TEAM WINS FIRST NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

BY CONSTANCE GIBBS

Maryville University's Overwatch Esports Team entered tournament play as heavy underdogs and walked out as champions.

Maryville University's Overwatch Esports Team won the Overwatch Collegiate Championships, claiming its first national title. Maryville beat Northwood University in the final round, following a grueling best-of-five series that came down to the final match. Maryville hadn't beat Northwood all season in any other competition, and they were favorites to win going into the weekend.

In earlier rounds, Maryville had victories against University of Washington, University of Utah and the University of California, San Diego. Those three wins advanced the team to the semifinals where they took on the University of California, Irvine, and swept them 3-0 for the spot in the finals.

"I'm proud of our esports student-athletes for everything they put into this championship," said Andrew "CKG" Smith, assistant director of esports and head coach for Maryville's Overwatch Esports

Team. "They put the effort in every day to succeed and, in the end, that's what made the difference."

Maryville's Overwatch Esports Team was founded in 2018. The team competed in its first national championship in 2019 and placed third. Last year, the team took second place to Harrisburg University.

"After placing third our first year, and then losing in the finals last year, winning this one means a lot to me," said Anthony "Mac" McIntosh, one of the team's founding members. "This year, our team grew a lot outside of the game, and it showed. After this win, Maryville has established yet another collegiate esports dynasty."

The Overwatch national championship joins three League of Legends titles that the Maryville Esports Program has garnered since its inception. If the League of Legends Esports Team wins the national championship again this year, Maryville will be the first school to hold both titles at the same time. **M**

NEW NCAA SPORTS ADDED

BY CHUCK YAHNG

Maryville now offers 25 varsity sports programs for men and women.

The Maryville University Department of Athletics and Campus Recreation announced it will increase the number of NCAA Championship sponsored sports with the addition of men's volleyball and women's field hockey. The two new sports will push the number of NCAA sports offered at Maryville to 25.

"We feel that the addition of men's volleyball and women's field hockey is a great complement to our existing sports roster at Maryville," said Lonnie Folks, '82, '98, director of athletics and recreation at Maryville University. "Our club men's volleyball team has been competitive at the local level, but participating at the NCAA level will provide a new and exciting challenge for players. Field hockey is the latest in our ongoing efforts to increase opportunities for female

student-athletes. The sport has a large presence in the St. Louis area, and Maryville is responding to the interest by local high school student-athletes in playing at the collegiate level."

The men's volleyball program will compete at the NCAA level beginning in the spring of the 2021-22 school year. Current club head coach Mike Haston will oversee the Saints transition to NCAA play.

Maryville is currently recruiting the women's field hockey head coach who will spend the 2021-22 academic year recruiting student-athletes. Maryville will officially begin NCAA competition in the fall of the 2022-23 academic calendar.

At the club sports level, the University is also forming another women's hockey team in the ACHA 2 Division and is restarting an in-line men's hockey team as well as a rugby squad. **M**



GAME DAY: The Maryville women's ice hockey team celebrated its inaugural home game at the Maryville University Hockey Center in February. Freshman Emma Gerwitz scored the first-ever home goal against Lindenwood University during the third period. Another milestone achievement for the Lady Dawgs was the team's move up into the ACHA Division I level for its inaugural season. The team was originally slated to start at the Division II level, but due to circumstances surrounding the pandemic the team reapplied and was granted its new status. "We want to be the best, so we have to play the best," said John Hogan, Maryville's director of hockey operations. **M**



HIGHLIGHTS

GOLF CHAMPIONS

The Maryville men's golf team won the 2021 Great Lakes Valley Conference Championship at Fox Run Golf Club in Eureka, Missouri. The Saints defeated No. 1 seed University of Indianapolis 3-1/2 to 1-1/2 to bring the GLVC title home to Saints Nation. The Saints, who were the second seed, have won back-to-back league titles, pairing the 2021 championship with the last one contested in 2019. The 2020 tournament was not played due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Well done, Saints golfers!

A SPORTS YEAR LIKE NO OTHER

BY JONG CAMBRON

Even though the season has been shortened, rescheduled and even paused at times, Maryville Saints are thankful they had the chance to compete this year.

Men’s basketball coach Jessie Shaw didn’t get a chance to meet his team in person until mid-September, even though Maryville had hired him last spring. Shaw then started the season in November knocking off Missouri S&T 76-67 for his first victory as head coach.

“That was a great night,” Shaw said about his first game. “It’s intimidating to start your tenure with conference games. But to secure a win right away was an awesome feeling.”

That, along with the women’s basketball team playing that same evening, were the first games for any of the high-contact Maryville sports teams this year. Golf, swimming, bowling and the cross-country teams were able to start earlier in the season under different NCAA guidelines.

Shaw’s first year as coach was challenging because several players were quarantined during the season, and early-season coaching sessions happened via Zoom. The most formidable change was that the team only had 10 full-team practices before the season commenced.

“Athletes tend to be resilient, so most of the teams made the adjustments necessary in order to compete,” said Lonnie Folks, ’82, ’98, director of athletics and recreation. “I believe that COVID tested the wills of these young people and those still standing will be stronger mentally because of it. That being said, I hope that they never have to do it again.”

An alteration to the start of the season from fall to spring put Faith Ahlhardt and the women’s volleyball team out of sorts, but they realized this was necessary so the team could compete.

