

tunnelvision

A publication for alumni of student media at Vanderbilt University



TUNNEL NEWS

STUDENT MEDIA AWARDS

JOURNALISM



Graduating senior David Rutz received the Charles Forrest Alexander Award in Journalism, which recognizes a Vanderbilt student who has achieved distinction in student journalistic projects. Rutz served as sports editor for three semesters, managing a staff of assistant editors and reporters to produce the sports section of *The Hustler*. For InsideVandy.com, Rutz helped oversee the production of podcasts, videos, photo galleries, interactive multimedia, summer-time athletics coverage, Sports blog content and breaking-news stories. He also supplied sports coverage to student radio and television. He worked with two other "Davids" to start the sports talk radio show "3D Sports" on WRVU. He also served as a guest commentator on Vanderbilt Television. The Alexander Award is given in memory of Charles F. Alexander, B.A., '50.

RADIO

This year's recipient of the WRVU Nashville Award for Dedication to Excellence in Radio Broadcasting was graduating senior Morgan Bernard, who served as the station's promotions director. Among her contributions were putting together WRVU's local music event to help promote awareness of the station and local musicians. She also was integral in the WRVU CD sale that raised more than \$500 for Nashville's W.O. Smith School of Music. The WRVU award is presented to annually to an undergraduate Vanderbilt student who is a current WRVU DJ, a member of the executive staff and one who has shown excellence beyond expectations for their position in their dedication to WRVU either in listenership, programming, music education of the public, engineering or financial support. This award was created by Dr. James Noble, a 1997 A&S graduate and former WRVU general manager.



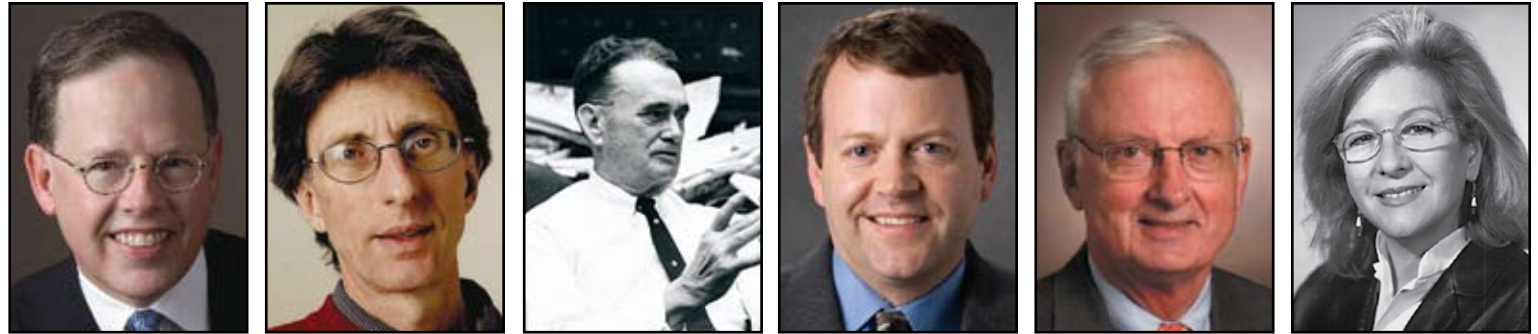
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VANDERBILT STUDENT COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

1967 **42** 2010

CELEBRATING 43 YEARS IN 2010



DON BENSON ALEX HEARD RALPH MCGILL BUSTER OLNEY DR. RAPHAEL SMITH TRACY WILKINSON

THE 2010 CLASS



Vanderbilt Student Media names 2010 Hall of Fame class

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

Six Vanderbilt University alumni who worked in student media and then distinguished themselves through a variety of careers – including cardiologist, journalist, author and broadcast executive – will be inducted into the Vanderbilt Student Media Hall of Fame on Oct. 22. Those selected for the 2010 class are Don Benson, president and CEO of Lincoln Financial Media; Alex Heard, author and editorial director for Outside magazine; Buster Olney, writer and analyst for ESPN; Dr. Raphael Smith, professor of medicine, emeritus, Vanderbilt University Medical Center; and Tracy Wilkinson, Mexico City bureau chief for the Los Angeles Times. Also to be honored posthumously is Ralph McGill, journalist and Pulitzer-prize-winning columnist with the Atlanta Constitution.

