BUSINESS AS UNUSUAL
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Anyone paying attention to conversations about higher education knows there are divergent and strongly held opinions about its primary mission and purpose. Increasingly, there are calls for greater emphasis on career training and job readiness. As the U.S. and world economies continue to accelerate amid a frenzy of digital information, careers and continuous employment will require ever more specialized skills and training. Many believe that colleges and universities should focus on teaching these practical skills. In doing so, the thinking goes, we give students the ability to earn a wage and provide for themselves and their families.

At the same time, there is the argument that higher education is obligated to provide more than job training and technical skills. This school of thought sees education as the source of a certain individual freedom that comes from pursuing a life of learning and gaining an ever-deepening understanding of the world. This approach, that of a broad-based liberal education, helps cultivate the qualities and values that sustain a life dedicated to higher human goods, such as citizenship, friendship, family and wonder.

Both of these aspirations are noble. Without the knowledge and skills to make a living, one’s freedom is significantly compromised. On the other hand, to earn a living without aspiring to the higher human goods is also oppressive. It is unfortunate and unnecessary that these two points of view have so often been understood as mutually exclusive. But not at Transylvania.

Since our founding 237 years ago, Transylvania graduates have embodied both of these educational goals. We recognize the liberation that education makes possible requires both the practical and the aspirational. We know that careful study of the great texts and ideas of science, literature, history and mathematics yields practical skills that translate into professional success. We understand that the educational process is not a mere transmittal of knowledge from a book or a screen to a mind. Learning, deep learning, affects the whole person and requires an investment by the student, who must listen, suspend judgment and sometimes let go of a point of view. This type of learning only takes place in a community of inquirers where individuals work together to uncover truths and to create knowledge. These galvanizing experiences have opened the doors to success for Transylvania alumni for generations.

In this issue of Third & Broadway, you will read about alumni who manifest a convergence of utility and aspiration. Their accomplishments affirm that education is both practical and aspirational. Their lives remind us that Transylvanians never settle for the usual thoughts, make the usual arguments, draw the usual conclusions or fight the usual fights. We are not ones for fruitless arguments about false choices. To paraphrase Marcus Aurelius, the Roman emperor and philosopher, we choose to both watch the stars and to run with them.

Scammell Carey
You’re sitting in the middle of a pristine lake, surrounded by evergreen trees and picturesque, snow-capped mountains. Look up, and the red-orange sky begins to turn a vivid blue; look down, and you can see a school of fish nipping at the surface of the calm water.

To your right, you hear the sound of a train chugging around the perimeter of the lake, a long trail of black and gray smoke following behind. As you watch it move steadily past, it begins to turn left, making its way impossibly toward the water and toward you. Suddenly it hits the shoreline, kicking up a huge wake and picking up speed as it comes directly your way. You start to look around, wondering if you should move or whether this is just a trick of the imagination. As the engine gets closer, your pulse quickens—it’s right on you—and as you brace for the impact, the train explodes into a flock of birds, darting past you in an overwhelming swarm.

Whether it’s ride-sharing or mixology or apparel, students are making their way into a huge variety of fields in a fluctuating job market.

What is it about Transylvania that encourages its graduates to find success in arenas that are not always in line with their degrees?

Why won’t these students settle for business as usual?
You have just had your first experience with the awe-inducing, sometimes disorienting, technology of virtual reality. This two-minute scenario exists for no other reason than to show you how quickly you can lose yourself in a world of beauty and surrealism.

And you’re hooked.

This is how Transylvania business professor Adam Evans likes to introduce visitors in his office to the capabilities of a system that is taking over his curriculum—a wave of the future that will soon inhabit homes around the world in the same way that televisions and smartphones forced themselves in and never relented.

“It’s new, and it’s coming,” he says. “The possibilities are endless.”

You can’t spend long talking to somebody about Transylvania without hearing about the value of its liberal arts education. At its core, Transy aims to provide students a balance of breadth of knowledge and depth of discovery that will allow them to carve their own paths in a world that rarely rewards the status quo.

Much like that virtual train, a Transy graduate is encouraged to go “off the rails” and take on their lives and careers from angles that they may never have expected. Change comes at you quickly—will you get out of the way, or face it head on? Evans knows which option he wants his students to choose:

“Rather than just READ about it, it’s time for us to BE about it.”

Laura Bryan, vice president for academic affairs and dean of the university, points to a quote from Princeton University President Shirley M. Tilghman, who lays out a vision for how we ought to think about teaching today’s student:

“A liberal education is designed to prepare you not for one profession, but for any profession—including those not yet invented.”

But if we can’t anticipate those future professions, how can we prepare our students?

Ten years ago, the idea of social media was limited to college students swapping photos of each other on Facebook or pouring out their hearts in an online journal. Today major companies employ entire teams of social media experts to communicate with their current and potential clients over a variety of platforms, furthering their brands, dealing with crises and making themselves more accessible to the public.

If you look up social media job openings for J.P. Morgan, for example, you’ll notice that there is a conspicuous omission under the list of qualifications—a college degree in any specific field. Instead it lists skills tantamount to the task at hand, skills like “passion,” “confidence,” “creativity” and “an entrepreneurial spirit.”

But Transylvania doesn’t offer any courses in passion. Fortunately for our students, we do offer professors with their
fingers on the pulse of progress who are willing to go outside the normal and show how a formal liberal arts education can translate into a fulfilling career—even one not yet invented.

“Many surveys with employers have demonstrated that they want to hire individuals who have similar characteristics to graduates of a liberal arts institution—creative, complex, thinker, team player, communicator, problem solver,” says Bryan.

Kelly Hieronymus ’13 was a philosophy major and studio art minor who picked up a job bartending at then-fledgling West Sixth Brewing a couple of blocks from campus during her senior year. During her work with her advisor, philosophy professor Jack Furlong, she discovered an interest in marketing and began working with him on researching the influence of imagery in social media.

She jumped in to help the West Sixth owners develop their brand on social media through photography and targeted content.

“I remember having all of these interactions as a bartender that I started to translate in class,” she says. “Being a bartender, you’re kind of putting on a show. People are watching you and responding to you and behaving in accordance with your behavior. I started noticing those things in parallel with some of the stuff we were talking about in Senior Seminar, and Jack helped facilitate me taking those concepts we learned in class and translating them to real life.”

It may sound unusual on the surface, but she began thinking about marketing like a philosopher. She looked at postmodern philosophical principles through the lens of social media and the interactions people have with their digital selves. As the brewery grew, they began to lean on her knowledge more and more, and three years ago she was officially hired full-time as the company’s creative director, managing West Sixth’s brand and marketing strategies.

“My professors helped create an example to engage myself in the community while I was in school,” Hieronymus says. “The encouragement I got from Dr. Furlong, and from Zoe Strecker and Sharon Brown and others, gave me a lot of confidence to do what I loved to do.”

UNCHARTED REALITIES

Adam Evans grew up as many of today’s 30-somethings did—with a handful of quarters he spent during long hours at the arcade. While dating, his parents played games on the atari system, so “It’s in my genes,” he says. His lifelong fascination with video games and technology has trained him to pay attention to trends in the industry, and it’s become clear to him that virtual reality is no fad, nor is it an idle time-waster.

So when the opportunity came to apply for a faculty grant to purchase a virtual reality system, he knew that this was going to have immense value to his business students who will graduate and look to find their place in a rapidly changing world of marketing, development and entertainment. He spent fall 2016 inviting students, faculty and staff to test the system and give feedback and ideas on how the technology could be used in their own fields.

He conducted over 1,000 minutes of demonstrations with users ranging from his business students to President Seamus Carey and surveyed participants on their experience.

“I had limited expectations when I tried VR for the first time,” said one responder, “but it really opened my eyes. Before anyone dismisses the program they should try it at least once.”

“I’d like to use it again to explore the use of VR and physical rehabilitation,” said another.

He presented his findings to a group of faculty and staff in February, along with several examples of how businesses and schools all over the world are applying virtual reality.

“I’ve had 100 percent positive feedback,” Evans said. “Not one person said they were underwhelmed. They’ve all said, ‘We want more.’”

