

tunnelvision

A publication for alumni of student media at Vanderbilt University



TUNNEL NEWS

THANK YOU

Vanderbilt Student Communications and the Student Media Hall of Fame Committee would like to extend sincere thanks to the many alumni who submitted nominations for the inaugural class of the Hall of Fame. Nearly 100 of you took the time to nominate prestigious alumni for this high honor, and we received more than 200 nominations.

The five alumni who were selected by the committee for the inaugural class were nominated multiple times by many of you. We will keep on file the other nominations we received and nominations we continue to receive so we can revisit the entire group of nominees to consider for future Hall of Fame classes.

We are grateful for your participation in this important project, which serves student media at Vanderbilt by honoring some of our most distinguished alumni. Perhaps more consequential, however, is the Hall of Fame's potential for inspiring current students. We hope this year's inductees and future Hall of Fame members will illustrate for current students the legacy left by student media staffers who came before them and the special opportunity they have to make a difference in their collegiate and professional careers.

SEJC HONORS

Vanderbilt Student Media was honored with the following 2008 BEST OF THE SOUTH awards during the 2009 Southeast Journalism Conference this Spring held at Belmont University:

Best College Newspaper
First place, *Vanderbilt Hustler*

Best College Web Site
First place, *Inside Vandy*

Best Opinion Writer
Honorable mention, Michael Warren
Honorable mention, Katherine Miller

Best Press Photographer
Honorable mention, Chris Phare

Best Magazine Layout Designer
Third place, Courtney Rogers



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LAMAR ALEXANDER



SKIP BAYLESS



ROY BLOUNT JR.



MARY ELSON



SAM FEIST

THE INAUGURAL CLASS



Vanderbilt Student Media Hall of Fame's inaugural class named

by Ann Marie Deer Owens, Class of 1976 · Chair, Hall of Fame Committee · Senior Public Affairs Officer, Vanderbilt News Service

Five Vanderbilt University alumni who have distinguished themselves through a variety of careers – including public servant, journalist and humorist – and have made significant contributions as staff members of the university's student media, will be inducted into the Vanderbilt Student Media Hall of Fame on Oct. 16, 2009.

Those selected for the inaugural class are: U.S. Sen. **Lamar Alexander**; **Skip Bayless**, ESPN sports commentator; **Roy Blount Jr.**, author, humorist and NPR game show panelist; **Mary Elson**, managing editor, Tribune Media Services; and **Sam Feist**, vice president of Washington, D.C.-based programming for CNN.

A ceremony and reception to honor the inductees will be held from 5:30 to 7 p.m. in the Vanderbilt Sarratt Student Center's Cinema and adjacent lobby. The event is taking place in conjunction with Vanderbilt's Homecoming/Reunion Weekend. In addition, a permanent exhibit recognizing all Hall of Fame members will be installed in the Sarratt Student Center, the longtime home of Vanderbilt Student Communications.

"The selection committee feels strongly that the overall accomplishments and activi-

ties of these five alumni merits recognition in the newly established Student Media Hall of Fame," said Chris Carroll, director of student media, Vanderbilt Student Communications. "This is the highest honor that we can bestow on these former student journalists."

To be considered, alumni had to have worked as a student staff member at least 10 years prior to the Hall of Fame induction date.

Sen. Alexander, who earned his bachelor's degree in 1962, majored in Latin American Studies. He was a reporter and news editor of *The Vanderbilt Hustler* student newspaper. The Maryville, Tenn., native is a former two-term governor of Tennessee, U.S. secretary of education, University of Tennessee president and professor at Harvard's School of Government. He earned his J.D. at New York University Law School. In private life, he helped found the nation's largest provider of worksite day care, Bright Horizons Family Solutions Inc.

Bayless, who grew up in Oklahoma City, Okla., attended Vanderbilt on the prestigious Grantland Rice Scholarship. The 1974 graduate covered sports for *The Hustler* and

majored in English and history. Bayless developed a national reputation as a sports writer for the *Miami Herald* and *Los Angeles Times*. He wrote three books chronicling different eras of the Dallas Cowboys and was a prominent sports columnist in Dallas, Chicago and San Jose before being hired full time as a commentator by ESPN for programs like *1st and 10* and *SportsCenter*.

Blount, also a Grantland Rice Scholarship recipient, came to Vanderbilt from Decatur, Ga., where he was editor of his high school newspaper. He majored in English and began working for *The Hustler* after becoming friends with Lamar Alexander and other student journalists. Blount became editor before graduating in 1963. He is a prolific writer and humorist who has authored 21 books. He's a columnist for *The Oxford American*, contributing editor for *The Atlantic Monthly*, and panelist for NPR's *Wait, Wait ... Don't Tell Me*.

Elson, a native of Oak Ridge, Tenn., majored in English at Vanderbilt. She was elected the first post-World War II woman editor of *The Hustler*. She worked at the

see **Hall of Fame**, page 2

Recollections of golden days at VU

by Tim Ghianni

Lamar Alexander repeats "it's a wrong first step" when asked about the Kennedy health-care bill that just passed from the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, of which he's a member.

The 13-10 party-line vote, which angers the Tennessee Republican, is part of a hectic morning's work before he takes a breather to talk about his inclusion in the inaugural class of the Vanderbilt Student Media Hall of Fame.

"I started at the gym at about 6:30, and then I had a breakfast meeting on climate

change. And then a meeting with nuclear-industry people. And then we voted on the health-care bill. And then I had a press conference on the health-care bill. And what is it now? About noon."

It's a cinch at least one other member of this inaugural Hall of Fame class — **Sam Feist**, who calls the shots for CNN in Washington — has been following Alexander's activities closely, as the committee action is the big story inside the Beltway

see **Reflections**, page 7

INDUCTION CEREMONY

Student media alumni are invited to join us at the Student Media Hall of Fame induction ceremony at 5:30 p.m. on Oct. 16 in the Sarratt Student Center's Cinema. Space is limited, so please let us know if you plan to attend by emailing paige.clancy@vanderbilt.edu.

bright lights *an alumni column...*

Making our own luck

by **Glenna DeRoy**, Class of '08



Glenna DeRoy

Glenna DeRoy was a Choatie before she was a Hustler, so she apologizes to her high school class for the harsh spotlight. Glenna graduated from Vanderbilt in 2008 and was editor-in-chief of The Vanderbilt Hustler/InsideVandy.com in 2007. She lives in the D.C. area where she edits the USATODAY.com homepage, selecting stories and layouts and responding to breaking news.

What a difference five years makes.

I left my high school reunion this May with that thought at the front of my mind. The campus may have looked the same, and for the most part, the classmates looked the same. But we were all different.

We had grown up, and we were truly worried — many of us for the first time. In 2004, college apps and prom dates stressed us out, but it was more nervous excitement than genuine concern. By 2009, the economic world as we — and our parents — knew it had turned upside down.

Children of the 90s, we didn't know what the word recession even meant until this year. We noticed the post-9/11 bump in the road, but all in all, the economy was never on our radar screen.

Now, "the recession" and "the economy" are our biggest enemies; they star in our daily dinner conversations, and they played the villains in a lot of the reunion stories I heard.

Most of my former classmates had looked forward to the "real world," but we all found quickly that the "real world" was just as difficult and not as fun as advertised.

For many, the career paths they had chosen were either closed or very rocky. Some of us had already been laid off; others were jobless, but not counted as such by the government. Many had decided to wait out the storm in graduate school, some for no particular reason. And a few were like me, employed but on yet another furlough or hurt by a slew of corporate cutbacks.

We've gotten off to a rough start, but we can take comfort in what we've learned: A lot can change in five years. The question becomes: What role will we play in the recovery?

As the era of "too big to fail" (hopefully) comes to an end, there will be a real demand for employees who can find ways to run leaner, more efficient businesses. With fresh eyes and a different generational perspective, my peers are well-positioned to find new solutions to old problems and effect change from within corporations.

We will need to work hard for a seat at the table, though. Unfortunately, too many corporations are still top-down enterprises, when many of them will need a more agile, bottom-up approach to succeed in the future.

In many ways, however, new ideas and radical philosophies were never meant for the corporate world. And I think by now we've realized that no one will be there, gold watch in hand, to celebrate our retirements after 50 years with the same company.

We won't flee secure jobs en masse, but I predict many of us will leave the corporate structure — by choice or not — to pursue our own ventures. The current economic situation has demonstrated that we'll all have to make our own luck to a certain extent, and when our "big idea" comes, we'll be more likely to chase it than our parents might have been.

Some of those ideas will undoubtedly turn into spectacular failures, but overall, I'm encouraged by the entrepreneurial spirit of many of my peers.

