# 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, summertime 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



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VANDERBILT STUDENT COMMUNICATIONS, INC. 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.

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 A ceremony and reception to honor the 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."



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.,

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

#### 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.

tunnel vision

#### 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

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

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

Alumni Column, continued on page 7

# tunnelvisio

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# 1EDIA LEADI

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 HUSTI FR Editor-in-Chief



VANDERBILT TELEVISION Andrew Kirkman Station Manager



**NEWS EDITOR** 



**SPORTS EDITOR Meghan Rose** 



**OPINION EDITOR** Theo Samets





PHOTO **ASSIGNMENTS** 



**PROMOTIONS** COORDINATOR **Justin Tardiff** 

#### **NOT PICTURED:** Clay Christain



Editor-in-Chief

**LIFE EDITOR Charlie Kesslering** 

#### 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."

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McGee in jail, 1945.

# Alumni book examines 1951 execution

lex Heard said he had two reasons for

Jim Crow South" for his new book about the black man who was executed

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 using the title "The Eyes of Willie McGee: A was attending Vanderbilt, working for The Hustler and Tragedy of Race, Sex and Secrets in the later Versus magazine. Jim Leeson, the journalism con-

> sultant 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.

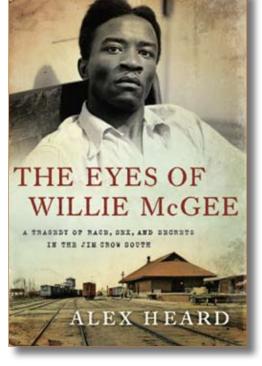
In his fact-based retelling, Heard said he set out to answer two questions: First, "was the case presented against (McGee) strong enough to warrant him being convicted to death?" and second, "did (Hawkins) lie? Did she start an affair with him and was caught and cried rape to protect herself?

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

"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.

tunnel vision

#### distant voices alumni updates...

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

#### 1946

#### Virginia (aka Sis) Mershon Holladay $\star$ B.A., 1946

(*The Vanderbilt Hustler*) Holladay lives in Nashville, TN, and said: Not too long ago I happened upon an admissions brochure that was being sent to high school seniors and lo and behold it had a picture on the cover of **Framces Ragan Gibson** and me as students. I now have a beloved grandson, **Brannan Doyle**, a senior at Vanderbilt, who works in the Admissions Office.

#### 1950

#### Franklin T. Evans ★ B.A., 1950

(*The Vanderbilt Hustler*) Evans lives in Baltimore, MD, and said: Retired from active medical practice, but still nursing U.S.Patent #5,656,865 for a wind energy device that has about five more years of patent life.

#### 1951

#### Nancy Garrison Bates $\star$ B.A., 1951

(The Vanderbilt Hustler, Commodore yearbook) Bates lives in Hillsborough, CA, and said: The San Francisco Bay Area, specifically Hillsborough, has been my home since 1964, when my husband, Herb, was transferred here with Friden Business Machines. My husband passed away in October of 2008. Gary, my oldest son, is a meteorologist with NOAA in Boulder, CO; daughter Jennifer is married to Tony Gerst and also lives in the Bay Area. They have 3 children, Andrew, Emily and Ellen. The twins, Andrew and Emily, started college this past fall, Andrew at Case Western Reserve Univ. and Emily at Northwestern. Son Steven lives nearby also. My life has followed the usual paths--volunteer and church work, cultural activities and bridge. My main emphasis has been on working and advocating for the developmentally disabled--on a local, state and national level Some of my fondest Vanderbilt memories are of the time I spent involved with the "Hustler" and the "Commodore". We worked hard, but had a good time--and I got to know some really neat people. I don't think there are many of us left

#### 1957

#### Eleanor McCain Brown ★ B.S., 1957

(Commodore yearbook) Brown lives in Eufaula, Al., and said: I have kept up with my art that I used as editor of the Commodore. I paint daily and have just been very successful in the latest art contest I have entered. I will spend one month in New Mexico in the fall. I will take a plein aire painting class in Taos, New Mexico. I paint mostly from his area. The Commodore year was very hard. the Pi Phis hated the 35 phone calls I got each day. I have retired from teaching science after 30 years in 1998. My Vandy years were the most precious in my entire life. We now have the third generation Ronald Singleton Brown, III in his junior year.

