



MARYVILLE
M A G A Z I N E

FALL 2021



**TOGETHER
AGAIN**

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ON THE COVER

Campus activities are starting to look and feel like the ones we had before the pandemic. The Maryville community is overjoyed to be back together again in person as #OneTeamOneFamily.



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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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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

This fall, Maryville University came together and ushered in the 2021-22 academic year. With a strong COVID-19 plan in place, crafted by dozens of faculty and staff, a high vaccination rate among our community members and masks at the ready, we began a full collegiate experience once again.

I can say that thus far, students, faculty and staff have embraced being together, peer to peer, colleagues and friends, to provide another chapter of outstanding education within a robust Active Learning Ecosystem. I could not be more proud of this entire community than I am at this moment.

In this issue, you will read about some amazing accomplishments by students, faculty, staff and alumni here on campus and within the broader community. These are achievements that set Maryville University apart as the innovative leader in higher education with a profound commitment to community service, social justice and academic and athletic excellence. You will dive deep into the work of individuals who personify the collective mission and vision of this great University.

As we come out of the final phase of this global pandemic, we remain grateful for our

strong community. Thank you to our health care heroes on the front line, our teachers and first responders who answered a difficult call, our service workers who kept the faith and our faculty who pivoted their pedagogy in creative and insightful ways to deliver excellent education to all of our nearly 11,000 students.

Ultimately, Maryville is leading a revolution in higher education, and we want you to join that effort as we provide greater access and opportunity for students both young and old. Moving forward, we celebrate 150 years of excellence as we look ever forward to decades of future achievement.

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 learning journeys. Be safe and healthy as we emerge from this pandemic.

Warmest regards,

Mark Lombardi, PhD

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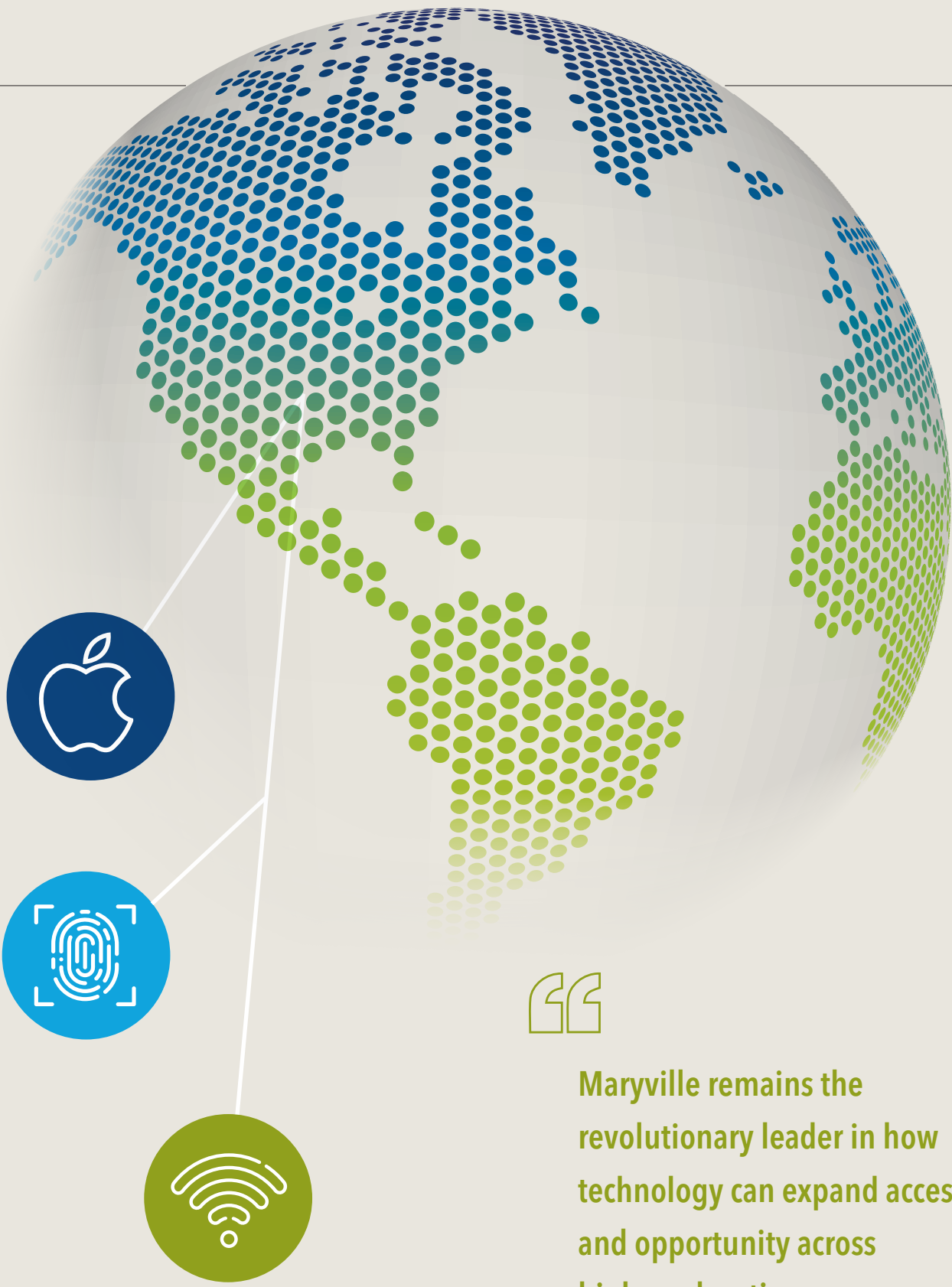
Katie Moses Swope, '97, served as the communications lead for USA Skateboarding as the sport made its Olympic debut in Tokyo.



Maryville Receives Third Apple Distinguished School Recognition


Maryville University has been named an Apple Distinguished School for 2021–2024. This marks an unprecedented third recognition as a center of innovative leadership and educational excellence. The University previously received the recognition in 2016 and 2018. “Maryville remains the revolutionary leader in how technology can expand access and opportunity across higher education,” said Maryville University President Mark Lombardi, PhD. “This generation of students comes to Maryville with a very different skill set, attitude and background than ever before. Our revolutionary model for the future of higher education provides the learning environment, flexibility and career outcomes our students expect.” Apple Distinguished Schools are recognized for personalized learning, fueling creativity, deepening collaboration and a culture of continuous innovation that connects students to the world. Through Maryville’s Digital World initiative, all on-campus undergraduate students and select on-campus graduate students receive a free iPad loaded with

more than 200 free learning apps and digital access to all course materials. Digital World is a new model for higher education — a model focused on learning technology and data analytics to create a student-centered, accessible, affordable, academically rigorous and innovative learning environment. In addition to the Digital World initiative transforming student learning in existing academic programs, Maryville has expanded the curricular offerings to include an iOS App Development minor, designed to be a complement to Digital World and requiring no prior coding experience. Maryville continues to build on the Digital World foundation leveraging the latest technology to modernize student learning, service and engagement. Maryville’s digital identification system, Saints ID, allows students, faculty and staff to leave physical ID cards behind and access campus with just their mobile device. Maryville’s implementation of Wi-Fi 6 uses artificial intelligence and machine learning to transmit data to more devices, faster and with less battery drain. Maryville also provides continuous support for learning space renovations including implementation of enhanced technology solutions. 



“Maryville remains the revolutionary leader in how technology can expand access and opportunity across higher education.”

Enhanced Focus on Mental Health

Learning how to spot challenges that students may be facing in the post-pandemic era is the focus of a new initiative for Maryville faculty and staff. Fifty individuals participated in a recent Mental Health First Aid training. Ashlyn Cunningham, OTD, OTR/L, associate professor of occupational therapy, is a certified instructor for Mental Health First Aid. She obtained a small grant from the Missouri Institute of Mental Health to offer the training. The goal was to equip faculty and staff to become better observers and responders to students in order to be able to spot problems before they become a serious mental health challenge. To help spread the word and the training, Kate Kline, PhD, LPC, CRC, associate professor of rehabilitation counseling, is leading a group of volunteer faculty members in ongoing training in what is known as The Pedagogy of Compassion. There is a great deal of preliminary evidence demonstrating student mental health suffered during the pandemic. The group exists to acknowledge and accept this information and develop active ways to support students. These new initiatives complement existing campus-wide mental health services offered through Maryville’s Counseling Center, including the 24/7 Support Line and digital resources like the Virtual Relaxation Room. 



Go Get 'Em, Saints!

New and returning Saints were excited to be back on campus for the start of the 2021-2022 academic year! Maryville has a lot planned to make this year the best experience for all students. We kicked it off with favorite start-of-school-year events like move-in, orientation, Convening of the Class and taking of the #BigRedM photo on Commencement Lawn. We also celebrated the first-ever joint freshman-sophomore President's Picnic to honor the Classes of 2024 and 2025. We're so excited to be back together in person to celebrate these Maryville traditions. Thanks to our staff and students for all the hard work, and welcome to our newest Maryville Saints! 





M150

Celebrations Begin for Maryville's 150th

Homecoming 2021 was extra special – it was the official kickoff of our yearlong celebration of Maryville's 150th anniversary.

Hundreds of Maryville students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends attended Homecoming 2021 festivities, which kicked off the University's yearlong 150th anniversary celebration.

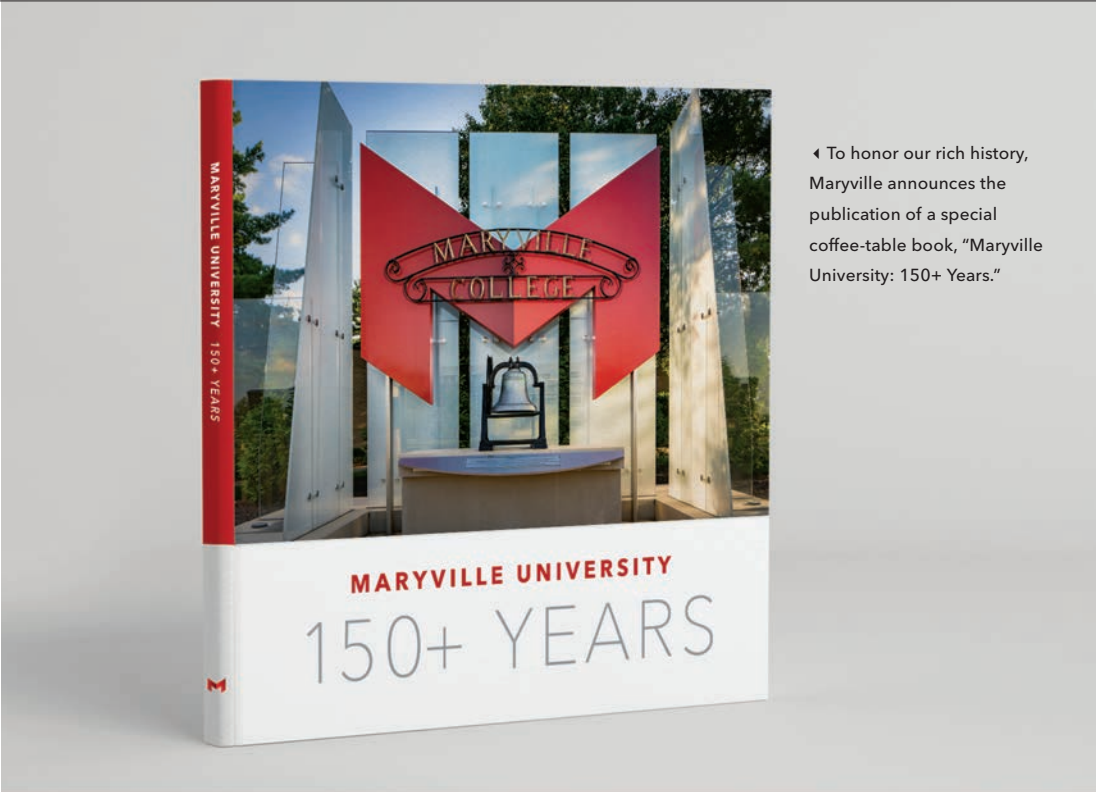
The celebration began with the official book release of "Maryville University: 150+ Years," which is available for purchase through The M Store. The presentation and panel discussion with Editor Marty Parkes; President Mark Lombardi, PhD; and Vice President for Community and Government Relations Laraine Davis, '17 inspired and entertained. They shared behind-the-scenes insights and celebrated the personal stories behind Maryville's significant 150-year milestone.