I have no idea how it will turn out for us, but I hope we can count on this: When I meet up with my Vanderbilt classmates after five years, we'll be able to say, "What a difference five years makes." ✪

Hall of Fame, continued from page 1

Nashville Banner the spring of her senior year in 1974 before graduating magna cum laude/Phi Beta Kappa. She reported for the two Dallas newspapers before moving to the *Chicago Tribune*, where she held a variety of positions, including associate managing editor/features. At the *Tribune*, she edited a series about the Human Genome Project that won a Pulitzer Prize for exploratory journalism. Elson became managing editor of Tribune Media Services, the syndication and licensing division of Tribune Co., in 2004.

Feist, who majored in political science at Vanderbilt, began volunteering for *The Hustler* his first day on campus. He had strong ties to the

university and student media as his father, Lee Feist, was a 1965 graduate and *Hustler* editor. The younger Feist, who was born in Trinidad, hosted *Viewpoint*, a campus public affairs/talk program that aired on Nashville cable. He graduated magna cum laude and joined CNN full-time in 1991. He was founding executive producer of "The Situation Room with Wolf Blitzer." Feist was named political director and senior executive producer of political coverage during the 2008 presidential election. In January 2009 he became CNN's vice president of Washington-based programming. Feist earned his law degree from Georgetown University Law Center. ✪

adding to the vision

introducing our new staff members...

VSC recently hired two people to join our advising staff.

We're delighted to introduce these very talented individuals, whose impressive experiences are sure to benefit student media staff members when the new school year begins. Read on to learn about **Erin Prah**, VSC's new editorial fellow, and on page 6, you can learn about VSC's new director of photography, **Ting-Li Wang**.



ERIN PRAH ✪ Vanderbilt Student Media Editorial Fellow

Erin recently graduated from Penn State University, where she studied journalism, world literature and - on weekends - college football. In her freshman year, she joined *The Daily Collegian*, Penn State's student-run newspaper. After working with various sections and staffs there, she spent her last semester working as *The Collegian's* multimedia editor, a job that was, by far, her favorite. Erin had the opportunity to cover subjects she never had before because multimedia covered every beat. Some of her most memorable experiences included covering Barack Obama's campaign speech

in front of Penn State's Old Main building, and Sarah Palin's speech one week before the 2008 presidential election inside the school's Rec Hall. Even more exciting for Erin, a sports enthusiast, was covering Penn State football, including a few Joe Paterno press conferences.

In the summer of 2008, an internship with *Newsweek Magazine* took Erin abroad for the first time to *Newsweek's* London bureau near Piccadilly Circus. It more than whet the Pittsburgh native's appetite for international news and traveling. And tea. Lots and lots of tea. ✪

tunnel vision

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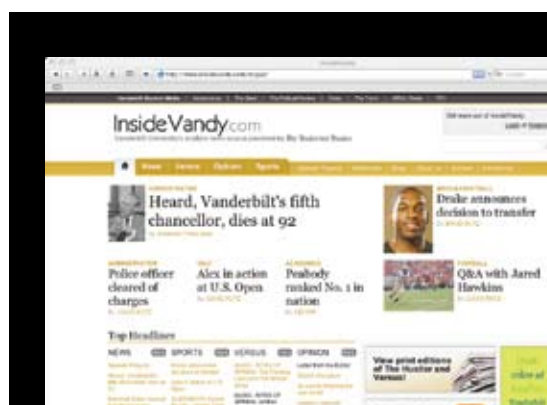
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distant voices *alumni updates...*

A glimpse into a few lives that helped shape student media at Vandy

1949

Jerry Niles Jordan ★ B.E., 1949

(*Commodore yearbook*) Jordan lives in Dallas, Texas, and said: As a retired civil attorney and occasional mediator with two Vandy daughters and two Vandy grandsons (a rising Junior and a rising Freshman) I keep interested in Vanderbilt. I and Mary, my wife of 54 years, will return this fall for the 60th reunion of the Class of 49. Again the inspectors at the airport will call me aside because of my two metal knees. A great deal of my time is devoted to the North Texas Council for International Visitors, a 501(c)(3) organization (ntciv.org). We most often work with the State Department in the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) and with the National Council for International Visitors (nciv.org). This is public diplomacy. This year I have met with visitors from Kenya, Japan, Algeria, Brazil, Pakistan and other countries. This work is interesting, educational and worthwhile. There are organizations similar to ours across the United States. Almost 300 people who are current or former heads of state around the world have been participants in this program. My wife and I have entertained members of Parliament from New Zealand, Hungary and the Netherlands. For over 50 years we have met people from many different professions from Africa, Europe, Asia, Australia, South America and the Mid East. It has been such a great experience that I recommend it to Vandy alumni. You can contact NCIV to determine if a member organization is near you. I am eagerly awaiting receipt of a copy of a book *The Generalissimo: Chaing Kai-shek and the Struggle for Modern China* (Belknap Press) written by Vandy alumnus Jay Taylor, a retired Foreign Service Officer who had access to Chaing Kai-shek diaries. The book has had excellent reviews. I get to see him in Washington D.C. along with Samuel P. McCutchen and other alumni of my era. Incidentally, Sam was the business manager of *V Square* the engineering magazine. Congratulations to you who produce *Tunnel Vision*. I enjoy learning about what has happened to the people who labored over photos and copy into the night for the varied media while they were at Vanderbilt. If you are in Dallas and need a free tour guide, I am available.

1958

Barbara Putman Erdman ★ B.A., 1958

(*The Vanderbilt Hustler*) Erdman lives in Waterloo, Ontario, Canada, and said: I was Society Editor of *The Hustler* and worked on the staff for two years reporting on social events on campus, parties and date lists, engagements, etc. plus writing an occasional humorous column. In 1988 I purchased the Blue Book Publishing Company, founded in 1928, publishers of the Social Register of Greater Miami. I enjoyed doing this and sold the company in 2005. I did other projects, such as editing "Beyond Julia's Daughters" for the Women's History Coalition of Dade County (Florida) featuring outstanding women in the Miami area. I still do some editing and consulting since I moved to Waterloo, Ontario, Canada in 2007. I became a Quinq at reunion in 2008.

1960

Chuck Nord ★ B.A., 1960

(*The Vanderbilt Hustler, Publications Board*) Nord lives in Bradenton, FL, and said: Rather than tell you what I'm doing, I'm going to tell you how I'm feeling as I traverse this, my eighth decade on Planet Earth. This is a bittersweet time in my life, as I am sure it is for many of my classmates, many of whose current experiences mirror those of mine. On the one hand, there is the sadness and sense of loss that is inherent when old and dear friends pass away with increasing frequency, and when others begin to decline in health. Two weeks ago, I said goodbye to a great friend and partner in a real estate venture. One of his children asked me, "When did you and Dad first meet?" I answered, "On the way to a Vanderbilt Interfraternity Council meeting on the second floor of Alumni Hall in 1958. We found common cause then and we continued to find it for the next 50 years in one thing or another." Believe me, the death of a friend is not an easy thing to get through. Not only am I made painfully aware of the temporary nature of my own existence, but I also recognize that I now have one less person with whom to share problems and solutions in both the personal and business/professional spheres. I am reminded of the late Fred Russell's statement that "Old age is not for sissies." Amen. On the other hand, there is the joy and sense of pride in watching one's offspring make their way in this world. Laurie and I have been blessed with four great kids. Sharing their ups and downs--and struggling to keep unsolicited advice to a mini-

mum--is a great antidote to the aging process. I find that when I interact with younger people, my own thought processes become themselves younger. I absolutely enjoy my children--even when we disagree--and for this I am most grateful. And our six grandchildren? Well, they are the icing on the cake. I look at those innocent faces and think, God only knows what they will face during their lifetimes, let's hope their upbringing prepares them for it as well as did my own rearing and education. Speaking of education, as the years pass, I am increasingly grateful for my Vanderbilt experience. I received a great education in the classroom, and some of the lessons learned there have sustained me during the inevitable rough stretches of life. I am an ardent advocate of liberal arts education. But perhaps I got an even greater education outside the classroom through interaction with the people comprising the University community of my time--fellow students, faculty, and staff. The Vanderbilt undergraduates of my era were 100 percent white and about 90 percent Southern; the faculty was likewise. Yet in our own way--and I know today's undergraduates will get a derisive laugh out of this statement--we were quite diverse, and as a consequence did a lot of educating of each other. In the cases of a number lifelong and close friendships that have resulted, this education has continued past graduation. And for this, too, I am both the better and grateful. Chuck Nord 1959-60 *Hustler* Editor

1962



John Turner in den with Edmund Osthaus original (EO is a relative)

John H Turner ★ B.E., 1962

(*The Vanderbilt Hustler*) Turner lives in Novato, CA, and said: President - Hutchinson & Company (a chemical & biochemical applications engineering firm)- recently elected to Board of Friday Forums in Marin County, CA. Friday Forums presents monthly selected key commentary on issues currently challenging County governance.