#### 1959

#### George Salo Stern ★ B.A., J.D., 1959

(*The Vanderbilt Hustler, WRVU*) Stern lives in Atlanta, GA, and said: 3 children 8 grandchildren former President of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, treasurer of the International Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers for past 20 years and founding fellow of academy, Senior Partner of Stern and Edlin law firm, Atlanta, GA, past president of Atlanta Jewish Community Center

#### 1960



George F. Port

#### George F. Port ★ B.A., 1960

(The Vanderbilt Hustler, WRVU) Port lives in Boulder, WY, and said: Our production/distribution company Marvista Entertainment Inc based in Los Angeles (marvista.net) is having a very good year. Our newest tv film "16

Wishes " will be broadcast on the Disney Channel on June 25th

#### Charles Edward Simpson ★ B.A., 1960

(*The Vanderbilt Hustler*) Simpson lives in La Canada, CA, and said: At Vanderbilt I was a reporter, copy editor and ultimately business manager of the Hustler. I took my share of the paper's profits, returned to California and went to law school. After 33 years of private law prac-

tice, Gov. Pete Wilson appointed me to the Los Angeles County Superior Court where I have been for the past 13 years. My bound volume of the 1959-60 Hustler is full of stories by Roy Blount and Lamar Alexander on issues of the time including the early civil rights activities of Lames Lawson

Jack B. Combs \* B.A., 1964, J.D., 1968

(Spectrum) Combs lives in Santa Fe, NM, and

#### 1961



Carl L Sebelius ★ B.A., 1961

(WRVU) Sebelius lives in Memphis, TN, and said: I was recently (5-15-10) elected as President elect of the Tennessee Dental Association.

Carl L. Sebelius

#### 1964

said: After graduation I went to Washington where I was an Administrative Assistant to a Congressman, returning back to law school at VU in 1965 where I became a member of the Law Review I then returned to Washington as counsel to the Chairman of the Education and Labor Committee. At the time, 1968-69 I decided to move to a more secure life and joined a law firm in Grand Rapids, Michigan, that already had two VU Law Review Grads. I was the 23rd lawyer to join the firm which now exceeds 240 lawyers. After 37 years of law practice with the same firm, I retired and moved to Santa Fe, New Mexico, to continue my photography. I had been a photographer since age 12, and purchased the first 35 mm camera in the remote Eastern Kentucky county where I was raised on the Right Fork of Troublesome Creek. My pictures were not shown or published until 2004 when I first showed them to David Alan Harvey, a former National Geographic photographer for 30 years who had subsequently moved on to Magnum, the most prestigious photo agency in the world. By that time I had ventured into Cuba thee times and taken photographs that convinced Harvey (and he convinced me) that I should pursue a book on the occasion of the half century of hostility between the U.S. and its neighbor only ninety miles away. One year after their celebration of the overthrow of the Batista government by the Castro Revolution in 1959, "The Cubans" was published and distributed by the University of Virginia Press. The book is about the Cuban people, not their leaders in green fatigues and combat boots, nor their Socialist/Communist government; it is rather about the Cuban people. Most books on Cuba start and stop in the picturesque area of Old Havana, or in the historically preserved city of Trinidad, but "The Cubans" goes throughout every province, including small villages and farms. It shows that while the Cuban people may want for many things, and despite their lack of food, jobs, material goods. shelter

#### 1966

#### Ellen Eisendrath McGeady ★ BSN, 1966

and transportation, they retain an indominable

spirit. The book is described at www.documen-

taryphotographypress.com. and can be ordered

through Amazon.com, photoeye. com, Barnes

and Noble. com, and numerous local and nation-

al chain stores (192 pages, 120 images).

(VUT) McGeady lives in North Charleston, SC, and said: Have lived in North Charleston, SC for the past 3 1/2 years. I moved from Flossmoor, Illinois after 23 years and have never looked back. Am active in our choir which sings in the Piccolo Spoleto festival every year. Charleston is a wonderful city with many activities and offerings in the arts. My daughter and granddaughter live here, as well as, one of my sons. Another son will be joining us in August.

#### 1968



#### John Hindle \* B.A., Ph.D., 1968

(Versus magazine, Spectrum) Hindle lives in London, UK, and said: Recently named President of the Vanderbilt Alumni Association for a twoyear term 2010 - 2012, after serving on the Alumni Association Board of Directors since 2004.

#### Anne Ramsey Stringham ★ B.A., 1968

(Commodore yearbook) Stringham lives in Nashville, TN, and said: Anne Ramsey Stringham, Commodore Editor 1968, currently works as Communications and Special Events Director at Ensworth School, an independent K-12 school, in Nashville. She and husband Jack Stringham, Commodore Business Manager 1968, J.D. 1974, are looking forward to welcoming their first grandchild in June.

#### 1970

#### William Eugene Livingston $\star$ B.A., 1970

(The Vanderbilt Hustler, Impact Magazine) 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 silver medal from ForeWord Magazine as the second-best sports book in the nation that was published by an independent or university press. It also won the national media award from the Pole Vault Development Committee of USA Track and Field, which I received at the National Pole Vault Summit in Reno, Nev. I have been a sports columnist at the Cleveland Plain Dealer since 1984, concentrating mainly on Ohio State sports and the Cavaliers. It was nice to do the Rose Bowl one more time on January 1 as the Buckeyes beat Oregon. And, no, I do not know what LeBron James is going to do.

#### Caryl Privett ★ B.A., 1970

(*The Vanderbilt Hustler*) Privett lives in Birmingham, AL, and said: I am unopposed for re-election to another 6 year term as a Circuit Judge in Jefferson County, Alabama. I serve as a civil trial court judge which I absolutely love.

