Dr. Schray named 2013 Professor of the Year

Back to the Future

Former Marshall Star
Dan D’Antoni returns

See page 35 for ALUMNI NEWS and more
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Spring 2014

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CORRECTIONS: In the Autumn 2013 edition of Marshall Magazine, Mike Kirtner was inadvertently identified as Jim Kirchner in the “Summer with President Kopp” spread on page two. In the same edition on page eight, cover subject Jim Smith was misidentified in a photo. The photo used was of Greg Smith, a center for Marshall’s football team at that same time. Marshall Magazine is devoted to accuracy and we regret these errors.

on the cover  Dan D’Antoni takes over as head coach of the men’s basketball team and plans to take Marshall straight to the top. Photo by Rick Lee.
President Kopp reads the citation awarding the honorary Doctor of Science degree to Dr. Robert C. Gallo, co-discoverer of the human immunodeficiency virus that causes AIDS, at the School of Medicine Investiture Ceremony May 9.

President Kopp chats with Marshall alumnus and Thomson Reuters CEO James Smith, at a “Meet and Greet” reception for the College of Arts and Media hosted by Smith at Thomson Reuters headquarters in New York City.

President Kopp congratulates Dr. William Palmer, professor of history, who received this year’s Hedrick Outstanding Faculty Award.

Kyle Wilson, who graduated with a B.S. in Forensic Chemistry, persuades President Kopp to indulge in a “selfie” at the undergraduate commencement May 10.

Jessica Smith from Point Pleasant explains her research on borderline personality disorder to President Kopp at this year’s Undergraduate Research Day at the Capitol.
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NO TIME TO BE SICK?
For former Marshall great Dan D’Antoni, basketball has always been a family affair.

It’s one of those iconic pictures you can’t take anymore. It’s Jan. 31, 1968, and Marshall’s basketball players, in full warm-up regalia, are strolling down Eighth Avenue between 49th and 50th streets in Manhattan. Their task the next day: To take on No. 1 ranked Houston and its All-American Elvin Hayes in the world’s most famous arena —Madison Square Garden.

It was billed as a possible matchup between Hayes and Marshall’s George Stone, the Herd sharpshooter who dropped 46 points on Nebraska in the very same arena in the National Invitational Tournament the year before. Marshall lost that game to Houston, but the Cougars knew they were in a fight.

“While Coach Guy Lewis nervously wrung his red and white polka-dotted towel on the bench, Hayes went 11 minutes without a basket and Stone, Bob Redd and Danny D’Antoni led a Marshall rally that cut Houston’s lead from 12 to four points with 5:40 to play,” wrote Mervin Hyman in the Feb. 12, 1968, issue of Sports Illustrated. “Then Hayes threw in 11 more points, to

By Keith Morehouse
For Marshall alumnus Dan D’Antoni, coaching the men’s basketball team is a life-long dream that has finally become reality.
finish with 39, and the Cougars won 102-93. Elvin had some advice for Stone. ‘He only plays at one end,’ said Hayes. ‘He should have passed the ball more.’”

For those too young to remember, Dan D’Antoni was a big deal at Marshall in the late 1960s. The former hard-charging point guard was a star in his own right before younger brother Mike D’Antoni decided to follow in his footsteps and play for the Thundering Herd in the early 1970s. He helped lead the Herd to two memorable National Invitational Tournament (NIT) appearances in 1967 and 1968, is one of only 40 Marshall players with more than 1,000 career points, was an All Mid-American Conference first team selection in 1969 when he averaged 17.5 per game and is a member of the school’s athletic Hall of Fame.

Dan D’Antoni was a small-town basketball star from Mullens, W.Va., where his family lived and breathed basketball. While he has fond memories of his playing days in the old Memorial Field House, he said the bright lights of his team’s two NIT runs in New York City burn brightest.

“I remember we were just walking down the street, and there was this little marquee outside,” he recalled. “It looked like any regular theater, but then you walked into this 19,000-seat arena and it was unbelievable. You could smell the beer, and I can always remember the hovering cloud of cigarette smoke.”

Those were just a few of some monumental milestones in New York City for the D’Antoni family. You’ve got to understand where the D’Antonis came from to realize the totality of their journey.