1964

Lawrence (Larry) E. Holder ★ B.A., 1964

(*Commodore yearbook*) Holder lives in Ponte Vedra Beach, FL, and said: I am enjoying semi retirement in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, with my partner Marsha Carton where I enjoy sunshine, golf, fishing, friends, and the time to read and contemplate. Spend time with grandchildren (ages 5 and under) who live in Baltimore, Washington DC and Denver. Have had a wonderful career as a Radiologist and Nuclear Medicine Physician in private practice in Baltimore, at the University of Maryland, and at University of Florida, Shands Jacksonville.



Grandson Reed Holder (age 20 months) and Marsha Carton.

Connect with old VU friends and classmates...

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Vanderbilt's new online community, where you can connect with alumni, students and friends around the world.



Lynn Mayes

Evalyn Lynn Mayes ★ B.A., 1964

(*The Vanderbilt Hustler*) Mayes lives in Atlanta, GA, and said: Thanks to Dr. Hamilton Hazlehurst and Puryear Mims at VU's Fine Arts Dept I have pursued a career in the arts and am a full time artist (painter). I am represented by three galleries, had two

one person shows in 2008 and look forward to a couple of group exhibitions in 2010. www.ceruleanfineart.com is my web site. We have a big reunion coming up this fall in October. Big holler out to everyone to come back to Nashville!

1968



Paul M. Kurtz

Paul M. Kurtz ★ B.A., J.D., 1968

(*The Vanderbilt Hustler, Commodore yearbook*) Kurtz lives in Athens, GA, and said: I recently received the Community Service from the National Child Support Enforcement Association for my work on the Uniform Interstate Family Support

Act, which has been adopted by all fifty states. I continue to serve as a Commissioner on Uniform State Laws, representing Georgia. I have just finished service on the Georgia Public Defender Standards Council, the organization that operates the first statewide indigent criminal defense system in our state. I also continue my service as Associate Dean and J. Alton Hosch Professor at the University of Georgia Law School.

1969



Kiernan visiting a clinic helping malnourished children in Ethiopia.

Michael Kiernan ★ B.A., 1969

(*The Vanderbilt Hustler, Versus magazine, Spectrum*) Kiernan lives in Arlington, VA, and said: Hi, I am a former editor of *Spectrum* (1968-69) and also founded *The Dirty Wee'jun*, a humor magazine, with Chuck Offenburger (1966-1969). After Vanderbilt, I worked in journalism for 20 years, and in 1991 began working for non-profits and government agencies, promoting media coverage of progressive issues. After six years with Save the Children, a global humanitarian aid organization, I am taking a new communications job with the AFL-CIO in July. I will be the communications director of the AFL-CIO Working for America Institute. I will continue to be based in Washington, D.C. Attached is a photo of me with some children in Ethiopia, a country I have visited many times while working for Save the Children. Best Regards, Mike Kiernan, Senior Director, Media and Communications Save the Children, Washington, D.C. Phone: 202-640-6630 Cell: 202-460-0614

1970



Randy and Kristi Brooks, with Randy's wife Marti.

Randy Brooks ★ B.A., 1970

(*WRVU*) Brooks lives in Dallas, Texas, and said: Former WRVU music director Randy Brooks will be returning to Vanderbilt this fall...but only to carry his daughter's belongings to her room. After a year of visiting campuses coast-to-coast, young Kristi surprised her father by settling on his alma mater.

Caryl Privett ★ B.A., 1970

(*The Vanderbilt Hustler*) Privett lives in Birmingham, AL, and said: I was honored to be named the 2009 Distinguished Alumna of The Altamont School in Birmingham and also by the Birmingham Urban League at their 2009 Multicultural Friendship Luncheon. I'll be running for re-election as a Circuit Judge in 2010.

William Livingston ★ B.A., 1970

(*The Vanderbilt Hustler*) Livingston lives in North Olmsted, Ohio, and said: My book "Above and Beyond -- Tim Mack, the Pole Vault and the Quest for Olympic Gold" won the 2009 National Media Award from the Pole Vault Development Committee of USA Track and Field. Available at Kentstateuniversitypress.com and Amazon.com. I'm also the co-author of "The Great Book of Cleveland Sports Lists" (Runningpress.com and Amazon.com) which was also released last year.

1971



Dean Chuck Stowe VU'71

Charles R.B. Stowe ★ B.A., 1971

(*The Vanderbilt Hustler, WRVU*) Stowe lives in Greenwood, SC, and said: Charles R. B. Stowe has completed his first year as Dean, College of Business and Public Affairs at Lander University. The College of Business and Public Affairs offers programs in business (AACSB accredited), political science, sociology, criminal justice and public administration and ROTC - military science. During his first year, the College obtained approval for a minor in military science, developed a college initiative in leadership. At Lander University deans are expected to teach, and Chuck taught organizational behavior and a course in globalization for honors students. Chuck just can't stay away from media related activities and worked collaboratively with the Department of Mass Communication to upgrade video equipment with the proviso that the College of Business and Public Affairs can use that department's television studio to develop video clips for use in class. He continues to be active in Young America's Foundation which he founded while attending Vanderbilt. Young Americas Foundation owns Rancho del Cielo, the home of President Ronald Reagan and continues to sponsor conservative speakers and leadership training for conservative students at over 2,600 campuses as well as operating the National Journalism Center. Chuck would love to hear from Vanderbilt alum: Charles. Stowe@gmail.com. Chuck retired from the Naval Reserve as a Public Affairs Officer with the rank of Captain (O-6) in 2001. He is married to Laura and they have a ten year old son, Charlie.

1971

Raleigh Romine ★ B.A., 1971

(*WRVU*) Romine lives in Alexandria, VA, and said: I was one of the last actual tunnel rats from the carrier current days of WRVU. For the last couple of decades I've been at the National Science Foundation, currently working in Network Security. I do keep my hand in communications by working the sound board at church.

1972



Trudy Day

Trudy Day ★ B.A., 1972

(*Commodore yearbook*) Day lives in Oakland, CA, and said: I am now the Assistant Dean at the school of education at Alliant University in California. Keeping busy working with new public school teachers and working to reform public schools through new teacher development.

1974

Ann Carroll ★ B.A., 1974

(*The Vanderbilt Hustler, WRVU*) Carroll lives in Washington, DC, and said: Ann Carroll is the Series Producer for History's 6-part series "Cowboys and Outlaws," first airing in December 2009. "I'm very proud of this series," she said. "The history of that era soon after the Civil War is very rich, and we're telling some fascinating tales about how the West was settled that many people don't know."

1975

Bart Binning ★ B.A., 1975

(*VSC Board member*) Binning lives in Oklahoma City, OK, and said: Currently in Commercial Real Estate with Prudential Alliance Realty in Oklahoma City, also the 2009 Chair of the Realtors Commercial Alliance of Central Oklahoma. Previously a professor at the University of Central Oklahoma teaching Production Management, Inventory Control and Information Systems. Also worked for Trane Air Conditioning in Oklahoma City, Manager of Building Automation Systems division, focusing on energy audits, automated temperature controls and sales and service of HVAC equipment.

Charles Austin Heffernan ★ B.A., 1975, M.B.A., 1977

(*WRVU*) Heffernan lives in Hagerstown, MD, and said: Owner - Royal Aircraft Services: www.royalaircraft.com

1977

Ned Pillersdorf ★ B.A., 1977

(*The Vanderbilt Hustler*) Pillersdorf lives in Van Lear, KY, and said: Attorney in Prestonsburg, Kentucky. Practice is primarily representing citizens who have experienced environmental harm. Celebrating 25th wedding anniversary to Kentucky Court of Appeals Judge Janet Stumbo.



Ned Pillersdorf

1978

F. Scott Anderson ★ B.A., 1978

(*Versus magazine*) Anderson lives in Columbus, Indiana, and said: I'm now pretty much entrenched in the part of the country where we watch the corn grow. No, actually Paula and I live here where I'm now in my second career as a soon-to-be RN at Four Seasons retirement center. I figure if you can't beat 'em join 'em! I would enjoy hearing from anyone remotely connected with *Versus* in the 70's.

Leigh Smitherman Edwards ★ B.A., 1978

(*The Vanderbilt Hustler, WRVU*) Edwards lives in London.

Leslie Lava ★ B.A., 1978

(*The Vanderbilt Hustler*) Lava lives in Tiburon (near San Francisco), CA, and said: "Several" years ago I had the pleasure of writing sports for *The Hustler*. Now, to compliment my day job of being a municipal bond attorney, I also compete in agility trials with my best pal, Tigger, The Wonder Dog!!!! The picture shows us over the recent Father's Day Weekend when Tigger and I competed in a two-day Canine Performance Event (CPE) agility trial in Palo Alto, CA. The "key" to these agility events is to earn "Qs" or qualifying runs. Tigger earned 8 Qs in 8 runs, which also earned us the Perfect Weekend Ribbon. What an athlete!! I wish I could have written about her for *The Hustler*...oh, right, I just did!! Leslie Lava



Lava: Tigger (my dog) and me at the CPE Agility Trial in Palo Alto, CA on 6/20 and 6/21, 2009.