"We have to understand where we came from to understand where we're going," said President Lombardi. "Innovation is about a vision that we can do better and that we can do more. The Society of the Sacred Heart committed themselves to educating women and the underserved in St. Louis more than 200 years ago, and our commitment to those

principles is still the same. We use different tools, we have different strategies, but it's the same mission. It's our responsibility to look ahead and continue to lead a renaissance in higher education."

Other highlights of Homecoming 2021 included a toast to the Classes of 2020 and 2021. This special event honored those alumni whose entrances into the Maryville alumni community were affected by the pandemic. The next day, Golden Circle classmates, those who graduated 50 years ago or prior, gathered for a luncheon and honored the Classes of 1970 and 1971, the newest members of the Golden Circle.

Community members also enjoyed a drive-in movie night at the Chesterfield Mall parking lot to watch "Field of Dreams." The festivities concluded with the second annual Go the Distance 5k race, which was completed virtually and in person through Maryville's campus, with racers crossing the finish line into the Homecoming Tailgate featuring drinks, games and food trucks leading up to the men's and women's soccer games. **M**



◀ To honor our rich history, Maryville announces the publication of a special coffee-table book, "Maryville University: 150+ Years."



Show Your Spirit

Share your Maryville spirit with exclusive 150th anniversary merchandise. All apparel, gifts and accessories are available for purchase through The M Store on campus or online.



Save the date!

Athletics Alumni Weekend February 24-27, 2022

From cricket, field hockey and badminton to wrestling, lacrosse and esports – Maryville's Department of Athletics and Recreation has come a long way! Help us celebrate athletic achievements past and present.

Maryville Day April 22, 2022

Think of Maryville Day like a giant birthday party! Gander Quad will be filled with food trucks, games, live music and fun giveaways. The Maryville Alumni team will celebrate with the second annual Maryville Giving Day, full of social media challenges, virtual activities and alumni stories.

150th Anniversary Bash Fall 2022

We hope you'll join us for our 150th Anniversary Bash as we close out our yearlong celebration. The party is so big, we need the entire campus for it! Explore different eras of Maryville history across campus. Check out our interactive stations, enjoy live music and look to the skies for our drone show.

For more information, visit maryville.edu/150.

**MARYVILLEWORKS
PARTNERS WITH
KEELEY COMPANIES**

Maryville is developing the workforce of the future through a new partnership with Keeley Companies.

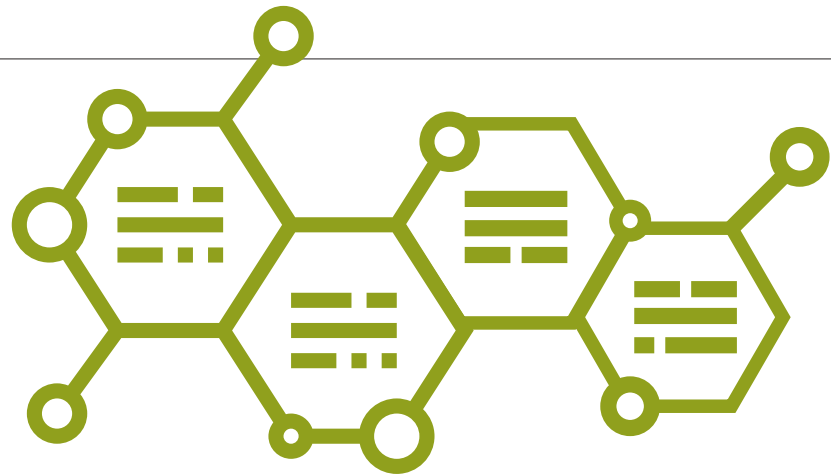
The partnership expands and creates opportunities for Keeley Companies team members — called Keeley’ns — to further their education and learn new skills. Keeley Companies has experienced tremendous growth in recent years and needed a fast solution to help team members obtain the necessary training to rise to today’s challenges and tomorrow’s opportunities.

Together with Maryville, modules were developed to upskill Keeley’ns in areas such as leadership and business acumen. The program includes a new, best-in-class learning management system that will allow Keeley’ns to access hundreds of courses at any time, regardless of location.

Additionally, a new Executives in Residence Program will provide Maryville students with the opportunity to hear from Keeley Companies leaders as they speak on a wide range of business and leadership topics. These guest speakers will allow for networking opportunities for Maryville students seeking internships or entering the workforce. **M**



MARYVILLEWORKS™



Empowering East St. Louis Students

A new collaboration introduces STEM career fields and encourages elementary students to explore them.

The Jackie Joyner-Kersey Foundation, Maryville University and the Regions Foundation announced a new partnership that will provide STEM educational programming for elementary school students in the Greater East St. Louis area.

Supported by a \$100,000 contribution from the Regions Foundation, the JJK Center Elementary Learning Program will launch this fall. The program will build on a collaboration between the Jackie Joyner-Kersey Center and Maryville University’s Center for Access and Achievement.

Already, the collaboration supports high-need high school districts and nonprofits by equipping students with skills to succeed in STEM fields in college and their future careers. The new partnership will expand the program’s reach to serve elementary-aged students as well.

The Regions Foundation contribution will fund teacher training and STEM materials for the program. In addition, the funding will support family engagement workshops to facilitate remote learning, as well as after-school and summer classes.

“This is a great opportunity for youth at the Jackie Joyner-Kersey Center to learn about the importance of STEM education at an early age,” said Joyner-Kersey. “Our mission is to instill youth with the dream, drive and determination necessary to succeed in academics, athletics and leadership. This initiative will greatly assist us in the fulfillment of guiding youth toward academic success, and I am grateful to be a part of such an empowering endeavor.”

Reaching and serving students who may not otherwise receive the opportunity to experience STEM education and the lasting impacts it provides were key factors in the Regions Foundation pledging its support.

“This program is especially important because it introduces the world of STEM to children at such an early age,” said Marta Self, executive director of the Regions Foundation. “We’re opening the door for younger children to begin exploring possibilities they may have never considered and encouraging them to dream now about what their future can be and prepare for it.” **M**



Emerging Careers of the Future

With huge growth projected across most computer science fields, Maryville’s new tech-focused certificates are a quick and convenient way for students to build the skills and knowledge these future-forward industries require.

Maryville University introduced new technology-centered online certificate programs to help students prepare for some of the most in-demand and lucrative career opportunities on the market. These standalone credentials represent a parallel path for students who aren’t seeking a full college degree but want to advance in their careers.

“We’ve spoken with employers and employees across industries, and it’s clear that the workforce is changing,” said Jennifer Yukna, PhD, dean for the College of Arts and Sciences. “People hoping to grow professionally, or shift careers entirely, need more options to help them build skills to keep up and become job-ready, quickly.”

Designed with input from employers in the field and taught by experienced practitioners, the new certificate programs

aim to get students career-ready so they can take advantage of the many opportunities in the growing field.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment in fields related to computer science is projected to grow 11% between 2019 and 2029 — nearly three times the average growth projected across all industries.

“We have always understood that education isn’t one-size-fits-all,” said Katherine Louthan, dean for the School of Adult and Online Education. “Different students have different circumstances and considerations, and Maryville is committed to being as inclusive and accommodating as possible. Our certificate programs underscore that mission, serving as alternative paths to meet learners where they are — and help them reach their career goals.” **M**

TECH-CENTERED CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

There are seven certificates available for students seeking college credit. These certificates require fewer credits and take less time to complete than degree programs.

Bachelor’s Level (college credit)

- ▶ Artificial Intelligence
- ▶ Cybersecurity
- ▶ Data Science
- ▶ Software Development
- ▶ User Experience/User Interface (UX/UI)

Post-Baccalaureate Level (college credit)


- ▶ Big Data
- ▶ Machine Learning



NEWS OF NOTE

Kids Rock Cancer, Maryville's innovative music therapy program, is making a name for itself in a new avenue: research. Recently, Kids Rock Cancer presented at a national conference focused on sickle cell disease, and the findings were published in the Journal of Sickle Cell Disease and Hemoglobinopathies, the only sickle cell journal in the world.

"Not enough research has been done with pediatric cancer and blood disorders in regards to therapeutic songwriting, especially among patients living with sickle cell disease," said Tracie Sandheinrich, MA, PLPC, MT-BC, senior music therapist for Kids Rock Cancer. "We're really on the forefront of sharing new knowledge and insight that helps music therapists and other members of the care team so they truly understand the clinical benefit of music therapy in treating children facing the challenges of cancer and blood disorders."

Next up, Kids Rock Cancer is authoring a chapter in the book "Trauma-Informed Practice in Music Therapy: A Clinician's Guide," which is being edited by Laura Beer, PhD, MT-BC, director of Maryville's Music Therapy Program. Thank you to the Kids Rock Cancer team and supporters who made these projects possible. 


Calling All Girls to STEM

As part of Maryville's Tech Bar initiative, students working in the state-of-the-art Cyber Fusion Center delivered 30 refurbished computers to Girls Inc. of St. Louis.

The computers were given to middle school girls who needed the devices to complete learning at home. Many of these girls do not have access to computers and use mobile phones or tablets to complete schoolwork and extracurricular activities. This is especially true during the summer-time when computers previously provided by school districts must be returned.


"These students come from underserved communities that have lacked access to

resources for decades," said Cyber Fusion Center Manager Sean Kilfoy. "Bringing this technology into their homes is something that can really change their lives. I believe it's my calling to introduce young people to technology and support and empower them in the field of cybersecurity."

In addition, Maryville cybersecurity faculty participated in the Girls Inc. Eureka! summer program. They shared cybersecurity demonstrations and helped the girls complete basic hacking exercises. Maryville also hosted a panel of cybersecurity students and alumni and a second panel of industry experts to introduce the girls to emerging careers in technology. 




TAKE ME BACK TO THE BALLGAME:

The Maryville community cheered on the St. Louis Cardinals from a special section in Busch Stadium on September 28. Tickets were reserved for students, faculty and staff who submitted proof of their COVID-19 vaccinations. Those fully vaccinated individuals also received limited edition tie-dye T-shirts featuring #TheBigRedM. With a 6-2 win over the Milwaukee Brewers, the Cardinals set a franchise record with their 17th straight win. The historic streak helped the Cardinals punch their postseason ticket. 



DISRUPTIVE REVOLUTION

Maryville announces the publication of a new book, "Disrupter," which profiles the University's rise to national prominence. This uniquely comprehensive and compelling account describes the trailblazing path that Maryville took to emerge as one of the top universities in the country, under the visionary leadership of President Mark Lombardi, PhD, and a dynamic team of faculty and staff. The book reveals the challenges of higher education and serves as an inspiration to other institutions looking to find success. 

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CHAMPION FOR DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Senior Advisor for Access and Opportunity Turan Mullins, '17, is truly championing the cause of making St. Louis a more inclusive place to live and work.

In honor of his leadership, Mullins was named an honoree for the 2021 St. Louis Business Journal Champions of Diversity and Inclusion awards program.

“To be recognized among other significant community leaders is a great feeling,” Mullins said. “This award recognizes all the work I’ve done over the past 12 years to build a diverse and inclusive learning environment at Maryville. I appreciate the opportunity to look back and celebrate the great work we’ve done and the lives we have changed.”

Mullins has dedicated his entire career to access and opportunity in education, serving in various roles in higher education and through his private consulting services.

At Maryville, Mullins provides thought leadership to promote a culture of inclusion. He develops, implements and assesses initiatives that create a more inclusive and socially just campus. **M**



LET’S GET LOUD: The Dawg Pound is a spirit club dedicated to cheering on the Maryville Saints at every home game. For its first event of the year, students donned beach wear and Hawaiian shirts for a tailgate at Saints Pavilion before a men’s soccer game. Another tailgate was held for the first puck drop of the year at the Maryville University Hockey Center as the Saints battled the Alabama Crimson Tide, with a theme encouraging students to wear all black. Go Saints! **M**

Assistant Professor of Mathematics **SHARMILA SIVALINGAM, EDD**, authored the article “Designing and Developing an Online Math Course,” which was published in the Journal of Mathematics and Statistical Science.



Adjunct Professor of Communication **POSY LOU DURR** served as a balance beam timing judge at the U.S. Olympic Gymnastics team trials at the Dome at the America’s Center in St. Louis.

Director of the rehabilitation counseling program and professor of rehabilitation counseling **MICHAEL KIENER, PHD**, was featured in the “Ask an Expert” series by Masters in Social Work Online.



Assistant Professor of Nursing **CAROL BERGER, DNP, APRN, FNP-C**, was featured by St. Louis Public Radio about a new documentary highlighting disparities in dental care for children in rural Missouri.