“It was disheartening to have our season moved right before we were going to start,” Ahlhardt said. “But after a few weeks, I knew this was the best decision regarding the circumstances and would actually give us more time to practice together as a team.”

Another major difference for her this year has been the restrictions that were put into place for practices when they could only play in small groups. It was only this spring when the team was allowed to have a full-team practice.

“We were required to wear our masks during practice and workouts,” Ahlhardt explained about the other changes. “Also, everyone on the team got tested regularly for COVID-19.”

Ahlhardt hopes a regular season is in store starting this fall. “I will be a senior next year and I hope to come back in the summer to start our preseason and have a full fall season,” she said. “Returning to a normal season will give the team more of an opportunity to bond from the beginning of the year.”

Women’s golf student-athlete Carmen Villaverde Gomez thought her collegiate career was over last March. “I remember breaking into tears when I heard the news,” she said. “It was so sudden and unexpected, especially for me being the only senior. I had just come off an outstanding tournament performance, and I thought it was the last time I had played with my teammates.”

But on September 2, 2020, the NCAA approved a resolution allowing her and other fall student-athletes the chance to compete once more. She’s taken advantage of the reprieve with two second-place finishes at the



Dan Salisbury Tournament and the Bearcat Dual Gender Tournament, where she also helped the squad set a team stroke record.

But she will have to wait until late spring to attempt to reach her final goal. “My goal since freshman year was to be in a national championship before my college career was over, and I hope I can make that dream come true,” she said.

Villaverde Gomez is also playing her last season in memory of Iowa State golfer Celia Barquin Arozamena, who was killed in 2018. The two grew up just 20 minutes from each other in Spain and had often practiced and competed on the same courses. Villaverde Gomez honors her with a ribbon on her golf bag. **M**



STICKING TOGETHER: Last spring, the Maryville women’s lacrosse team played five games before the remainder of the season was canceled due to the pandemic. But that didn’t deter team members from finding creative ways to challenge each other in the weight room and on the field, even if they couldn’t always be together physically. The team is excited to have resumed competition this semester at the new Maryville University Athletic Complex. “It feels good to be back with my teammates on the field,” said junior Jessie Hynes. “I love having a space we can call our home. I’m very grateful that we get to grow and compete in this new space, and create history for years to come.” **M**



HIGHLIGHTS

NO HITTERS

Women’s softball player Alyssa Callans became the first player in Maryville University history to throw multiple no-hitters. The first came in the Saints’ 2-0 win over the University of Wisconsin-Parkside on March 6, 2021. She finished with 10 strikeouts and only walked three batters. It was also the first time she’d ever thrown a no-hitter. Callans would soon outdo herself. The righty pitched a perfect game in a 5-0 victory over those very same Rangers the next day, striking out 14 batters. “The whole weekend, I was kind of in go-mode. It wasn’t on my mind all that much, how I was performing. I was just doing my job,” she said.

A recording contract, new district superintendents and two intimate Colorado weddings.

1960s

Cecile “Julie” Fontenot Landry, ‘65, of Laguna Woods, Calif., has used her time at home during the pandemic as an opportunity to write and research. Landry’s short-story collection, “Tales of Louisiana,” came out in November 2020 and her latest children’s book, “Clovis Crawfish and the Feu-Follet,” was released in February 2021. She is currently doing research for the sequel to her historical novel, “Chapman Hall,” which came out in 2016.

Mary Ann “Sully” Sullivan Boyce, ‘60, and Susan “Sue” George MacDonald, ‘60, both of St. Louis, attended the funeral of **Louise Lukens Naumann, ‘60**. Among her life’s achievements, Naumann graduated with a bachelor’s degree in education from Maryville as a young mother and widow, following the sudden death of her husband. Naumann is survived by her two sons, Fred and Joseph. The latter serves as the archbishop of the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas. At Naumann’s funeral, Boyce and MacDonald had the opportunity to meet Archbishop Naumann as well as Mitch Rozanski, archbishop of the Archdiocese of St. Louis, and extend their sympathies to the family.

1980s

Walter “Walt” J. Gaal, ‘86, of Collinsville, Ill., recently signed a recording contract with a label in Nashville, Tenn. He is excited to announce his first single, “I’m Sailing Away,” has now aired on the radio.

1990s

Anne Cope Hart, ‘90, of Eureka, Mo., has been a physical therapist for six years and is currently working at ApexNetwork Physical Therapy. After graduating from Maryville, she worked in Austin, Texas, where she completed her residency in orthopedics. Hart shared that she loves physical therapy and being able to build relationships with her patients.

Jennifer Mabury Petrowsky, ‘91, of Ballwin, Mo., has enjoyed a successful career in marketing and management while raising two daughters. Her youngest, Emma, is a second-generation Saint, having started her freshman year at Maryville this past fall. After Petrowsky graduated from Maryville, she enjoyed a career in the shopping center industry including owning and operating a boutique public relations and marketing company called JPMarket Source. In 2012, she

opened the first American Girl Store in St. Louis at Chesterfield Mall as the General Manager. More recently, Petrowsky left the retail world to spend more time with her daughters after the untimely passing of her husband. Petrowsky is happy to have her daughter on campus as she reminisces about her own positive experience as a Maryville student and hopes to get more involved with the Maryville alumni community.