Dan’s grandfather, Andrea D’Antoni, came to the United States from Campi, Italy, in 1909 by way of Ellis Island. He spoke no English, and to make sure he made
it to his destination, authorities wrote the name of the town of McComas, W.Va., on a piece of paper and fastened it to his lapel. He started his life in America toiling in the coal mines near McComas and Mullens, but after 10 years he realized the dangers inherent in the mining business. He wanted to make a life for his family without going underground, so he opened his own grocery store in Mullens. He put down sturdy roots – roots that still run deep in Wyoming County.

He built a modest brick home on Moran Avenue for his family in 1928 and raised four children there. Eighty-six years later, his son Lewis D’Antoni, now 100 years old, still lives there. Lewis D’Antoni and his wife, Betty Jo, brought up four children of their own in that home – Kathy, Danny, Mike and Mark. They all recall an idyllic childhood in Mullens.

“I remember all of the basketball games we played in the back on a concrete yard,” Kathy D’Antoni said. “Dad put concrete down because grass would never grow because we played ball all the time, and all we had was one single light bulb on the back porch to light up the court.”

Kathy D’Antoni is the assistant state superintendent of schools in West Virginia. Every weekend she returns to her childhood home to check on her father. They’ve made countless trips to Huntington over the years to watch Danny and Mike play basketball for Marshall. The journey they took on April 24 of this year just adds another page to a scrapbook of basketball memories for the family. That’s the day Danny was introduced as Marshall’s new basketball coach, and the D’Antoni patriarch had the most important seat in the house – front row center.

Lewis D’Antoni had made quite a life in athletics. He became a legendary coach at Mullens High School, and his career was good enough for inclusion in the West Virginia Sports Hall of Fame. But nothing made him prouder than this day.

“I lived this long so I could see one of them get here as a coach,” Lewis D’Antoni said.

He honestly didn’t care if it were Mike or Danny who took the Marshall job. As Dan D’Antoni said at the news conference, “When you get one D’Antoni, you get us all.”

“It means an awful lot to me and my family,” Lewis D’Antoni said. “We’ve all been enthused about Marshall and followed them all these years. My brother Andrew played football for Cam Henderson. I got my master’s at Marshall. We’ve got quite an attachment to Marshall.”

After Dan left his mark on Marshall basketball, along came younger brother Mike. He had his pick of scholarships, but ultimately decided to follow his brother and run with the Herd. He helped Marshall to a top 10 ranking in the 1971-72 season — still Marshall’s best ever in basketball — and helped make the Memorial Field House an ear-splitting house of horrors for visiting teams.

“Marshall was known as a basketball school when we played in the late 1960s and early 1970s and I want to revive that,” Dan D’Antoni said.

“I just remember the stadium being filled with fans,” Mark D’Antoni recalled. Now an attorney in Charleston, he played Division I basketball as a point guard at Coastal Carolina. But his hoops dreams were formulated inside that old Field House. “I remember the anticipation, the crowds, the noise level. Just watching them run out. As a little kid, it made quite an impression.”

The family that played together stayed together over the years, and on April 24 they found themselves in the same room, watching Dan realize a lifelong dream of coaching the Thundering Herd.

His resume includes a 30-year career as a high school head coach in South Carolina; then there were stops as an NBA assistant under brother Mike with the Phoenix Suns, the New York Knicks and the Los Angeles Lakers. He’s always been passionate about coaching the game. But his latest stop is personal.

“I don’t look behind me,” Dan D’Antoni said. “That’s the way I played. I didn’t look behind me; I looked where I was going. If everyone comes with me – players, fans, the school, other coaches – if everyone moves in the same direction a lot of good things can happen. This is a dream of mine. It’s been a long time coming.”
D’Antoni is one of only 40 Marshall players to achieve more than 1,000 points in his career.

President Stephen J. Kopp presents D’Antoni with his green Marshall blazer as he is named head coach of the men’s basketball team.
Those who don’t wish to follow should step aside. Dan D’Antoni, like every member of his family, hates to lose. It was emblazoned on the refrigerator at 530 Moran Avenue when Betty Jo kept a running scorecard of who won at Monopoly, Risk or Gin Rummy. Even a game of croquet at a family reunion turns into something like Game 7 of the NBA Finals.