Director of Esports **DAN CLERKE, '18**, was featured by KSDK for his role assisting with the inaugural Gateway Legends Collegiate Invitational, the first esports tournament of its kind in St. Louis.



Director of the Walker Scottish Rite Clinic **JACOB GUTSHALL, MHS, CCC-SLP**, has provided a national thought leadership role for how to best use emerging technology in speech-language therapy practice.

Women’s soccer head coach **LORI CHALUPNY LAWSON**, World Cup champion and Olympic gold medalist, was featured by KSDK about her mission to further grow the sport of soccer in her hometown, St. Louis.



Associate Professor of Communication **LEILANI CARVER-MADALON, PHD**, was named one of the Missouri Athletic Club’s Women of Distinction for 2021. The award honors female professionals in the St. Louis community.

Chief Technology Officer **DOUG GLAZE** was featured by Government Technology for his expertise regarding Maryville’s multi-phased project to collect and analyze data to improve student outcomes.



Institutional Equity Officer **PORTIA BRITT** received the 2021 Missouri Lawyers Media Up & Coming Award for making a positive impact on the Maryville campus and in the community.



MUSIC FROM THE HEART

From singing as a child to pursuing graduate studies in music therapy at Maryville, Alayna Epps' story of how she wants to heal others through music is inspiring.

BY TIM FOX

For nearly 50 years, Maryville University's Music Therapy Program has trained students to help people through music. And for music therapy graduate student Alayna Epps, serving others through music is the melody of her life.

"I call my dream an 'Arts Gym,' a place where you can work through your problems using whatever medium speaks to you, whether writing, theater, dance, music — whatever!" Epps said. "I've always loved helping people, I have a very service-oriented heart and music has always been an important part of my life. So, creating a career that is service-oriented and involves music is the perfect thing."

Epps grew up performing. Her childhood was filled with singing in church choirs, taking dance lessons and participating in school glee clubs. While earning her bachelor's degree at the University of Missouri-St. Louis (UMSL), she was a member of the UMSL Gospel Choir and the University Singers concert choir.

For two years, she served as an intern for Creative Music Making, a collaborative project between Maryville University, the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra and the St. Louis Arc that empowers adults with disabilities to conceive, rehearse and perform their very own concert.

"Creative Music Making exposes people with disabilities to classical music and gets them involved with playing instruments themselves," Epps said. "It was amazing to see music therapy in action. After that, it's

been door after door opening to help me really discover what I wanted to do and how I was going to do it."

During Creative Music Making rehearsals and the final performance, Epps had the opportunity to work closely with her now-advisor Laura Beer, PhD, MT-BC, director of Maryville's Music Therapy Program. Epps was surprised to find Beer reaching out to her even before she had been accepted into Maryville's Music Therapy Program.

"Dr. Beer would ask me about my upcoming performances and my ideas," Epps said. "Like everyone at Maryville, she's been very welcoming, and the campus feels very close-knit. And the Maryville students I worked with through Creative Music Making were so genuine and confident in their musicianship that it made everyone feel comfortable. It was inspiring to see that."

Beer remembers meeting Epps for the first time and recognizing her talent straight away. "I was struck by her musicality, her enthusiasm and her willingness to help wherever help was needed," Beer said. "Her passion for being a force of positive change in the world is remarkable. Alayna's kind presence and commitment to social justice resonate with me as well our program philosophy. I can't wait to see what she will contribute to Maryville and the St. Louis community as a music therapist!"


Epps recently began her second year as a St. Louis Symphony Orchestra (SLSO) IN UNISON Scholar. The program provides scholarships for African Americans who are studying in a music-related field in greater

St. Louis. IN UNISON Scholars receive mentoring from SLSO staff and musicians and have the opportunity to participate in other events and partnerships.

Though Epps' primary instrument is her voice, she also plays piano and is learning to play "Josephine," her guitar. Meanwhile, in addition to getting closer to her dream of building the Arts Gym, she has eagerly dived into her coursework at Maryville.

"I haven't been this inspired by my curricula in a minute!" said Epps, who earned a Bachelor of Arts in Music from UMSL, with a Degree of Distinction in Creativity in the Arts. "I felt like, 'Oh gosh, I could take this, and this and this.' It's very exciting!"

However, as exciting as Epps finds her Maryville music therapy classes, achieving her dream is what drives her the most. She's grateful for the support she's received from the Maryville community, including her mentor, Stephanie Holly, '18. Holly founded Little Beats LLC after graduating from Maryville to help new and expectant parents and is committed to making music therapy available to all. Holly's expertise will guide Epps on her journey forward.

"Everyone needs a space safe place, and I believe music is the way to get to most people's safe places," Epps said. "Music just transcends everything. It has no boundary. It can break through and unify people. So, why not use music to create a safe place for everyone — a place where music just lives and thrives and unifies?" 



STAY CONNECTED. maryville.edu/magazine

BUILDING BLOCKS FOR SUCCESS

The popular video game Minecraft is helping Maryville software development students to approximate in-person learning in a virtual world. | BY NANCY FOWLER

Mike Lavella, adjunct professor of management information systems, has been teaching Agile Methodology online for two years. A key component of the agile approach is face-to-face collaboration. “Obviously, in an online classroom, that’s a challenge,” Lavella said.

To foster the feeling of an up-close experience, students meet up in Minecraft, a video game in which players use building blocks to create structures. “It just makes sense; it’s a good fit,” Lavella said.

Agile methodology is an iterative process, or one that repeats a sequence of operations. Using agile methodology, software developers divide bigger jobs into smaller tasks.

“I can compare it to the Ford production line, which was used to help increase the efficiency of making automobiles,” Lavella said.

Tech giants Microsoft and Google use agile methodology, which Lavella says has many advantages over the older “waterfall” model. Through the waterfall model, software developers build applications with no client feedback for many months. Because stakeholders weigh in so late in the process, making adjustments can be difficult. But with the agile approach, developers work in two-week cycles, also known as sprints, soliciting input between each one.

“If there are any changes needed, they can be adapted very easily,” Lavella said. “This can greatly reduce the amount of time it takes to complete a successful product.”

In keeping with the agile process, Lavella’s class begins with a discussion of “user stories.” These stories include a specific goal such as “I want to exempt certain folders from backup so my backup drive isn’t filled with things I don’t need saved.” The class divides into four- or five-person teams to shepherd different user stories through four processes: design, development, testing and evaluation.

Minecraft comes into play during the last few weeks of class when students participate in a final, more practical project such as designing an office building or swimming pool. Teams define the tasks required for their projects and then come together in Minecraft to construct them in a three-dimensional space.

“This is intended to be a fun team-building exercise where students can apply agile-based methodologies while collaborating within a virtual world,” Lavella said.

Lavella is a full-time software developer with PSI, a testing technology firm. He uses agile methodologies in his work and brings that knowledge into his classroom. In 2013, he learned agile on the job when his former employer, PNC Bank, switched from waterfall.

Maryville University prides itself on hiring instructors with real-world, professional experience, according to Lavella.

“Students enjoy learning how companies manage their software development processes utilizing the agile methodology,” Lavella said. “This hands-on learning helps them be prepared to enter the field after graduation.”


Some of Lavella’s students already work in this professional arena using agile whereas

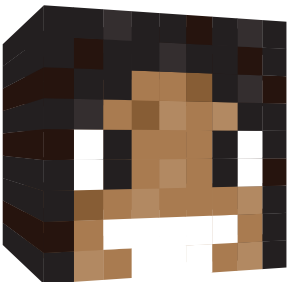
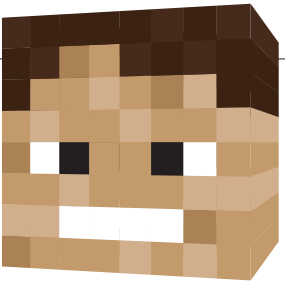
others encounter it for the first time in his class. His students also vary greatly in their familiarity with Minecraft. This diversity of experience dovetails nicely with a core tenet of agile methodology in which more experienced developers help others become better acquainted with a concept. “So that’s really cool,” Lavella said.

When Lavella began teaching the Agile Methodology class, the previous instructor had already incorporated Minecraft into the curriculum. At the time, Lavella barely knew what it was.

“My only other exposure to the game was that my son used to play it when he was a little younger,” Lavella said.

But Lavella was quickly sold on the idea of using Minecraft and believes the concept is unusual in teaching the agile process.

“It’s really a fun and interactive way for students to engage with each other,” Lavella said. 





THE SHOW MUST GO ON

Following his cancer diagnosis, the St. Louis community rallied around radio personality Jeff Burton, raising thousands of dollars in his honor for Kids Rock Cancer, Maryville's innovative music therapy program. | BY JUDY R. GOODMAN



An avid outdoorsman, radio personality Jeff Burton was responsible about getting regular medical checkups. In March 2021, he felt fine. He did not know his world was about to change.

"I was hiking in the woods when I received the call about my alarming PSA test," Burton said. "We all thought this was a false negative, but after a couple of repeated blood draws, it became apparent that something was very wrong."

Doctors found a cancerous tumor in his prostate. Chemotherapy treatment began immediately and, by day 14, Burton started noticing hair on the shower floor.

"I realized that hair loss was real, even for a bearded, hairy guy like me," he said. "I never had a single symptom and almost didn't believe the diagnosis. It's still strange to say out loud that I have cancer."

Burton is a key member of The Rizzuto Show on 105.7 The Point, the top-rated morning show in St. Louis. Since being introduced in 2014, The Rizzuto Show has gained a huge following, won numerous awards and dominated ratings in the region.

Because Burton is such a visible person, he needed to figure out how to best address his diagnosis with the public. Being the upbeat and community-oriented person he is, Burton worked with The Point's promotional team on creative ways to transform his diagnosis into something good. What resulted was a campaign that raised thousands of dollars



“I just don’t want any little kid’s soul to be broken, and that’s why I think Kids Rock Cancer is amazing,” Burton said. “Everyone is committed to doing something positive for these kids, and I’m all-in to help. To see the rock stars’ faces when they get up and sing in front of their family, and folks who they don’t even know but are cheering for them, is incredibly rewarding.”

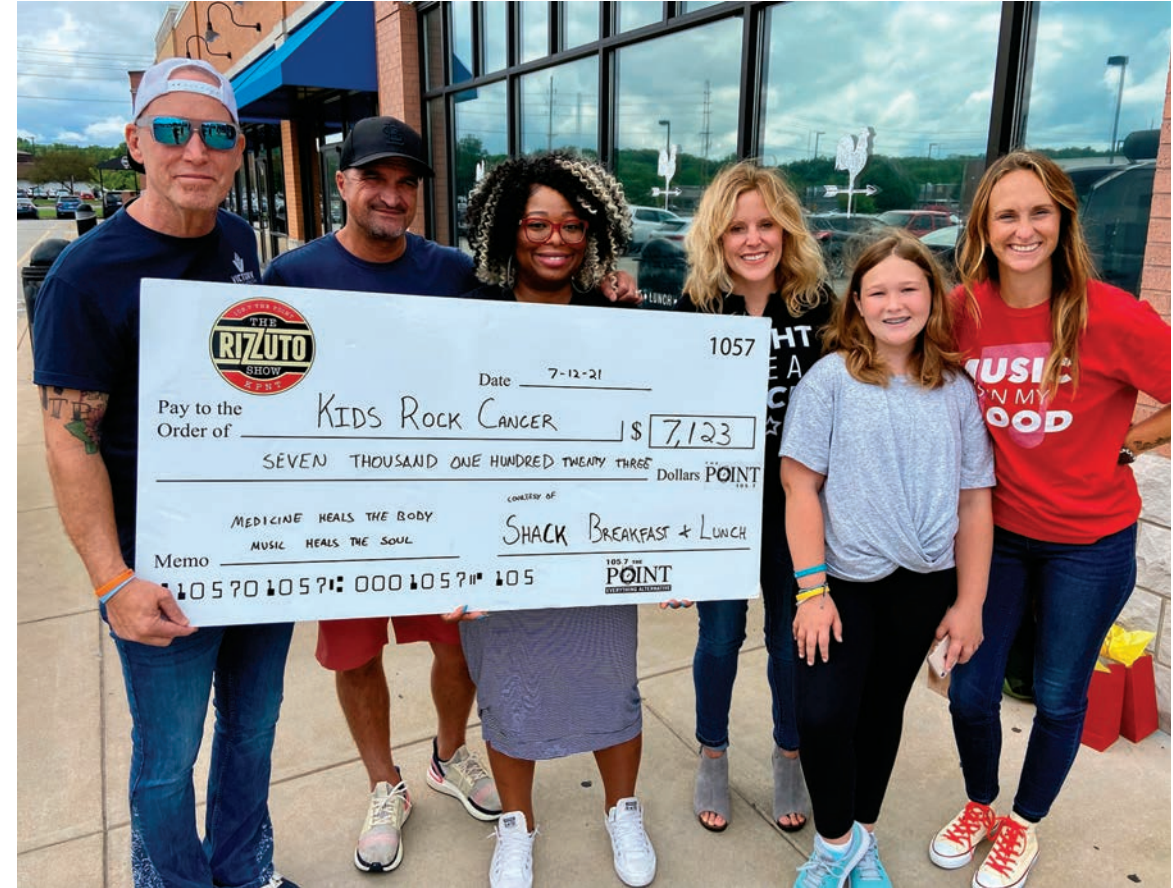
The Rizzuto Show and Kids Rock Cancer initially developed a partnership in 2017 when the radio show held its inaugural “Eat and Treat” at the Chesterfield Amphitheater, with proceeds benefiting Kids Rock Cancer. The family-friendly event featured food trucks and activities like a dunk tank and trick-or-treating. Kids Rock Cancer rock stars were invited to perform their original songs.