#### Truett Smith ★ B.E., 1970

(WRVU) Smith lives in Nashville, TN, and said: Still heading up M/BITS and working on TV projects in the southeast as well as helping TV stations and other area TV facilities recover from the disastrous flooding in Nashville that took place during the first week of May. Busy is a good thing, but the losses that I have seen from the flood waters are very sobering.



T K (Butch) Smith BEEE 1970

#### 1971



Charles (Chuck) R.B. Stowe ★ B.A., 1971

(The Vanderbilt Hustler WRVU) Stowe lives in Greenwood, SC, and said: Chuck Stowe VU'71 will shift from Dean, College of Business and Public Affairs to a new position as Director, External Initiatives representing Lander

University to develop new educational services and streams of revenue. Chuck will be responsi-

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

ble for promoting the development of online academic and continuing education programs, the use of Lander's facilities for educational meetings, and developing consultive services. "Universities have an important part to play in economic development. We can and should become catalysts for entrepreneurs and small business who need intellectual capital and networks for expanding their businesses." Chuck's wife Laura is active in the community and his son, Charlie, is in the Magnet School System for the Arts. "I'll miss the deanship, but this position gives me an expanded role that is more external." Lander University, a state supported institution with 3,000 students, will serve as the host for the South Carolina's Bankers Association Bankers Institute involving over 200 bankers from 43 counties throughout the state in July. Chuck's blog is www.profentrepreneurship. wordpress.com

#### 1972

#### Steve Kendall ★ B.A., 1972

(The Vanderbilt Hustler, Versus magazine, Commodore yearbook) Kendall lives in Harvard, MA, and said: My debut novel, Follow The Falcon, was published as an e-book by www.clublighthousepublishing.com in April. (It will soon be available through Amazon.com, Barnesandnoble.com and various other distributors.) Follow The Falcon is a mystery that was inspired by the largest art theft in history, the still-unsolved heist in 1990 of 12 masterpieces from Boston's Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum.



Peggy J. Shaw

#### Peggy Shaw \* B.A., 1972

(The Vanderbilt Hustler) Shaw lives in Decatur, GA, and said: I am the Director of Public Relations and Marketing at Holy Innocents' Episcopal School in Sandy Springs, GA, one of the largest Episcopal schools in the country.

#### 1974

#### Wiliam M Akers ★ B.A., 1974

(*The Vanderbilt Hustler, Versus magazine*) Akers lives in Nashville, TN, and said: I teach screenwriting at Vanderbilt, write the occasional script, and nurture my book, YOUR SCREENPLAY SUCKS!. Five star rating on Amazon! I give lectures, seminars, and workshops on writing anywhere a plane will land.

#### Brenda Hopson Hasham \* B.A., 1974 (Versus magazine, Rap Magazine) Hasham lives

(Versus magazine, Rap Magazine) Hasham lives in Atlanta, GA, and said: Working on a book!

#### Gregory H Fuller ★ B.A., 1974

(WRVU, Versus magazine) Fuller lives in Sausalito, CA, and said: I now have a blog -- posting humorous / lifestyle essays and other mental detritus: www.gregoryfuller.com/blog1 and am planning a collection of personal essays to be published in the near future. More information in my web site: www.gregoryfuller.com and Facebook as events unfold.

#### 1975

#### David D. Boaz ★ B.A., 1975

(Versus magazine, The Freedom Writer - unofficial and unsubsidized, except for a Tunnel office) Boaz lives in Arlington, VA, and said: David Boaz's book Libertarianism: A Primer has just been published in Spanish, Italian, Korean, and Kindle, making a total of 14 languages plus audio and e-book. He also contributed the entry "Libertarianism" to the Encyclopedia Britannica, which for an intellectual is sort of like, as Buck Owens put it, a country singer getting his picture "on the cover of the Music City News."

#### Don House ★ B.A., 1975

(WRVU, VSC Board member) House lives in Chelsea, MI, and said: I still have favorable memories of doing the morning news, and playing the straight man, across from Mickey Metro in the South Tower of Neely Auditorium. Later, the station's move to Sarratt was a picture of almost unimagined luxury. I graduated from the University of Michigan with an MBA and then spent 25 years as Sr. VP and CFO at United Methodist Retirement Communities. The past six years I have served as VP of Finance at Presbyterian Villages of Michigan. We provide housing and services to 2,000 low and moderate income senior adults in 25 locations around the state of Michigan. I credit pounding out news sto-

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ries on the WRVU manual typewriters for developing my typing and writing skills and I credit my time as station business manager for directing me into the field of accounting and financial management. WRVU was a life changing experience for me.

#### 1977

#### Jefferson Knight ★ B.A., 1977

(The Vanderbilt Hustler, The Vanderbilt Review) Knight lives in Miami, FL, and said: Continuing to practice international law in Miami. Visiting Madrid this summer, having attended Vanderbiltin-Spain/University of Madrid in 1975. Organizing events for the Miami Chapter of The Federalist Society, while continuing as a senior member of Florida Chapter, and former state Chair, of the Republican National Lawyers Association. Will be teaching election law at seminar in September 2010.