“A few years ago I was playing in a seniors’ doubles tennis tournament in the Charleston Public Courts Tournament,” Kathy recalled. “We lost in the finals in sudden death, but I was ecstatic that we made it that far. I called Danny to share my joy. He said ‘Kathy that is great! I don’t think we have a runner-up trophy in our family.’”

The sarcasm is never hurtful. The playful insults just come with the territory when you play with – or for – the D’Antonis. Just as Lewis and Betty Jo D’Antoni taught their children how to win, they also imparted the lessons on how to lose. It doesn’t happen often, but that message lives on all these years later. Basketball is the family business, and it has united the D’Antonis again.

“We’re playing to win the trophy, go to the (NCAA) Final Four,” Dan D’Antoni said of his goals for the Thundering Herd basketball program. “I don’t expect less. Yea, I’m dreaming, but we’re going to work for it.”

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**Keith Morehouse** is the sports director for WSAZ NewsChannel 3 in Huntington, W.Va.

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D’Antoni’s father, Lewis D’Antoni, watches proudly as his son is officially named head coach of the men’s basketball team.
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n 2007, Dr. Kateryna Schray was recruited to edit the first Ukrainian translation of the Anglo-Saxon epic *Beowulf*. Her 2008 article in Honors in Practice titled “Literary Ornithology,” which demonstrates the value of reinforcing literary images with scientific observation, remains one of the prestigious journal’s most popular pieces. Among numerous other honors, Schray received Marshall University’s Reynolds Outstanding Teaching Award in 2009 and the Hedrick Outstanding Faculty Award in 2013. She has been selected twice to speak at the university’s freshman convocation and was the keynote speaker at the 2013 winter commencement.

Schray’s list of accomplishments is vast and varied – but that is not why she was named the 2013 Professor of the Year by the Faculty Merit Foundation of West Virginia.

“Dr. Schray is the real deal,” said Marshall University Provost and Senior Vice President Dr. Gayle Ormiston. “She is well recognized for her gift of connecting with students of diverse backgrounds and motivating them to achieve the highest levels of performance. The impact of her contributions to the university, its students and the broader community Marshall serves is without question significant.”

Schray, an English professor in the College of Liberal Arts, was named Professor of the Year in March at a banquet at the Culture Center in Charleston. Each year, the Faculty Merit Foundation

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*By Katherine Pyles • Photos by Rick Lee*
The Faculty Merit Foundation of West Virginia names Marshall English professor Dr. Kateryna Schray the 2013 Professor of the Year.
“My teaching philosophy is embarrassingly simple: Identify and build on each student’s strengths and remember that learning is inherently joyful.”

– Dr. Kateryna Schray

honors an outstanding faculty member at a West Virginia college or university. Through financial support from United Bank, the award winner receives a $10,000 cash prize.

“While the award itself is incredible, the overwhelmingly supportive reaction of my community brings me to tears,” Schray said. “The elementary school at which I volunteer taped up the news story on its main entrance the very next morning, my church included it in its weekly bulletin and my department put up posters announcing the award all over our building. It feels like my whole campus and all of Huntington is celebrating, and that makes me so incredibly happy.”

Celebrating Schray’s success comes easy for many within the Marshall community.

“In my 25th year of full-time university teaching and my 10th chairing an English department, I can say without hesitation that I have never had a colleague who more vividly and completely embodies the ideals of our profession and, thus, this highest faculty award on our campus,” said Dr. Jane Hill, professor and chair of the English Department at Marshall.

“Kateryna’s passion for both her content and her students cannot be matched,” said Sarah McConnell Krause, an adjunct English professor at Marshall who was Schray’s student before becoming her colleague. “Over the years I have known her, she has nurtured me as a student, embraced me as a colleague and supported and celebrated me as a friend. I am truly honored and blessed to have had her presence in my life.”