A ceremony and reception to honor the inductees is scheduled from 5:30 to 7 p.m. in the Vanderbilt Sarratt Student Center's Cinema and adjacent lobby. The event will be held in conjunction with Vanderbilt's Homecoming/Reunion Weekend. In addition, the 2010 inductees will be recognized in a permanent exhibit in the Sarratt Student Center, the longtime home of Vanderbilt Student Communications.

"After reviewing more than 100 nominations, the selection committee feels strongly that these six alumni are highly deserving of recognition in the Student Media Hall of Fame," Chris Carroll, director of student media, Vanderbilt Student Communications, said. "This is the highest honor that we can bestow on these former student journalists."

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



Vanderbilt permeated the DNA of Benson's family. His father, grandfather, uncles and younger brother attended the university and Benson Science Hall was named for his father's uncle. Benson grew up in Nashville, loved Vanderbilt and developed a keen interest in radio during his teens. He found his way to campus and WRVU, where he began reporting news on a fill-in basis. WRVU became a large part of Benson's college life. After graduating in 1974 with a B.A. in history, "D.B.," as he was called, began his radio career with Jefferson-Pilot at WQXI AM/FM in Atlanta. Now, with more than 30 years of radio industry experience, he is president and CEO of Lincoln Financial Media Co., the previous owner of Jefferson-Pilot. Benson has overall responsibility for the operations of 14 radio stations in Atlanta, Miami, San Diego and Denver. Benson has been named to Radio Ink magazine's list of "The 40 Most Powerful People in Radio."

who was executed in 1951 for allegedly raping a white housewife. To tell the story, Heard relied on exhaustive documentary research, including court transcripts, contemporary newspaper reports, archived papers, letters, FBI documents, interview transcripts and other untapped sources, along with the recollections of family members whose parents or spouses were involved in the case. He also wrote *Apocalypse Pretty Soon*, a nonfiction book about the millennium that was published in 1999.



Olney, who grew up on a farm in Vermont, came to Vanderbilt to study history, but said "my major was working at the newspaper and at Versus." By age 15 he knew that he wanted to be a sportswriter, in particular, one who covered baseball. He does this now

Hall of Fame, continued on page 8



Heard, a native of Jackson, Miss., transferred to Vanderbilt from a Kansas school in 1978. He enjoyed writing for *The Hustler* and later *Versus*. Heard earned his B.A. in English in 1980. After graduation he moved to Washington, D.C., where he began working at magazines and he's been doing that ever since. Now he is the editorial director of *Outside* magazine. He also has worked as an editor and writer at *Wired*, *The New York Times Magazine*, *New Republic* and other publications. Heard's new book, *The Eyes of Willie McGee*, tells the story of a young African American man from Laurel, Miss.,

YOU ARE INVITED



INDUCTION CEREMONY

Student media alumni are invited to join us at the Homecoming/Student Media Hall of Fame induction ceremony at 5:30 p.m. on Oct. 22 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...*

The Digital Plunge

by **Jennifer Peebles**, Class of '95



Jennifer Peebles

Production night for *The Vanderbilt Hustler*: Stories to edit. Assignments to be given out. Someone else's irritating mix tape playing on an overly loud portable stereo, and the smell of film-developing chemicals emanating from the darkroom in the brief periods when the door is opened.

You've seen that scene described in this space by writers much more talented than I. So let me describe a different one.

Night fell on the interior of the campus, far from the neon and noise of West End, and the only people walking on the footpaths were students getting out of evening labs. This wasn't the Tunnel or anywhere in Sarratt -- this was the glass-enclosed circular computer building near Stevenson Science Center. I was parked at a computer terminal with a handful of friends from my dorm, and we were enjoying partaking in a new high-tech novelty: We were sending messages back and forth to each other via computer.