Akers: Me. In my dining room.

William M. Akers ★ B.S., 1978

(*The Vanderbilt Hustler, Versus magazine*) Akers lives in Nashville, TN, and said: I teach screenwriting and filmmaking at Vanderbilt and have for fifteen years. I've had three movies made from my screenplays which is pretty amazing considering I don't live in Los Angeles. My snarky little book, *Your Screenplay Sucks!* has gone into a second printing. I've spoken on writing to screenwriters and business people all over the United States, in England and France. My son William is a junior at NYU. My son Caldwell is a sophomore at Bennington. I like both children equally. My dog Orson has lately become a picky eater. My dog Phideaux eats everything in sight. I prefer Phideaux. I blog about writing and whatever crosses my tiny, pea brain at yourscreensplaysucks.wordpress.com I dedicated my book to my students and my teachers, one of whom was Bob Baldwin at Vanderbilt!

1980

Paul Kingsbury ★ B.A., 1980

(*The Vanderbilt Hustler, Versus magazine*) Kingsbury lives in Nashville, TN, and said: My latest book is "Woodstock: Three Days That Rocked the World," a comprehensive, lavishly illustrated account of the famous 1969 rock festival written with co-author Mike Evans. It's in stores as of this July. In addition to writing about music, I do marketing, PR, graphic design, and Web managing for The Nature Conservancy in Tennessee. The Conservancy is the world's largest, most effective conservation organization, and I love helping them make a lasting and tangible difference for people and nature. Check us out at nature.org.



Paul Kingsbury with Smudge the wonder dog. Photo by June Kingsbury.

Jim Drash ★ 1980

(*WRVU*) Drash lives in Cincinnati, OH, and said: Married with 3 boys. Working the IT arena. I miss all my WRVUers.

1981



Alice Griffiths

years, I was lucky to come into this position through networking and by dint of having written a great deal of analysis and market reports while working with my previous employer, ABN AMRO, also in New York. The best parts of this job are working with smart people, having lots of flexibility, and most importantly, being able to work with words.

1982

Graham P. Matthews ★ M.Div., 1982

(*The Vanderbilt Hustler*) Matthews lives in Nashville, TN, and said: Still a leftist, but now am Comrade Pastor Graham P. Matthews, Key United Methodist Church, Murfreesboro, TN, as well as an Associate Professor of Early Childhood Education at Tennessee State University.



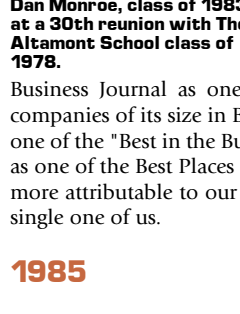
Bonnie Rothman Morris, President, Company B.

(*The Vanderbilt Hustler*) Morris lives in Dobbs Ferry, NY, and said: Last year, after working for many years as a journalist and public relations exec, I launched my marketing communications consultancy, Company B (www.companyb-ny.com). It's been an exciting year threading together pop culture, commerce and consumers by writing and producing websites, videos, e-newsletters, and developing PR and social media programs for some of the world's best-known brands.

1983

Daniel H. Monroe ★ B.A., 1983

(*Versus magazine*) Monroe lives in Birmingham, AL, and said: As a co-owner of Cayenne Creative, a strategic branding advertising and design firm in Birmingham, Alabama, I continue to ply my trade as a writer, but can take only a little credit for the outstanding company Cayenne Creative is becoming. At the time of this writing, Cayenne is celebrating having been recognized by the Birmingham Business Journal as one of the fastest growing companies of its size in Birmingham, a finalist as one of the "Best in the Business," and as a finalist as one of the Best Places to Work For - all honors more attributable to our entire team than to any single one of us.



Dan Monroe, class of 1983, at a 30th reunion with The Altamont School class of 1978.

Business Journal as one of the fastest growing companies of its size in Birmingham, a finalist as one of the "Best in the Business," and as a finalist as one of the Best Places to Work For - all honors more attributable to our entire team than to any single one of us.

1985

Lisa Neideffer Rhodes ★ B.S., 1985

(*WRVU*) Rhodes lives in Cottonwood, AZ, and said: I'm the Business Manager for two rapidly growing wineries - Page Springs Cellars and Arizona Stronghold Vineyards. I have two great sons, 6 and 20. I still keep in touch with the first person I ever met at Vandy, my former roommate and dear friend Beth Mosley.

1988



Wesley S. Odom

(*WRVU*) Odom lives in Pensacola, FL, and said: Wrote and published a non-fiction book, "The Longest Siege of the American Revolution: Pensacola". After almost 17 years with a full service brokerage firm, left and established a Registered Investment Advisory (RIA) firm, Armada Advisors, which trades primarily through Fidelity Investments. Specializes in corporate retirement plans and private client wealth management.

Kimberly Fields ★ B.A., 1988

(*WRVU, Versus magazine*) Fields lives in Louisville, KY, and said: Relocated to Louisville, Kentucky from my hometown of Lexington after graduating from UAB with a Master's in Nurse Anesthesia in 2006. Now employed by the largest provider of anesthesia services in the area, and have settled into my new home and routine. I missed the class reunion last year, but love hearing about those whom I knew at Vandy. Feel free to drop me a line, or join me on facebook!



Kimberly Fields at French Lick Resort, West Baden, Indiana, 2009.

Bonnie Rothman Morris ★ B.A., 1982

(*The Vanderbilt Hustler*) Morris lives in Dobbs Ferry, NY, and said: Last year, after working for many years as a journalist and public relations exec, I launched my marketing communications consultancy, Company B (www.

companyb-ny.com). It's been an exciting year threading together pop culture, commerce and consumers by writing and producing websites, videos, e-newsletters, and developing PR and social media programs for some of the world's best-known brands.

1989



Peter Pawlak

Peter Pawlak ★ B.E., 1989

(*WRVU*) Pawlak lives in Atlanta, GA, and said: I graduated from law school in 1997 and just opened my own firm this year. I enjoy my work in the area of trademark, copyright, contracts and other areas of intellectual property law. I married my beautiful wife Ruth in 2003. We recently enjoyed our vacation to Japan. Loving life in Atlanta, GA!

1990



George Bevington

George Lawton Bevington ★ B.A., 1990

(*Versus magazine*) Bevington lives in Atlanta, GA, and said: This summer I am working as a counselor at the "Summer Institute for the Gifted," an academic camp for

high performing secondary students, at U.C. Berkeley. Next week we will check out the massive cache of Mark Twain papers in Bancroft Library. The weather is fantastic and Alcatraz is right across the bay.

1991

Kathleen Renda ★ B.A., 1991

(*The Vanderbilt Hustler, Versus magazine*) Renda lives in Maplewood, NJ, and said: For the past three years I've been a senior editor at *Good Housekeeping* magazine, writing all of the food, fashion, and decorating copy. I also ghost wrote a how-to decorating book for Thom Filicia, the interior designers on the television shows *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy* and *Dress my Nest*. Called *Thom Filicia Style*, it was published in fall of 2008. We're currently collaborating on another book, which should be published ... soonish.

1992

Kelli Staples Burns ★ B.A., 1992

(*Commodore yearbook*) Burns lives in Tampa, FL, and said: I've been a mass communications professor for eight years, spending the past three at the University of South Florida. I have a book coming out this year called "Celeb 2.0: How Social Media Foster our Fascination with Popular Culture." Praeger Publishers describes the book this way: "Celeb 2.0 looks at how blogs, video- and photo-sharing sites, user-news sites, social networks, and message boards are fueling America's already voracious consumption of pop culture. Full of fascinating insights and interviews, the book looks at how celebrities use blogs, Twitter, and other tools; how YouTube and other sites create celebrity; how Web 2.0 shortens the distance between fans and stars; and how the new social media influences news reporting and series television."

Lori Altorfer Pinjuh ★ B.S., 1992

(*Commodore yearbook*) Pinjuh lives in Cleveland, Ohio, and said: Married to Joe Pinjuh, VU LAW '92, son age 7, daughter age 5. We moved to Cleveland in 1998. I'm an immigration attorney with Margaret Wong & Assoc. Co., LPA, and Joe's an Assistant U.S. Attorney handling federal narcotics cases.

Serdar Uckun ★ Ph.D., 1992

(*Versus magazine*) Uckun lives in Palo Alto, CA.

1993

Jay Graves ★ B.A., 1993

(*The Vanderbilt Hustler, Versus magazine*) Graves lives in Nashville, TN.