Julia Pusateri Lasater, ‘92, of St. Louis, was appointed by Missouri Governor Mike Parson to fill the position of associate circuit judge for St. Louis County’s 21st Judicial Court. She is on the board of the St. Louis County Bar Association, and she served as president of the association in 2014. Lasater holds a bachelor’s degree from Maryville and a juris doctor from the Saint Louis University School of Law.

Melissa Tallent Bozell Emery, ‘97, ‘98, of Louisville, Ky., is the owner of Emery Law Office. She is passionate about sponsoring and mentoring children and teens around the world through Compassion International and enjoys cooking on the weekends. In December 2020, Emery welcomed her first grandchild.

1 Tamra L. Vallejos, ‘97, of Lawndale, Calif., was awarded the Cedars-Sinai Marina Del Rey Hospital Award for Nursing Excellence as Nurse of the Year in October 2020.



Karl R. Snider, ‘98, of Arcadia, Mo., was recently named vice president of operational resources for The Baptist Home located in Southeast Missouri. In his role he will oversee all internal operations for the company. Snider received his Master of Business Administration degree in 1998 and is a certified public accountant.

Maria Cabo Moise, ‘99, of Papillion, Neb., received a Master of Science in information technology from the University of Nebraska Omaha on August 14, 2020. She is currently a director of application development at Fiserv in Omaha, Neb.

Rosemary Holland Gidionsen

1928–2021

A Maryville icon, Rosemary Holland Gidionsen, ‘50, passed away on March 15, 2021. Gidionsen followed in the footsteps of her aunt, Dorothy “Dot” Garesche Holland, ‘26, who was Maryville’s first official Alumni Director. Gidionsen served as Maryville’s second Alumni Director from September 1, 1969, until 1977.

It was during that period that the Religious of the Sacred Heart made the historic decision to turn ownership of Maryville over to a lay board of trustees. As an alumna and staff member, Gidionsen had a unique perspective on the decision and was an invaluable resource during the transition. Her colleagues respected and valued her knowledge, experience and faith.

In 1977, Claudius Pritchard, PhD, became Maryville’s first lay president, and he asked Gidionsen to serve as his Executive Assistant. She was asked to stay in that role by Keith Lovin, PhD, when he became president in 1992. She served in the role until May 2004. Her distinguished Maryville career had spanned across four presidents.

Upon her retirement, the Sacred Heart Chapel housed within the Charles M. Hutting Memorial Chapel was named in Gidionsen’s honor, and her children endowed an academic scholarship in her name.



Karen Breeden Rosewell, ‘99, of Ballwin, Mo., was one of 100 St. Louis area educators to receive an Emerson Excellence in Teaching Award. The award pays tribute to educators – from kindergarten teachers to college professors – for their achievements and dedication to the field of education.

total rewards function. Previously, Brown spent nearly a decade with an international video game company.

Christy Jagodzinski Newsham, ‘03, of St. Louis, was one of 100 St. Louis area educators to receive an Emerson Excellence in Teaching Award. The award pays tribute to educators – from kindergarten teachers to college professors – for their achievements and dedication to the field of education.

Bryan A. Goad, ‘04, of Kansas City, Kan., celebrated a two-year wedding anniversary with his wife, Rabecca, on February 9, 2021. Goad works as a math teacher at Olathe North High School in Olathe, Kan.

Tonya Kricensky McMillen, ‘04, of Wildwood, Mo., is the new volunteer coordinator for MSE Racing, a company that creates, manages and times racing events for swimmers, cyclists and runners.

Christa Hendrickson Barr, ‘05, of Florissant, Mo., is an account manager and designer at Spellman Brady & Company. She recently passed the American Academy of Healthcare Interior Designers (AAHID) examination and earned the prestigious Certified Healthcare Interior Designer (CHID) certification.

Daniel “Dan” R. Derby, ‘05, of Bridgeton, Mo., was one of 100 St. Louis area educators to receive an Emerson Excellence in Teaching Award. The award pays tribute to educators – from kindergarten teachers to college professors – for their achievements and dedication to the field of education.

Dana M. Webb, ‘05, of O’Fallon, Mo., wrote a book called “Beauty for Ashes: Bought & Paid For...” to share the gospel of Jesus’ saving grace. Webb is looking forward to publishing the book in the future.

2 Vanda M. Wilder, ‘07, ‘08, of Des Peres, Mo., celebrated her engagement to Geoff Goodpaster in September 2020. The couple got engaged while hiking at Rocky Mountain National Park.



Jessica N. Cooper, ‘08, of Fort Collins, Colo., established Jess Cooper Consulting in 2019 to serve nonprofit organizations. Most recently, she worked with USA Swimming to serve its 59 regional governing bodies with crisis management during the pandemic. In 2021, Jess is launching Nonprofit Wellness, an online course to help leaders take control of their organizations’ health.



BADR ALDAMEGH, '17

A SERENDIPITOUS LIFE

BY NANCY FOWLER

It was against all odds that Badr Aldamegh, '17, would end up at Maryville, and another, more recent chance encounter has thrust him into the spotlight in his native Saudi Arabia.

In 2013, Aldamegh and his wife were finishing up a second-language program at SIU Carbondale through a Saudi government scholarship program. Program regulations stipulated that in order to remain in the U.S., he needed to secure a scholarship to an American university. But that proved elusive. He was already packing to leave when the couple set out on a rambling drive.