March 2010 Republican National Lawvers Association reception for Lt. Col. Allen West, Republican Candidate for Congress in FLA District 22. In photo are Lt. Col. West, Boca Raton lawyer Lisa Macci, and Jefferson Knight. Macci and Knight co-organized the event.

#### 1979

#### Richard Chenoweth \* B.S., 1979

(WRVU, Versus magazine) Chenoweth lives in Princeton, NJ, and said: Richard has recently been awarded a three-month Fellowship from the U.S. Capitol Historical Society and the Architect of the Capitol to continue his digital reconstruction of the pre-fire Capitol (1814). The Hall of Representatives during that period was designed by Benjamin Latrobe, and was referred to by Thomas Jefferson as "the most beautiful room in the world", yet no picture of the chamber exists.



Work in progress digital image of Capitol.

Richard's images will bring us into the Hall for the first time. Richard is an architect and artist living in Princeton, NJ, and is seeking further funding to complete his project.

#### 1980

#### Daniel Clifford Bowen ★ B.A., 1980

(WRVU, Commodore yearbook) Bowen lives in Cincinnati, Oh.

#### 1981

#### Peggy Kolber Dugan \* B.A., 1981

(Versus magazine) Dugan lives in Summit, NJ, and said: Peggy Kolber Dugan and Terry Dugan live in Summit, New Jersey with their 3 teenagers and Labradoodle. Terry works as a corporate lawyer in NYC and Peggy is a Relocation Counselor. Terry and Peggy lived in London for 3 years prior to living in New Jersey. Terry and Peggy were co-editors of Versus their senior year and have been married now for 23 years!

#### 1981

#### Betsy Krumme MacConnell \* B.S., 1981

(WRVU) MacConnell lives in Cincinnati, OH, and said: Working as a music therapist with hospice patients and teaching tai chi.

#### 1982

#### Mark Allen Harris ★ B.E., 1982

(NROTC) Harris lives in Conway, AR, and said: 28 years since graduation at Vandy (hard to



believe), now the nest is empty and Linda (my wife of 26 years) and I are reconnecting with old friends. Latest habit is biking and we are using it to delay the aging process. Looking for old friends that might be willing to ride in the HTH100 100km ride. If you are a biker you will know about the HTH100.

#### 1983

#### Daniel Monroe ★ B.A., 1983

(Versus magazine, The Vanderbilt Review) Monroe lives in Birmingham, AL, and said: Cavenne Creative continues to flourish down here in Birmingham. We brought in a new Director of Design - Marion English Powers, who came to us after having spent almost 3 decades at Slaughter Group (formerly Slaughter Hanson). New clients include Watts Realty, Alagasco, and a to-be-named (that's where we come in) frozen yogurt start-up down in Florida. Also noteworthy: Ever the cobbler whose kids ran around shoeless, Cayenne finally has a new website up. Check it out: cavennecreative.com My son Sam has "commenced" from 8th grade to High School. My wife Pam is now the Assistant Director of College Counseling at Altamont. And I still believe the next great American novel is trapped in my pen and simply can't find its way out.



In this blast-from-the-past shot: Vandy grads -Mike Johnson, Dan Monroe, Steve Pinals, Dees Stribling, Victor Krebs, Rich Frankel, and Rich's

#### Jay Newmark ★ B.S., 1983

(The Vanderbilt Hustler) Newmark lives in Chicago. IL, and said: Accepted a position as Associate Medical Director, Physician Development Program at Abbott Laboratories.

#### Richard Gazala ★ B.A., 1983, J.D., 1986

(WRVU) Gazala lives in Vienna, VA, and said: My novel, "Blood of the Moon," won Honorable Mention in its category (Mystery/Suspense/ Thriller) at the Los Angeles DIY Book Festival last February, and won third place in the Santa Fe Trail



"Blood of the Moon"

Creative Arts Guild Book Competition last March in the same category. In May my novel was named a Finalist in that category at the Next Generation Indie Book Awards, and was featured at the 2010 BookExpo America show at the Javits Center, in Manhattan. Also in May, Fairfax County (VA) Public Library Director Sam

Clay interviewed me for the FCPL author series, "Bookcast," and the recording of our conversation is available at the FCPL website, www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library. Learn more at my homepage, www.richardgazala.com.

#### 1984

#### Steven Hall \* B.E., 1984

(WRVU) Hall lives in Fort Myers, FL, and said: This spring I created my first movie- season highlights for my son's Hockey travel team. It clocks in at 52 minutes long and I must say it is amateurish and jittery... but the kids loved it anyway. Mass production of 20 DVD's so it is a limited edition- made enough for the team and coaches. We had lots of fun doing it.

#### David Livert \* B.A., 1984, M.S., 1990

(The Vanderbilt Review) Livert lives in Milford, NJ, and said: It's been a busy year! Penn State promoted me to Associate Professor of Psychology. I also was elected to the governing council of the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues, a division of the APA. And I'm excited to participate in a panel of top scholars, chefs, and food journalists known as Menus in the

Media, which is based at NYU's Institute for Public Knowledge. If anyone watched Anthony Bourdain's show this season, you could spot me for about 90 seconds! I'd love to hear from former classmates and get together whenever you are in the New York/Philly area.

