

The University of Michigan Department of Urology

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What's New March 10, 2017

Development Update: Vince Cavataio

Urology Department Faculty and Staff

1 Items, 14 Minutes

Today's contribution comes from the Department of Urology's new Development Officer, Vincent Cavataio. Vince has been with the Department for just over a couple months, splitting time between his usual Development office and a desk here in the Taubman Center, all in an effort to be more plugged in to the daily Urology activities and needs.

Currently, Vince is in the process of meeting with many of Urology's development stakeholders to sketch out a strategy for future efforts. If you're yet to do so, I encourage you to swing by his office (he shares an office with Dr. Susanne Quallich) and introduce yourself; as you'll soon read, he'll welcome the chance to say hi. So, without further ado, here's Vince Cavataio.

-Eric Anderson

Vince Cavataio

I'm grateful for the warm welcome I've received from so many of our faculty and staff. For those I've had the pleasure of meeting with, thank you for your generosity and patience. If we haven't had the chance to meet yet, I look forward to learning more about you and your work in the coming months. Please don't hesitate to stop me in the office or around town.

I'm also grateful for the opportunity to share a bit more about myself and my work. I hope you find it interesting, though I doubt it will stack up to those who have come before me. You all are a comedic group.

I grew up in the burbs north of Detroit with my parents and four younger siblings, including my childhood dog Mavrick Karl who is still eating more Pupperoni than any dog I've ever met. My mother is the VP for a machinery company and my father is a marketing executive for a diversified industrial group in Germany. Nick works in a government administration office, Anthony works at the U in the Office of University Development, Marissa is a sophomore at Central Michigan University, and Mavrick spends his time watching Animal Planet on a chaise lounge (at 17 years old, we think he should be getting a job and contributing soon).



Left to right: Anthony, Marissa, Dad (William), Mom (Elaina), Nick, and myself spending time at our family home in South Carolina.



Mavrick on his chaise lounge. He was a Christmas gift during junior high school - I still drive the 1.5 hours to visit him regularly.

I completed undergrad and graduate school at Central Michigan University. Interestingly enough, I started undergrad pursuing a degree in meteorology. Turns out you really have to enjoy vector calculus and thermodynamics. It also turns out that I enjoy neither. I ended up earning my undergrad degree in public relations and public policy and a master's degree focused on organizational communication. I enjoyed my time working with a diverse research portfolio during graduate school. I studied political debate tactics and face-shaping in the US, Egypt, UK, India, and Hong Kong; computer mediated relationships for LGBTQ+ youth; and I published research on collective bargaining disputes. During this time, I became an instructor for speech communication and organizational theory. I proudly share that I became the first instructor in department history to earn a perfect score on student evaluation surveys for instructor effectiveness and was a finalist for the Cooper National Teaching Award.

As I was about to graduate and move on to doctoral school in Pennsylvania, I experienced a family health emergency. My youngest brother, Anthony, was struck by a drunk driver while crossing the street during his sophomore year of college. After about a month of surgeries and induced coma to allow for healing, Anthony was able to wake up and start his rehabilitation process. While it's been a challenge, I'm thrilled to say that Anthony is well (he even graduated from CMU early and was recruited to work for the Food Network during his senior year). Anyway, I mention this story because it inspired me to take my career in a different direction. I was inspired by medicine. Had it not been for medical advancements, Anthony wouldn't be where he is today. I knew I didn't have the scientific capacity to be a health care practitioner, so I wanted to take the next best route and support medicine through philanthropic work. It just so happened that I had some experience in the development field.

During undergrad and into graduate school I worked in the development office at CMU. I helped establish the first fundraising effort for the new medical school - CMED. It was a phenomenal experience. I learned so much about what it means to inspire philanthropy. For the first time, I understood the difference between charity and philanthropy. Both of which are important, but only philanthropy aims at the root of societal issues and involves strategic, long-term planning. I looked back on this experience fondly and knew it would be a meaningful way for me to contribute to health care.



My sister Marissa and I at CMU's homecoming last year. She is significantly younger than me, but we talk every day and are probably the closest of the bunch.

After the decision to postpone doctoral school, I went from one CMU to another to work at Carnegie Mellon University in the central development office. Since medical development is very complex, I wanted to refine my skills with academic development. My work at Carnegie Mellon was fascinating and impactful. By the end of the campaign, I exceeded goals and was ready for a new challenge. Fortunately for me, I was recruited to become the director of development at Eastern Michigan University for annual giving and the College of Technology. I grew fond of EMU and the mission of the institution. I still remain adjunct faculty for communication and serve on the volunteer-based board of directors for an organization housed at EMU, called *MAGIC* (Mentorship, Access, Guidance in College). The primary function of *MAGIC* is to remove barriers to academic success for students who age out of the foster care system or who experience homelessness. As I was approaching the end of my second fiscal year with EMU, I was recruited to join the team at the U to serve on the leadership annual giving team for medical education. This experience gave me exposure to medical fundraising and primed me to move into the Urology department in January.

I couldn't be more energetic about the work you all are doing and I'm honored to support our department. I look forward to partnering with you to develop a sustainable, impactful development operation. **It takes a village to make good development work happen.** From excellent patient care, to introducing philanthropic opportunity, to cultivating patients into

donors, and stewarding their gifts to show impact and meaning. The cycle is never-ending - it requires constant communication between our faculty, development office, campus partners, and our patients/donors.

When I'm not in my office on Oakbrook Street, in Taubman, or at a donor visit, I spend my time teaching, cooking, traveling, volunteering, exercising, and playing catch-the-laser with my munchkin cat, Sir Lil' Sebastian (named in fond remembrance of the miniature horse from the TV show Parks and Recreation). About 36 hours before I started my role in Urology, I returned from my most recent adventure to cook and eat through England and France. I rang in NYE by watching the fireworks on the River Thames in London and quickly headed to Paris for the New Year's Day Christmas Market celebration. Fun fact from my French cooking classes: it takes seven hours from start to finish to make croissants. Also, if you see crescent shaped croissants they are likely imposters made with margarine and not worth your time!



My pastry class at Le Foodist - I made about four dozen croissant and in the process folded more butter into dough than you could possibly imagine.



This was the day of the Orange Bowl so I had to represent the block M - I stayed up all night watching the game on my iPad.



Sir Li' Sebastian, my munchkin cat. His legs are very tiny.

Now that I've shared my doughy words of wisdom, I'll conclude with the words I live by that are famously misattributed to John Wesley, but often properly recited by former Secretary Clinton: "Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can."

Thanks for reading. I hope to chat with you soon!