Mitchell Light ★ B.A., 1993

(*The Vanderbilt Hustler*) Light lives in Nashville, TN, and said: I am the managing editor of *Athlon Sports*. We publish preseason annuals for all major sports but are known for our college football magazines. Our office is right across West End from Vanderbilt.

1994

Maggie DeVane ★ B.A., 1994

(*The Vanderbilt Hustler, Versus magazine, The Vanderbilt Review*) DeVane lives in Orlando, FL, and said: Working for US Congresswoman Suzanne Kosmas as her local Field Representative-

UPDATE
your contact information at
VUconnect.com

alumni updates...

-which means I go to a lot of meetings. (Shout out to Willie Geist--let's hope we don't make your show...)



Rep. Kosmas, DeVane, Rep. Emanuel

Julie La Barba Miggins ★ B.S., 1994

(WRVU) Miggins lives in San Antonio, TX, and said: We joyfully announce the birth of our 4th child, James Benjamin Miggins, 5/26/09. He was welcomed home by his 3 siblings: Lily, John Carlo and Patrick Miggins. Julie and Robert Miggins



Julie and Robert Miggins, Lily, James, Patrick and John Carlo Miggins.

1995

Keith Alberstadt ★ B.A., 1995

(The Vanderbilt Hustler, WRVU) Alberstadt lives in Astoria, NY, and said: I'm currently in NYC, performing at comedy clubs around the city and on the road occasionally too. I recently appeared on the *Late Show with David Letterman*, which was pretty surreal. In a shout out to Vandy, I asked the band to play Brickhodes for my intro music, since it's by the Commodores and since I'm a big dork. In addition to stand-up, I'm a freelance writer for *Saturday Night Live's Weekend Update* and *Late Night with Jimmy Fallon*. Come check out a show sometime. Go Does!

Diego Rosenberg ★ B.S., 1995

(WRVU, *Versus magazine*) Rosenberg lives in Norwalk, CT, and said: Still get a connotation from right-wing slime.



Diego Rosenberg: Me and my cell phone!

1996

Chad Gervich ★ B.A., 1996

(The Vanderbilt Hustler, WRVU, *Versus magazine*, *Vanderbilt Television*, *The Vanderbilt Review*) Gervich lives in Los Angeles, CA, and said: Chad Gervich's first book, "Small Screen, Big Picture: A Writer's Guide to the TV Business," came out this winter from Random House/Crown. He has also continued to write and produce television, producing "Reality Binge," a comedy sketch/clip show for Fox, and "Speeders" on TruTV. He recently sold "Playing in Traffic" to

Chad Gervich

Endemol USA, and writes regularly for "Daily Variety," "Script," and "Writers Digest" magazines. He also teaches TV writing/producing classes for Mediabistro, Gotham Writers Workshop, StoryStudio Chicago, and The Writing Pad. Chad and his wife, Kelly Drinan (Peabody, '96), live in Los Angeles, where Chad also runs Vandy-in-Hollywood, Vanderbilt's professional networking and internship program for VU students and alumni interested in film, TV, digital media, and all aspects of entertainment.



Alexis Reader

Alexis Reader ★ B.A., 1996

(*Versus magazine*, *Commodore yearbook*) Reader lives in Los Angeles, CA, and said: Recipient of a 2009 Boutique 18 Award by *Boutique Design Magazine*

<http://www.boutiquedesign.com/article.aspx?ACID=1&AID=935>

Katherine (Kady Rowe) Numerick ★ B.S., M.Ed., 1996/1997

(The Vanderbilt Hustler, *Commodore yearbook*) Numerick lives in Leavenworth, KS, and said: Kate was married to Nick Obradovich in June 2008 and promoted to the rank of Major in August 2008. She is attending the Command & General Staff College's Intermediate Leadership Education Course, at Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas until June 2010. Upon graduation, she will deploy to Kuwait to run port operations for the US Army.

1997



Heather Ebert in front of the Sydney Opera House, a few days before Passion Sydney in October 2008.

Heather Ebert ★ B.A., 1997

(The Vanderbilt Hustler, *Commodore yearbook*) Ebert lives in Nashville, TN, and said: I moved back to Nashville from Washington, D.C., in August 2008. Since then, I've been working as the Senior Account Manager for Parthenon Publishing. Parthenon produces custom magazines, newsletters, websites and email campaigns for corporations and associations. In 2008 I also had the incredible opportunity to volunteer with Passion Conferences, a Christian ministry to university students based in Atlanta, Ga. I served at two of their regional events, in D.C. and Atlanta. I also had the honor of traveling to Kampala, Uganda in May and to Sydney, Australia in October during the Passion World Tour to assist with event logistics in those countries. Since last year I've also been working with a close group of friends to launch a ministry called Redemption Stories, to showcase personal stories of faith and hope.

1998

Lee Owen ★ B.A., 1998

(The Vanderbilt Hustler) Owen lives in Mercersburg, PA, and said: Lee Owen is a faculty member and editor of the alumni magazine at Mercersburg Academy, a prep school in Mercersburg, Pennsylvania (90 miles northwest of Washington, D.C.). He and his wife, Lindsay (B.Mus.'97), have a daughter, Langley (3 1/2 years), and son, Dalton (born in November 2008).

1998



Caroline Viscardi 2/18/09

Sarah Johnson Viscardi ★ B.A., 1998

(The Vanderbilt Hustler, *Commodore yearbook*) Viscardi lives in Arnold, MD, and said: Caroline Elizabeth Viscardi was born February 18, 2009. She

is welcomed by her parents, Mike and Sarah Viscardi and her big brother Henry.

2001

Daniel Vo ★ B.S., 2001

(The Vanderbilt Review) Vo lives in Philadelphia, PA, and said: I returned from doing medical work in India in May and just finished pediatrics residency at the Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital of NY in June. Now I'm moving to Philadelphia where I will be doing a combined anesthesia/pediatric critical care fellowship at CHOP.



Robbins: Shooting feature in NY.

Alicia Robbins ★ B.A., 2001

(Vanderbilt Television) Robbins lives in Los Angeles, CA, and said: Alicia is a working cinematographer/camera operator in the film business in Los Angeles, CA. She has recently joined the International

Cinematographers Guild as a camera operator and has worked on union projects including the TV show *Eli Stone*, the feature film titled "Extract," and several commercials and music videos. In addition, she is embarking on a few producing endeavors putting together two feature films with anticipated production dates in the next year. Her work can be viewed at www.aliciarobbins.com.

2003

Jay Prather ★ B.A., 2003

(Orbis) Prather lives in Lexington, KY, and said: Jay Prather has been named a partner in his law firm, now called Garmer & Prather, PLLC. He lives and practices in Lexington, Ky.



Blanca Torres

Blanca A. Torres ★ B.A., 2003

(The Vanderbilt Hustler) Torres lives in San Francisco, CA, and said: Blanca Torres now covers commercial real estate and development for the *San Francisco Business Times*.

She joined the *Business Times* in June of 2008 after three years of covering retail and consumer issues for the *Contra Costa Times* in Walnut Creek, Calif. Like many print journalists, Blanca's role also involves producing multi-media content such as Web stories, blog posts, video and audioslideshows. This past May, Blanca earned a master's degree in fine arts in creative writing from Mills College in Oakland. She concentrated on fiction writing and was the 2009 recipient of Mill's Marion Hood Boess Haworth Prize for children's and young adult fiction.



Conrad G. Lucas II

Conrad Gale Lucas II ★ B.S., 2003

(The Vanderbilt Hustler) Lucas II lives in Huntington, WV, and said: I recently published my first book called "Europe Beyond Your Means: The Paris Edition." It is a satirical and humorous travel guide to Paris filled with a lot

of commentary on the travel experience, Franco-American Relations and mockery of the typical "10 dollar a day" approach recommended by popular travel guides. For more information, go to www.europebeyondyourmeans.com

2004

Jessica Heaven ★ B.A., 2004

(Orbis) Heaven lives in Washington, DC, and said: I graduated from Georgetown Law in May and will begin a one-year fellowship at the National Women's Law Center in the fall (through the Women's Law and Public Policy Fellowship Program). Meanwhile, I am studying for the bar exam and planning an August 1 wedding with fellow Georgetown graduate Hiram Powers.

Anita Genetti ★ B.S., 2004

(WRVU) Genetti lives in Woodbridge, VA, and said: I'm currently a captain in the Marine Corps and coordinating the security for Marine One (Presidential Helicopter Squadron). I'm not doing anything communications related...however, I did tune in to WRVU during a recent visit to Nashville...it made me very nostalgic.