Imagine taking virtual reality tours of first-century Rome or walking through a home you designed or presenting a business plan to a room full of CEOs, all from a lab on campus. These opportunities are at our fingertips as we venture into uncharted territory with an innovation that’s sure to change the way we look at business and learning.

Alex Frank, a junior business administration major with an emphasis in marketing, has already seen how virtual reality is reaching early adopters, and she was excited when Evans approached her to work with him. They had found common ground previously in their love for video games, and she now facilitates open VR lab hours each week to show off the system.

“There are quite a few companies, including Marriott, that are jumping on the bandwagon of putting out VR advertisements,” she says. “They want to show you one of their best hotels; you can take a tour without having to go there. Chick-fil-A has a VR campaign where you skydive with cows. You’re playing this game and having fun, and their name is on those cows.”

The next step, Evans says, is to
eventually set up a technology lab that can have a dedicated space for virtual reality. It could incorporate even more elements like haptic suits that use a camera to track your full body movements and a 360-degree treadmill to incorporate walking. Students would be able to develop their own virtual reality programs and test them in the lab, gaining valuable experience before they take their skills to the workforce.

“This is our chance to break the boundaries of a traditional classroom and integrate the best parts of that with something brand new,” Evans says. “Classrooms where you have three instructors instead of just one. Classrooms where you’re meeting with students across the globe and experiencing anything I can cover in a textbook.

“One of the things that makes Transy a special place is we have these intimate environments where the professor is involved in the student’s life and giving them unique opportunities. This is one of those opportunities.”

**A CONNECTION BREWING**

Biology professor Paul Duffin and chemistry professor Kyle Schnitzenbaumer have some overlapping hobbies: running and beer.

So naturally the conversation about their new team-taught May term course came up during a jog, while the two were comparing notes on their home brewing techniques. Duffin has been brewing for 12 years, Schnitzenbaumer for five, but their fascination with beer runs deeper than just color and flavor.

“Brewing is rooted in chemistry and biology,” Duffin says. “It’s a series of steps and processes, and each of those processes is rather complicated. The chemistry of the boiling process is astronomically complicated, and fermentation is pretty darn complicated, too.”

So they designed a course around the world of brewing, focusing mostly on the science of the process, but also issues of history, economics and ethics of a booming global industry. This is no cakewalk course on beer appreciation—this is real, get-your-hands-dirty lab work.

On the second day of the course, the students got into groups and brewed their own batches of beer in the HRT lab in Mitchell Fine Arts Center. While waiting for it to ferment and condition, they did their academic work and visited local breweries like West Sixth Brewing and Alltech Lexington Brewing and Distilling Company to see the process on a larger scale.

The experience serves to help students make connections between two unique disciplines, which speaks to the issue of preparing them to make new connections in their careers.

“One of our big goals as an institution and a faculty is to help progress our students toward the ‘expert’ category,” Schnitzenbaumer says. “Experts see how things are interconnected. They see a complete picture rather than a particular detail. This is a wonderful example of that bigger picture, that interconnectedness of ideas and concepts.”

“Academics can be so compartmentalized,” Duffin added. “I’m going to learn about molecular biology three days a week for 14 weeks, then I’m going to take Organic Chemistry in the fall. That has some benefits for getting depth and immersion in a topic, but you miss connections between disciplines. In this course, you’re not only seeing the perspectives of a chemist and a biologist, you’re seeing how those knowledge bases cannot be separated. There’s no biology without chemistry.”

**UNIQUE PREPARATION**

Making connections. Pushing boundaries. Working on the cutting edge. These are values that Transylvania is instilling in its students in order to prepare them to succeed in a future that contains so much uncertainty but limitless opportunity. It’s why so many graduates end up in positions that, on the surface, may have nothing to do with their degrees. But they are still uniquely prepared for success.

“At Transy we try not to be stuck doing what we’ve always done,” says Transy student Alex Frank. “We’re always looking to do things better and find something new and creative to make our classroom environment more interesting.”

But it seems there is something special about Transy students, as well, who crave that sort of creative challenge to do something that’s never been done and see connections that have never been made. It’s inspiring, Bryan says, and the professors take notice.

“Many conversations are occurring among faculty that provide for reflection of what we do here. I believe that students inspire faculty to think outside the box about their courses and ways of teaching.”

There will always be a place at Transylvania for traditional classroom learning. But as innovation speeds up the progress of humanity, professors and students are taking it upon themselves to look beyond “the way it’s always been” and explore the natural next step in the evolution of education.

After all, there are settlers—and then there are Pioneers.
A boy from the Bronx, the son of Irish immigrants, stands before 80 high school students in Carrick Theater. His candid portrayal of his journey—his family’s limited resources, having little idea of what college was, not knowing how to study, and the difficulty of fitting in—takes some of the students by surprise. He is, after all, Seamus Carey, the college president.

This is their fifth and final visit of the year to Transy’s campus as part of Pioneer Pathway, Transylvania’s college empowerment program that helps first-generation and other traditionally underrepresented students connect with college. President Carey wants them to see that their struggles may not be so very different from his own. They too belong here and can succeed in college.

**OPPORTUNITY GAP**

Pioneer Pathway, now in its third year, got its start when Transy answered the call from teachers in Woodford County who had identified the need for a program to help Latino boys gain access to college. Guided by Serenity Wright ’05, Transy’s former associate dean for diversity and international student experience, it has grown to include students from five schools (Bryan Station, Henry Clay and Dunbar in Fayette County, and high schools in Woodford and Scott counties), thanks to the generous partnership of the William R. Kenan Charitable Trust.

The program fills an opportunity gap for students who have the academic capacity but often lack the information, resources and support to help them through the daunting application process. Other students need the Pathway

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"Anything that can help students prepare for college or give them any college experience is helpful. Most people don’t get the opportunity to go onto a campus or talk to major people in a university."

—Jeremy Boyd has a full ride to the University of Louisville
I felt that no other prize or thing that I did would make my parents’ sacrifice worth it than going to college, graduating and getting a degree. You can find this in most first-generation students.”

—Eder Sosa ‘19, Pioneer Pathway college mentor

experience to help them understand which college is right for them.

Because of the Kenan funding, the program offers several visits to campus each year during which students work with faculty, staff, students and members of the Transy community, taking part in mock interviews, improving their application essay and résumé, sitting in on a college class, learning the ins and outs of financial aid and even, says Isaiah Cordray, “how to dress, walk in and have a firm handshake.” He’s a first-year student at Transy, continuing on his path from Bryan Station to a future in information technology.

During the mock interviews, students learn how to translate their personal stories into scholarship interview material. In the process, they begin to see themselves differently.

One senior, for example, had scored the winning goal for his soccer team, never mentioning to anyone that he’d broken his arm within the first few minutes of the game. During his practice interview, he was coached from the sidelines: “Talk about commitment and determination,” Wright urged him. “Use that story to talk about who you are.”

Heather Eppley, the director of the information technology academy at Bryan Station High School, lauds the program and Transy’s role as a partner. “A lot of my kids don’t have the resources or family support or knowledge of the college application process,” she says. Eppley sees a big difference in the confidence level of the students who are in the Pathway program. “They know that college is attainable. They also know they can reach out to people at Transy, regardless of whether they are applying there or not.”

Being on campus and sitting in on a class can be life changing. Sarah Shofner, a senior at Bryan Station, says “it opens a lot of doors because you’re able to determine what you want to see in a college.”

Shofner remembers the surprise of her classroom experience: “I thought it would be in a big auditorium, but no, they were in this small classroom.” She realized how different it was, “having a teacher almost to yourself—to be able to ask questions and discuss properly.” She knew she wanted a college like Transy. This fall, she and her twin sister will become Pioneers.

**PEER POWER**

Assisting in the campus experience are 10 Pioneer mentors who are assigned eight mentees for the year. They work with their younger peers, but they also get to network with community leaders as a way to identify pathways to their post-graduate life. The experience gives them a chance to develop as leaders.