It wasn't a telephone call. It wasn't a letter. It was a strange new electronic communications medium called "e-mail."

I had heard about it from a friend who heard about it from a friend -- the university would give you an e-mail "address" for free if you knew to ask for it. It was all word of mouth. Only a handful of people I knew had accounts, and we all started dashing into the circular building periodically -- once a day or every couple of days -- to see if we'd gotten any messages. (Few people in my dorm had computers of their own, and even fewer had modems.)

When I graduated from the university in 1995 and went to work full-time at *The Tennessean*, I suspected I would be part of one of the final generations of the newspaper business. The medium would die off in my lifetime, probably, a victim of television and the shrinking attention span of the average American, but that would be years in the future. Maybe I'd even retire before then.

I never would have imagined then that the Internet -- the one-time novelty -- would usurp much of the influence of both newspapers and television before my classmates and I had turned 40.

And like so many of my former colleagues, I'm now trying to make the leap from print to digital.

Two years ago, two of my former *Tennessean* co-workers got a grant to start a nonprofit online news site in Houston, and Texas Watchdog was born. They asked me to serve on its board of directors and later offered me a job. After 14 years at the paper, I packed up my belongings for Texas and took the plunge into the deep end of the digital pool.

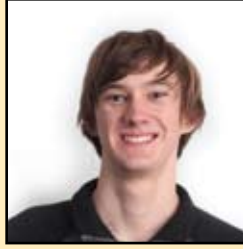
My title here is "deputy editor," but I do a little bit of everything. I report and write stories. I edit stories written by my colleagues. I crunch some data. I do some GIS mapping and make interactive Google maps. I file a lot of freedom of information request letters and review a lot of government documents. I whip up the occasional chart or graphic, largely using what I can remember from 15 years ago at *The Hustler*. I help people who contact us about government transparency problems they're having in their communities. I blog, mostly on freedom of information issues. I do whatever needs doing, basically. I'm trying to learn PHP, a scripting language used by many Web sites, as well as some video skills.

As someone who is dog-paddling in that digital pool, I'm glad that Vanderbilt student media is putting a greater emphasis on

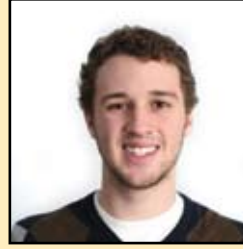
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MEDIA LEADERS

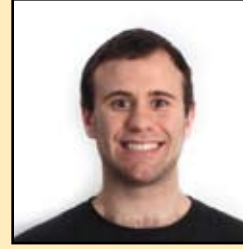
The VSC Board of Directors selected the following media leaders for the 2010-11 academic year:



WRVU
Mikil Taylor
Station Manager



INSIDEVANDY.COM
Chris McDonald
Director



THE VANDERBILT HUSTLER
David Namm
Editor-in-Chief



VANDERBILT TELEVISION
Andrew Kirkman
Station Manager



NEWS EDITOR
Kyle Blaine



SPORTS EDITOR
Meghan Rose



OPINION EDITOR
Theo Samets



LIFE EDITOR
Charlie Kesslering



PHOTO ASSIGNMENTS EDITOR
Chris Honiball



PROMOTIONS COORDINATOR
Justin Tardiff

NOT PICTURED:

THE SLANT
Clay Christain
Editor-in-Chief

THE VANDERBILT REVIEW
Tara Westlund
Editor-in-Chief

THE TORCH
Phil Carroll
Editor-in-Chief

ORBIS
Jon Christian
Editor-in-Chief

CHIEF COPY EDITOR
Emilie Lyons

JIM LEESON: 1930-2010

Student media alumni who knew Jim Leeson, VSC's first consultant journalist, gathered at an overlook next to Leeson's home for a wake on May 13 to remember the "one-of-a-kind guy" who died at home on May 3.

"If you've never heard of James T. Leeson Jr., that's just how he wanted things," wrote E. Thomas Wood, B.A., 1986, on a Nashville Scene blog shortly after Leeson's death.