Cara Bohon ★ B.S., 2004

(The Vanderbilt Hustler, *Commodore yearbook*) Bohon lives in Los Angeles, CA, and said: I suc-

cessfully defended my doctoral dissertation at the University of Oregon in May 2009 and am now living in Los Angeles to complete an internship in clinical psychology at UCLA Medical Center.

2005

Alex Brian Kwak ★ B.A., 2005

(The Vanderbilt Hustler) Kwak lives in Chicago, IL, and said: I moved to Chicago, IL in August of last year and have been working in Alumni Relations and Development for the University of Chicago. I recently started working with the *Chicago Maroon*, the UC student newspaper, on an alumni development project.

2005



Aaron Kraft, Charleston, SC

Aaron Kraft ★ B.A., 2005

(*Versus magazine*, *Orbis*, *Spoon magazine*) Kraft lives in Washington, DC, and said: I am looking forward to leaving the workforce and heading back to school to pursue an MBA at Indiana University-Bloomington Kelley School of Business. I have great memories from Vanderbilt of all-nighters in the *Orbis* office, crazy golf-cart rides around campus, and an invitation to dinner at Chancellor Gee's house.

2005

Evan Mayor ★ B.A., 2005

(The Vanderbilt Hustler) Mayor lives in West Hollywood, CA, and said: I just graduated from The George Washington University Law School and moved to Los Angeles, California. I am currently studying for the California Bar. In December I am scheduled to start as an associate at O'Melveny & Myers LLP where I hope to practice entertainment and media litigation.

2006

Jerry Yen ★ B.A., 2006

(WRVU *Commodore yearbook*) Yen lives in Durham, NC, and said: I am a fourth-year graduate student at Duke University studying toxicology.

Neal Palmer ★ B.S., 2006

(WRVU) Palmer lives in Nashville, TN, and said: I'm entering my second year in the Community Research and Action program at Peabody. Unfortunately, I haven't had time to spin on WRVU since I got back to Vanderbilt, but I probably wouldn't know how to use the new equipment, anyway.

Ryan Denzer-King ★ B.A., 2006

(WRVU) Denzer-King lives in Missoula, MT, and said: Ryan finished his M.A. in linguistics in May at the University of Montana. He is starting his Ph.D. at Rutgers in the fall.

Robert Proudfoot ★ B.A., 2006

(The Vanderbilt Hustler, *Versus magazine*) Proudfoot lives in Washington, DC, and said: Currently working in the Office of Inspector General - Department of Education.

2007

David Fotouhi ★ B.A., 2007

(The Torch, VSC Board member) Fotouhi lives in Cambridge, MA, and said: I am still living in Cambridge, Mass. and attending Harvard Law School, where I will start my third and final year in the fall. At Harvard, I am active in the *Journal of Law & Public Policy* and I am the incoming President of the Harvard Federalist Society. I had a great time this past summer working at the law firm of Gibson, Dunn and Crutcher LLP in Washington, D.C.

Sean Seelinger ★ B.A., 2007

(The Vanderbilt Hustler) Seelinger lives in Chapel Hill, NC, and said: I am finishing my last year of law school at the University of North Carolina School of Law in Chapel Hill, NC. I spent the summer of 2009 working in Boston as a Summer Associate for the Boston-based law firm, Ropes & Gray.

alumni updates...

Jena Michele Richard ★ B.A., 2007

(*The Vanderbilt Hustler*) Richard lives in New York, NY, and said: Marketing Manager at American Express in New York City.

Courtney Dial ★ B.A., 2007

(*The Vanderbilt Hustler*) Dial lives in Nashville, TN, and said: I have recently graduated with my Masters of Education in Organizational Leadership from Peabody and accepted a job as a career counselor with the Vanderbilt Career Center.

2008

Meredith Collins Casey ★ B.A., 2008

(*The Vanderbilt Hustler, InsideVandy.com*) Casey lives in Chicago, IL, and said: Meredith Casey is working as a Media Associate at Starcom, a top global media agency. Currently, she plans and executes print campaigns for Bank of America and Merrill Lynch. As a media planner/buyer, she works with a Starcom team to determine how best to captivate a specific consumer target on behalf of her client. Whenever you see a Bank of America or Merrill Lynch ad in a newspaper, magazine or trade publication, it is highly likely that Meredith strategically booked that insertion. Meredith is always interested in connecting with Vanderbilt alumni in the media, marketing, and

advertising field. Please contact her via e-mail at Meredith.C.Casey@gmail.com.

Madeleine Frances Pulman ★ B.A., 2008

(*The Vanderbilt Hustler, InsideVandy.com, Commodore yearbook, Advertising*) Pulman lives in Atlanta, GA, and said: I am still working with Nissan North America however I have transitioned from the position of Marketing Specialist to Field Operations Specialist. In my new role I support five districts in North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia and Georgia which keep me extremely busy. Whilst still based out of Atlanta, GA this new position will almost certainly yield more travel opportunities to work with the District Managers, Loyalty Performance Managers and seventy five dealerships that I work with on a daily basis.

Lillian Gu ★ B.A., 2008

(*Versus magazine Commodore yearbook*) Gu lives in Durham, NC, and said: I'm working in a bio-chemistry lab at Duke University.

VUconnect ★ VUconnect.com

Connect with other alumni at VUconnect.com. If you're a Dore2Dore user, you'll need to create a new user ID and password for VUconnect.



Justin Roberts, Taken on the Staten Island Ferry in New York City, NY.

Justin Charles Roberts ★ B.A., 2008

(*The Vanderbilt Hustler, WRVU, Vanderbilt Television*) Roberts lives in San Antonio, TX, and said: I'm entering my second year of law school at St. Mary's University School of Law in San Antonio, TX. This year, I'll be interning with the Fourth Court of Appeals of Texas and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. I am looking forward to getting involved with the developing Vanderbilt alumni organization in San Antonio.

Emily Lemmon ★ B.A., 2008

(*Commodore yearbook*) Lemmon lives in Shisou, Hyogou, and said: I'm moving to Japan to teach English with the JET Programme for the next year (or two).

Tyler Zimmer ★ B.A., 2008

(*Orbis*) Zimmer lives in Chicago, IL, and said: I'm currently a Ph.D student in the Department of Philosophy at Northwestern University. I'm spending this summer learning German, because some of my work involves 19th and 20th century German social and political thought. I begin my second year in the Fall.

Meredith Trezise ★ B.A., 2008

(*The Slant The Torch*) Trezise lives in Pensacola, FL, and said: I am currently in primary flight training to become a naval flight officer.

2009

Courtney Holliday ★ B.A., 2009

(*The Vanderbilt Hustler*) Holliday lives in Nashville, TN, and said: After reporting on First Amendment law while interning for the Freedom Forum First Amendment Center during my last years as an undergraduate, I will become a member of the Vanderbilt Law School Class of 2012 this fall.

adding to the vision

introducing our new staff members...