In 2020, when the “Eat and Treat” event was canceled because of the pandemic, The Rizzuto Show instead raised funds for Kids Rock Cancer through a monthlong virtual campaign that included hosting a livestream overnight lock-in at Bass Pro Shops.

During the pandemic, Kids Rock Cancer was nimble in pivoting to connect with patients and their families for services. Since music therapists were no longer able to meet in person in hospital rooms, Kids Rock Cancer introduced the virtual “Couch Series” on Facebook. The series featured new and pre-recorded songs and special guests, including members of The Rizzuto Show.

Another partner, The LIGHT Foundation, stepped up to provide Kids Rock Cancer with a safe, brand-new state-of-the-art recording studio. Not only was the “Couch Series” recorded in the studio, but Kids Rock Cancer music therapists also used the space to help patients outside the hospital express their feelings and produce original songs.

These young people could also join the music therapists to “jam with the band” for recording sessions through yet another partnership, this time with the STL Rock School. These jam sessions created memorable and joyous experiences for patients and families.



◀ The Rizzuto Show on 105.7 The Point is a longstanding supporter of Kids Rock Cancer. When Team Rizz member Jeff Burton was diagnosed with cancer, he found a creative way to turn his diagnosis into something good. The radio show launched “The Man of Many Hats” campaign to raise funds for Kids Rock Cancer, with The Shack Breakfast & Lunch donating \$1 for every pancake flipped until Burton completed chemotherapy – with help from St. Louis Blues superfan Laila Anderson.

for Kids Rock Cancer, Maryville’s innovative music therapy program, which brings the healing power of music therapy to children and teens whose lives are affected by cancer or blood-related illness.

When Burton began chemotherapy in April 2021, he started wearing his own hats as he began to lose hair. It occurred to him that if someone wanted to pay him to wear their business or organization hat during The Rizzuto Show, money could be raised for Kids Rock Cancer. Burton soon became known as “The Man of Many Hats.” The campaign was a huge success, with Burton wearing a different hat sponsored by an area business each week.

Another popular St. Louis brand also joined the fun. The Shack Breakfast & Lunch launched its “Flip Off Cancer” campaign with the restaurant donating \$1 for every pancake flipped to Kids Rock Cancer until Burton completed his chemotherapy. The campaign featured St. Louis Blues superfan Laila

Anderson, who enjoyed a stack of pancakes while “flipping off cancer.”

Burton is described by his team as humble and in great spirits all the time, even throughout this ordeal. He knows he has a platform and an audience, and he aims to use it to help others. He emphasizes that he recognizes the entire team at 105.7 The Point and all the local businesses who worked together to create this movement.

“I felt people were behind me in doing this, and it means so much to me that we’re making a difference for Kids Rock Cancer,” Burton said. “I know how kids can be cruel. I was diagnosed with Crohn’s disease at the age of 11, had to take lots of pills, wear a colostomy bag and was often hospitalized. It was a brutal time for me.”

Burton recognizes that it’s much harder for children today because of social media. If they are stuck in a hospital bed, searching Instagram and Snapchat, it appears that everyone else is having fun and they feel left out.

Kids Rock Cancer also took on a national leadership role during the pandemic in reporting its ongoing research that underscores the value and benefits of music therapy for Kids Rock Cancer participants living with cancer and/or sickle cell disease. The research was presented at a national conference, featured in a medical journal and will soon be published in a book about trauma-informed practice in music therapy.

As of Fall 2021, the campaigns supporting Kids Rock Cancer in honor of Burton’s cancer battle had raised more than \$70,000. And, the fundraising continues. The Rizzuto Show boasts an ever-growing group of hardcore fans who want to give back.

“We are truly fortunate to partner with The Rizzuto Show,” said Ebonee Shaw, director

of development at Maryville University. “We feel indebted to Jeff and the entire radio team for their kindness and support of Kids Rock Cancer. We would not be serving so many hurting children and families without their generosity.

“Now, more than ever, families in our community face increasingly difficult health decisions and challenges. Children who are managing the life-changing effects of a cancer or blood-related illness diagnosis need a safe space to express themselves. We are proud to help children find their inner strength and joy through the power of music.” 🎸



THE HIDDEN HOMELESS



Maryville University is helping transform the lives of homeless families in St. Louis by providing crucial occupational therapy services.

BY CONSTANCE GIBBS

Homeless families are often invisible. They live in cars, hotels or doubled up with family or friends. More than 1,000 St. Louis families enter emergency shelters each year due to a growing shortage of affordable rental housing and simultaneous increase in poverty. The pandemic has only made the homelessness crisis worse.

Maryville University occupational therapy students are helping stabilize homeless families in crisis through their work with Humanitri. The St. Louis organization provides families with temporary housing, a support network and the resources and skills needed to establish sustainable life change.

Maryville students first began working with Humanitri in the spring of 2020, before the onset of the pandemic. A small group was tasked with creating a program for middle-school-aged children that mirrored Humanitri's parent program. Named Together Achieving Goals (TAG), the Maryville students created lessons and activities in the areas of household management, financial management and personal responsibility.

“WATCHING THESE STUDENTS
BRING **HELP AND HOPE** TO
OUR FAMILIES IN THE MIDST
OF A GLOBAL PANDEMIC
WAS **INSPIRING.**”



One TAG activity taught children about financial management by having them build three coin banks out of cardstock and tape, and then labeling them save, share or spend. The activity helped children understand that they can make choices with their money and the importance of saving for the future.

“We’ve long recognized the need for a structured program geared toward the children in our families, and it’s exciting to see it become a reality,” said Humanitri Interim Executive Director Lorri Holtgrieve. “The program is important because it shows these children that the cycle of poverty can be broken and there is more to life than mere survival.”

As the Maryville students concluded their work on the TAG program, the COVID-19 pandemic hit St. Louis full force. Health care facilities and other area agencies started limiting the number of volunteers and guests allowed. Stay-at-home orders were issued. Opportunities for occupational therapy fieldwork, a degree requirement for the Maryville students, quickly vanished.

After learning her initial fieldwork placement was canceled, Lori Dalton, ’17, ’20, worried she wouldn’t be able to graduate on time. So she took matters into her own hands to secure a new fieldwork placement.

“We were literally finishing our TAG presentation on Zoom when I threw out, ‘Don’t you think Humanitri could use me right now?’” Dalton said. Associate Professor of Occupational Therapy Ashlyn Cunningham, OTD, OTR/L, ran with the idea and made it happen.” Cunningham was keenly aware of the pandemic’s impact on homeless families through her role as president of the Humanitri board of directors.

“Our families were missing a lot of connection and fellowship because the Humanitri staff was not medically trained and was unable to conduct home visits at the time,” Cunningham said. “But our Maryville occupational therapy students had that training and could start meeting with families face-to-face right away. It was a really proud moment.”

In the months following, Dalton traveled around St. Louis to meet with families. It

became clear that families needed immediate help with distance learning and the technology it required.

This included setting up internet access through Hotspots and navigating logging into virtual classrooms. She helped families create dedicated schoolwork spaces and organize calendars so they could remember what times virtual classes took place and when assignments were due.

“Some of the children were missing days and days of school because they didn’t know how to do virtual learning,” Dalton said. “And a lot of these children were already delayed. I knew I had to help them so they wouldn’t continue to fall further behind.”

This meant providing services normally provided by school-based occupational therapists, like teaching children how to behave appropriately in class. Dalton spent many hours sitting with students during virtual classes, helping with homework and participating in Zoom meetings with teachers and educational specialists.

Other times, Dalton was able to facilitate more traditional occupational therapy practices with the parents and children. Her favorite activity was bringing posterboard, magazines, glue sticks and scissors to create vision boards.

“One little boy cut out a car and I asked him why. He said he wanted to buy his own car one day,” Dalton said. “I love that the vision boards help them think about the future and make goals for what they want in life.”

In the fall of 2020, Myranda Stewart, ’21, became the second Maryville student to complete her occupational therapy fieldwork with Humanitri. Stewart continued in-person home visits and spent her time focusing on holistic interventions to help parents and families achieve their goals.

“I like working with people to help them learn how to cope with their feelings and find effective ways to communicate,” she said. “A lot of parents in Humanitri have been diagnosed with depression or other mental health conditions. I taught them how to use strategies like journaling, meditation and deep breathing to help ground them. I spent time teaching children basic yoga poses to help them learn how to calm their



◀ This page and opposite page: Maryville occupational therapy students helped create a children’s program for homeless families in St. Louis. The children learn critical life skills, like smart money habits, while having fun. Early intervention efforts like these are proven to mitigate the effects of homelessness on children and youth.

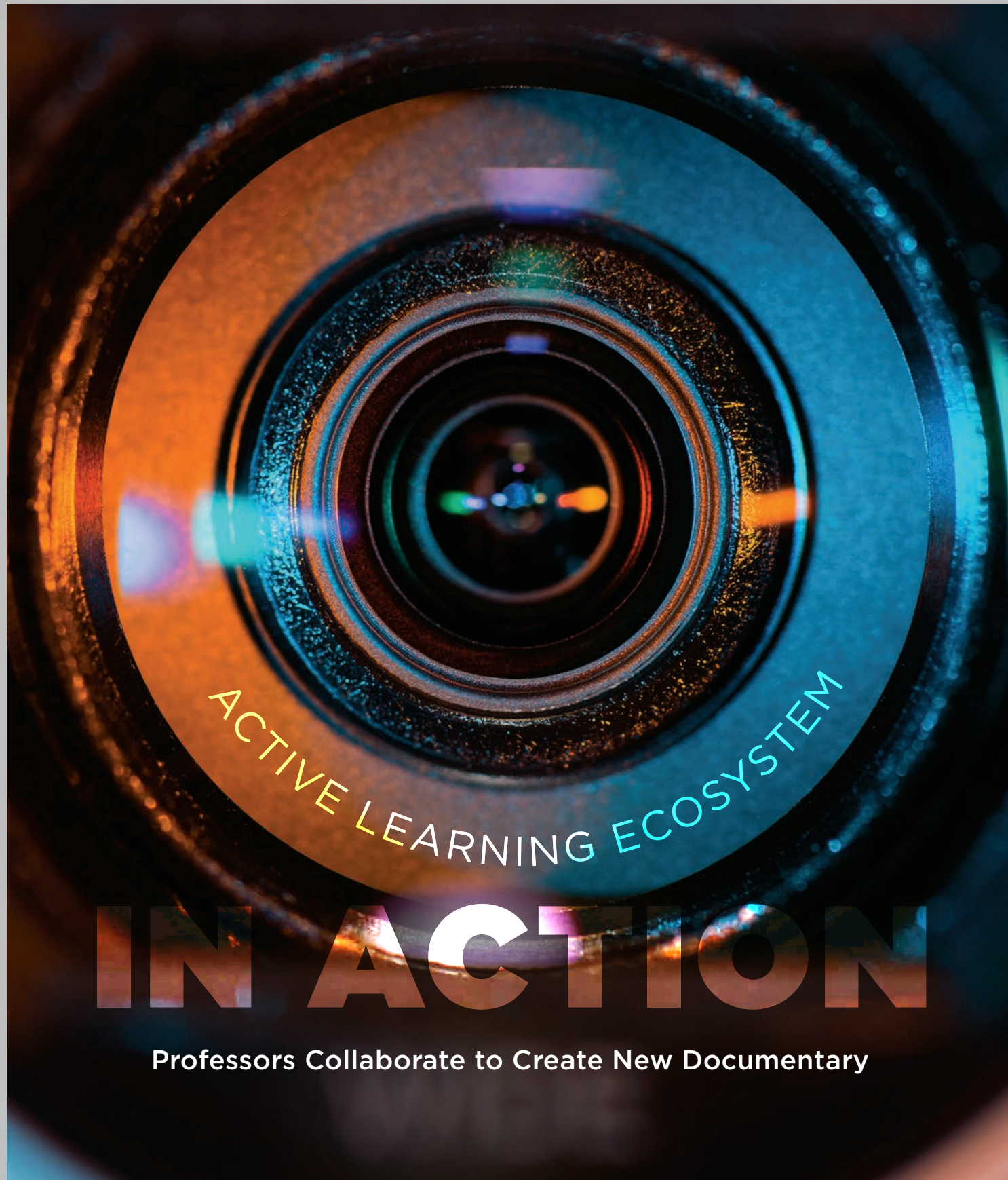
bodies and get in the right mindset to kick off virtual school or to burn off energy during homework breaks.”