"Ask him about his role in the Civil Rights Movement, and he would steer the conversation from his own activities to the tragicomic foibles of people on all sides of it, white and black," Wood wrote. "Ask him about the neurotics, cranks, paupers and princes he mentored in Vanderbilt's Sarratt Tunnel as adult supervisor of the university's student journalists, and he could cite an instance when just about every one of them had shown his or her (usually his) ass."

Wood remembered the veteran journalist as a realist with a "cantankerous soul" who was admired and feared by many. Wood also posted a collection of comments from alumni and others whose lives had been touched by Leeson. The document grew to more than 12,600 words in length and included the following:

John Atkins, B.A., 1989

"He changed my life. It is that simple. That is the way this



story starts and ends. He was a mentor. He taught me to mentor others. He taught me how to give of myself fully, to commit to a project, a person, a cause. And more than anything else, how to be humble in all things from the gifts I possess to the work we must do together."

David Barie, B.A., 1981

"He was a great counselor regarding interpersonal and organizational affairs. He was hospitable to all, and among the great highlights of my time at Vanderbilt were the wonderful, day-long picnics he would host at the 'ranch'

on his land in Williamson County."

Tracy Wilkinson, B.A., 1980

"Jim Leeson was such a figure, a force, a presence. He educated and helped shape so many of (us) young, naïve wanna-be journalists who traipsed through the Tunnel. And over the years he watched our careers from afar, even when we didn't know he was looking."

See page 3 to read how Leeson's influence led Alex Heard, B.A., 1980, to begin research for his new book, "The Eyes of Willie McGee."

tunnel vision

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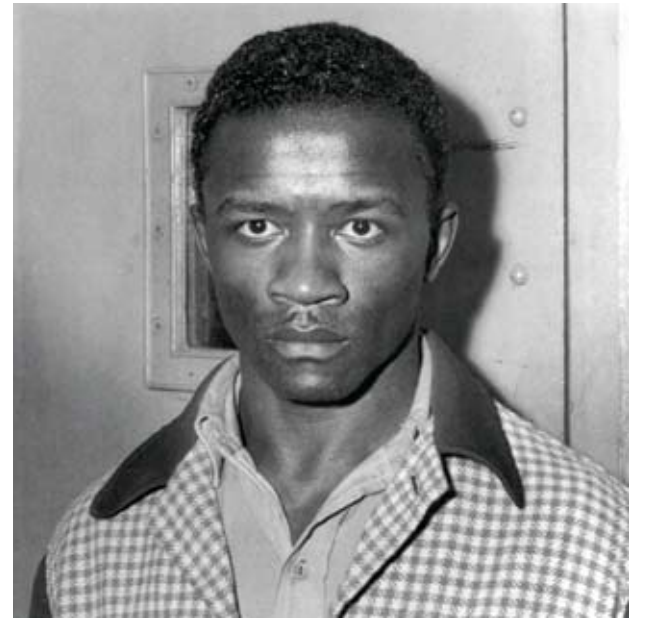
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Protestors at Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C.



McGee in jail, 1945.

Alumni book examines 1951 execution

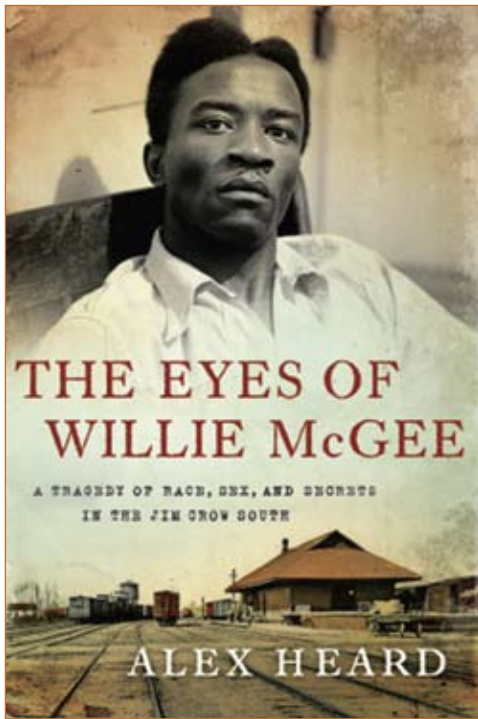
Alex Heard said he had two reasons for using the title "The Eyes of Willie McGee: A Tragedy of Race, Sex and Secrets in the Jim Crow South" for his new book about the black man who was executed in 1951 for raping a white woman. One intention was to reference a poem, "Lynchsong" by Lorraine Hansberry, that includes the line "I see the eyes of Willie McGee."