"We didn't know where we were going," Aldamegh said. "And then we saw a Maryville sign."

They pulled over, toured campus and met with Darlene Davison, director of the Interior Design Program and associate professor of interior design. He applied on the spot, and Maryville awarded Aldamegh the scholarship he needed. Four years later, he earned a degree in Interior Design.

After graduation, Aldamegh returned home to work in his family's construction business. With the money he saved, he started his own interior design company: Milli Studios. Now, Milli Studios has nine employees, and Aldamegh plans to open a second office this year.

This past September, Aldamegh's business saw its greatest success yet: becoming one of six firms to secure a contract for a housing support project with the Saudi Ministry of Housing. The importance of the project was illustrated by the widespread news coverage it received from numerous outlets. After the publicity was amplified on social media, clients began signing up to work with Milli Studios.

The accomplishment highlights the importance not only of Aldamegh's hard work but also his luck. His initial connection to the project came about during a construction exhibition. He happened to meet a National Housing Company (NHC) official who wanted to know all about Milli Studios. "After one month, I got a call from the NHC office to ask me if I'm able to work with them," Aldamegh said. "This is the most important achievement in my career." **M**

Erin Clark Taylor, '08, of Charleston, S.C., founded Ambitious Solutions last year, a service-based business to help creative makers streamline their businesses through organization, automation and systemization.

Tanya R. Voss, '08, of Sullivan, Mo., joined the board of trustees for Missouri Baptist Sullivan Hospital in December 2020.

Jenny Williams, '08, of St. Louis, opened her own home health care company called Innovative Occupational Therapy Solutions. Williams' occupational therapy passion is geriatrics and home care. She has been providing home care since 2008.

Robert "Bo" M. Bunton, '09, of O'Fallon, Mo., earned an EMT license and has been working at Abbott Ambulance since December 2020. Bunton is working toward his goal of becoming a firefighter and shared that "I've always taken pride in impacting others, so I know this is the career for me." Previously, after earning a Master of Arts degree in counseling, he worked as a school guidance counselor, which sparked his interest in helping people in another way. Bunton has been married since 2012 and has two beautiful daughters, Kenley (4) and Aubrey (1).

Kayla I. Solomon, '09, of Pacific, Mo., joined the litigation practice group at Capes Sokol. She previously worked for the firm as a summer associate. She will focus her work on product liability and commercial litigation.

3 Adam M. Bridwell, '11, of Rochester, Minn., accepted a new position to lead inpatient oncology and lymphedema therapy at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester. In this new position, he will develop department procedures and best practice initiatives using the latest evidence-based research. Bridwell

married his wife, Audrey, on September 12, 2020, in an intimate backyard ceremony attended by close family and friends and officiated by his brother.

4 John F. Murar, '11, of St. Louis, and his wife, Melissa, welcomed their second child, Ellie Rose, on January 21, 2021. Ellie was born weighing 7 lbs, 3 oz and measuring 20.5 inches long.



Nisha Patel, '12, of Chesterfield, Mo., is the new superintendent for the Clayton School District for the 2021-2022 school year. She shared, "I am extremely excited and humbled to be named the next superintendent of The School District of Clayton. I look forward to the opportunity to become an active member of the community and continue the paramount work around equity and inclusion and propel the strategic plan forward ensuring that Clayton is a place for everyone to grow as learners in the head and heart."



5 Wade D. Steinhoff, '11, of St. Charles, Mo., assistant superintendent of the Orchard Farm School District, was recently named the new superintendent of the district. Steinhoff has spent the past 20 years in education, including seven in his role as assistant superintendent. He will begin his new role on July 1, 2021.

Casey A. Stine, '12, of St. Louis, was hired as a vice president and business development consultant for Lockton's Midwest Series. Stine will assist clients in developing comprehensive health plans, total rewards and benefits strategies.

Alexandra "Lexie" Purcell Loewnau, '13, of St. Louis, and her husband, Ben, welcomed their daughter, Callaway Anderson, in January 2020.

Stephanie A. Metter, '13, of St. Louis, joined Elephant Rock Counseling, LLC, as a therapist. She has been a licensed professional counselor since 2017. Metter works with adults and adolescents struggling with trauma, emotional regulation, anxiety and depression. She will also be joining the Dialectical Behavior Therapy Consultation Team.

Tom M. Benney, '13, of Bridgeton, Mo., accepted a new position as head coach of the girl's soccer program at Pattonville High School

in Maryland Heights, Mo. Benney played soccer at Maryville from 2009 to 2012.

Sheryl L. Mueller, '12, of Hillsboro, Mo., married Dustin Lemp on April 3, 2021, at The Artisan at Baetje Farms in Bloomsdale, Mo. Mueller graduated from Maryville with a bachelor's degree in graphic design and is self-employed as a graphic designer.

Eric J. Zluhan, '13, of Chicago, graduated with a Doctor of Philosophy in neuroscience and physiology from SUNY Upstate Medical University in Syracuse, N.Y.

6 Kenneth "Kenny" V. Evischi, '14, of Nashville, Tenn., and his wife, Annie, celebrated the first birthday of their son, Oliver "Ollie" Anthony, on April 24, 2021.



Michael "Mike" Golden, '14, of Hillsboro, Mo., was named vice president of education at Great Circle. He will oversee the educational programs and curriculum standards of eight Great Circle Academy schools throughout Missouri.