For Eder Sosa ‘19, who grew up in a troubled neighborhood in Santa Ana, Calif., uncertain of whether he’d live to see the next day, college became a goal at the age of seven—the only projection of a future he allowed himself. Mentoring taps into his innate desire to help people. (He graduated from high school with 400
hours of community service.) He says it brings him joy. Connecting with young people from backgrounds not so different from his own has also helped him adjust to his new environment at Transy.

“I like to help them out by giving them the resources they need,” he says. “I felt I was in that same position—feeling lost, alone. I didn’t know what to do, couldn’t relate to anybody.” He adds, “And it’s fun to talk with someone in Spanish, in your own language, and just relate.”

College mentors are offered a stipend for their work. Sosa declines his.

Sosa is a reassuring force, open, friendly and caring. The son of Mexican immigrants, he’s developed his own philosophy of identity politics. When a young woman stutters on her name, he says, “Don’t double think what you are. Say your name the way it’s supposed to be pronounced. Be you.”

Sosa’s mindset has opened a lot since coming to Transy and getting to know the stories behind kids whose backgrounds are so different from his own.

“By comparing my struggles with the people here at Transy, I’ve realized that we’re all the same,” he says. “We’re all looking to get a better future. We just take different courses or have different obstacles in getting there.”

**ALWAYS LEARNING**

“In a lot of ways these kids are more mature than us adults,” says Johnnie Johnson, Transy’s director of multicultural recruitment and operations. “They get it. They don’t care about the superficial lines that are being drawn by adults. These kids were raised differently, they see things differently and they want a better world.”

For Johnson, who helped initiate the summer camp component that includes a college fair (the first of its kind in Kentucky), Pioneer Pathway is about creating opportunities and removing both real and perceived barriers.

“Historically, Transylvania has not been a school for underrepresented populations,” he notes. “For us to break down some of those walls, stereotypes and history for them, they just need to be on campus and recognize this could be a place for them for their college career.”

Like many other institutions, Transylvania has set goals for building a more diverse population of students, faculty and staff. But to accomplish this, Johnson explains, “you’ve got to put a name and a face out there and put some money behind it. Pioneer Pathway does this.” Even if a student doesn’t eventually attend Transy, the reputation of the institution grows and its relationship with the community is strengthened.

“Transylvania understands its place not only in Lexington, but in the world of education,” Johnson says. After 237 years, it’s still learning and leading by creating programs that provide new and inclusive pathways to education.

For our democracy to work, everyone needs access to education, President Carey notes. “I see Pioneer Pathway as a part of our role as citizens,” he says, gratefully acknowledging the support and shared responsibility of Transy’s community partners. “It’s giving students the hope that they can do this for themselves.”

**“Before Pioneer Pathway, I was lost on where I was going for college. Now I know where I’m going and what to expect.”**

—Solomon Murray, senior at Henry Clay High School, future Pioneer
Wouldn’t it be easier to simply toe the line, play it safe and avoid risk and failure? But that wouldn’t get us very far. And, as the stories of our alumni reveal, it’s not who we are. Pioneers eschew the ease of the familiar for the rigors of the untried.

Instead of the metaphor of a glass half full, for Pioneers it’s a boundary line and the ability to see and aspire toward all that lies beyond. It’s the preparedness in multidisciplinary thinking to step up, reject the pro forma and wrestle the “what if.”

Pioneers are constantly anticipating and advancing the changing frontiers of human imagination. More often than not, the journey—personal and professional—commands the same fearlessness that emboldened Transy’s founders.

It’s only possible because Pioneers know no bounds.
ALUMNUS PROFILE

DAVID HYSONG ‘09

FOUNDER, CEO AND PATIENT OF SHEPHERD THERAPEUTICS
David Hysong ’09 has always lived large and largely for others. He could easily be the inspiration for a liberal arts action figure, a cerebral MacGyver with entrepreneurial gifts, a strong faith and a desire to put himself on the line for others.

Hysong has worked undercover in Cambodia to fight human trafficking. He founded an NGO to help refugee children. After being hit by a 12-ton bus, he managed to walk again, attend Harvard Divinity School and was selected for Navy SEAL training.

In the past two years he has become founder, CEO and patient of Shepherd Therapeutics, a biotech company with offices in Nashville and Boston, created to find cures for rare forms of cancer. Diagnosed with a head and neck cancer that has no targeted therapy, Hysong quickly assessed the limitations within the existing oncological landscape. He traded special operations in the military for a different kind of warfare.

The 250 forms of “rare” cancer actually comprise 42 percent of all cancer diagnoses, Hysong notes. Together, they are the third leading cause of death in the U.S. Even so, the pharmaceutical industry neglects rare cancers in order to invest in fewer therapies affecting larger numbers of patients.

Hysong could see the life-saving opportunities being missed. He created Shepherd Therapeutics to revolutionize how rare cancers are treated and the ecosystem around them. Operating with low overhead and a big-picture idea that connects existing resources, Shepherd Therapeutics identifies viable research then contracts scientists and labs to develop therapies.

The idea for a company that is “platform agnostic” rather than focused on one form of cancer, has raised $6.5 million from investors in the first year. Hysong also plans to create a nonprofit arm that will consistently feed 10 percent of the company’s profits back into the work of foundations that fund research.

So, how does a French major and liberal arts graduate become a biotech entrepreneur who is celebrated as a Forbes 30 under 30? And how does a newly diagnosed cancer patient step up to redefine therapeutics for patients who have been left to fend for themselves?

Growing up the son of a decorated military pilot, Hysong was a self-described “boy’s boy covered in mud” and a romantic idealist who played his first Shakespearean lead, Hamlet, in the eighth grade. Shakespeare introduced him to the world of literature, to stories of knighthood and service and to poetry that would strengthen his resolve during monumental challenges in his life.

“I had no idea that the ability to think outside the box creatively would help me build a biotech company.”

Hysong says that faith, the legacy of his father’s heroism, education and literature are driving forces for him. The camaraderie, leadership and self-sacrifice that once drew him to the military now take shape in the form of Shepherd Therapeutics and its expert team that vows “to never stop fighting until every rare cancer patient lives.”

The goal of Shepherd Therapeutics, says Hysong, is to save one million lives over the next decade. “I think I’ve found my place to stand,” he affirms. “I think I’ll be here for a while.”

—the magazine of TRANSYLVANIA UNIVERSITY
ALUMNA PROFILE

MARY BETH ’89

PRESTON

FINANCE ANALYST FOR S&P DOW JONES INDICES
Mary Beth Preston ’89 chose the latter. In fact, the English lit major went full Robert Frost and took a road even less traveled, eventually ending up in finance as an analyst for S&P Dow Jones Indices.

“If you would have told me years ago I would be doing this, I would have laughed in your face,” she said.

While Preston has always excelled at math and comes from a long line of number crunchers, she gravitated toward literature in college because she wanted to spend her time reading Shakespeare, as opposed to accounting books.

This gravitation toward the arts drew her to New York City, even though she didn't have a job there. She stayed with a friend at first and connected with an employment agency, which called her one day and asked if she could read music. Yes, actually, she could because she had studied music at Transy. So she took a job as an editorial assistant at McGraw-Hill Education (which at the time was under the same parent company as S&P Global).

With good grammar and writing skills, Preston climbed the ladder as a music editor. However, along the way she learned she was even better with organizational and operational tasks—such as budget tracking and obtaining intellectual property rights—and became passionate about the business side of educational publishing. “I'm one of those people, you drop me in chaos and I'm just going to get everything organized and make sense of it.”

This path eventually led her to the S&P Global side of the company. Now part of the finance team, she works for S&P Dow Jones Indices, known for major indices such as the S&P 500® and the Dow Jones Industrial Average®, looking at the data product line and reporting on how the company is doing and what it might do in the future. Not stuff that sounds terribly exciting, she admits. But: “It’s kind of funny, the more you get involved in it, the more passionate you get about it.”

Preston’s background in the liberal arts also fills a niche in an office filled with accountants. She’s the go-to when somebody needs text edited or carefully read (like when the company rolls out a new healthcare plan).