The other reason was to reference McGee's gaze.

"He was photographed several times and he had this way of staring at the camera, in a way that is unspoken, but he seems to be saying 'don't you forget there's a real person here and I have dignity,'" Heard said. "I'm trying to remind people that whatever this man had or had not done, he had a lot of dignity and he went out that way."

Heard, a 1980 Vanderbilt alumnus and editorial director for *Outside Magazine*, said he spent years researching McGee, and on May 11, his book was made available to the public. Heralded as "a real-life *To Kill a Mockingbird*," by fellow authors, the book unearths the history of McGee's crime, his trials, his defense lawyers and his accuser – a white woman from Laurel, Miss., named Willette Hawkins.

Heard initially was exposed to McGee's story when he was attending Vanderbilt, working for *The Hustler* and later *Versus* magazine. Jim Leeson, the journalism consultant for student publications, owned a tape recording of McGee's execution that Leeson made straight from the radio broadcast on the night McGee was executed.



Leeson, who died on May 3, told *Tunnel Vision* in an interview before his death that during his time with VSC, he would play the tape to let students know what the Old South was like. He said he had read Heard's book twice and thought Heard had presented the still "extremely touchy and volatile question" with objective reporting that allows readers to make up their own minds.

Recalling Heard's writing as a Vanderbilt Student, Leeson said he remembered that Heard

"wrote subject matter that was sort of crazy, but you could tell he had a way with words."

"He was an unusual student in that he would write something and then when he read the proof he could see the flaws in it, and a lot of times he would not want it printed," Leeson said. "But that's the way you learn."

He taught himself. And he was highly disciplined then, as he is highly disciplined now."

Heard's research that began as a hobby in 2004 turned into a serious pursuit when he received a book contract in 2006.

In his fact-based retelling, Heard said he set out to answer two questions: First, "was the case presented against (McGee) strong enough to warrant him being convicted to death?" and second, "did (Hawkins) lie? Did she start an affair with him and was caught and cried rape to protect herself?"

Heard began by reading the trial transcripts. He read newspaper stories from the trial days and listened to post-trial interviews with McGee's defense lawyers who said, "If (McGee) had said the wrong thing, they believe he would have been killed on the spot. They even believed they might have been killed."

Many previous accounts of McGee were based on stories that had been retold so many times they became accepted as truth. So Heard also went through the lengthy process of making Freedom of Information Act requests, about two dozen in total, to retrieve as much information possible from the federal government about McGee's case.

Heard said ambiguity will always surround the case, but his conclusion is that while Hawkins was blamed blame for McGee's death, those calling for McGee's release should have been upset with "the court system of the era."

"I argue that this is probably a case of blaming the victim for things that were done by the justice system at the time," Heard said. "That's **one of the main things** in my book that is new and is a departure from what people have written. I'm sure **some** people will disagree with me." 🍌



Willette Hawkins and lawyers in 1955.



McGee was convicted and executed on the second floor of the Laurel Courthouse in 1951.

their next career steps lead them and looking forward to a Tennessee wedding in May 2011.

Sean Seelinger ★ B.A., 2007

(The Vanderbilt Hustler) Seelinger lives in New York City, NY, and said: I graduated from the University of North Carolina School of Law in May and moved to New York City to study for the New York and Massachusetts bar exams in July. I will start a one-year fellowship with the New York State Office of the Attorney General in September before prior to joining the Boston-based law firm Ropes & Gray.

Mike Burns ★ B.A., 2007

(The Vanderbilt Hustler, VSC Board member) Burns lives in Washington, DC, and said: received his J.D. at Georgetown this May.