Stewart also brought expertise regarding feeding, safe sleep and developmental milestones from her experience in the neonatal intensive care unit. “I tried to instill confidence in the parents that they know what’s best for their children, while also sharing how they could keep their children safe,” Stewart said. “It was really cool to see those things click for the families, and for me to learn new ways to communicate and share ideas.”

Earlier this year, Stewart was hired by Humanitri to serve as their first-ever child and youth specialist-occupational therapist. Her new role brings the Maryville relationship full circle; among other duties, she is tasked with implementing the TAG program through in-person visits and

independent learning via Google Classroom across expanded age groups.

“Humanitri benefited immensely from the Maryville partnership during a critical time in our history,” Holtgrieve said. “Watching these students bring help and hope to our families in the midst of a global pandemic was inspiring. The inclusion of occupational therapy into our program is one of the best things we could do for those we serve; it’s providing critical skills to underserved children and helping to level the playing field so they can look forward to a more equitable future.” **M**



A new documentary created by three Maryville professors is highlighting dental health disparities for children in rural Missouri — and what can be done to provide access to care for this vulnerable population. | BY NANCY FOWLER

A campus collaboration is helping a Maryville nursing professor promote a decade-long passion: helping underserved children in rural Missouri keep their teeth.

In her doctoral research, Carol Berger, DNP, APRN, FNP-C, assistant professor of nursing, found that a simple, inexpensive process can prevent tooth decay. But the red tape of public health insurance and a bifurcated medical system make implementation difficult.

While conducting her research, Berger attended Maryville's 2019 REAL Week, a weeklong teaching and learning convention for faculty. It was there that Berger met Scott Angus, MFA, director of the photography and digital art programs and associate professor of art and digital photography. As Berger talked about her findings, Angus reflected on his 20 years documenting dental mission work in the Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia.

"Here I had traveled all over the world, and I was shocked to find out similar problems existed in my own backyard," Angus said. "And I told Carol, 'We should make a documentary.'"

The pair teamed up with Maryville digital art instructor Lilli Kayes, MFA, '12, and the Missouri Office of Dental Health to create "Rural Children in Crisis: Access to Missouri Oral Care." Berger explained that the film "puts a face on all the statistics; it humanizes the problem and brings it to life."

Berger found that many children who have Medicaid still face pressing dental issues. One problem is access. Only four dental providers in the state's rural areas accept Medicaid. And while the water in many areas contains fluoride, a mineral that protects teeth, it may not make it into children's mouths.

"In some places, the water is brown — who wants to drink that?" Berger said. "So the kids drink bottled water, which has no fluoride."

When parents can't take kids to a dentist, decay goes undetected, often until the child is in pain. By the time they're in a dentist's chair, the only remedy may be extracting multiple teeth.

"Rural Children in Crisis" opens with a closeup of the mouth of a two-year-old Lincoln County boy in foster care. The viewer hears project editor and videographer Kayes ask him to make a "grrr" sound.

“I can’t, because I don’t have teeth up here,” the boy tells her, pointing to bare gums where four front baby teeth should be.

“For me, that was the whole message: ‘I can’t,’” Kayes said. “These children just can’t do anything about this.”

Berger said speech problems, eating issues and social ostracization are common in children with missing teeth. Many suffer impairment for five years or more until their adult teeth grow in. But in her research, Berger found an easy way to prevent this debilitating decay: fluoride varnish. Applied at least twice a year, the varnish goes a long way toward saving baby teeth. But it’s only available at dental offices.

Berger wondered: Why not have medical doctors apply fluoride varnish to children’s teeth during checkups, or bring dental professionals into their offices for that purpose? “Many people who don’t take kids to the dentist will take them to the doctor for their well visits, for their shots,” Berger said. “And fluoride varnish is cheap — about \$1.50 for each application — and Medicaid reimburses ten times that.”

When the three filmmakers began working on the documentary two years ago, an early priority was finding interview subjects. Berger took to Facebook to locate a parent.

“And a former patient wrote, ‘I know just the person,’” Berger said. “She said, ‘It’s been such a nightmare for her to get dental care for her kids who’ve been in the foster system.’”

By March 2020, they’d completed several interviews and other video portions. Then the COVID-19 pandemic hit.

“We had to shut down filming for almost a year,” Angus said. “So we spent time putting together what we had already done.”

Because of the pandemic, they had to shelve a shoot that would have let viewers watch a doctor apply fluoride varnish to a child’s teeth. Instead, Berger conducted the on-camera interview behind a Plexiglas shield. Still, the trio, who did all the work themselves, is happy with the end result.

Angus and Kayes found satisfaction in the fact that Berger’s work, and therefore the film, presents a solution as well as a problem.

“You don’t normally get that in documentaries,” Kayes said. “They tell you facts and they scare you a little bit but then you’re left with this sort of chasm, like ‘It’s my responsibility,’ and there’s nothing you can do about it.”

Even solutions pose problems. The United States’ health care system considers medical and dental care separate entities, and medical doctors are reluctant to begin examining children’s teeth, Berger said. Many doctors aren’t aware that fluoride varnish is inexpensive, and they’re not set up to bill for Medicaid reimbursement.

Another concern is what medical doctors should do if their young patients need dental work beyond fluoride varnish. If doctors partnered with dental offices, they could send that office images of children’s teeth, and bill it under Telehealth, Berger said. But it’s not an easy fix. “You need a whole team of people to come in and put all of that in place,” Berger said.

Building that team requires education and exposure, something the 18-minute “Rural

Children in Crisis: Access to Missouri Oral Care” provides. The documentary boasts more than 1,000 views on social media. Berger now hopes to share it with decision-makers at Barnes-Jewish, Mercy and Saint Louis University hospitals to put in motion the idea of doctors checking and varnishing children’s teeth.

Additionally, the documentary is now part of the Maryville nursing curriculum. But its educational value goes far beyond the field of health care. Angus uses it in his filmmaking classes “to show students how a film is put together,” Angus said. “We have all the raw pieces so we can demonstrate things like how you develop a thesis or figure out a storyline.”


The documentary also assists Angus in teaching students about legal issues in filmmaking. There’s a reason the documentary’s opening scene shows only the boy’s mouth and not his full face: foster care authorities and the foster parent weren’t authorized to grant permission.

“When you’re a photographer or filmmaker, you have to make sure you’re not breaking the law,” Angus said. “It’s not like something for TikTok; you can’t just go on private property and start filming or photographing people.”

Kayes called the documentary project “one of the best experiences I’ve had in my professional career.” The successful interdisciplinary collaboration is emblematic of the overall Maryville experience, according to the filmmakers.

Angus has previously worked with faculty and students from other disciplines including biology and music therapy. He and his photography and videography students accompanied music therapy students to Costa Rica to document their work with older people with disabilities. Berger’s past collaborations include a project with app development students, which ultimately resulted in a dozen medical apps to explain conditions including asthma, atrial fibrillation and back pain.



Overall, the filmmakers believe Maryville does a good job supporting and encouraging cooperation among the various disciplines, all with student outcomes in mind. “Maryville promotes an active learning ecosystem where students actively participate in the learning process by doing, making and interacting with each other and the environment around them,” Berger said. “We’re better when we’re all learning from each other.” 

▲ After interviews and other video portions were complete, interdisciplinary collaboration continued throughout the film editing process.

► In their roles as documentary filmmakers, three Maryville professors traveled around Missouri to interview children, parents and health care professionals.





THE ROAD TO TOKYO

BY CONSTANCE GIBBS

Katie Moses Swope, '97, traveled to Tokyo for the 2020 Olympic Games to serve as the communications lead for USA BMX and the first-ever U.S. Olympic Skateboarding Team.

While serving as a resident assistant for Duchesne Hall her junior year, Katie Moses Swope, '97, decorated the hallway with a countdown to the 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games. Each resident door tag featured the Olympic rings carefully handcrafted by Swope. At the end of that school year, Swope would travel to Atlanta to work the beach volleyball venue. The experience would shape the rest of her professional career.

"I always loved watching the Olympics from a young age because of the human interest stories," Swope said. "I wanted to be able to tell those stories one day, about how athletes worked their way up to this moment."

After graduating with a degree in communications, Swope spent 16 years as part of the ESPN communications team. She worked on more than 100 events, including the X Games, Monday Night Football and NASCAR. Though action sports



existed before the X Games, Swope was part of the team that created the platform that catapulted action sports into popular culture.

“I always give Maryville credit for setting my career trajectory,” Swope said. “I loved how small it was and that I wasn’t just a number like I would have been at a larger university. My professors made learning a personalized experience for me, and at times, I would struggle with test taking. One of my communications professors suggested I take a verbal test, and it was one of my best results in his class. My experiences and internships through Maryville greatly impacted my career path.”

In 2013, Swope founded her own boutique public relations firm, MoSwo PR. The firm works with action sports athletes and adaptive sports athletes living with disabilities. Its clients include Brighton Zeuner, who became the youngest gold medalist at the X Games Minneapolis 2017 when she won women’s skateboard park the day after her 13th birthday.



Twenty-five years after adorning Duchesne Hall with Olympic-themed decorations, Swope traveled to the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games as the communications lead for USA BMX and the first-ever U.S. Olympic Skateboarding Team, overseeing public relations and media for 17 Olympians and two Paralympians.

“I’ve come full circle,” Swope said. “Now it’s my own daughter who is that young girl watching the Olympics and being inspired by the athletes.”

After a yearlong delay because of the pandemic, the Tokyo Olympics were held with strict COVID-19 protocols in place. Swope was required to get tested for COVID before traveling abroad and every day during the Tokyo Games. Masks were mandated at nearly all times outside of competition, and social distancing was required, including a ban on spectators attending events.

“At times, the protocols were overwhelming, but the priority was keeping everyone safe,”

At the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, Katie Moses Swope, ‘97, oversaw public relations and media for 17 Olympians and two Paralympians including: bronze medalist for men’s street skateboarding Jagger Eaton (left), who then celebrated his medal on NBC’s TODAY show (above middle); Alexis Sablone, who received a fourth-place finish in the women’s street skateboarding event (below middle); and Alise Willoughby, who reached the semifinals in women’s BMX racing followed by an appearance on NBC Nightly News alongside her husband and coach Sam Willoughby (right).



Swope said. “Being in Tokyo amid a global pandemic actually made the experience even more special, because we realized how grateful we were to have made it there. The people of Japan couldn’t have been more welcoming and helpful, or more excited to host the world. Tokyo was so beautiful, and it was really sad to see all the gorgeous venues and stadiums remain empty.”

In her role, Swope was responsible for educating the media. This was especially true for skateboarding, which made its Olympic debut in Tokyo. Swope spoke with media outlets to share the history of the sport and its counterculture roots. She provided previews of what would happen during competition and spotlighted which athletes to watch.

“It was my job to keep the sport authentic,” she said. “Like getting Al Roker, the co-host and weatherman of NBC’s TODAY show, to use the word ‘runs’ instead of ‘routines’ on live television.”

Her work paid off. Media outlets called skateboarding the most refreshing sport at the Tokyo Games. Everyone learned what the skate community already knew: its culture is based not on winning but in joy and individuality. “Skateboarding is more than a sport — it’s a community and a family,” Swope said. “The camaraderie and unity between these athletes is real and inspiring.”

Swope’s expertise extended to crisis communication as well, including disseminating information regarding U.S. BMX racer Connor Fields, who crashed and suffered a head injury during competition. After being rushed to a local hospital, Fields flew home to the U.S. a few days later.