“I think that the greatest gift a liberal arts education gave me was the desire to keep learning. There’s always something beyond the horizon that I need to find out.”

Writing a lot of papers for classes at Transy helped hone her communication skills, and having professors (as opposed to teaching assistants) in each class, combined with a lack of standardized tests, meant she couldn’t just wing it. “I had to know the answer. I had to really think things through.”

In the years since graduating, Preston has stayed connected to Transylvania. She participates in the 100 Doors to Success mentoring program and assists the Career Development office.

For instance, she found Sean Clarke ’02 an internship at S&P Global. She also helped him get established in the Big Apple, even letting him crash on her couch for a while after he revealed his plans to stay at a youth hostel. Clarke, who now works as a web content senior specialist at S&P Global, is like family to Preston. “He’s done really well at S&P Global, too,” she said.

Preston believes Kentuckians can excel in New York City. “All they need is a push and a chance.” In a city that draws people from all over the world, those who venture beyond the Transy bubble can get a richer perspective on life. In turn, they break down New Yorkers’ stereotypes of people from Kentucky.

Along these lines, Preston calls alumni to action: Find internships in your companies for Transy students—spread the word about the university and the quality of its education. “It helps us increase the prestige of our education if we raise people’s awareness of Transy.”

Part of what makes Transy students stand out is their adaptability and the ability to think from a different perspective. A liberal arts education goes beyond learning particular content or following a narrow field of study to create a well-rounded person, a person whose hunger for knowledge and discovery takes them down untrodden paths.

“At Transy I learned how to teach myself and to keep my eyes open for the thing I don’t know but should,” Preston said. “I think that the greatest gift a liberal arts education gave me was the desire to keep learning. There’s always something beyond the horizon that I need to find out. How exciting is that?”
Shortly after arriving at Bentley University in 1974, professor W. Michael Hoffman ’65 applied for a National Endowment for the Humanities grant to start a few business ethics courses.

The agency’s review committee, however, dismissed the request with comments that went something like: “Never heard of business ethics,” and “Isn’t that an oxymoron?”

Not to be deterred, Hoffman met with the NEH director of programs, who seemed embarrassed by his agency’s offhanded response to his application. The professor resubmitted, got the grant and not only brought business ethics to Bentley but in a way sparked the business ethics movement itself.

Hoffman’s pioneering effort to bring together the unlikely domains of Plato and John D. Rockefeller has its roots in his philosophy major at Transylvania. A liberal arts education, after all, encourages students to think about issues beyond their own field of study. However, that big connection between ethics and business took a while to grow.

Hoffman, who grew up in Paris, Ky., went on to pursue his Ph.D. at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst after graduating from Transy. While he had received a scholarship to Vanderbilt, he felt drawn to the new cultural experiences the Northeast had to offer.

After graduate school, Hoffman set off to his first professorship at Hiram College in Ohio, a seemingly perfect locale for a philosopher. “I thought it was very idyllic in the middle of the woods at a very small college,” he said. “I thought, that sounds very Thoreauvian.”

Or, as it turned out, isolated.

It was during these years—the early ’70s—when philosophers were venturing beyond the bucolic land of abstraction into the real world. They were becoming disenchanted with solely theoretical ethics and wanted to apply the field to professional areas such as business, medicine, the environment and engineering.

Hoffman took this new attitude with him back to the Northeast to chair the philosophy department at Bentley, one of the nation’s premier business schools.

A few weeks after he landed the NEH grant to launch the new classes, Hoffman approached the university president (who was excited about receiving the grant) and asked if he could start a center that would offer the nation’s first conference on business ethics. Hoffman got the thumbs up and in 1977 kicked things off in grand fashion. Speaker of the House Tip O’Neill gave the luncheon address; other attendees included former U.S. Attorney General Elliot Richardson and the Coopers & Lybrand accounting firm and Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation develop ethics programs that won national honors.

When introducing his philosophy to actual businesses, he doesn’t go in spouting Immanuel Kant; instead he translates the principles of great philosophers into a language business people can understand.

He also developed an effective schema for consulting: a pyramid with moral awareness forming a base that supports all further development. (Hoffman believes all people have an ethical dimension, which can be cultivated.) Once someone develops these basic sensibilities, the next stages are ethical reasoning, action and, at the apex, becoming an ethical leader who helps others climb the pyramid.

Hoffman’s other real-world application of business ethics includes serving as an expert witness for law firms in cases involving high-profile issues from tobacco to lead paint to asbestos. “Who would have ever thought somebody getting a Ph.D. in philosophy would be doing something like that?” he said.

It all goes back to the liberal arts value of learning outside a narrow discipline. “It provides you with the power of thought to reach into areas and discover things that might not have been discovered by those within the field,” he said. “There’s no question that my grounding in liberal arts at Transy was the basis for going on and studying philosophy in a more specific way, and that study in philosophy was liberating and creative in terms of allowing me to reach beyond just philosophy and begin to apply that to professional areas such as business.”
“Lawyers have the ability to right wrongs,” says attorney Palmer G. “Gene” Vance II ’87, a first-generation graduate from Paintsville, Ky., and member of Stoll Keenon Ogden. Through public service, he explains, we can offer legal assistance to those without a voice or resources receive the legal help they need.

Vance and the many organizations and projects he helps to guide and support, devote thousands of hours of pro bono work to people and issues that are as varied as the human condition—from individuals facing wrongful foreclosure, to survivors of domestic violence seeking protective orders, to the world’s 100 million street youth. Through the nonprofit arm of the American Bar Association, which he chaired, many good works programs were supported, including training Haitian lawyers to assist in earthquake relief and developing programs to assist U.S. veterans.

His efforts and leadership have been recognized with many honors and awards. Vance gives Transylvania much of the credit for his achievements. “Transy helped me be the best lawyer that I could be,” he says. “I think I learned virtually everything about how I do what I do from the habits I picked up and the guidance that I had at Transylvania.”

Vance is a fervent and loyal supporter of his alma mater. A member of Transylvania’s Board of Regents and recipient of the 2012 Distinguished Service Award, he actively fosters the next generation of Pioneers as a mentor in the 100 Doors to Success program and in the creation of a scholarship fund for other first-generation college students from Eastern Kentucky.

“I do this because of the promise of what it can do for other people,” Vance explains. “Transy really does allow you to be the best person you can be,” he adds. “It was transformative for me. I just want to see if I can help others have that same experience.”
dedication of

BASSETT & DALTON-VOIGT

RESIDENCE HALLS
1. James E. “Ted” Bassett III, former president of Keeneland, addresses the crowd at the dedication of the residence hall bearing his name.

2. Junior Joseph Gearon talks about the new residence halls from the students’ perspective. The halls hold a combined 285 students.

3. President Seamus Carey welcomes attendees to the dedication of Dalton-Voigt and Bassett residence halls.

4. Chairman of the Board of Trustees William T. Young Jr., left, and Ted Bassett walk through Back Circle.

5. Robert Hughes speaks on behalf of the family of Betty Ann Voigt ’44, the namesake of Dalton-Voigt residence hall.

6. Donna Dalton ’83 speaks about the legacy of her late husband, Steve Dalton ’83, who was honored in the naming of Dalton-Voigt residence hall.


8. A student does homework in one of the common areas of Bassett Hall. Each hall is centered around an open area for students to do collaborative work.

9. Sophomore Brandon Trapp relaxes between classes in his Bassett Hall room.

10. Junior Sarah Hernandez hangs out on her bed in Bassett Hall.

11. A group of students work on a project in one of the Bassett Hall common areas. These spaces have been hugely popular for studying and watching television with friends.

12. Sophomore Jennifer Pinto, right, does homework between classes in a Bassett Hall common area.

13. The lobbies of the new residence halls have become convenient spots for taking a quick break during the day with friends.
Transylvania professor receives John William Miller Research Fellowship

Philosophy professor Peter S. Fosl has been selected as the next recipient of the John William Miller Research Fellowship.