2008

Craig Tapper ★ B.A., 2008

(The Vanderbilt Hustler) Tapper lives in New York, NY, and said: I have been working as a writer and editor for the New York Yankees since graduating in 2008. I work on the production of "Yankees Magazine" and the annual "New York Yankees Yearbook." After winning the 2009 World Series, I served as an editor for "Twenty-Seven: The Official Yankees World Series Championship Commemorative."



Craig Tapper



Gu, Durham, NC. Photos courtesy of Ken Luallen.

Lillian Gu ★ B.A., 2008

(Commodore yearbook) Gu lives in Durham, NC, and said: Married Jerry Yen (*Commodore Yearbook*, BS '06) on May 23, 2010! (Are we the first yearbook couple?)

Madeleine Pulman ★ B.A., 2008

(InsideVandy.com Commodore yearbook Student Media Advertising) Pulman lives in Atlanta, GA, and said: Still living in Atlanta and working for Nissan - so not much new there! I travel at every given opportunity and Scuba Diving remains my passion. I acquired my most recent certification in Thailand; Advanced Open Water Diver, and I look forward to advancing on to the Rescue Diver Level which I am currently working towards. I will be traveling to the Cayman Islands in July for some tropical diving and a short break from a busy work schedule.



Scuba Diving off Koh Phangan, Thailand



Justin C. Roberts (Me) - Emceeding the "Off the Vine" wine gala and fundraiser for All Saints Episcopal School in Tyler, TX, where I attended high school.

I'm currently applying for clerkships for when I graduate.

Meredith Trezise ★ B.A., 2008

(The Torch) Trezise lives in Jacksonville, FL, and said: I recently received my wings as a Naval Flight Officer. I fly in the P-3 Orion and am stationed in Jacksonville, FL.

Ellen Tremaine ★ B.A., 2008

(Versus magazine) Tremaine lives in New York, NY.

2009



Becky Tyrrell

Justin Charles Roberts ★ B.A., 2008

(The Vanderbilt Hustler, WRVU) Roberts lives in San Antonio, TX, and said: I am entering my third year of law school at St. Mary's University School of Law. I am the incoming Editor in Chief of the St. Mary's Law Journal, which is the tenth most frequently cited law review by state and federal courts in the United States.

Medical Center in New York, I have decided to pursue my dream of hiking the Appalachian Trail. I'll begin hiking at Springer Mountain in Georgia and hopefully make it to Pennsylvania before beginning graduate studies in health care policy and management at Carnegie Mellon University in the fall.



Mike Kranzler

Mike Kranzler ★ B.A., 2009

(The Vanderbilt Hustler, InsideVandy.com, The Slant) Kranzler lives in Miami, FL, and said: I am the Media Coordinator for Arluck Promotions, a sports marketing agency based in South Beach representing Olympic athletes. We also run the

Swim Champions Fitter & Faster Tour, a nationwide tour of swimming events with Olympians. In our first six months of the Tour, we've reached over 40 cities and 10,000 swimmers and their parents.

2010

Jacquie Berger ★ B.A., 2010

(InsideVandy.com, Vanderbilt Television) Berger lives in Westport, CT, and said: I recently graduated from Vanderbilt in December 2009, worked the 2010 Vancouver Olympic Games, and am currently working at ESPN on the ESPY Awards.



Alumni Column, continued from page 2

the online side. When I got out of college, the main skill a *Hustler/Commodore/Versus/VSC* alum could claim was the ability to write -- and back when I was a student, there were some people in the Tunnel who could write like the Lord himself had reached down from heaven and imparted His blessing on their keyboards. (This is as good a time as any for me to include the obligatory "Yes, as a matter of fact, I did work with Tyler Kepner in college" comment. No, I seriously doubt he learned anything from me. Yes, we all knew he would someday work at the *New York Times*.)

But I've learned from my dog-paddling that, while writing will still be important to the next generation of journalists, it won't be enough for them to get by. They'll also need computer and multimedia skills that my classmates would never have imagined. Can you write computer programming code for dynamic Web sites and apps? Can you join and analyze databases to find stories? Can you shoot and edit your own video? Can you make animations with Flash?