Lauralee Gilkey Nelson, '14, '17, of St. Charles, Mo., is the human resources manager at American Optometric Association.



MICHAEL BRAUNFELD, '17, '18

LIFT THAT CUP

BY GABBIE ST. PIERRE

St. Louis native and lifelong Blues hockey fan Michael Braunfeld, '17, '18, didn't ever picture himself cheering for another NHL team. But on September 28, 2020, Braunfeld was celebrating the Tampa Bay Lightning's Stanley Cup victory.

After graduating from Maryville's Rawlings Sport Business Management Program, Braunfeld secured a role as a Partnership Activation Account Executive with the Tampa Bay Lightning. "I'm working in my dream job, and I owe so much of that to Maryville and the sport business management faculty," he said.

His duties include collaborating with the Lightning's corporate partners to find ways to recognize their support of the team including in-game experiences, community programs and signage. But his work changed drastically when the pandemic began. In March of 2020, the NHL suspended all games for a nearly five-month period to help stop the spread of the coronavirus.

No games being played meant most corporate sponsorships had to be put on hold. Even once play resumed in August, no spectators were allowed. This presented a new challenge for Braunfeld and his colleagues, especially as the team entered the playoffs.

"During a time when our fans and our city were most engaged, we had to transition everything to a virtual or socially distanced alternative," Braunfeld said. "It was challenging, but we came up with some really innovative ideas to safely involve the fans." Braunfeld and the Lightning staff hosted a virtual trivia night, a drive-through pep rally, Zoom sessions with Lightning alumni players and socially distant watch parties for their fans and sponsors.

When the Lightning secured the Stanley Cup in game six, they knew the moment couldn't pass uncelebrated. Instead of the traditional parade, the Lightning put a COVID-safe Tampa Bay spin on the celebration: each player floated down the shoreline in a parade of boats as fans looked on from the Riverwalk.

"Winning the Stanley Cup was a dream come true," Braunfeld said. "When anyone goes to work for a professional team, the ultimate goal is to win a championship. To be able to do that just a few years into my career was a tremendous experience." **M**



7 **Jessica McFadden Humphrey, '15, '17, and Casey M. Humphrey, '14**, of St. Louis, welcomed their first child, Henry James, on September 4, 2020. The couple shared, "Henry loves to smile and is growing tall just like his parents. We are blessed to be able to spend so much time together at home this season. Henry has truly been the greatest joy in such a challenging year."

8 **Laura Marley Johnson, '15, '17**, of Breese, Ill., married Chad Johnson on October 24, 2020, in Breese. The couple had a small wedding because of COVID-19, which made the day feel more intimate and special. The couple met through a mutual friend, Amanda Peters Henrich, '15, '17, who was also a member of the wedding party alongside two other Maryville alumnae.



9 **Breann Baker Jones, '15, '20, and Dr. Garrett D. Jones, '15, '17**, both of Austin, Texas, married on October 4, 2020, in Silverthorne, Colo. While the wedding was not what they originally planned, they were delighted with how it turned out. Bree shared, "It really made us focus on what was most important, and I am grateful we were able to enjoy the celebration with our close family and friends."

Nicole Kaltwasser, '15, '17, of Belleville, Ill., announced her engagement to Nick Anthony. The couple met while moving into the same apartment complex. But moving into a new apartment on the same day wasn't the only thing these two had in common: they both graduated from physical therapy school on the same day, passed the Illinois Physical Therapy Licensure Exam on the same day and started work in Peoria, Ill., on the same day. Some will say you can't build a relationship on competition, but sometimes it is the perfect bond; Nick and Nicole have competed against each other in many sports and activities. The couple especially enjoys long bike rides on the same trail where Nick first asked Nicole on a date. The couple plans to wed on July 10, 2021.

Kristen A. Kenney, '15, of St. Louis, received her associateship through the Society of Actuaries in September 2020.

Kavita McCarthy, '15, of St. Charles, Mo., joined E.J. Welch as vice president of marketing in August 2020. In her role, she is responsible for developing a competitive product positioning strategy as well as an integrated digital and marketing strategy.



LaTonia C. Smith, '15, of St. Louis, was appointed provost and vice president of academic affairs at Harris-Stowe State University. In her role, she oversees the university's numerous colleges, the academic resource center, academic success, accreditation, career services, retention and international programs, student support services, university institutes and the university library.

Ronald Henges

1932-2021

The Maryville University community mourns the loss of Ronald Henges, who served as a member of the Maryville University board of trustees, including nine years as chair from 1976 to 1985.

Henges served in the U.S. Army before joining his family's manufacturing business, and then started his own manufacturing business. He then sold to Keene Corporation before buying it back and forming Henges Manufacturing and Henges Associates.

Henges gave his time and efforts generously to many causes. In addition to serving on numerous boards throughout the years, he was a co-founder and chairman emeritus of Enterprise Bank & Trust and the founder of Creve Coeur Camera.

In addition to Henges' philanthropic work in St. Louis, he was a great supporter of Maryville as a board member. He was instrumental in Maryville building its initial endowment and played an important role in the hiring of past Maryville University President Claudius Pritchard, PhD.