The John William Miller Fellowship Fund offers financial backing to scholars researching and writing book-length works that address the philosophy of John William Miller. With the support of the Fellowship Fund, Fosl will explore the place of philosophical skepticism in Miller’s work. He will draw on Miller’s concepts of the midworld and the act and criticism articulated in Miller’s five books, including “The Paradox of Cause” and “The Task of Criticism.”

Longtime philosophy professor Furlong retires

Transylvania celebrated retiring philosophy professor Jack Furlong’s 28 years at the university during a lunch on May 25 in his honor.

Specializing in bioethics, Furlong has been a professor for a total of 40 years. His many honors include the Danforth Associates Teaching Award, the 2000 Acorn Award as Kentucky’s Teacher of the Year, and the 2002 Kentucky Professor of the Year from the Carnegie Foundation and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education.
Kiplinger ranks Transylvania among top liberal arts schools for value

Kiplinger’s Personal Finance has ranked Transylvania as one of the nation’s best values for a liberal arts education.

The magazine’s Best College Values of 2017 weighs both academic excellence and cost criteria—such as sticker price, financial aid and student debt. This ranking, which was released in December, comes on the heels of several other recognitions for Transylvania, including a top-10 spot in USA Today/College Factual’s Best Colleges for the Money and Washington Monthly’s Best Bang for the Buck in the South.

Award-winning poet delivers Kenan Lecture

Renowned poet Claudia Rankine presented Transylvania’s 2017 Kenan Lecture in February.

Her five poetry collections include “Citizen: An American Lyric,” which is the only poetry book to make the nonfiction category of the New York Times bestseller list. During her lecture, she discussed creating the book and the question of creative imagination and race.

Leading Jewish-Muslim authority delivers Moosnick Lecture

Reuven Firestone, a leading national authority on Jewish-Muslim relations, gave the Moosnick Lectureship in Judaic Studies at Transylvania in November. His talk was titled “How the Birth-Pangs of Religion Complicate Peacemaking Between Faith Communities.”

Two new residence halls open

Transylvania opened two new residence halls in January, capping off extensive residential life construction and renovation projects.

In addition to the four-story, state-of-the-art Bassett and Pioneer halls, the university recently turned a large area in front of the new facilities into green space and opened a nearby pavilion and basketball and sand volleyball courts.

Pioneers excel in conferences, national stage

Pioneer athletics has been in the spotlight the past few months with three teams in the NCAA national championships and two track stars delivering standout performances.

Transylvania’s men’s lacrosse team made its first-ever appearance in the NCAA tournament, and the men’s golf team went to the big dance for the 11th year in a row. The Pioneer softball team twice shut out the second-ranked team in the country to become one of 16 teams advancing to the NCAA super regionals.

All three teams won their conference championship tournaments.

For the second consecutive season, seniors Cole Green and Jordin Fender were named the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference Men’s and Women’s Outdoor Track Athletes of the Year. Fender, a three-time conference MVP, finished as the national runner-up in the 60m hurdles in the NCAA Indoor Track and Field Championship. And Green, a four-time conference MVP, won his third straight HCAC championship in the men’s 100m and his second-straight championship in the 200m.

Both Green and Fender qualified for the NCAA Division III Men’s and Women’s Outdoor Track and Field Championships on May 25-27. They are the first student-athletes from Transy to qualify for an NCAA track and field championship.
Lexington author wins Judy Gaines Young Book Award

Local author Crystal Wilkinson won Transylvania’s 2017 Judy Gaines Young Book Award for her novel “The Birds of Opulence.”

Wilkinson is a founding member of the Affrilachian Poets collective, the Appalachian Writer in Residence at Berea College and co-owner of Wild Fig Books & Coffee in Lexington.

Wilkinson received the award in March during a book signing and reading that included senior Justin Wright, the student winner.

This is the third year for the Judy Gaines Young Book Award, which honors recent works by writers in the Appalachian region.

“The Places We Live: Social Practice Artworks”

Morlan Gallery presented “The Places We Live,” an exhibition of artists working in social engagement in February and March.

Six social intervention artists from across the U.S. activated local and regional spaces while exhibiting tangible art objects from those programmed interventions. The artists included Meredith Knapp Brickell, Wes Janz and Sean Starowitz of Indianapolis; Maria Lind Blevins of Morehead, Ky.; Mark Menjivar of San Antonio, Texas; and Michael Strand of Fargo, N.D.

Major publisher to release student anthology of plays

More than a dozen Transy student playwrights will soon see an anthology of their work released by a major U.S. publisher. The plays will be available for productions in English-speaking theaters around the world.

Dramatic Publishing will release the anthology, "My #*%!*X%#! College Life," co-created by Transylvania professor Michael Dixon and Brooke Jennett ’16, who recently won the 2016 Dramatists Guild of America Young Playwright Award.

Transylvania launches Summer Academic Program for high schoolers

Beginning this summer, Transylvania will offer area high school students the opportunity to get a head start on their college careers in a new Summer Academic Program.

Rising high school juniors and seniors can take courses on campus that can earn them college credit and potentially count toward their high school curriculum requirements. They will learn alongside current and entering Transylvania students and will have all the benefits of being a Pioneer, including personal attention from professors and access to the library and its resources.

Confucius Classroom for Chinese studies opens

Transylvania has been selected to be the site of a Confucius Classroom to raise awareness and interest in Chinese language and culture.

Through the program, the university will be entitled to a start-up fund of $30,000 to buy equipment, books and digital teaching material on Chinese studies and to set up an office space. Transylvania also will be eligible for annual funds of $10,000 after the first year to promote the learning of Chinese language and other China studies both on campus and in the surrounding community.

Scholarship-winning Transylvania student to study in Rwanda

Riley Bresnahan, a junior from DeLand, Fla., received the prestigious Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship sponsored by the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. She will study with the School for International Training’s Post-Genocide Restoration and Peacebuilding program in Rwanda.
Class of 2017 highlights
- Thirty-three percent of the 215 graduating seniors received Latin honors for a cumulative GPA of at least 3.5, and 40 percent received program honors.
- Two of the 26 national Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society graduate fellowships were awarded to Transylvania seniors.
- Students will pursue advanced degrees at institutions such as Vanderbilt, Washington University in St. Louis and the UK College of Medicine. Other opportunities awaiting students after graduation include a job at PricewaterhouseCoopers in Washington, D.C., and a University of Cincinnati College of Law fellowship.
- Forty-five percent of this year’s graduates studied abroad while at Transylvania—either for a full term, a summer or during the four-week May term.
- The student speaker at this year’s commencement was Alexa Quiroz, who plans to return to Transylvania after graduation as the Community Engagement AmeriCorps VISTA.

Transylvania breaks ground on $4.5 million Carpenter Academic Center

Transylvania broke ground on its $4.5 million renovation of the iconic Haupt Humanities Building at a ceremony May 26.

The project will modernize the classroom building, which will be renamed the Carpenter Academic Center in honor of its lead donors, Pete ’64 and Marilyn Carpenter. Over the next 12 months, it will undergo a complete rejuvenation that upgrades classrooms, provides student gathering spaces and integrates cutting-edge technologies.
1960s

Rich MacAlpine ’67, Penn Yan, N.Y., has recently had his fourth and most significant book published. “Admiral Frank H. Schofield: A Portrait in Letters of An American Navy Family (1886-1942)” chronicles the Navy career of Frank Schofield, the son of a cash-strapped Yates County tenant farmer who went on to achieve the highest rank in the Navy and serve as commander-in-chief of the entire fleet in 1931-32. All four of Rich’s books are available on Amazon and at Barnes & Noble.

Mary Shearer Pearce ’67, Franklin, Tenn., retired as longtime executive director of The Heritage Foundation of Franklin and Williamson County in April.

Michael Roy (Mike) Nichols ’68, Versailles, Ky., was honored by the National Council of Alpha Lambda Delta, which created a new graduate fellowship in his honor. The Dr. Mike Nichols Fellowship was created to assist Alpha Lambda Delta members pursuing an advanced degree. ALD is a national honor society that recognizes first-year college students for academic success.

1970s

James Thomas Ahler ’72, Cary, N.C., retired after 27 years as CEO of the North Carolina Association of CPAs on April 30, 2016.