#### 1985



Gary Gerson along with Eli on top and Isaac down below.

#### Gary D. Gerson ★ B.S., 1985

(The Vanderbilt Hustler, WRVU Versus magazine) Gerson lives in Bloomfield Hills, MI, and said: Just stepped down as head football coach at Cranbrook after 22 years total coaching. Now I'm raising my own team of Maddie 8, Eli 7, and Isaac 3. I have devoted more time to writing and should have an article out this fall in Vanderbilt Magazine as well as Independent School Magazine. My first book, Scoring Points, has gathered

some interest, and I'm hard at work on my second one. Still hang with my old WRVU buddy, Andy Cohen (BA 1983), and am amazed at how

his two kids are already off at college... and gor-

#### 1986

#### Thomas Mark Hodges ★ B.A., 1986

(WRVU) Hodges lives in Taipei, Taiwan, and said: Thomas Hodges is wrapping up over three years as the Public Affairs Officer at the American Institute in Taiwan, and preparing to return to Washington, DC, where he'll be the Director of the Office of Public Diplomacy for the State Department's Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs. Recently in Taiwan, he and his staff arranged a speaking program in Taiwan for fellow Vandy grad (and noted political scientist) Renford Reese, BA 1989.

#### 1987

#### James Edmund Versfelt ★ B.A., 1987

(The Vanderbilt Hustler, WRVU, Versus magazine, Commodore yearbook, The Vanderbilt Review) Versfelt lives in Miami Beach, FL., and said: Currently a self-employed private Chef/Consultant in Miami Beach, FL. I am loving the extra time away from the kitchen chaos to be with family and my 3 year old son Wyatt!



Son Wyatt 3yo, Wife Colleen, James on Pt. Bolivar Ferry, Texas coast May 2010

# Sarah Krantz Derks

#### Sarah Krantz Derks **★ B.A., 1987**

(The Vanderbilt Hustler) Derks lives in Overland Park, KS, and said: Sarah Krantz Derks (class of '87) is Senior Communications Editor at Hallmark Cards in Kansas City, where she writes and edits internal staff communications for print and online publica-

tions. She has two sons, ages 10 and 13.

1988



**B.A., 1988** (The Vanderbilt Hustler,

WRVU, Versus magazine) Duralde lives in West Hollywood, CA, and said: Alonso's second book, HAVE YOURSELF A MOVIE LITTLE CHRISTMAS, will be published in October

Alonso Duralde ★

Gabriel Goldberg by Limelight Editions.

#### 1989

Duralde.

#### Sean Allen Sabin ★ B.S., 1989, M.B.A., 1990

(The Vanderbilt Hustler, WRVU) Sabin lives in Grosse Pointe Park, MI, and said: Sean Sabin, WRVU '86-'90, retired from the Air Force at the rank of lieutenant colonel in April 2010. His last Air Force position was as Staff Judge Advocate at Malmstrom Air Force Base, Montana. He, his wife, Suzanne, and their twin 7-year old daughters, Emma and Mae Claire, now live in Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan, where Sean specializes in Federal contract law issues for Foley & Lardner at the law firm's Detroit office.

#### 1990

#### Bruce K Negrin ★ B.A., 1990

(WRVU) Negrin lives in New Rochelle, NY.

#### George Lawton Bevington ★ B.A.,

(Versus magazine) Bevington lives in Atlanta, GA, and said: Bevington was recently awarded 2010 Teacher of the Year honors by the Ga. Commission on the Holocaust for his curriculum on the Holocaust at Sophia Academy. Bevy also won a research grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to study JS Bach in Germany this summer. He is very much looking forward to tasting the various beers there.

#### 1991

#### Thanh Chi Cheng ★ B.S. 1991, M.D., 1995

(The Vanderbilt Hustler, Commodore yearbook) Cheng lives in Missouri City, TX, and said: I'm happily married with Cindy for 7 years and have 2 beautiful daughters, Caitlyn, age 4, and Bella, age 9 months. I've been working in the Houston area as an Emergency Medicine physician.



Thanh, Caitlyn, Cindy, Bella. We're in our backyard

#### 1992

#### Drew Watson ★ B.S.. 1992

(The Vanderbilt Hustler, WRVU) Watson lives in Kula (Maui), HI.

#### Jay Underwood Howington ★ B.A., 1992

(The Vanderbilt Hustler, WRVU, The Vanderbilt Review) Howington lives in Savannah, GA, and said: Using my Creative Writing B.A. to: 1, make up great stories for my two daughters, Mason and Meg, and 2, write scientific articles and teach neurosurgery. Unfortunately, my wife, Cori (Meek, A&S 1994) is a wise Vanderbilt alum and can see through any fiction on my part.