TING-LI WANG ★ Director of Photography

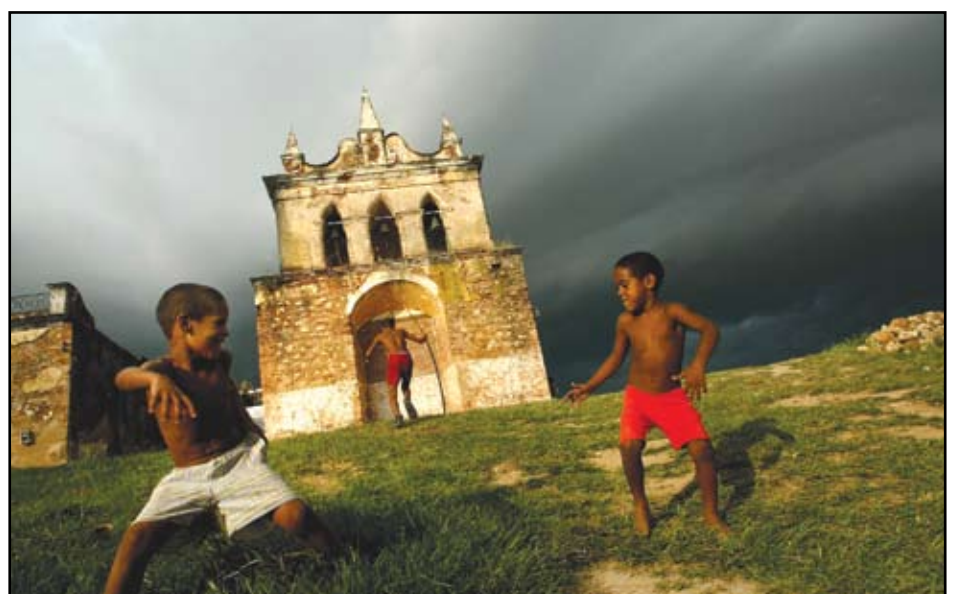
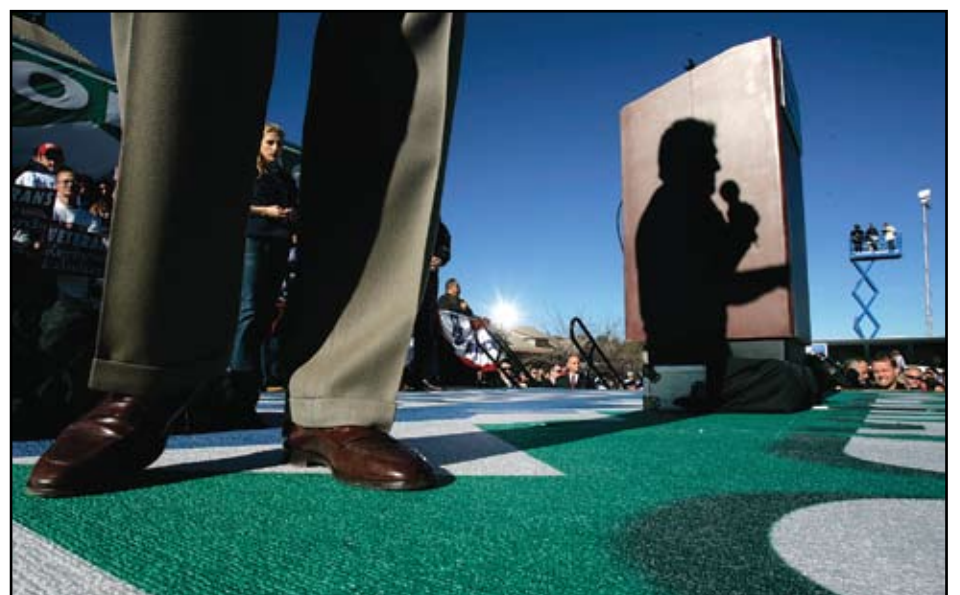
Ting-Li Wang discovered the beauty of photography while studying to become a better writer at Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism. She later continued her path to becoming a photojournalist at Ohio University, in Athens, Ohio. After internships in Kansas, Michigan and Virginia, Ting-Li became a staff photographer at *The Virginian-Pilot* in Norfolk, Va., in 1998. Whether it was a single mom with six children living in a lead-contaminated housing project in Portsmouth, Va., or the devastating earthquake in Turkey in 1999 where more than 17,000 perished, photographing ordinary people in extraordinary situations became Ting-Li's passion. She was named National Press Photographer Association's Region Three Photographer of the Year in 2000.

Ting-Li joined the photo staff at *The New York Times* the same year. She covered her first national political campaign

with Democratic presidential candidates John Edwards and John Kerry in 2004. Photographing Costa Rica, Cuba, Bali and China for the *Travel* section ranks among her favorite assignments. She visited China the first time in 2004 while shooting a travel piece on emerging eco-tourism near the Jade Dragon Snow Mountain in southwestern China.

After working six years at *The New York Times*, Ting-Li joined the faculty at Shantou University's Cheung Kong School of Journalism and Communication in Guangdong Province, China. She taught basic and advanced photojournalism focusing on picture stories reflecting life in rural China. While teaching, Ting-Li continued her pictorial exploration of acrobats and elderly leprosy survivors. She is constantly inspired by the shared humanity of peoples all over the world and the power of photography to transcend differences. ☺

PHOTO GALLERY: A sample of the photography of Ting-Li Wang.



Reflections, continued from page 1

this steamy July day.

Roy Blount Jr., noted man of words and wit, also likely was paying attention. Loyalty dies hard, and Blount was co-conspirator when the senator was *Hustler* editor in 1962. Together the two pushed for one of the most-important initiatives in Vanderbilt history: Integrating the undergraduate school.

Friendship also ties the two other esteemed journalists to be inducted: Class of '74 *Hustler* alums Mary Elson and Skip Bayless.

In one of her many roles at the *Chicago Tribune*, Elson edited a Pulitzer-winning project.

Her long-time friend and former colleague — both at VU and professionally — Skip Bayless has turned a stellar career as an opinionated sports print journalist into a stellar career as an opinionated sports broadcasting journalist.

Here's a look at the five and their Vanderbilt recollections:



LAMAR ALEXANDER

The senator making the rounds opining about the health-care bill was similarly willing to share his views when at VU.

But what the *Hustler* honcho was saying wasn't always intelligible, according to Blount.

"When Lamar was editor, he would stand on the balcony of Alumni Hall and make revolutionary speeches in Spanish," says Blount. "He had spent the summer in Latin America and admired the activism of Jose Collegio, as he called the Latino Joe College in his *Hustler* column."

Alexander remembers that oratory. "We put the paper together on Wednesday night. We'd get through at about 3 a.m."

"But at 1 a.m., I used to make speeches off the balcony in Spanish. At 3 a.m., I'd borrow my roommate's motorcycle and take the paper to the printer downtown."

His Senate service comprises just a part of a resume of public service.

Alexander's official bio notes he is the only Tennessean ever popularly elected both governor and U.S. senator; he's been U.S. secretary of education, president of the University of Tennessee, professor at Harvard's School of Government and much more.

He credits his *Hustler* work for a tad of his success: "The discipline of writing a

news story and a column and an editorial has served me real well in a career in public life where most of my job is persuading at least half of the people I'm right."

In addition to reflecting on lessons learned at the student newspaper, the senator recalls relishing the money.

"I was working my way through school. I was the *Nashville Banner* campus correspondent. I was giving away cigarettes, waiting tables, doing anything I could to make it through school."

As a *Hustler* reporter and then news editor, he had his eye on the prize: Cashing in as editor.

"The editor of the *Hustler* and the business manager split the profits back then," he says. "I had a very enterprising business manager named Ralph Cotham."

"On my first issue as editor, we had a six-page paper. Four and a half pages were cigarette ads. On the front of the paper I put a big picture of Jane Rogers, a cheerleader." In addition to that mammoth photo and the ads, he squeezed in a smidge of news.

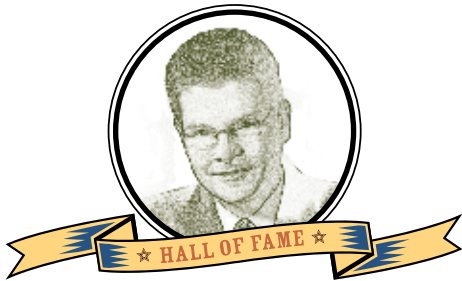
The glee at the entrepreneurial success was tainted when the dean weighed in by telling the editor "that is not the kind of journalism I have in mind."

Alexander's proud of the "most constructive achievement" he and Blount conspired on: "I editorialized in favor of integrating the undergraduate schools. Roy wrote columns about it. I wrote columns about it. We provoked a referendum."

"The students voted to stay segregated, but it provoked such an uproar on campus that the board of trust had to deal with it at their spring meeting."

The next autumn, the undergraduate colleges were integrated.

Such noble efforts aside, "most of our articles were about the Vanderbilt band and what the majorettes wore and what the fraternities were doing. And the cheerleaders," says the senator.



SAM FEIST

Michael Jackson has Sam Feist scrambling at CNN in Washington.

"We're trying to find out about the funeral. If it's Sunday at Neverland, which is what we're hearing, then we have to change our programming."

The political director and vice president of Washington Programming for

CNN Worldwide would rather air the just-completed gem of a *Sunday State of the Union with John King*.

"You'll really like it. It's with Colin Powell," says the genial and self-professed "political junkie." The Jackson funeral/Colin Powell quandary is the reason Feist is a bit late returning his phone call. No apologies necessary. News breaks and a true journalist deals with it.

Feist recently launched King's Sunday morning talker. He also was founding executive producer of *The Situation Room with Wolf Blitzer* and oversaw production of *Inside Politics, Crossfire* and others.

Such task juggling was part of his *Hustler* training. "I did a bunch of different things. I was a photographer and a photo editor. I was a reporter. I was a columnist."

"And I was also senior ad salesman. That's actually in some ways the most important thing I did. Selling ads gave me the money to support myself when I interned at CNN and other places."

"And it was an important journalism lesson. I realized the more ads I sold, the more pages of news made it into print. In other words, sell more ads, you get to write more stories."

"Good journalism requires a solid business component."

The 1991 graduate also crammed at VU for his electronic journalism career. "We had a small but growing television production station that was just beginning to bud." He served as executive producer and host of *Viewpoint*, a public affairs/talk program, airing on campus and on Nashville cable. "I was proud to be a part of that."

One of his biggest journalism lessons came when "as a columnist, I found myself involved in a significant controversy.... A member of the board of trust, Hall Thompson, was a member of an exclusive country club that didn't allow African-Americans and Jews into the club."

The *Hustler* staff saw "it as a vestige of the old Vanderbilt, (and) wrote story after story, and I wrote column after column" about that and the fact other VU powers were members of similarly discriminatory clubs.