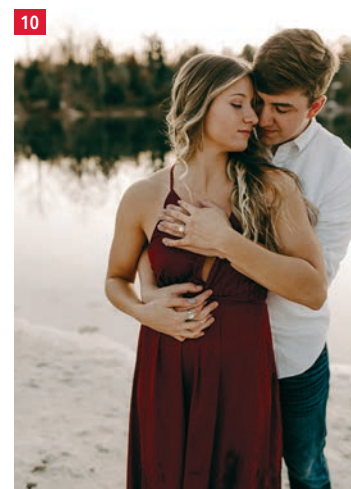
Henges is survived by his wife, children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. **M**



Blair Stabile DePew, '16, accepted a new position as a mother and baby nurse at Mercy Hospital St. Louis. Prior to that, DePew spent five years at The Family Birthplace at St. Joseph's Hospital as a labor and delivery nurse. Her husband, **Kaleb DePew, '15**, also accepted a new position as a program manager at Worldwide Technology. They are both very excited about their new roles.

Kurtis C. Hinderman, '16, of Riverton, Utah, became a family nurse practitioner at Forum Health LLC, in Salt Lake City. Hinderman graduated from Maryville in 2016 with a Master of Science in nursing.

10 **Connor J. Pollmann, '16, '17**, of Mascoutah, Ill., accepted a new position with the state of Missouri in the division of finance as a bank examiner. A month later, he got engaged. Pollmann is excited for the wedding and is looking forward to having a handful of Maryville alumni as groomsmen: **Chance Reuter, '17; Nick Hitpas, '18; and Eric Vandeloo, '18.**



Shruti Desai, '17, of St. Louis, was named associate vice president of student affairs for campus life at Washington University in St. Louis. She began her new role on March 15, 2021, and is helping build a more vibrant and inclusive campus community.

11 **Haley Fatheree Klockenga, '17, and Dr. Hayden T. Klockenga, '17, '19**, of Mount Vernon, Ill., welcomed their first child, Beckham Thomas, on October 4, 2020.



Makesha Harris Lee, '17, of Collinsville, Ill., was named the first director of Southern Illinois University Edwardsville's new CORE T.E.A.M. in the Office of Enrollment Management. CORE T.E.A.M. stands for College Readiness: Transition, Engage, Achieve and Mentor, which supports the school's pre-collegiate programs and partnerships.

Yi Ru, '17, of St. Louis, received her Fellow of the Society of Actuaries in August 2020. She is an assistant actuary at the Reinsurance Group of America, Incorporated.

Melanie A. Self, '17, of St. Louis, became a systems engineer for The Boeing Company in March 2020. She also graduated summa cum laude from Washington University in St. Louis in May 2020, with a Master of Science in aerospace engineering and Bachelor of Science in mechanical engineering. Self attributes her achievements to the Maryville faculty and staff who encouraged her to fulfill her dreams.



STACEY LARSON, '13, '16

GETTING CREATIVE WITH CLAY

BY MAUREEN ZEGEL

Last fall, Parkway South High School art teacher Stacey Larson, '13, '16, was about to begin an all-virtual semester, a first for both teachers and students. She had just received a huge order of clay for her students, who would now be asked to turn the clay into works of art at home.

"I kept telling myself that even if teaching looks totally different, my students will still benefit from this class," she said. "We need to get creative and problem solve."

Unlike other school subjects, ceramics, with its specialized equipment such as pottery wheels and kilns that reach 1,800 degrees, doesn't adapt well to virtual learning. Larson, who also teaches 3D design and sculpture, continued to improvise.

The first week, each student picked up a 25-pound bag of clay and a basic set of tools. "The students were such good sports," she said. "I told them they needed to give their block of clay a personality ... dress it up, give it a name. I needed an activity to break the ice, and they had way more fun with it than I expected."

The Parkway students soon adjusted to Zoom meetings and asking for help through a screen. "Their projects had to be hand-built, and simple," Larson said. "They made mugs, planters, vases. They had to find tools at home like spatulas or credit cards to smooth the clay out. Students used bottles and glass jars to roll clay into a slab. It was wild."

Larson said the problem solving continued throughout the semester, with teachers and students using laptops, iPads and other devices equipped with cameras to teach at one end and learn at the other. Larson said she began to enjoy the changes.

"For the first time I was in the students' homes, seeing how they live and what they have to deal with," she said. "I got to know a different side of my students. I learned the names of their pets, and even got to know siblings."

This semester, everyone has returned to in-person learning at Parkway South.

"My favorite part of teaching is when students are invested in their ideas and bring their own enthusiasm to the room, which was harder for them to convey over Zoom," she said. "Our art department is a home for so many students. I am glad to be back in my room where I can love and support my students better academically and as a whole." **M**



TERRELL MCKINNEY, '14

POWER TO THE PEOPLE

BY DALE SINGER

Ask Terrell McKinney, '14, how his wrestling days at Maryville compare with his current life as a member of the Nebraska Legislature, and his response comes quickly.

McKinney, who graduated from Maryville in 2014 with a degree in sport business management, ended up on campus as a wrestler after transferring in 2011 from the University of Nebraska. He went on to earn a master's degree in business administration from Midland University, worked as a community organizer and is currently a part-time law student at Creighton University. He also coaches high school wrestling.


If that schedule doesn't make him busy enough, McKinney also won election to the Nebraska Legislature in the fall of 2020. At age 30, McKinney is one of only two African American men in the unicameral legislative body, representing District 11 in historic North Omaha.