#### 1995

#### Amy Elizabeth Buckner ★ B.A., 1995

(Commodore yearbook, The Vanderbilt Review) Buckner lives in San Francisco, CA, and said: Five years ago, I founded a user experience



Amy Buckner & Dan Clifford, Co-Founders of AnswerLab @ INC 500 Awards Ceremony

reached 20 employees, became the #1 user research firm on the INC 500, and ranked on the list of fastest growing companies in the San Francisco / Bay Area. We help

research firm

Recently, we

AnswerLab.

Fortune 500 companies like Microsoft, eBay, Wells Fargo, Honda, and Harley-Davidson deliver better online experiences. And, everyday, I rely on the communication and design skills learned while Editor-in-Chief of the Commodore yearbook and The Vanderbilt Review! If you have an interest or background in digital user experience research, please check us out: www.answerlab. com. We're hiring!

#### Ronald Slomowicz ★ B.E., 1995

(WRVU) Slomowicz lives in Nashville, TN, and said: 2010 is turning out to be an incredible year with nominations for Best Website for DanceMusic.About.Com (International Dance Music Awards - 3rd nomination, won last year) and Best Resident VI (Clubworld Awards.) I recently completed a six week residency at Splash Bar, flying back and forth every Sunday/Monday to DJ at one of the hottest clubs in New York City. This summer is going to a busy travel time tunnel vision

#### alumni updates...



**DJ Ron Slomowicz** - Photographed by Karl Giant (Tyra Bank's inhouse photographer)

for me with clubs trying to book me. I still spin weekly on WRVU (longest continuously running show currently on-air), WRFN (local community radio station) and at the clubs Tribe and Play. All of this while running the top ranked (according to google) website on dance music and keeping a day job, it's no wonder that I am so busy and still single.

#### 1997

#### Ben Snowden \* B.A., 1997

(The Vanderbilt Hustler, WRVU, Versus magazine, Slightly Amusing) Snowden lives in Washington, DC, and said: Ben Snowden practices environmental law with the firm of Wallace, King, Domike & Reiskin in Washington, DC. He and his wife Rebecca are expecting a baby girl (their first) in August. This spring they finally broke down and bought a house in the suburbs.

#### 1998

#### Beka Browning ★ B.A., 1998

(*Commodore yearbook*) Browning lives in New York, NY, and said: I'm the Online Art Director at Scholastic Book Clubs.

#### Stephanie Clayton Thompson $\star$ B.S., 1998



Stephanie Clayton

(Commodore yearbook)
Thompson lives in
Nashville, TN, and
said: After returning to
Nashville in 2006 as a
critical care pharmacy
specialist, I signed
on with Vanguard
Health Systems as the
Director of Clinical
Pharmacy Services for
their 15 hospital system. Shortly after the
move, I fell in love,
and became happily

married in May of this year.

#### Amy Mauritson ★ B.S., 1998

(The Vanderbilt Hustler, Versus magazine) Mauritson lives in Memphis, TN, and said: I recently graduated from medical school at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center and am about to begin a residency in internal medicine in Memphis.

#### Nathan B. Thomas ★ B.S., 1998

(WRVU, Versus magazine, Slightly Amusing) Thomas lives in Seattle, WA, and said: I have recently moved to Seattle and joined Amazon. com heading up the Kernel and Operating System team. My family has also expanded in the process, as my wife Wendy and I welcomed our second daughter, Laine Anjou. Our first daughter, Piper Mayhew is now 7 years old.

#### 1999

#### Kelley Devereaux Kaminsky ★ B.A., 1999

(*The Vanderbilt Hustler*) Kaminsky lives in Fort Myers, FL, and said: Kelley Devereaux Kaminsky and her husband **David** and three-year-old son, **Harrison**, welcomed daughter **Norah Ann** to their family on October 13, 2009.



Norah and Mommy (Kelley Devereaux Kaminsky)

#### Stacy Nunnally \* B.A., 1999

(The Vanderbilt Hustler) Nunnally lives in Nashville, TN, and said: Stacy Nunnally has recently become an independent non-profit and new media consultant. She works with individuals, organizations and campaigns in creating and implementing social/new media strategies. Her clients include several political candidates running for national office, a local mayoral race, the TN Economic Summit for Women and more. Nunnally says, "I believe that social and new media are great equalizers in our society, allowing people to have a strong voice in advocacy, policy and social justice issues."

#### 2000

#### Erika Gordon Huddleston ★ B.A., 2000

(*The Vanderbilt Review*) Huddleston lives in Austin, Texas, and said: I am living in Austin attending graduate school for landscape architecture at the University of Texas. Painting quite a bit and my website is up == www.erikahuddleston. com. Go dores!



Paul Thomas Brown

#### Joanna Pluta Brown ★ B.A., 2000

(The Vanderbilt Hustler) Brown lives in Northbrook, IL, and said: Joanna Pluta Brown welcomed a son, Paul Thomas, March 13, 2010. She returned to work this summer as senior writer for a Chicagobased professional association.

Adrian Hill \* B.A.,

(Vanderbilt Television)

Hill lives in Chicago,

IL, and said: After

being a part of Collard

Greens & Cornbread

via VIV from 2000

to 2002, I'm now liv-

ing in Chicago with

my wife and young

2002

daughter.