Maybe the key for tomorrow's Tunnel staffers won't be learning a specific skill, such as writing a story in the inverted pyramid or how to layout a page on computer -- it might be learning how to learn, and learning how to be ready to move to whatever is the next new program or platform. The core skill involved is the same one at the heart of writing good newspaper stories -- communication, or more specifically, storytelling -- and the next generation will have to be nimble enough mentally to transfer that skill across multiple communication mediums, including prose, video, data, and whatever new whoziwhatzits come down the pike 10 or 15 years from now, the likes of which an old geezer like me can't even imagine today.

When I was a student, you wrote a story, and if it was salvageable by the editors, it got edited and got in the paper -- and on an average publication day, it was read by several hundred 18- and 19-year-olds during Econ 100 (but only after they had finished the crossword puzzle). When I was a student, there was only tile, not

carpet, on the floor of the *Hustler* newsroom. When I was a student, we had to walk to class. In the snow. Five miles. Uphill. Both ways.

Times change. Today's students working in the Tunnel will have opportunities that my generation never had -- such as producing journalism for multiple platforms and broadcasting that work to a universal audience online. But I think those opportunities will also require the next generation to be smarter than mine.

At least, I hope they're smarter than mine. Maybe they can do something to get rid of that irritating mix tape on production night.

Jennifer Peebles is deputy editor and jack-of-all-trades for *Texas Watchdog* (<http://www.texaswatchdog.org>). She lives in Houston and welcomes comments and hate mail at jennifer@texaswatchdog.org or on Twitter at @jppeebles. She's also on Facebook, MySpace, and way too many other social networking sites. ☺

Román named Student Media Editorial Fellow for 2010-11

The newest member of Vanderbilt Student Communications Inc. is Gaby Román, who will be joining the staff as the 2010-11 editorial fellow. Román will lend her talents in video production to the position. She is a 2010 Vanderbilt graduate who majored in film studies and English. Last summer she worked as an intern for Encore Media, in Nashville. Within the past year, a short film Román co-edited was screened at the 2010 Nashville



Film Festival as well as the 2009 Eugene International Film Festival, where it won the "Cut to the Chase" award.

"I am looking forward to working with and learning from all the members of the student media community this new school year," Román said. "Multimedia is a passion I enjoy sharing, and it is my hope that the content I produce and ideas I exchange will resonate this interest with the students. I'm truly thrilled to be a part of the VSC team." ☺

VSC ALUMNI DONORS

Vanderbilt Student Communications recently asked our family of Student Media Alumni for support to publish Tunnel Vision and to help fund our alumni events. VSC is delighted to announce the following alumni responded with generous donations, and we extend a heartfelt thank you to each of them. Thank you!

ALUMNI GOLD SPONSORS

- Skip Bayless
- Anonymous Donor

ALUMNI SPONSORS

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- Justin Stephen Smith
- Student Media Stars
- Lamar Alexander
- Chris Carroll
- Robert C. Eager
- Sam Feist
- William W. Gwinn, Jr.
- Sean Seelinger

HOMECOMING GOLD

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- John M. Travis
- John H. Turner

Hall of Fame, continued from page 1

as a senior writer and analyst for all ESPN entities, appearing on programs such as "Baseball Tonight" and "Sports Center." After graduating with a B.A. in history in 1988, Olney became the Nashville Banner beat reporter for the Nashville Sounds. He moved to the San Diego Union-Tribune and Baltimore Sun before joining The New York Times, where he covered first the Mets and then the Yankees. He has been at ESPN since 2003. Olney is the author of The Last Night of the Yankee Dynasty: The Game, the Team, and the Cost of Greatness and of the forthcoming book How Lucky You Can Be, which is about basketball coach Don Meyer.