"People resigned from the country clubs. In a lot of ways, that's what journalism's all about: to provide a check on our leaders. I still think that was an important story."

While expressing shock that he's in the same Hall of Fame class as personal heroes like Alexander and Blount, Feist earned his place. "My first day on campus, I walked down to The Tunnel, where they published *The Hustler* and I volunteered." He left plenty of sweat among the stale sandwiches and coffee stains in those dank offices.

The Jackson funeral, for the record,

was moved to Tuesday. The Powell interview aired. And it was a blockbuster.



SKIP BAYLESS

A recurring nightmare reminds Skip Bayless about his *Hustler* days.

"I'm at the old *Hustler* offices atop Vanderbilt Hall, clacking away on a manual typewriter, trying to finish a column at 3 a.m., and I realize, to my horror, that I have some kind of physics final at 8 a.m. that I forgot to study for."

This acclaimed sports commentator shakes himself awake. "I never took physics, but I still have that dream to this day."

While he skipped physics, the class of '74 grad's nightmare has factual basis. "It wasn't easy keeping up five classes while spending so much time writing for the *Hustler* when you received no academic credit for it. You really had to want it."

This self-assured on-air personality allows warm-souled humility to seep through when discussing his inclusion in the first Hall of Fame class.

"I was surprised and honored I've been in awe of Roy Blount's work since I began reading him in *Sports Illustrated* while I was at Vandy."

"And when Mary Elson was editor of the *Hustler* while I wrote sports for it, I knew she would do great things. I eventually got to work with her at the *Chicago Tribune*. Now we're being inducted together. Wow."

Bayless began his course as a high school sports writer, and the Grantland Rice scholarship allowed him to hone his skills by clacking out *Hustler* features and columns.

"The baseball teams won the SEC all four years. The basketball team won the SEC my senior year. The football team, under Steve Sloan, shocked Georgia in Nashville that year. It was a great time to be writing about the Commodores, although it was nearly impossible to remain objective when you cared so much about the teams and lived around so many of the players in the Towers," he says.

After Vanderbilt, he began establishing a national rep as a writer for *The Miami Herald*, *Los Angeles Times* and the Dallas newspapers, where in addition to provid-

see **Reflections**, page 8

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Reflections, continued from page 7

ing coverage of the Dallas Cowboys he authored a trilogy of books about the behind-the-huddle politics of America's Team.

He went on to Chicago, which he left for the *San Jose Mercury News*.

While in San Jose, Bayless — who had been developing his electronic media resume all along — began appearing on ESPN's *Rome is Burning* and in a regular *Sunday SportsCenter* debate with Stephen A. Smith.

In 2004, the network hired him full-time to appear on shows like *Cold Pizza*, *First and 10* and *SportsCenter*.

"I've done a lot of stuff," he says.



MARY ELSON

Vanderbilt is a great journalism training ground, says Mary Elson.

"My own feeling is you can't substitute a broad knowledge of the world," she says.

While lacking a journalism program, "Vanderbilt specializes in the intellectual infrastructure for how you operate in the media world as a professional," she says.

Elson has negotiated that infrastructure well since graduating with a major in English and a minor in art history in 1974. Her stops included being an assistant lifestyles editor at the *Nashville Banner* and general assignment reporter at the Dallas newspapers before moving to the *Chicago Tribune*.

Elson has worked her way up to man-

aging editor of Tribune Media Services. She's been a metro reporter, feature writer, assistant magazine editor, metro writing coach, Chicago bureau chief, deputy metro editor and associate managing editor/features.

She also edited a series — written by Tribune reporter Paul Salopek about the Human Genome Diversity Project — that won a Pulitzer for explanatory journalism in 1998. She gives a lot of the credit for her work on that project to her Vanderbilt education.

"I remember auditing a genetics class that was extremely complicated. It gave me great experience for things in journalism and one thing was editing this series."

The native of science hub Oak Ridge, Tenn., "went to Vanderbilt thinking I would major in molecular biology," she says, but got sidetracked when she "went with one of the girls in my hall to the *Hustler* office up in old Alumni Hall."

"I just seemed to connect with the people and the whole operation," she says. "I made a couple of failed attempts to write and then I became a regular member of the staff."

"I had chemistry labs at 8 on Saturday mornings in the basement of one of the science buildings and I contrasted that with being up in Alumni Hall."

She made a choice and served as arts editor, news editor, and managing editor and as the first female *Hustler* editor since World War II.

"I always told people that working on the *Hustler* was one of my top journalistic experiences. People were so smart.

"I remember the intensity and good humor and intellect and dedication of the people there."

Of course, sometimes class attendance suffered. "We used to have to go to Murfreesboro to get printed twice a week. We'd drive up there and stay up all

night..."

"We'd come back to campus at 7:30 in the morning and go off to class. Or not go to class. The whole thing was sort of an adventure."



ROY BLOUNT JR.

A passion for storytelling and a scholarship drew Roy Blount Jr. to VU.

"I chose Vanderbilt because I'd heard it was a good school for aspiring writers — and because I won that (Grantland Rice) scholarship, which back then was a full, four-year free ride."

That free ride paid off for Blount, who has become a well-known, witty man of many words since his four years — 1959-63 — at Vanderbilt.

Blount has written 21 books about such things as the first woman president, what animals are thinking and professional football, he is a panelist on NPR's *Wait, Wait ... Don't Tell Me*, a columnist for *The Oxford American*, a contributing editor for *The Atlantic Monthly* and more.

Other accomplishments listed in his self-penned bio include a stint as a *Sports Illustrated* writer and editor, a screenwriter and lyricist, a standup act, an actor, a Comedy Central political commentator, a guy who has jumped out of an airplane, sung on stage with Stephen King, caught catfish with his bare hands in Illinois, ridden a camel in Kenya, a dolphin in the Florida Keys, an elephant in L.A.

Blount says there was no question he'd

write for the school newspaper when he arrived on campus fresh from serving as the editor of his Decatur, Ga., high school paper.

"Well, I wanted to be a writer, and in those days you figured that writers got started on newspapers." Upon arriving at VU, he met student journalists — including Alexander, who was a year ahead of him — and entered the fray.

"I started as a reporter," he recalls. "Covered the Student Senate and civil rights developments during turbulent, historic years.

"I've forgotten what my titles were, but I was news editor, assistant editor, something like that, and my junior year I was writing a column."

He also dabbled in layout and worked as an assigning editor, which paved his way to become editor of the paper his senior year, "putting the paper to bed and writing a column and lengthy editorials."

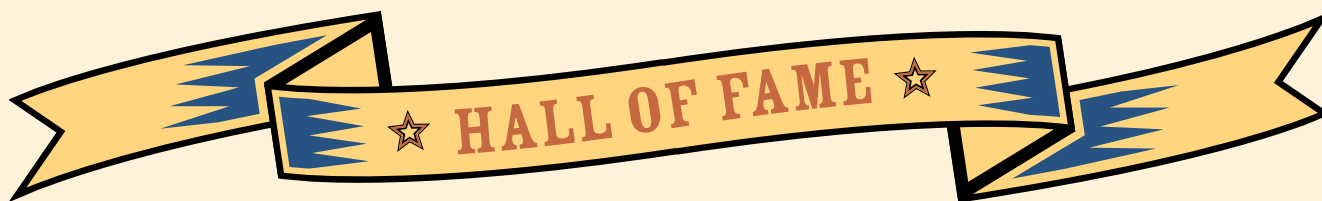
As Alexander notes above, Blount was an active chronicler of the tussle over integrating the undergrad schools. "Aside from editorializing in the paper, I took part in debates."

Blount says "the *Hustler* got written up in *Newsweek*" during his tenure, and, while he can't swear to it, he thinks it was "for editorializing in favor of integration and denouncing other colleges' resistance to it."

While he has traveled long, far and oft-erratically since leaving Vanderbilt, he accepts the Hall of Fame honor in Blount fashion.

"My dream was to be in Cooperstown, but on reflection this is actually better."

Tim Ghianni is a nationally honored journalist who lives in Nashville.



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CANDIDATE NOMINATION INFORMATION

Please include the following information on a separate sheet/sheets:

Your Information:

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- Email address
- Phone
- Mailing Address

Nominee Information:

- Name of nominee
- Nominee's class year or approximate
- Vanderbilt student media organization(s) in which nominee worked
- Dates (or approximate) when nominee worked in Vanderbilt student media
- Please describe your knowledge of how the nominee contributed in a significant way as a staff member to one or more of Vanderbilt's student media organizations
- Please describe how the nominee has achieved outstanding personal or professional accomplishments and/or made distinguished and lasting contributions to his or her field and/or society in general

You are welcome to also send additional supporting information, documentation, photos, etc.

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