#### Sarah Creekmore Woodall ★ B.A., 2000

(*The Vanderbilt Hustler*) Woodall lives in Nashville, TN, and said: In March, I was promoted to Assistant Director of Alumni Outreach for the Vanderbilt Alumni Association (Office of Alumni Relations). I will continue to oversee our athletic programming and will be developing new career programming to benefit Vanderbilt alumni coming soon!

#### 2002



Adrian Hill

#### David Schiff ★ B.A., 2002

(The Vanderbilt Hustler, Versus magazine, Vanderbilt Television) Schiff lives in Arlington, VA, and said: Happily, my girlfriend, Autumn, and I have moved to the Washington, D.C. area to pursue new careers and better acquaint ourselves with the East Coast. I am now working for the Navy submarine program as a civilian logistician/acquisition specialist. D.C. has been a great place to reconnect with old Vandy friends. We had the pleasure of spending time with my good friends and fellow former Hustler editors Alex Burkett and Meredith Berger, as well as some of my Vanderbilt-in-Spain friends.



David Schiff & Autumn Conrad

#### Jamie Landau ★ B.A., 2002

(The Vanderbilt Hustler, Versus magazine, Commodore yearbook) Landau lives in Keene, NH, and said: Jamie Landau graduated this year with a Ph.D. in speech communication (emphasis in rhetorical studies) from the University of Georgia.

Dr. Landau's doc-



Jamie Landau

toral dissertation is titled "Gazing-Imaging: Visual Rhetorical Criticism and Creation, Digital Photography, and ReproducingWomen, a Pregnant (Trans) Man, and Family." Her dissertation investigates the visual rhetorical force of

#### **UPDATE**

your contact information at **VU**connect.com

digital photography as exemplified by how a sample group of women of childbearing age interact with family digital photography in general and how they interact with digital photographs of famous pregnant women and a transgender pregnant man in particular. Dr. Landau accepted a tenure-track assistant professor position in the Department of Communication, Journalism, and Philosophy at Keene State College in southern New Hampshire with a start date of the fall 2010 semester. At Keene State College, she will teach and research mostly about visual rhetoric.

#### Andrea Sims Frankenfeld ★ B.S., 2002

(Commodore yearbook) Frankenfeld lives in South Asia, South Asia, and said: My husband and I moved to South Asia in April of 2010, where we are working in ministry using our media skills (he in audio and video and I in writing). We will be here for two years at least, working for a training company that provides character education.

#### 2003

#### Nicole Susonne Pietrantoni ★ B.S., 2003

(*The Vanderbilt Review*) Pietrantoni lives in Reykjavik, Iceland, Iceland, and said: Nicole Pietrantoni received her M.F.A. with Honors in Printmaking and Intermedia from the University of Iowa where she was a Dean's Graduate Fellow. While in Iowa, she completed a major public art commission from the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. Nicole will now spend June 2010 - July 2011 working at five artist residencies across Iceland. Her travel and research are made possible by a scholarship from the Leifur Eiriksson Foundation and a Fulbright Grant to Iceland from the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the United States Department of State.



Nicole Pietrantoni at a glacier in Iceland.

#### Joshua Melton $\star$ B.E., 2003

(*The Vanderbilt Hustler*) Melton lives in Tampa, FL, and said: I was accepted into the Ph.D. program in Educational Leadership at the University of Oregon beginning Fall 2010.

#### 2004



Rob Shaw walks the red carpet at the 2010 Cannes Film Festival

**B.A., 2004** (The Vanderbilt Hustler, Van derbilt Television) Shaw lives in New York, NY, and said: I am featured nationally on Bloomberg Television as a fantasy sports also active behind the

Robert

Shaw

scenes as the Executive Producer of the daily program Ballpark Figures, which is distributed online by Bloomberg Sports. More importantly, I am recently married to the beautiful Jennifer Jaffe with VIV alums Matt Saul, Tom Schoborg, James Greenspun, and Dustin Sher at my wedding to share the moment with me.

#### Ahmed Bakhash ★ B.E., 2004

(*The Vanderbilt Hustler, V Square*) Bakhash lives in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, and said: I joined Saudi Aramco (Leading Oil & Gas Company) in February 2005 as an electrical engineer. Got promoted in July 2009 to Power Systems Engineer. Got married to **Bedour Alqannas** in Sep 2009. Will be loaned to Total (French Oil Refiner) in June 2010 to build a new refinery in Jubail Saudi Arabia.

#### Cara Bohon \* B.S., 2004

(The Vanderbilt Hustler, Commodore yearbook) Bohon lives in West Hollywood, CA, and said: Cara finished her PhD in clinical psychology in June and will begin a postdoctoral fellowship studying brain function and intervention for eating disorders at UCLA in July.

#### 2005

#### Cat Ashley Opderbeck $\star$ B.S., 2005

(The Vanderbilt Hustler, WRVU, Commodore yearbook) Opderbeck lives in San Diego, CA, and said: Currently pursuing my second bachelor's degree in Web Design & Interactive Media. Loving Southern California but looking forward to what the future holds!