Julie E. Dodd ’72, Gainesville, Fla., retired from the University of Florida, where she was on the faculty for 28 years and taught more than 11,000 students. The College of Journalism and Communications named the graduate student teaching award in her honor to recognize her outstanding contributions to teaching. Last fall, Julie completed the Great Smoky Mountains National Park Hike 100 Challenge as part of the Centennial celebration for the National Park Service. She is a blogger for Friends of the Smokies.

William H. McCann Jr. ’79, Corinth Ky., is the editor of the recently published “Kentucky New Play Series Anthology 2012-13” (JW Books, Cynthiana, Ky.), which features the first five plays produced as part of the KNPS. Plays in the series are all by Kentucky playwrights and premiered at the Kentucky State Fair. William has produced all five KNPS seasons and is the author of one of the five plays in the anthology.

1980s

Beven Pace Livingston ’82, Jacksonville, Fla., was recognized by Continental Who’s Who as a Pinnacle Professional in the field of education. She is an associate professor at the University of North Florida and specializes in the development of first-year doctoral degree curriculum, neuroscience, research in ultrasound imaging, sports medicine and more.

Lisa Willoughby (Lisse) Lawson ’82, Lexington, Ky., has been chosen as the state’s Elementary Teacher of the Year by the Kentucky Music Educators Association. Lisa was recognized in February during KMEA’s annual professional development conference in Louisville. She is in her 13th year as general music teacher and chorus director at Rosa Parks Elementary. She has taught 24 years in Fayette, Bourbon and Jessamine counties.

Janis Stivers Nunnally ’83, Cookeville, Tenn., was named president of the Tennessee Art Education Association, a professional organization for art educators in Tennessee.

Charles L. (Les) Johnson ’84, Madison, Ala., co-authored the book “On to the Asteroid.” He also writes science nonfiction about space technology. His book “Solar Sails: A Novel Approach to Interplanetary Travel” was reviewed by Nature and placed on its summer recommended reading list. Les works as technical advisor to the Advanced Concepts Office at NASA and is the principal investigator for NASA’s first deep space solar sail mission, Near-Earth Asteroid Scout.

Billy Van Pelt ’87, Lexington Ky., was appointed director of development for the Southeast and Midwest at American Farmland Trust in November.

W. Landen Summay ’87, Cincinnati, won the silver medal for the U.S. at the World Masters Track and Field Championship in Perth, Australia, last November. He is the reigning U.S. Master in the 800m, and beat an Olympian from Canada for the title.

Todd J. Bretz ’88, Lexington, Ky., is in his 27th season with Dunbar High School soccer. He is Kentucky’s all-time winningest coach with 450 victories, including four state titles and two state runner-up finishes. Dunbar has never had a losing season, and Jon Akers, Dunbar’s first principal, points to Todd as the
common denominator: “Todd can take excellent players and make them even better, and he can take good players and make them excellent.”

Erin B. McMahon ’88, Lexington, Ky., has taken a new job with Conduent Inc. as vice president and corporate counsel—data privacy. Conduent Inc. is a new business process services company that was launched on Jan. 3 following its separation from Xerox. It has 93,000 employees in more than 40 countries.

1990s

Edye F. Bryant ’90, Lexington, Ky., won the Roslyn S. Jaffe Associate Award at Lane Bryant Associates. The RSJ Awards are a cornerstone of ascena retail group’s commitment to giving back. Each year the company recognizes individuals who work diligently in service of women and children’s empowerment. Edye’s prize will help fund the Harrison Elementary Summer Reading Program for 2017, administrated via the Kiwanis Club of Lexington’s endowment.

Michael C. Finley ’90, Sandy Springs, Ga., represented Transylvania at the inauguration of Claire E. Sterk as the 20th president of Emory University on Feb. 8.

Ryan S. Nunnelley ’91, Lexington, Ky., represented Transylvania at the inauguration of Jeffrey S. Vitter as the 17th chancellor of the University of Mississippi on Nov. 10, 2016.

Christopher R. (Chris) Kirkwood-Watts ’95, Seattle, represented Transylvania at the inauguration of Isaiah Crawford as the 14th president of the University of Puget Sound on March 24.

Diana Brown McKenzie ’95, Lexington, Ky., represented Transylvania at the inauguration of Burton J. Webb as the 21st president of the University of Pikeville on Oct. 14, 2016.

Ana C. Reyes ’96, Washington, D.C., was recognized by Unlikely Heroes with the 2016 Hero Award for her commitment to advancing global human rights and providing pro bono representation to persons seeking refuge in the United States. At the annual dinner of the Women’s Bar Association in May, she was named the 2017 WBA Woman Lawyer of the Year. The award recognizes a leader who has championed change in the profession by leading by example, advocating for justice and promoting the advancement of women in the profession. Ana is partner and co-chair of the International Litigation practice group of William & Connolly LLP. She focuses her practice on complex litigation and international arbitration.

Cynthia Gail (Cindy) Ice-Bones ’96, Fishers, Ind., accepted a new position as deputy director, Office of Equal Employment and Diversity/Inclusion for the DoD, Defense Finance and Accounting Service, in Indianapolis.

Jason Allen Deibel ’97, Dayton, Ohio, was named department chair, physics, at Wright State University.

Sarah K. Magruder Lyle ’97, Alexandria, Va., was named president of Common Ground Alliance. CGA is the stakeholder-run organization dedicated to protecting underground utility lines and the people who dig near them.

Benjamin B. Bentrup ’98, Fort Wayne, Ind., joined Beers Malters Backs & Salin, LLP, as an associate in the LaGrange office. Ben earned a master’s degree from the University of Kentucky and his juris doctorate from the Ave Maria School of Law. His practice is in a number of areas, but principal among them is municipal law.

James H. (Jamie) Durham ’98, Danville, Ky., is the executive vice president and partner at SelfRefined, the leading outpatient substance abuse disorder treatment center utilizing medication assisted recovery. All SelfRefined staff and physicians are trained in the most up-to-date, evidence-based practices of trauma informed care and motivational interviewing and utilize recovery-oriented systems of care.

MacKenzie Riney Leachman ’98, Lexington, Ky., received a Best Practice Award from the Central Kentucky Educational Cooperative for her work as a school psychologist at The Academy for Leadership at Millcreek Elementary. According to the Kentucky Association for Psychology in the Schools, MacKenzie was selected because of her ability to balance a large testing load as she works with high-functioning students within the autism spectrum. She also uses multi-tiered interventions with students with behavioral needs and serves on the county’s mental health task force.

Caroline Slater Burnette ’99, Henderson, N.C., is a district court judge in the 9th Judicial District in North Carolina. She was elected to the post in November 2016 and sworn in on Jan. 1.

Katharine Wilson (Katie) Conrad ’99, Miami, is the new associate director of financial aid at Florida International University.

2000s

Bridget G. Trogden ’00, Macon, Ga., has been named associate dean for undergraduate studies at Clemson University. In her new role, she will support initiatives to improve the undergraduate academic experience at Clemson as outlined in the ClemsonForward strategic plan. She begins work in early July.

Kyle Leo Green ’01, Prospect, Ky., is the Founder and CEO of Healthcare Asset Network. HAN is a marketplace where members buy and sell high-quality refurbished medical equipment and surplus supplies from each other at the smartest value.

W. Byars Wells ’01, Mishawaka, Ind., represented Transylvania at the inauguration of Janice A. Cervelli as the 12th president of St. Mary’s College on Nov. 12, 2016.

Bimal Vinu Patel ’02, Fort Thomas, Ky., president of Rolling Hills Hospitality Group, opened the 117-room Holiday Inn & Suites Downtown Cincinnati hotel in December 2016. It’s been more than 30 years since a new construction hotel was built in downtown Cincinnati. Rolling Hills Hospitality has grown from three hotels to eight, with a ninth under construction in Sharonville, Ohio.

Dee Hill Zuganelli ’02, Berea, Ky., completed his doctoral degree in sociology at the University of Arizona. He is a tenure-track assistant professor of family studies at Berea College.