“I’ve learned that speed beats smart every time,” Swope said. “Unfortunately, I’ve dealt with some pretty heavy topics in my career. But it’s a little faster-paced at an Olympic event. At the end of the day, if I’ve shared information before the media can speculate, I’ve done my job.”

Perhaps her most important responsibility in Tokyo was communicating with the families of athletes — the mothers, fathers, spouses, siblings and friends who couldn’t travel to Japan because of COVID restrictions.

“I feel honored that I got to be with the athletes in person, especially the medal winners,” Swope said. “We call it ‘managing victory,’ as those athletes would spend the next 24 hours participating in rigorous media interviews. I was constantly updating the families so it felt like they were right there, standing next to their son or daughter. It was important to me that they got to be a part of the Olympic experience.”

Swope currently resides in Denver with her husband and best friend, Steve Swope, and the couple’s three energetic, adventurous children. **M**



A WINNING RECORD

Clients of MoSwo PR brought home six Olympic and Paralympic medals from Tokyo. Congratulations to these incredible athletes!

2020 OLYMPICS

BMX Freestyle



Skateboarding



2020 PARALYMPICS

Hand Cycling




Track & Field



THANK YOU



HEALTH CARE WORKERS

We are grateful for the dedication, compassion and bravery of our Maryville community members who work in the health care industry and other first responding professions. They have continued to serve amid new COVID cases, staff burnout and the prolonged stress of dealing with the pandemic. We salute them for their sacrifices, strength and resilience. 

A Maryville nursing students prepare for front-line careers during clinical rotations and in Maryville's state-of-the-art nursing simulation lab where computerized mannequins mimic real-life situations.

B Demetris M. Leonard, MSN, RN, '13, Assistant Professor of Nursing

C Aleah M. Scharfenberg, '18, BSN, RN, Mercy Hospital Washington Emergency Department

D Aaron Weston, '12, '14, MHA, MBA, Operations Manager, Cellular Therapy at the Mayo Clinic

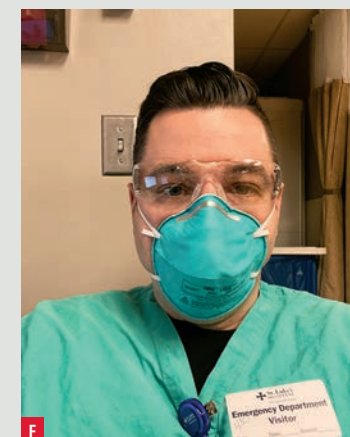
E Rita Flynn, DPT, Mercy Kids Therapy Services

F Jacob Crust, '09, '16, FNP, St. Luke's Hospital Emergency Department

G LaDonna Whitten, RN, PhD, Professor of Nursing and Touchette Regional Hospital Emergency Department

H Lewis Griffith, ACNP, Adjunct Professor of Nursing and SSM Health DePaul Hospital - St. Louis Critical Care Department

I Julie Gritt, '18, BSN, RN, Mercy Hospital St. Louis Neonatal Intensive Care Unit





BUILDING A BETTER TOMORROW

This fall, Maryville introduced a social justice certification program for student leaders. Maricella Reyes, program coordinator for the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, is leading the program. She shares about Maryville's commitment to social justice and why the University seeks to create global citizens of the world.

► **Tell us about the new social justice certification program.**

The InclusiveMU Institute will create a culturally developmental space for student leaders who will assist with developing a diverse and inclusive campus environment. Each month students will engage in conversations around social identity, oppression, socialization and the overarching concepts around social justice learning. At the conclusion of the program, students will earn a social justice certificate that can be showcased in their digital career portfolios or in their resumes. I'm excited that the program will follow a cohort model so that students will be able to have dialogue and reflect on their experiences in a small-group setting.

► **Why is it important for our students to learn about social justice?**

I think social justice means something different to everyone. To me, social justice is about how we can better support people who are marginalized and oppressed. What are the ways systematically and institutionally that we can lift up our fellow humans as they go through things we may not be going through? There are groups in our society who have experienced violence against them or been discriminated against because of social identities they hold. We need to be able to stand up for them and advocate for them — or for ourselves.

It's also important for our students to learn about social justice before they leave Maryville and go out into the world. In their personal and professional lives, they are going to experience diverse communities. If we want our students to be kind, open and understanding to different experiences and perspectives, then we need to provide the opportunity for them to dive deep and understand what that looks like.

► **How will aspects of current events be incorporated into the program?**

Generation Z has grown up with a number of powerful social justice issues in the headlines, particularly over the past year. Technology has shed a new light on these issues. The oppression and violence people are experiencing has always been happening; but now, it's happening on our televisions, our phones and our social media feeds.

Social justice is really important to this generation. I think they are craving more training on how they can put their hand into the fight. For example, the Black Lives Matter movement isn't as prominent as it was last year following the death of George Floyd. But a lot of our students are still sitting in that experience and feeling lost. We are going to help them figure out next steps so they feel empowered to create the world they want to live in.

► **How has your experience as a person of color shaped how you lead?**

I am Mexican-American and grew up in a predominantly white community in Michigan. I had experiences growing up that I couldn't put a name to, and I was very embarrassed of my skin tone and dark hair. It wasn't until I was in college that I learned more about my culture and became proud of who I am.

I wanted to pursue a career in higher education because I know firsthand how transformational college can be for young people. I want to help students of color and students from underrepresented groups — students who just need someone to believe in them. I want to let them know they're doing a great job and encourage them to keep going; I promise there's going to be a light at the end of the tunnel like there was for me. 🍀



▲ Maricella Reyes, program coordinator for Maryville University's Office of Diversity and Inclusion



Maryville's League of Legends Esports Team added another trophy to the shelf after winning the inaugural Gateway Legends Collegiate Invitational. The event cemented St. Louis as a national esports hub.

Building on St. Louis' reputation as a celebrated sports town while showcasing the city as one of the most vibrant technology hubs in the U.S., St. Louis hosted the inaugural Gateway Legends Collegiate Invitational.

The event brought together 16 top collegiate esports teams from across the country, with live gameplay taking place inside Ballpark Village as part of a multiday Fourth of July celebration.

Maryville's League of Legends Esports Team claimed the Gateway Legends trophy after beating rival Winthrop University. The victory was especially sweet because Maryville placed second to Winthrop earlier this year in the League of Legends Collegiate Championship.

"Our esports program gets to compete in events all over the world, so we are used to the big stage," said Dan Clerke, '18, Maryville's director of esports. "Gateway Legends was especially important to us, as it was the first of its kind in our own backyard. We wanted to represent St. Louis, in St. Louis, to the best of our ability."

Maryville's dominating esports program boasts three League of Legends national championships and recently claimed its first Overwatch national championship. Clerke has worked with Gateway Legends organizers since early 2020 to bring the tournament to life. Following this inaugural event, Clerke plans on building several local esports initiatives that St. Louisans can look forward to every year.

Gateway Legends was the first in-person collegiate esports tournament of 2021. The tournament was produced by the Fair St. Louis Foundation and sponsored by The Centene Charitable Foundation. Nerd Street Gamers oversaw tournament operations, with Riot Games involved as the developer of League of Legends.

"As a corporate citizen of St. Louis, Riot Games is excited to see the tremendous growth in esports in the metropolitan area over the past few years," said Bridgette Horack, Karma Ambassador at Riot Games. "Through this event, we hope that the community learned more about the opportunities esports can provide students in high school and at the collegiate level in a nontraditional sport."

Gateway Legends garnered extensive media attention including coverage by the St. Louis Post-Dispatch and KMOV, as well as inclusion in the #STLMade campaign created by theSTL.com. The event cemented the St. Louis region as a hot spot for the esports industry.

In addition to Maryville's Esports Program, local St. Louis area high schools now have esports teams, as do several area colleges and some civic organizations, such as the Saint Louis Science Center and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater St. Louis.

Some esports players have aspirations of gaming professionally. Two of Maryville's top players went pro last year. Other students see opportunities to enter into the business of esports in roles ranging from coaching to video game animation. In-person competitions also serve as networking events and allow students to find potential internships. 

2015

Maryville's Esports Program founded by Dan Clerke, '18, now Maryville's director of esports.

2016

League of Legends Esports Team undefeated and national champion in its first season.

2017

League of Legends Esports Team claimed its second national championship.

2019

League of Legends Esports Team won its third national championship in four years.

2021

Overwatch Esports Team won its first national championship.

SUMMER 2021

League of Legends Esports Team claimed the inaugural Gateway Legends Collegiate Invitational, the first event of its kind held in Maryville's backyard.

CHAMPIONS MADE HERE

BY CONSTANCE GIBBS



HIGHLIGHTS

BACK IN THE SWING OF THINGS

Maryville Saints were excited to gather in person for the 32nd annual Maryville Golf Classic, which was held on June 28, 2021, at Bogey Hills Country Club. The event raised funds for the Go the Distance scholarship fund to ensure that each student who puts on a Saints jersey will be able to complete their degree. Though players were only able to get in a few rounds before thunderstorms rolled in, attendees enjoyed spending time together on the course for the first time since the pandemic began. Thank you to all the organizers and sponsors for a successful event.

MARYVILLE TO ADD TWO MORE HOCKEY TEAMS

BY CHUCK YAHNG

Starting in the fall of 2022, Maryville will sponsor five ice hockey teams with more than 120 student-athletes expected to compete.

Over the last several years, St. Louis has turned into a hockey hotbed rivaling any other city across the country. Maryville University is contributing to this growth with yet another expansion of its hockey program.

Starting in the fall of 2022, Maryville will sponsor five teams at the ACHA levels. For the upcoming 2021-22 season, the Saints will have three teams in the ACHA including Men's Division 1, Men's Division 2 and Women's Division 1. The additional two teams, which will be Men's Division 3 and Women's Division 2, will round out Maryville's growth in the ACHA since the Saints first joined the ACHA in 2018. Maryville expects to have more than 120 student-athletes, both men and women, playing hockey for the 2022-2023 season when the two additional teams come online.

"The ACHA has provided a tremendous opportunity to grow the game of hockey at

Maryville," said Director of Hockey Operations John Hogan. "Since our hockey program's inception in 2018, President Mark Lombardi, PhD, and Director of Athletics and Recreation Lonnie Folks, '82, '98, have been true advocates in growing hockey at Maryville. They have provided college hockey opportunities for both young men and women who love our game. I don't think there has ever been a university to add five teams in five years in college hockey. This growth is just one more example of Maryville's successful mission to inclusively redefine higher education in all areas."

All Maryville hockey teams will call the Maryville University Hockey Center home. The state-of-the-art facility, located in the Chesterfield Valley, opened in the fall of 2019. Each team will have dedicated storage and locker room space, giving student-athletes at Maryville a true college hockey experience. 



UPSET VICTORY: The Maryville men's soccer team opened the regular season with a 2-1 overtime win against No. 3 Lynn University. Sophomore Victor DeGiorgio slotted home the winner with 38 seconds remaining in the first overtime period. Lynn University is the highest ranked opponent the Maryville men's soccer team has ever beaten. The previous high was a 2-0 win over No. 7 Missouri S&T in 2011. 

HIGHLIGHTS

FLYING HIGH

Maryville's STUNT team placed fourth at the 2021 College STUNT Association National Championship for Division I and Division II varsity teams. Earlier this year, the team ended the regular season as conference champions, going undefeated within its conference as well as ranking third among DI/DII teams across the country. Congratulations to the team for persevering during a tumultuous season affected by the pandemic.



A police commendation, an advocate for children with disabilities and a two-time Paralympic silver medalist.

1950s

1 **Sr. Dorothy “Madonna” Buder, SFFC, ’52**, of Spokane, Wash., celebrated a very special 91st birthday over the summer with her family and friends. Buder – who is often referred to as “The Iron Nun” – holds the current world record for the oldest woman to ever finish an Ironman Triathlon, which she obtained at age 82.



1960s

Helen A. Gagen, ’64, of St. Louis, has stayed in touch with her classmates – **Ann Hogan Russek, ’64; Genny Dodge Boehmer, ’64; Jeannie Thomas Kaufmann, ’64; Nancy Hunt Rayhawk, ’64; and Penny Worthington Barnicle, ’64** – by meeting for lunch periodically, although that has been challenging during the pandemic. Gagen is looking forward to rescheduling some trips which had to be canceled in 2020. She shared, “It will be great to go somewhere other than Costco, Dierbergs and Walgreens.”

Adelaide “Addie” Dorsey Tomber, ’68, of St. Louis, and her husband, Phil, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary earlier this year. This summer, the couple hosted their traditional welcome for new neighbors: a snow cone gathering for the daughter of classmate **Constance “Connie” Moeller Bachmann, ’68**, and her family.