"Our state legislature has a massive need for more young voices, especially from underserved communities, to give proper attention to 21st century challenges unapologetically," McKinney said.

As he learns how to maneuver through the legislative process, he sees distinct parallels to his wrestling matches. "In wrestling," he explained, "you deal with individuals from all walks of life, so I think I have a better understanding of different individuals, which is great. You have to talk to other senators and build relationships and try to find some commonalities with different districts and try to make it work."

In his successful campaign, McKinney focused on issues like economic equity and opportunity, criminal justice reform, education and access to health care. He also wants to address food insecurity and the situations that result in hunger for many working families.

Coming to Maryville from his native Nebraska, McKinney found that the transition from a large campus to a smaller one required a similar period of adjustment, but he says it definitely was a positive change.

"It was kind of a culture shock," he said. "My time at Maryville helped mold me into the man I am today. I had never lived away from home. I was just learning to grow up and do more things for myself. I enjoyed my time there, and it will always be a part of me." 



Ryan Van Volkenberg, '17, of Lisle, Ill., is a sales supervisor for Reyes Beer Division in the Greater Chicago area.

Daniel "Dan" T. Clerke, '18, is the director of the Maryville Esports Program. Under his leadership, Maryville University was selected as the top College League of Legends team in the ESPN College League of Legends preseason coaches poll. The Saints are the reigning College League of Legends champions and a perennial powerhouse in the collegiate scene.

Nicholas A. Ervin, '18, of Cape Girardeau, Mo., joined the Saint Francis Healthcare System as a nurse with the palliative care program in September 2020.

Dana Liberton, '18, of Ballwin, Mo., accepted a new position as principal of North Kirkwood Middle School. She will begin her new role on July 1, 2021. Liberton is currently the school's assistant principal.

Dr. Kelsey E. Martin, '18, '20, of Ballwin, Mo., is a physical therapist at SSM Health Day Institute in St. Louis. Martin and **Dr. Carter Montgomery, '15, '18**, plan to wed on May 15, 2021.

Dr. Abigail "Abbie" C. Reilly, '18, '20, of Godfrey, Ill., graduated with her Doctor of Physical Therapy in December 2020. She is a physical therapist with Alton Physical Therapy, P.C. at the Alton, Ill., clinic location.

12 Brandi C. Robertson, '18, of St. Charles, Mo., received the DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurses. She is a transport nurse at Ranken Jordan Pediatric Bridge Hospital in Maryland Heights, Mo.

Dr. Steven L. Schahl, '18, '20, of St. Louis, graduated with his Doctor of Physical Therapy in December 2020. He is a physical therapist with Alton Physical Therapy, P.C. at the Litchfield, Ill., and Shelbyville, Ill., clinics.

Ryan S. Shubert, '18, of Ballwin, Mo., earned his FSA credential for Federal Sustainability Accounting Level I and Level II this past year.

Russell S. Susuki, '18, of Maryland Heights, Mo., accepted a position as a marketing associate with Rapsodo, Incorporated.

13 Erin Hollenbeck Thorsen, '18, '19, of O'Fallon, Mo., married **Donald "Donny" Thorsen, '16**, on September 5, 2021, at Bogey Hills Country Club. Several Maryville alumni attended the wedding. Additionally, in November, Erin opened The Learning Experience St. Peters West and is the new child care center director at this location.



Daniel P. Covert, '19, of St. Louis, is a financial advisor with Northwestern Mutual. He enjoys being active by working out at the gym, playing slow-pitch softball and competing in corn hole tournaments.

Brianne "Brie" N. Howerton, '19, of Bradenton, Fla., was awarded the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine-Bradenton Student Doctor of the Year Award. The award honors involvement, leadership, professional contributions and community service. Howerton was nominated by her peers and chosen by a council of faculty and staff. She will go on to compete at the national level for Student Doctor of the Year.

Tyesha L. Joseph, '19, of Baltimore, joined Mercy Personal Physicians at Lutherville as a nurse practitioner in January 2021.

14 Amanda Blanton Manera, '19, and Mark N. Manera, '19, both of St. Louis, married on August 8, 2020, in Breckenridge, Colo. Like many couples, they had to downsize their big day to an intimate wedding. Even though it looked nothing like their original plan, the couple shared that it was still the most perfect day. They are looking forward to having a big celebration with all of their friends and family as planned, just at a later date, once everyone is able to gather again safely.

Shenna M. Woods, '19, of St. Louis, was appointed director of the Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship at Harris-Stowe State University. Woods received her Doctor of Education in higher education leadership from Maryville in 2019.



SCOTT DEGITZ-FRIES, '96, '01

MUSICAL MATH TEACHER

BY GABBIE ST. PIERRE


Last summer, Parkway South High School math teacher Scott Degitz-Fries, '96, '01, began receiving emails from students with lots of questions about what the upcoming school year would look like. "These were students scheduled to take one of my classes for the upcoming school year, reaching out to me in the middle of summer because they were worried about how they could possibly learn calculus over Zoom," Degitz-Fries said.

For the 25-year education veteran, the move to virtual learning felt like learning how to teach from scratch. Knowing the difficulties he and his students had already faced, Degitz-Fries felt he needed to share a message of hope with his students. "I wanted to let them know that no matter when we returned for in-person learning, we can make it through this time together."