Edward Dennis (Ed) Bird ’03, Hebron, Ky., joined PSA Airlines as a first officer in December 2016.

Sarah Stewart Holland ’03, Paducah, Ky., was elected to the Paducah City Commission. This is Sarah’s first elected office. She was sworn in for her two-year term on the commission on Dec. 29, 2016.

Carl N. Frazier ’04, Lexington, Ky., was honored by the American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division as a finalist for the 2016 William Reece Jr. National Outstanding Young Lawyer Award. This is an annual recognition of an ABA young lawyer who exhibits professional excellence, service to the profession and the bar, service to the community and a
reputation for the advancement of legal ethics and professional responsibility.

Guion L. Johnstone ’05, Lexington, Ky., has been named the executive director of the Kentucky Bar Foundation and Kentucky IOLTA Fund.

Shericka D. Smith ’05, Lexington, Ky., was named Kentucky’s 2016 School Social Worker of the Year. Shericka is in her second year at Tates Creek High School and previously worked seven years at Booker T. Washington Academy. She is a certified youth mental health first aid instructor and frequently trains staff, parents and community members across the district. She was saluted this past October during the annual Midwest School Social Work conference in Lisle, Ill.

Amelia Martin Adams ’06, Lexington, Ky., serves as a judicial law clerk to the Hon. Tracey N. Wise, Chief Judge of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky.

Christopher G. (Chris) Colson ’06, Lexington, Ky., has become a member of Fowler Bell PLLC. Chris joined Fowler Bell’s Litigation, Bankruptcy and Creditors’ Rights Groups in 2009. He was recently recognized and rated by Super Lawyers as a Rising Star for his achievements in business litigation.

Chadwick Jay (Chad) Knight ’07, LeSage, W.Va., was selected as the first Resident of the Month for 2017 at the Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine. Chad is completing his fifth and final year of surgery residency. After completing the surgery residency in June, Chad will begin practice at Appalachian Regional Healthcare in Hazard, Ky.

Brittany Osborne Wolfe ’07, Hazard, Ky., was named chairman of the science department at Hazard High School.

Katherine M. Adams ’08, Prestonsburg, Ky., celebrates one year in business as a Prestonsburg attorney. The Floyd County Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate.

Sarah Billiter Cameron ’08, Fort Thomas, Ky., has been appointed by Gov. Matt Bevin to the Kentucky Commission on Women. The commission is dedicated to elevating the status of women and girls in the commonwealth and consults with the governor on important women’s issues.

Catherine Glass Haning ’09, Wheeling, W.Va., represented Transylvania at the inauguration of Tamara Nichols Rodenberg as the 20th president of Bethany College on Oct. 7, 2016.

David W. Hysong ’09, Antioch, Tenn., was named by Forbes 30 Under 30 for Healthcare. David is founder, CEO and patient of Shepherd Therapeutics, which has a mission of curing rare cancers. Read more on page 12.

2010s

Christopher N. Dunaway ’10, Aspen Colo., is head sommelier at the new signature restaurant Element 47, located in The Little Nell, Aspen’s five-star, slope-side luxury hotel. Forbes Travel Guide named Chris one of the bright stars.

Kevin Cravens-Koch ’11, Georgetown, Ky., accepted a position with National Avenue Christian Church (DOC) in Springfield, Mo., and began his ministry in January.

Bethany Hosford ’11, Denver, was published in The Journal of Neuroscience in October 2016. Bethany received her Ph.D. in neuroscience from the University of Cincinnati in November 2016. She studied the impact newborn neurons had upon temporal lobe epilepsy. The title of her thesis was “Potential for Targeting Newborn Dentate Granule Cells as a Treatment for Epilepsy.”

Tadarro Lee Richardson Jr. ’12, Nashville, Tenn., graduated from University of Louisville medical school in May 2016. Lee is a resident physician at Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

Emily M. Shepp ’13, Chicago, has accepted a position with the Southern California regional headquarters of Kaiser Permanente in Pasadena. She’ll be involved with regulatory and contractual compliance for their Medicaid plans. She has also co-authored her first article, “Is Israel Its Brother’s Keeper? Responsibility and Solidarity in the Israeli–Palestinian Conflict,” which will be published in Public Health Ethics.

Daniel A. Barber ’14, Washington, D.C., was named associate director of external affairs, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Secretary. Daniel acts as a liaison between HHS and a range of external stakeholders, including leading nonprofit, corporate and patient advocacy organizations. He provides guidance to the HHS secretary and senior leadership regarding external partners’ concerns and priorities and facilitates communication between HHS and key partners on HHS initiatives, policies and rules. Among an array of policy issues, Daniel coordinates inter-agency efforts with external stakeholders on Zika virus, opioid use disorder and delivery system reform.

Tony Del Grosso ’14, Lexington, Ky., was named managing director of Woodford Theatre. Tony is the youngest person to hold this position at Woodford Theatre.

Aimee Marie Ashcraft ’15, Springboro, Ohio, a literary agent, joined Brower Literary and Management in New York. Aimee is specifically interested in literary and upmarket fiction, historical and women’s fiction and young adult fiction (all genres).


Stephanie Andrea Robinson ’16, Frankfort, Ky., is a published playwright. Stephanie’s photograph graces the cover of the recently published “Kentucky Theatre Yearbook 2017.” The book features a 10-minute play she wrote while at Transy, “Black To White Movie.” The book is available on Amazon.

Amber Noelle “Elle” Woolery ’16, Lawrenceburg, Ky., has been awarded the highly competitive Davies-Jackson Scholarship to study in the archaeology program at St. John’s College, Cambridge. The scholarship will cover her full fees, plus living expenses for two years as she studies for a Cambridge B.A.—the equivalent of a U.S. graduate degree.

MARRIAGES

Peter M. Mehas ’80 and David Schlosberg, Dec. 10, 2016

Patrick D. Preston ’96 and Kevin Ferenchak, Oct. 29, 2016


Lynsey Matisz Gaca ’07 and Igor Gaca, May 30, 2014
BIRTHS

Jami Bailey ’00 and Joshua Phillips, a son, Parker James Phillips, Feb. 28, 2017
Laura A. Davidson ’03 and Gregory Alan Brauner ’00, daughters, Ruby Brauner, November 2014, and Willow Brauner, November 2016
Carla Hopkins Griesch ’01 and Stephen Griesch, a daughter, Savannah Elizabeth Griesch, Jan. 20, 2017
Jodi Broadwell Reaves ’01 and Frank Reaves, a daughter, Avery Justice Aileen Reaves, Sept. 23, 2016
Kate Nelson ’01 and Stephanie Barger ’02, twins, a daughter, Beatrice Katherine Barger, and a son, Jacob Shelby Barger, Nov. 22, 2016
Helen Beaven Bischoff ’04 and Patrick Bischoff, a son, William Marshall (Will) Bischoff, Jan. 31, 2017
Katie Thomas Mills ’04 and Collier Trenton Mills ’01, a son, Mac Ehmann Mills, Nov. 11, 2016
William A. Freeman ’05 and Stephanie W. Freeman, a daughter, Anne Parker Freeman, July 5, 2016
Bethany Cox Snider ’05 and John Snider, a son, John Mark Snider, Dec. 3, 2016
Tom Claycomb ’05 and Catherine Ford Claycomb ’04, a son, Mather Jones Claycomb, Nov. 21, 2016
Lindsey Powell Mullis ’06 and Jesse Mullis, a daughter, Marcella MarieAnn (Ella) Mullis, Nov. 22, 2016
Molly Eakins Marsh ’07 and Patrick M. Marsh ’07, a daughter, Sadie Layne Marsh, Oct. 9, 2016
Zach Davis ’08 and Natalie Davis, a son, John Wethington (Whit) Davis, Nov. 16, 2016
Caye Franz Tomlin ’09 and Mike Tomlin, a son, Parker Edward Tomlin, Oct. 12, 2016
Courtney Williams Went ’09 and Joshua R. Wenta ’09, a son, James Rhett Wenta, July 16, 2015, and a daughter, Emma Catherine Wenta, Feb. 27, 2017