According to the 1953 Commodore, Smith was among those who began work on a campus radio station, then called WVU. He served as the station's first technical director and engineer. His activities included laying army surplus field wire through the campus steam tunnels to transmit a radio signal to the dorms and being on call 24/7 for repair of equipment. Smith earned his B.A. in chemistry in 1955 and then went to Harvard, where he received his M.D. He did tours of active naval duty during Vietnam and Desert Storm, where he was deployed to the Middle East. He joined the Vanderbilt faculty in 1969 and directed the Coronary Care Unit and Heart Station. He also became chief of cardiology at the Nashville Veterans Medical Center. Smith was in charge of a series of experiments involving the effect of weightlessness on astronauts' heart function during the three Skylab missions. He was on the decks of the recovery ships so he could interpret his findings when the astronauts were

pulled out of the water. Other research interests include the diagnosis and new forms of treatment for heart failure. The cardiology unit at the Nashville VA Medical Center is named after him.



Wilkinson grew up in Atlanta, Ga., and worked as a reporter and news editor for The Hustler. She earned her B.A. in English literature in 1980. After working for United Press International in Peru and Nicaragua, Wilkinson joined the LA Times in 1987. She has covered wars, crises and daily life in more than 50 countries. Wilkinson has been based in San Salvador; in Vienna, where she covered the war in the Balkans; in Jerusalem; and in Rome, where she wrote about a papal funeral and election. She has covered southern Europe, done several stints in Iraq and is now based in Mexico City, where she is the Times' bureau chief and a contributor to its La Plaza blog. Among her awards, Wilkinson received the George Polk Award for coverage of the Balkans and Kosovo and the Overseas Press Club Award twice. She also wrote the lead story in the Times' Pulitzer-award-winning package on racially motivated riots. Her book The Vatican's Exorcists: Driving Out the Devil in the 21st Century has been translated into half a dozen languages.



McGill, who was born in 1898 in Igou's Ferry (Hamilton County), Tenn., enrolled at Vanderbilt in 1917. He wrote a column called "Censored" for The Hustler and contributed to Jade, a student humor magazine. McGill also wrote poetry and became friends with some of the famed Fugitive writers.

He lettered in football under legendary Coach Dan McGugin. However, during his senior year, he was suspended for writing a Hustler column in which he criticized the administration for not using the \$20,000 that was bequeathed by a former professor for a student lounge. By that time, McGill was busy with his job outside school as he covered the police beat at the Nashville Banner. He left the College of Arts and Science although he later enrolled in Vanderbilt Law School. McGill, who was a member of Sigma Chi fraternity, got in trouble again and kicked out of school for pulling a prank against a rival fraternity. He invited some of the more notorious individuals that he had met covering police stories to Beta Theta Pi's spring formal. McGill never completed any degrees at Vanderbilt but continued to work at the Banner, becoming sports editor and sports columnist. In 1929 McGill joined the Atlanta Constitution, where he worked his way up to syndicated columnist, editor and publisher of the morning newspaper. McGill was a staunch supporter of civil rights and opposed social and educational segregation at a time when few around him spoke out on the issue. In 1959 he was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for editorials condemning hate crimes by the Ku Klux Klan. McGill published four books, including The South and the Southerner. Harvard University was among several institutions awarding him honorary degrees. McGill died from a heart attack in 1969.

For more information about the Vanderbilt Student Media Hall of Fame, contact Chris Carroll at chris.carroll@vanderbilt.edu. To learn more about Vanderbilt Student Communications, click on www.vscmedia.org.



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Regardless of your ability to contribute at this time, we're grateful to count you among our alumni, and we'll continue to send you Tunnel Vision and include you in our events. Thank you for your support of student media at Vanderbilt!

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NOMINATION FORM

We welcome your nomination for the Vanderbilt Student Media Hall of Fame.

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Please include the following information on separate paper or in an email:

Your Information:

- Your name
- 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 contribution to his or her field and/or society in general

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

To nominate a Hall of Fame candidate, please complete the above information and send via email to chris.carroll@vanderbilt.edu or mail to: Vanderbilt Student Communications • Attn: Hall of Fame • 2301 Vanderbilt Place • VU Station B 351669 • Nashville, TN 37235-1669