To deliver this message, Degitz-Fries turned to one of his signature teaching strategies: singing. With a passion for singing from a young age, Degitz-Fries was inspired by one of his education classes at Maryville to bring singing into his math classes. "I took a course called creative problem solving, and for our final project we had to present on a way to introduce creativity into our teaching," he said. "It was in that class I discovered I could write songs to help students memorize different theorems for my math classes."

His final project featured his first-ever song, "Ice, Ice, Trig Derivatives" set to the tune of Vanilla Ice's "Ice, Ice Baby." The song has been taught to every class Degitz-Fries has taught in his career thus far and he's added around 65 new songs to his classroom repertoire since.

The song he wrote in response to virtual learning was a parody of the song "You'll be Back" from the hit musical "Hamilton." In it, he reassured students that one day they would be together again in person. The lyrics included, "You'll be back, don't you fret. You'll learn lots online, don't stress or sweat."

Degitz-Fries posted the song to his YouTube channel, and it went viral overnight. The video was shared in a variety of local news sources and viewed more than half a million times on Facebook. "The best part of the video's success was knowing that other teachers were using it in their classes to help entertain and reassure their students," he said. 

In Memoriam

1940s

June Marheineke Boettler, '41
Imelda M. "Sissy" Eisenbeis, '47

1950s

Rosemary Holland
Gidionsen, '50
Mary Ann Frenking Everitt, '51
Claire Favrot Killeen, '53
Anita Signorelli Dolan, '56
Marie Therese "Terry"
Hagerty Kellar, '56
Mary Hogan Collins, '57

1960s

Mary Hannigan Fox, '60
Marie "Nini" Pugliesi Galbo, '60
Sally Hannegan Klor, '60
Elizabeth "Ebie" Ryan
McKenzie, '60
Louise Lukens Naumann, '60
Kathleen Entrup Messer, '61
Bette Kuhlman Riopel, '61
Lynette Barclay Welshon, '61
Michele "Shelly" Miralia
Hoffmann, '67
Elizabeth "Betty" Meyer
Henerey, '67
Margaret "Peggy" Helen
Norman, '67
Mary Jo Reilly Essaye, '68
Eileen Ryan Pettus, '68

1970s

Karen Riebold Toth, '77, '92

1980s

Donna Hampton
Rasmussen, '86

1990s

Marion "Butch" R. Mraz, '92
Sherrill Cundiff Voll, '94

2000s

Loretta L. Fermin, '09
Lisa L. Kramer, '16


Dennis Wachtel

1938–2021



The Maryville University community mourns the loss of professor emeritus of history Dennis Wachtel, PhD. Wachtel was a professor in the Social Sciences teaching both psychology and history from 1964 until his retirement in 2017. His remarkable 53 years of service is a tribute to the thousands of Maryville students that he touched and to his commitment to his discipline.

Wachtel was an avid reader of history, passionate about its importance in the full education of Maryville students and all citizens. He took delight from the fact that he was always learning new things about history alongside his students.

In a 2009 interview with Maryville Magazine, Wachtel said: "If you ever came to my house you'd have trouble finding your way to a seat for all the books I have piled up all over the place. Every now and then I think, 'I need to do a course on this.' I've never lost my interest in my discipline, and that keeps you going." 

15 Elizabeth "Betsy" Barton, '20, of St. Louis, got engaged to John Fleming on October 18, 2020, at Tower Grove Park. The couple spent the afternoon celebrating with some of their closest friends.



Alexa L. Burley, '20, of Lothian, Md., joined UM Shore Medical Group Behavioral Health as a nurse practitioner on November 29, 2020.

Diego Coy Caicedo, '20, signed a contract with Aussie FC Soccer. He will play as a defender and midfielder in the 2nd Division in Ecuador.

Kaitlyn "Katie" E. Grunert, '20, of Waukesha, Wis., graduated in December 2020 with a bachelor of science from Maryville University's Rawlings Sport Business Management Program. She accepted a new position as marketing coordinator for SponsorUnited in January 2021.

Michele Kolbasko, '20, of St. Louis, accepted a new position as an underwriter at Reinsurance Group of America, Incorporated (RGA), after graduating from Maryville in May 2020. She worked as an intern at RGA for about a year while completing her Maryville coursework before being hired full time.

Robert K. Payne, '20, of St. Louis, received his Doctor of Education from Maryville in December 2020. Robert is assistant principal at Armstrong Elementary School in the Hazelwood School District.

Tiffany Reed, '20, of Terre Haute, Ind., has been selected as director of the Charles E. Brown African American Cultural Center at Indiana State University.

SHARE YOUR NEWS!

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

maryville.edu/classnotes



SNUGGLE UP: Stuffed penguins kept students company during the cold winter months this semester. Each cozy critter was part of a Stuff-A-Plush kit that included the stuffed animal, stuffing packets and a branded T-shirt to put on the penguin to complete the look. Plush toys like these are proven to reduce stress and anxiety. The kit distribution was sponsored by CONNECT, the Committee on New 'n Existing Campus Traditions.



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Discover the Memories

"Maryville University: 150+ Years" provides a visual history of our beloved institution from its beginnings as a small academy in South St. Louis to a dynamic university in West St. Louis County. The book features stories, photographs and artifacts gathered from the archives and from interviews with hundreds of alumni, faculty and friends of the University. Its pages hold memories from generations of Maryville Saints who have known and loved Maryville in vivid detail.

► For more information,
visit maryville.edu/150.