IN MEMORIAM

Verna Kemper Payne ’39, Sparta, Ky., Feb. 4, 2017
Richard Guy Pumphrey ’45, Daytona, Fl., Nov. 16, 2016
Mary Catherine (Katie) Chandler Bolin ’49, Lexington, Ky., March 19, 2017
James Arthur (Jim) Cox ’49, Richmond Ky., Jan. 6, 2017
Ann Fox Pugh ’49, Cincinnati, Sept. 28, 2016
Jacqueline Koellisch (Jackie) Houchin ’50, Rio Rancho, N.M., July 18, 2015
Charlotte Felker Gallagher ’51, St. Louis, Aug. 30, 2016
Michael B. Harrel ’51, Edina, Minn., husband of Kent Varden Harrel ’52, Sept. 15, 2016
William Ralph Lackner ’51, Richmond, Va., Nov. 19, 2016
William B. (Bill) Coulter ’52, Reynoldsburg, Ohio, husband of Virginia Lewis Coulter ’52, Jan. 9, 2017
Laverna Hamlyn ’52, Lehigh Acres, Fla., Jan. 13, 2017

Harold Logan Higgs ’53, Nicholasville, Ky., Nov. 19, 2016
Engelbert (Bert) Forthuber ’54, San Juan, Texas, July 1, 2016
Vernita Fern Young Ward ’55, Newport, Ky., Oct. 4, 2016
Mary Elmon Middleton Wash ’56, Coral Springs, Fla., June 18, 2013
Andrew Christofield ’61, Bellevue, Ky., Dec. 12, 2016
Joan Marie Hopper ’61, Bowling Green, Ky., Feb. 28, 2017
Ladonna Loescher Scruggs ’61, Lakeland, Fla., wife of Charles Eugene Scruggs ’59, Feb. 12, 2017
Sam H. Ware ’61, Lexington, Ky., husband of Carolyn Collier Ware ’61, father of Susan M. Ware ’84, Oct. 18, 2016
Dennis Story Morrill ’63, Portland, Maine, Dec. 30, 2016
Joan Santen Luff ’64, Crete, Neb., Jan. 9, 2017
Kenneth Harold (Ken) Lloyd ’68, Lexington, Ky., Dec. 12, 2016
Peyton Loving Mitchell ’68, Louisville, Ky., Jan. 16, 2017
James Anderson (Andy) Williams ’69, Birmingham, Ala., brother of John H. Williams ’62, Feb. 4, 2017
Harris Allen Friedman ’71, Lexington, Ky., brother of Andrea Friedman Doren ’81, March 16, 2017
Michael J. Whitcraft ’72, Springfield, Va., Nov. 9, 2015
Lawell L. Benton ’75, Bozrah, Conn., Aug. 15, 2015
Martha Jane Pedley ’78, Princeton, Ky., sister of Grace Pedley Johnson ’81, Dec. 20, 2016
James O. Hazelrigg ’80, Hopkinsville, Ky., husband of Ann Seale Hazelrigg ’79, Jan. 25, 2017
Robert Spencer Hatler ’16, Winchester, Ky., Nov. 11, 2016

the magazine of TRANSLYVANIA UNIVERSITY
ALUMNI WEEKEND 2017

Pioneers from all over returned to campus April 28-30 for the “Many Paths, One Pioneer Spirit” Alumni Weekend. Between dinner socials, convocation, the President’s Reception and the Barr Society induction ceremony, there was plenty to celebrate at one of our most cherished annual events.

ROBERT BARR SOCIETY

CLASS OF 1967–50th Reunion
(Left to Right) Front Row: Bill Hiles, Susan Kiger Mossman, Carol Wainscott Carpenter, Penney Sanders, Brenda Bell, Bettye Stehle Burns, Jane Wiesel DeMartini, Kathy Morris Riester, Phyllis Couchman Farson, Virginia Neuhoff
Second Row: Wanda Poynter Cole, Lou Elen Crews Foley, Georgia Green Stamper, Ernie Stamper, Bill McDonald, Daniel Richardson, David Miller, David McFadden, Carl “Bud” Fairchild, Steve Hombach, John Mansdorfer, Harry Miller, Jerry Schell, Grady Lehman, Jan Allinder Anestis, Mary Shearer Pearce

CLASS OF 1972–45th Reunion
(Left to Right) Front Row: Ann Voris Morris, Linda B’Hymer Mauser, Jim Gearhart, Jim Wilson
Second Row: Everett Blass, Bill Hutchings, Debbie Bird Phelps, Pat Hocker Riddle

SAVE THE DATE
Alumni Weekend
2018
APRIL 27-29
CLASS OF 1977–40th Reunion

CLASS OF 1982–35th Reunion

CLASS OF 1987–30th Reunion

CLASS OF 1992–25th Reunion
CLASS OF 1997–20th Reunion
(Left to Right) Front Row: Angela Tackett Dearinger, Falguni Amin-Zimmerman, Kim Woosley Poitevin, Erin Weaver, Stacie Walker, Ruby Basham
Second Row: Skaut Brigham, Bhairvi Osborn, Rebecca Yowler, Christy Metzger, Mary Ann Miranda, Melanie Dempsey Glover
Back Row: Jason Zimmerman, Brent Lackey, Kevin Brown, Nathan Lee, Heather Dearing, Matt Lee, Prakash Maggan

CLASS OF 2002–15th Reunion
(Left to Right) Front Row: Tara Pennington Clark, Leigh Schwarzel Crites, Stacey Clark, Monica Majmudar Sheth, Lisa Bell Strunk, Karen Bryden Joyce
Back Row: Erin Monfort Hansen, Sally Francisco Billings, Stella Gemma Loveland, Amanda Harris-Clay, Melanie Proctor, Jennifer O’Connor, Jessica Campbell

CLASS OF 2007–10th Reunion
(Left to Right) Front Row: Emma Kring Scott, Whitney Edwards Mulroney, Haley Riney Fitzgerald, Haley Trogden McCauley, Brittany Wolfe, Mandy Wakefield, Lauren Oberst Anderkin, Melissa Coombs Mattax
Second Row: Andy Malaney, Kelly Herbolich, Zoe Metzler, Kim Clark Day, Lynsay Matlis Gaca, Aaron Anderkin
Third Row: Patrick Carey, Mason McCauley, Meredith Plant, Angie Davidson Gabbard, Elizabeth Buford, Joel Turpin
Back Row: Ryan Kizer, Joey Searle, Sarah Lawrence Prawel, Josh Sankovitch

CLASS OF 2012–5th Reunion
(Left to Right) Front Row: Jay Collier, Ryla Luttrell, Robin Kunkel-Code, Jennifer Doom Pope, Jessica Root, Jensen Potenza
Second Row: Denny Reller, Zahra Masoud, Heather Napper, Haley Hensley Harbeson, Lucy Wright, April York, Ali Cahill
Back Row: John Johnson, Chris Beal, Tiffany Buchanan, Quanta Taylor, Heather Riley, Danny Woolums, Andrew Weinberger, T.J. Olmstead
AWARDS

2017 TRANSYLVANIA MEDAL
1. Luther Deaton Jr.

2017 MORRISON MEDALLION
2. Glen Bagby ’66

OUTSTANDING YOUNG ALUMNIX AWARDS
3. Haley Trogdlen McCauley ’07

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD
4. Stephen G. Amato ‘87
5. Jan Allinder Anestis ’67
6. J. Trevor Martin ’92
7. Georgia (Green) & Ernie Stamper ’67
8. Jessica (Lagrew) ’94 & Mac Thompson ’92

DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
9. Mary Shearer Pearce ’67
10. William Hutchings ’72
11. Lynn Ann Whaley Vogel ’82

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Spirit
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2017 ACADEMIC CONVOCATION

featuring keynote speaker

EUGENIE C. SCOTT
Former Director of the National Center for Science Education

FRIDAY
SEPTEMBER 15, 2017
3:30 - 5:00 p.m.
Haggin Auditorium | Mitchell Fine Arts Center