1970s

Mary C. Bobbett, ’71, of Henderson, Nev., celebrated her 50th reunion with fellow classmates during Homecoming 2021. She is mostly retired but still enjoys some part-time work as a dental hygienist.

Paula Spencer Teabeau, ’73, of Eureka, Mo., retired from the St. Louis County Jail in Clayton, Mo., after giving 40 years of service. She served four years as a correctional officer and 36 years as a social worker/counselor. Paula received a Master of Science in counseling psychology. She is enjoying retirement including spending time with her 4-year-old grandson, Parker, and visiting the Lake of the Ozarks, and is gearing up for travel. She also plans to enroll in the Silver Saddles program.

Donna Miles Curry, ’74, of Dayton, Ohio, is a professor emerita from the College of Nursing and Health at Wright State University in Dayton. She was recently appointed as a trustee of the Florence Nightingale Museum in London, England.

Jane Risch Fetick, ’75, of St. Louis, married Kevin Jones on December 18, 2020, in a private ceremony at their home. They will celebrate with family and friends at a later date but have enjoyed a happy year of marriage.

1980s

Gerard “Jerry” J. Winkelmann, ’86, of St. Louis, is the business development director at Engineered Tax Services, Inc., the country’s largest licensed tax credits and incentives advisory firm.

1990s

Michael J. Kurtz, Jr., ’94, of St. Louis, joined PricewaterhouseCoopers as the IT architect for US Internal Firm Services, designing the auditing and compliance tools used by all 55,000+ US-based PwC partners and consultants. Kurtz also runs Kurtz K9, a dog rescue and rehabilitation organization specializing in Siberian Huskies. Kurtz K9 has rescued, rehabilitated and rehomed 26 puppies since the pandemic lockdown in April of 2020.

Katja Georgieff

1926-2021

By Peter Henderson, artist-in-residence and associate professor of music

Katja Georgieff, PhD, professor emerita of music, passed away on March 23, 2021. Georgieff served as director of Maryville’s Music Program for more than three decades. She was a beloved teacher, mentor and friend to countless members of the Maryville and St. Louis community, a brilliant pianist and a strong advocate for classical music.

Georgieff joined the faculty of Maryville University in 1975. In 1980, she founded the Music at Maryville Concert Series. This legacy continues today; while the series had to be temporarily suspended during the 2020-21 season because of the pandemic, activities are planned to resume for the 2021-22 season.

Georgieff retired from Maryville in 2005. An avid traveler, she continued to explore the world during her retirement years. Ever curious, she remained a voracious reader and sparkling conversationalist to the end of her life. **M**



Adam C. Long, ’94, of St. Charles, Mo., is a local artist whose sculptures are made from the natural world. Long sculpts from twigs, branches, vines, tree bark and more to create beautiful, lyrical figures. He considers his sculptures “a product from the Midwest” and collects materials from any place he visits.

Melissa Schoelch North, ’94, of O’Fallon, Mo., shared that her daughter, Alexis North, started at Maryville this fall semester to study forensic psychology. According to North, “Alexis was pretty much groomed by a little help from, shall we say, the alumni relations club ... Do you remember those baby bibs?”

Kathleen “Kay” Quinn-Malone, ’99, of St. Louis, was the emcee for the 2021 Spirit of Maryville Awards, held virtually on May 13, 2021. She brought her professional broadcasting skills back to her alma mater to host this important annual recognition celebration.

2000s

Kevin P. Carr, ’03, of Clinton, Mo., is the new head coach of the girls basketball program at Smith-Cotton High School in Sedalia, Mo.

Matthew “Matt” H. Segal, ’03, of Chesterfield, Mo., joined TriStar Properties in June 2021 as the vice president of development.

Torrey M. Welsch, ’03, of Belleville, Ill., is a physical therapist at St. Elizabeth’s Outpatient Therapy McKendree Metro Rec Plex Clinic. He was recently certified by the Titleist Performance Institute to carry out a new performance program for golfers to help them recover from injuries and achieve their goals.

Shawne Broeckelmann Manies, ’04, ’08, of Wentzville, Mo., is the director of clinical operations and an assistant teaching professor at the University of Missouri-St. Louis (UMSL) College of Nursing. In July 2021, Manies received the UMSL Hero Award for her work organizing vaccination clinics.

Dr. Arik “Arie” V. Poremba, ’05, of St. Louis, is the co-founder and inventor of PRIMFIT Solutions. PRIMFIT offers the first portable footwear and an integrated training system for both functional and balance-specific movement. PRIMFIT footwear adds dynamic movement that increases body awareness and enhances performance on a variety of levels. The product has been utilized by many physical therapists, athletic trainers, chiropractors, patients and clients with various sports, orthopedic and neurological related conditions and many recreational and professional athletes.

Dr. Amanda Lee Clay, ’07, of Plainfield, Ill., was recently awarded her Master of Arts in educational leadership from Indiana University. She was also promoted to senior facilitator of organizational development at Giant Steps, a therapeutic day program for individuals with autism.

Wayne L. Laramie, ’08, of Mount Pleasant, Wis., is the vice president and chief nursing officer for OSF HealthCare Saint Anthony Medical Center. In his new position, Laramie will be accountable for leading the nursing operations at OSF HealthCare Saint Anthony Medical Center. Laramie will establish quality standards and develop policies and procedures for the nursing staff.

Dr. E’mita Meeks-Williams, ’09, ’11, of Belleville, Ill., was appointed director of the Michelle Obama Early Childhood Academic Center located in the Riverview Gardens School District. In her role, she is helping children learn by providing an environment that is both challenging and inspiring. Meeks-Williams has more than 20 years of experience as an early childhood educator.



ERIC NEHM, '12

A SERIES TO REMEMBER

BY TIM FOX

Throughout the pandemic, sports writer Eric Nehm, '12, yearned for personal contact with his subjects: members of the Milwaukee Bucks NBA team. But he never dreamed how close he would get to the Bucks' biggest star, Giannis Antetokounmpo, after the team captured its first national NBA title in 50 years.

"The city held a celebration parade the next day, and I saw Giannis walking away," Nehm said. "I called out to him, and he recognized me and stopped to talk. In that moment, he decided to trust me to such an extent that he grabbed my left hand and put it on his heart so I could feel how hard it was beating."

That heartfelt moment with Antetokounmpo, and covering the Bucks' championship season, is the highlight of Nehm's career covering the Bucks for subscription sports website The Athletic. But Nehm was ready for his moment, thanks to Maryville University.


"In college, I was thinking my job would be in radio," Nehm said. "But now I write all the time. Every day, I use the writing fundamentals I learned at Maryville. My professors encouraged me to pitch different ideas and taught me not to overwrite. That's a critical skill."

Maryville also introduced Nehm to podcasting, still a new medium when he was an undergraduate. He helped found the Saints Talk podcast. After graduating, Nehm put his on-air experience to work by covering the Bucks for Sportsradio 1250 in Milwaukee, his hometown.

In 2018, The Athletic hired him as its Bucks beat reporter. "Because it's a website, The Athletic doesn't have the same restrictions that writing for print does," Nehm said. "It lets me write the way I want."

When the pandemic hit, his education helped him in another way. "Maryville taught me how to be versatile," he said. "That helped me tell stories in ways I never would have thought of before."

When the Bucks clinched the NBA championship in Game 6, Nehm pulled an all-nighter to file the story. The next day, he ran alongside the team in the victory parade – which brings him back to his heart-pounding moment with Antetokounmpo.

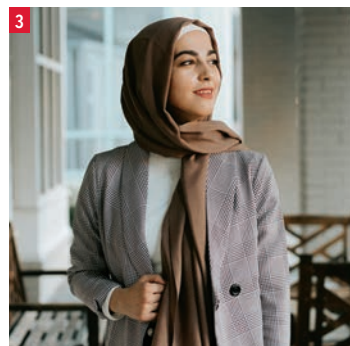
It's a once-in-a-lifetime story, and it belongs to Nehm. "In sportswriting, everyone covers the same players and coaches, but each writer does it their own way," he explained. "It's just like in school. People can get the same degree, but you get different things out of it based on what you put into it." 

2 Joshua "Josh" C. Hamel, '10, of Ballwin, Mo., was awarded the Chief's Commendation by the Town and Country Police Department for his actions during a recent incident involving a suicidal person. Town and Country Police Department shares, "Officer Hamel's patience, skills and compassion allowed him to create dialogue with the person in crisis and brought the incident to a peaceful resolution, undoubtedly saving the person's life."

Andrea D. Herschelman, '10, of Evansville, Ind., became the director for business development and marketing for VPS Architecture on June 22, 2021. Prior to that, she worked as a commercial interior designer for the company from 2010 to 2016 before earning her Master of Business Administration from the University of Southern Indiana.

Katheryn "Katie" Hoyt Selby, '11, of St. Ann, Mo., is excited to announce that she is working on her first book to share her story about overcoming learning disabilities. This past year she did a virtual presentation with "The Mighty" about learning disabilities and has shared her story with "Love What Matters" as well as "Different and Able."

Kathryn E. Greer, '12, of Lake Saint Louis, Mo., became the principal for Troy Middle School this fall. She hopes to build relationships with this school community to create a safe and collaborative learning environment.



Melissa Rankin-Short, '12, of Florissant, Mo., was named director of Transitional and Independent Living Programs at Marygrove in Florissant. Marygrove provides a safe home and mental health services to children who have experienced significant trauma in their lives.

Keri A. Skeeters, '12, of St. Peters, Mo., was named assistant superintendent of teaching and learning of the Wentzville School District Board of Education on July 1, 2021. She received a Bachelor of Arts in English education from Maryville University.

Alexandra "Alex" J. Gresick, '13, '15, of St. Louis, is a student support specialist for University of Missouri-St. Louis in the College of Education department.

Dr. Leslie L. Mueller, '13, of Wentzville, Mo., started a new position as a special education coordinator with Special School District of St. Louis County on July 1, 2021.

3 Rawan Farouq Abusaid, '14, of Los Angeles, graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in interior design in 2014 from Maryville University. Her first job was at VWell Studio as a junior designer where she got to work on great local workplace projects and had the opportunity to tap into her photography hobby. In 2015 she was hired on as a design associate specializing in health care design at Lawrence Group Architects. Abusaid recently moved to Los Angeles and began a new position as a senior health care designer where she continues to be inspired by advancing health care design with a futuristic vision.

Alyssa N. Mazanec, '14, of St. Louis, married Emmett Berry on October 15, 2021, in Gatlinburg, Tenn. Mazanec works as a registered nurse in the neonatal intensive care unit of St. Louis Children's Hospital.

Eric Newby, '14, of Alton, Ill., came home from Tokyo with his second Paralympic silver medal in wheelchair rugby after the U.S. lost the gold-medal game to Great Britain. Newby won his first silver medal in Rio in 2016, after working his way up the ladder from league play to the U.S. development squad to the Paralympics. In addition to his Paralympic achievements, Newby and his wife welcomed their first child, daughter Rory, in early 2020.

Ashley N. Warmbrodt, '14, of Wildwood, Mo., had her master's dissertation research published in the July 2021 issue of Psychology of Music. Her research studied the effects of lyrics, self-selection and emotion trajectory of music on felt emotions, as measured physiologically and through self-reports. Ashley currently works as a music therapist addressing educational, communicative and psychosocial goals.

Ursula Bonner-Wright, '14, of Webster Groves, Mo., is the vice president of Clinical Care Redesign and Optimization at Mercy Hospital St. Louis. She works to create better outcomes for Mercy patients by developing new clinical pathways and optimizing care with her team.

Dr. LaTonia Collins-Smith, '15, of St. Louis, is serving as interim president of Harris-Stowe State University.

4 Dr. Rita Flynn Hermann, '15, '17, and Dr. Cory W. Hermann, '15, '17, both of St. Charles, Mo., welcomed their first child, Lydia Colleen, on July 2, 2021. Lydia was born weighing 8 lbs 8 oz.



Krista N. Ludwig, '15, of Glen Carbon, Ill., joined the Washington University in St. Louis urologic surgery team as a urologic nurse practitioner.

Dr. Saint Rice Jr., '15, of Chatham, Ill., was hired as director for the Center for Diversity and Inclusion at Truman State University. He has 15 years of experience in higher education, and the university is looking forward to having him on staff.