#### Robert Edward Caldwell ★ B.S., 2005

(WRVU, VSC Board member) Caldwell lives in Rolla, MO, and said: Currently, I am a lawyer, and I represent indigent people accused of crimes. I am what is known as a State Public Defender. I hope to write a book about my experience as a public defender when I can force myself to sit and write.

#### 2006

#### Neal Palmer ★ B.S. M.S., 2006

(WRVU) Palmer lives in Nashville, TN, and said: I am pursuing my PhD in Community Research and Action at Vanderbilt. Unfortunately, my program leaves little time to host a show on WRVU.

#### Zach Norton \* B.A., 2006

(*The Vanderbilt Hustler Versus magazine*) Norton lives in New York, NY, and said: Zach Norton works as an editorial coordinator for McGraw-Hill Higher Education in New York City. In his spare time, he performs comedy, writes, draws, and produces short web videos.

#### 2007

#### David Fotouhi \* B.A., 2007

(The Vanderbilt Hustler, The Torch, VSC Board member) Fotouhi lives in St. Louis, MO, and said: After three years in snowy Cambridge, MA, I just received my law degree from Harvard in May. My immediate plans include taking (and hopefully passing) the Texas bar exam in July and starting a federal clerkship with Judge Raymond Gruender on the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals in St. Louis in August.

#### Christina England Livengood ★ B.A. J.D., 2007

(The Vanderbilt Hustler, VSC Board member) Livengood lives in Washington, DC, and said: Graduated 2010 with a J.D. and a Law & Business Certification from Vanderbilt Law School. Currently working at the Department of Energy, Advanced Research Projects Agency - Energy (ARPA-E), as a Presidential Management Fellow.



John Livengood and I were married on May 8th, 2010.

#### Allison Malone \* B.A., 2007

(*The Vanderbilt Hustler*) Malone lives in Nashville, TN, and said: I graduated from the University of Tennessee College of Law in May 2010, and I will be working as an associate at Manier & Herod in Nashville.



Third year law school photo

# Michael Patrick Wilt ★ B.A., 2007 (The Vanderbilt

(The Vanderbilt Hustler, Versus magazine, InsideVandy.com, The Torch) Wilt lives in Columbus, OH, and said: Recently graduated from The Ohio State University College of Law, earning the degree of Juris Doctor. Served as an

editor of the law school's main law journal, the Ohio State Law Journal. Is studying for the Tennessee bar exam to be taken in 2010.

#### Elise Alford ★ B.S., 2007

(The Vanderbilt Hustler) Alford lives in Chicago, IL, and said: Elise will earn her Master of Science in Education degree in Higher Education Administration & Policy from Northwestern University this summer. She is also thrilled to announce her engagement to Micah Claffey, Vanderbilt '08. They are celebrating Micah's recent graduation from Rice University where he received a Master of Music degree in cello performance. Elise and Micah are eager to see where

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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



#### **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)
- Emceeing the "Off - Emceeing 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

## 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.

Justin

2008

Charles

Roberts ★ B.A.,

(The Vanderbilt Hustler,

WRVU) Roberts lives

in San Antonio, TX,

and said: I am enter-

#### 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,

#### 2009

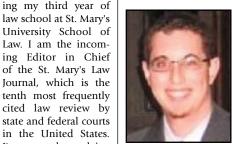


**Becky Tyrrell** 

#### Becky Tyrrell \* B.S., 2009

Vanderbilt Hustler, Versus magazine, InsideVandy. com) Tyrrell lives in Lawrenceville, GA, and said: After a year of serving as a clinical research coordinator at Mount Sinai

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 ★ **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

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 @jpeebles. 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

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 students. I'm truly thrilled to be screened at the 2010 Nashville a part of the VSC team."

mem- Film Festival as well as the ber of Vanderbilt Student 2009 Eugene International Film

Festival, where it won the "Cut to the Chase" award.



interest with the

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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#### 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-awardwinning 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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#### PLEASE SUPPORT STUDENT MEDIA ALUMNI PROGRAMS

It is always a great honor to share news with you about both the current student media at Vanderbilt and about your fellow alumni. Your connection to Vandy media has proven to be a great resource for our students and staff, as well as a tremendous source of pride for us. We sincerely hope you feel equally proud and have many fond memories of your time working with campus media.

VSC has provided, at no cost to alumni, outreach efforts such as Tunnel Vision and this past fall's Homecoming and Vanderbilt Student Media Hall of Fame ceremony. However, VSC receives limited financial support from Vanderbilt University and raises most of its operating budget through advertising in student publications and yearbook sales.

Please consider supporting Vanderbilt student media alumni programs by sending your contribution to VSC at **www.vandymedia.org** or by mail to the address on page two. Your donation to charitable nonprofit VSC Inc. may be deductible, depending on your tax situation.

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!





# **NOMINATION FORM**

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

#### **CANDIDATE NOMINATION INFORMATION**

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