Sarah Schwegel, '15, of St. Louis, has shown the world that just because someone loses use of their muscles doesn't mean they lose hope. Schwegel was born with spinal muscular atrophy and uses a motorized wheelchair for mobility. Today, she is a friend and mentor to other young people living with disabilities. Schwegel was recently featured by KSDK 5 On Your Side about a new breakthrough drug that is helping improve her activities of daily living.



KASI GARDNER, '21

CONFRONTING A CRISIS

BY DALE SINGER

Kasi Gardner, '21, wasn't sure she was going to get the COVID-19 vaccine, but a meeting with Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine helped change her mind. Once she decided to go ahead, she encouraged all of Ohio to follow her lead.

Gardner, a recent graduate of Maryville's online graduate post MSN family nurse practitioner program, said that when she was thinking about whether to get the vaccine, she had pretty much made up her mind when she heard that DeWine would be coming to her hospital in Springfield, Ohio, in mid-December.

She got the shot that day, as part of the governor's appearance. The next day, a photo of Gardner receiving the shot appeared in a local newspaper. A couple of weeks later, she was asked to be part of a statewide commercial urging all Ohio residents to join her.


Gardner's initial concerns stemmed mainly from the fact that the vaccine was approved so quickly, so she wondered whether it had been tested adequately. But once she researched the question, and saw how badly patients were suffering from the disease, Gardner decided to protect herself as well as her family, friends and patients.

Her moment of fame was interesting, she explained. "It was so awesome," Gardner said, "that so many people in my family said that because they saw me in the commercial, they were going to get the vaccine because Kasi got it."

Gardner said she understands people who remain resistant to the vaccine, but urges that they need to continue wearing a mask and remain socially distant, to combat further spread of a disease that is proving tough to defeat. "Otherwise," she said, "all that hard work will end up being for naught."

Gardner was working as a staff nurse in the step-down unit at the Springfield, Ohio, Regional Medical Center when she signed up for the Maryville program, before the pandemic hit. She said the University offered just what she was looking for to become a nurse practitioner.

Now, her new credentials, plus her experience in the commercial, can help her reach more people in a different way. In the end, she said, it's all about helping.

"To me," Gardner said, "it's a courtesy to someone else. In our society, we're not necessarily thinking about the other person. But we have to start." 



LEXI JACKSON, '16

ANOTHER CASE SOLVED

BY JOHN GIBBS

Lexi Jackson, '16, has known since the fifth grade that she wanted to do something "CSI-related." But where most people might picture themselves working as a wily detective or a tenacious public defender, Lexi knew she was more interested in the back end of solving cases.

After she graduated from Maryville with a forensic science and biology concentration, it took her a few years to land her dream job at the St. Louis County Crime Laboratory, where she serves as a DNA analyst.


Tasked with writing reports and interpreting crime scene evidence, Jackson has been asked to testify in court on lab evidence on several occasions. Recently, she worked a cold case to help catch and try a serial rapist, who was now in his 80s. Jackson had always wanted to testify for the sake of the victims.

"It's all about helping them get closure," she said about taking the stand. "Letting them know that justice was served is very important to me, even though at times the process can be intimidating."

Throughout her career, Jackson has kept in contact with Stacy Donovan, PhD, associate professor of biology. Donovan has invited Jackson back to Maryville to be a guest speaker for her classes and the Forensic Science Club. Her presentation to the students covers the crime lab as a whole, such as how many municipalities they serve (nearly 90), as well as an overview of her day-to-day responsibilities.

"It's really important to give back to the students and point them in the right direction," Jackson said. "Whenever you make a decision to go into a specialty like forensic science, it's good to hear from somebody who is doing exactly that in their day job."

Jackson recently facilitated a lab equipment donation to Maryville from the St. Louis Country Crime Laboratory. This past spring, she delivered a DNA extraction robot along with supplies and protocols. Donovan was "ecstatic" to receive the gift.

The robot and supplies will be used by students during lab hours or for research projects. They'll be able to extract and purify the nuclear DNA of cells from bodily fluids in order to create a DNA profile. The robot will also help increase efficiency and decrease the chance of human error or contamination while evidence samples are being processed. 

Dr. Kelly A. Taylor, '15, of St. Louis, is a science teacher at Hazelwood West High School. She received the Hazelwood School District Teacher of the Year award for the 2020-2021 school year. Dr. Taylor is also one of 10 teachers to receive the Missouri Regional Teacher of the Year honor from the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

5 Alicia Farrington Clancy, '16, of Kuna, Idaho, and her husband, Nick, welcomed their first child, Macallan Miller, to their family on January 26, 2021. She shared, "He's a ray of sunshine after a challenging year!"

Kasey Meers Ross, '16, of St. Charles, Mo., met her now-husband, Joe, the day she passed the boards exam to officially become an occupational therapist. Shortly after meeting Joe, Ross accepted her first job as a travel occupational therapist in Reno, Nevada. During her time in Nevada, the couple's relationship continued to grow, and fast-forward four years later they are married, have a golden doodle fur baby and share a beautiful home together in St. Charles, the place where they both grew up.

Cheyenne Barton Antrobus, '17, of St. Charles, Mo., married the love of her life, Eric Antrobus, on February 19, 2021. The couple spent the last four years experiencing life to the fullest together. Cheyenne and Eric met in October 2017, moved in together in May 2018, bought their first home in March 2020 and adopted their puppy, Theodore, in April 2020. During a time that has challenged the world, Antrobus shared, "I have counted so many blessings. I am grateful for everything and everyone that has contributed to the person that I am today, and continue to look forward to the future."



Dr. Shruti Desai, '17, of St. Louis, began her new role as the associate vice president of student affairs for campus life at Duke University on March 15, 2021. In her new role, she is determined to create an environment fit to support all students at Duke.

Shannon Foley, '17, of Phoenix, married Zachary Venvertloh in September 2021.

6 Cydney P. Long, '17, of New Berlin, Ill., graduated from Maryville University in 2017 with a Bachelor of Arts in communication. After graduation, she performed in many musicals including Mamma Mia, Summer of Love, Hairspray and Memphis the Musical. In March 2020, Long was cast as Miss Trunchbull in Matilda the Musical, but due to the pandemic the show could not go on. Fortunately, she was then asked to audition for a local band in her hometown and has been singing lead with the band, OFF THE WALL, ever since.




Robert E. Schoor

1931-2021

The Maryville community mourns the loss of Robert E. Schoor, a longtime friend and supporter of the University.

Schoor served in the U.S. Air Force before pursuing a lengthy career in investment banking. Later, he turned his talents to philanthropy.

Schoor and his wife, Joan Luttig Schoor, enabled many talented students to pursue a Maryville nursing education. Over the years, they provided support for Myrtle E. and Earl E. Walker Hall, the home of Maryville's Myrtle E. and Earl E. Walker College of Health Professions, as well as for the Robert E. Schoor and Joan Luttig Schoor Scholarship.

In 2018, Maryville University named The Robert E. Schoor and Joan Luttig Schoor Undergraduate Nursing Program in honor of their generosity. 



7 Sarah Rose Stricklin, '17, '20, of Collinsville, Ill., married Austin Stricklin, '20, in April 2021. Sarah and Austin are both data science graduates of Maryville University.



Evan D. Booker, '18, of Lawrence, Kan., joined the Williams Education Fund at the University of Kansas Athletic Department as an annual fund officer in May 2021.

8 Jared Clodfelter, '18, of Lompoc, Calif., received The DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurses in June 2021 for his exceptional work as a medical-surgeon nurse at Lompoc Valley Medical Center.

Kelsi B. Yates, '18, of Springfield, Mo., is a nurse practitioner in the urology surgical clinic at Citizens Memorial Hospital.

Yahya A. Alhoweish, '19, of Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, worked as a brand manager of an internet brand after graduating. Recently, he has made an entrepreneurial transition to owning and operating a small business, Socialers. In this new role, he serves more than 40 clients in the digital media space, including helping them boost their social media presences. Alhoweish shared, "The Master of Arts in Strategic Communication and Leadership program at Maryville helped me gain experience in dealing with real-world case studies and clients."



Ashley M. Lieberman, '19, of O'Fallon, Mo., recently joined Purk & Associates, P.C., as an associate. Purk & Associates, P.C., is the leading woman-owned St. Louis accounting and management advisory firm.

John D. Anderson, '20, of St. Joseph, Mo., was named the new Olympic lifting coach and assistant strength and conditioning coach for The Missouri Valley College Athletic Department. He

previously served as the strength and conditioning coach for the Maryville women's lacrosse team and competed as a wrestler while attending Maryville University.

Michael D. Coudriet, '20, of Sequim, Wash., was named an advanced practice registered nurse for Olympic Medical Center in Port Angeles, Wash.

Sarah N. Krauss, '20, of St. Charles, Mo., graduated from Maryville University's Weekend and Evening Program with a Bachelor of Science in nursing in December 2020. After graduation, she jumped right into fighting COVID-19 and moved to New York City, where she has been actively involved in vaccination efforts there.

Jessica Kasperek Marty, '20, of Granite City, Ill., was named coordinator of English Learner, Immigrant and Migrant Education Services for the Hazelwood School District. In this role, she will be the administrator over 27 teachers serving 700 students in 21 schools across the district.

In Memoriam

1940s

Ann Stephens Koch, '46
Alice Ann Harding, '49
Suzanne "Susie" Cassidy Walsh, '49

1950s

Jean Johnson
Goelzhauser, '50
Nancy Foley Sydow, '52
Francine Templeman Wimsatt, '55
Mary Anne Geraghty Alch, '56
Rose Rupp Davis, '57
Jo Ann Kearns Schreiber, '57
Sr. Carol Wheeler, RSM, '58

1960s

Patrice "Tricie" Cramer Bardenheier, '60
Mary Henerey Gloeckner, '61
Margaret "Peggy" Gagen Doyle, '62
Mary Monte Longrais, '62
Sally Coleman Guignon, '67
Sr. Sharon King, CPPS, '68

1970s

Beverly "Bev" Richmond Kinney, '75

1980s

Donna Hampton Rasmussen, '86
Patricia DeDucca Kackley, '87

2000s

Amy Essenpreis Buss, '14, '16
Jill Scobey Hartsfield, '21

Phillip Thompson, EdD, '20, of Bradley, Ill., accepted a position as executive director of the Kankakee Community College Foundation.

Fernando de Andrés Orea, '21, of St. Louis, received a position as an operations specialist at Ansira, a marketing technology and service company.

Sarah H. Gordon, '21, of Ladera Ranch, Calif., graduated with a Master of Science in speech-language pathology. During her virtual ceremony, Gordon had the opportunity to receive her hood from her grandmother and fellow alumna, **Marcella "Marcie" Fritschie Gordon, '58**. Sarah and Marcie aren't the only Maryville alumni in the Gordon family; they

are joined by current student (and future alumna) **Abby Gordon; Beth Hooten Gordon, '15**; and **John H. Gordon, '96**.

Paige M. Heitman, '21, of Rolla, Mo., was a guest speaker at a virtual workshop titled "Target Marketing," hosted by the Women in Business Group.

Stephanie Marchetti, '21, of Ashburnham, Mass., moved into the executive director role at Montachusett Veterans Outreach Center (MVOC), which positions her to lead the entire nonprofit organization. MVOC provides housing, counseling services, case management, benefits advisement, food and clothing to veterans throughout North

Central Massachusetts regardless of discharge status. Prior to this position, she served on the board of directors for approximately 18 months. Marchetti recently graduated with a Master of Arts in educational leadership from Maryville University. She shares, "I still can't believe I am taking a step outside of higher education at this time, but I am excited and honored by the opportunity."

Reggie C. Thorpe, of Eureka, Mo., was named to the board of the St. Louis-based nonprofit Caring Solutions, which designs and provides services to meet the unique needs of children and adults with developmental disabilities and their families.

SHARE YOUR NEWS!

Weddings, reunions, engagements, achievements, babies and more!

Submit a class note for the Spring 2022 issue of Maryville Magazine.

maryville.edu/classnotes





FIELD DAY FUN: A beloved orientation tradition, this year's Saints Pep Rally was transformed into a field day competition. Students battled each other in wheelbarrow races, hula hoop contests and mummy relays. Attendees were then treated to a special runway show featuring the latest spirit wear from The M Store and performances by the Maryville cheer team and dance team.



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THE WORLD NEEDS YOUR



Maryville is proud to celebrate our history, people and stories of the past 150 years. Older alumni fondly remember regular excursions to Dutchtown. More recent alumni remember gathering at the Ranch House. Our newest graduates remember scouring campus during the annual Gnome Hunt.



Submit your favorite Maryville Moment
at **MARYVILLE.EDU/150**.