“Kateryna was an amazing mentor for me, not only in the Yeager program but also in my preparations for medical school,” said Dr. Jacob Kilgore, internal medicine-pediatric resident physician at the Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine, who benefited from Schray’s work as a writing mentor for students in the Society of Yeager Scholars from 1997-2010. “She has a profound knowledge of her subject matter, an insatiable desire to learn and a true compassion for her students.”

“In my 18 years at Marshall, I am extraordinarily fortunate in that I have been given absolutely wonderful students,” she said. “Walking into the classroom is by far the most exciting part of my workday. Teaching is the most important thing that I do, and working with my students brings me immense joy.”

She said students at Marshall benefit from relatively small class sizes as well as the university’s dedicated faculty, who go above and beyond to invest in their students and foster learning.

“At Marshall, students are getting committed teachers who turn to one another for ideas, feedback and advice as they prioritize student learning,” she said. “I benefit daily from exceptional mentors and inspiring colleagues. I run down to John Van Kirk’s office at least once a week with a question, and I would not have made it through my first year without John Teel, who is also conveniently down the hall. My department chair, Jane Hill, puts the students first, and she makes sure that everything – and I mean everything – that my department does is for the benefit of our students. That’s what every decision comes down to.”

As for Schray’s own teaching philosophy, it is grounded in the belief that everyone shares a natural desire to learn.

“My teaching philosophy is embarrassingly simple: Identify and build on each student’s strengths and remember that learning is inherently joyful,” she said. “I have taught at the college level, in an industry setting, in a homeless shelter, in a convent and in an impoverished foreign country. Throughout all those settings, my students had one thing in common: They believed that they were taking an active step towards improving their lives in a way that nothing else could.”

Schray’s joie de vivre extends beyond the walls of Corbly Hall on Marshall’s Huntington campus. Through a project she initiated during a 2010-2011 sabbatical, she has become an in-demand speaker on teaching writing
strategies at the elementary school level and works with students at local schools to help them improve their writing skills.

“There isn’t anything that Kateryna isn’t able to do,” said Serena Collins, principal at Southside Elementary School in Huntington. “She does everything from assisting our teachers in preparation for writing assessments to encouraging parents and calming crying children. She inspires everyone she meets to be a better person.”

Schray, who has four children of her own, said her time in the elementary schools gives her a better understanding of the educational foundations many of her students bring with them to Marshall and illustrates one of her guiding principles as a professor.

“You can’t make the world a better place for your own children until you first make it a better place for every single one of their classmates,” she said. “That includes the kid who comes to school hungry, the kid who comes to school unprepared and the kid who comes to school overwhelmed. Being in the elementary schools reminds me that each of my students is a unique and wonderful human being and is worthy of love. It reminds me that at one point my students were these innocent, small creatures. And now here they are at Marshall, entrusted to my care. And my responsibilities towards them are immense.”

Schray is an internationally acclaimed scholar, a larger-than-life professor and an asset to the community she serves – “the real deal,” indeed.

Katherine Pyles is a freelance writer living in Huntington. She is a 2009 graduate of Marshall University, and is one of the hundreds, if not thousands, who claim to be Dr. Kateryna Schray’s No. 1 fan.
The West Virginia Autism Training Center has a staff of highly-trained professionals ready to assist those in the community and around the state.
According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Autism and Developmental Disabilities Modeling Network, one in 68 children in the United States is identified as having an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). The West Virginia Autism Training Center, housed on Marshall University’s Huntington campus, works closely with these individuals and those around them to offer support and guidance.

“Our mission is to support those with ASDs as they pursue a life of quality,” explained Dr. Marc Ellison, who is serving as the center’s interim executive director. “We are a statewide agency that provides individualized services in a collaborative fashion in order to help individuals establish their own goals.”

The center’s history dates back to the early 1980s. “Dr. Ruth Sullivan, a pioneer in the autism community, led a grassroots campaign along with several parents in the state which resulted in the passage of a bill that established the WV ATC in 1984,” Ellison said.

With its staff of highly trained professionals, the Autism Training Center is able to assist individuals whenever they are located. “We meet people out in their communities,” Ellison explained. “That’s a big change from the late ’80s and early ’90s. The WV ATC was originally conceived as a clinic-type setting.”

To date, the center has served more than 3,000 families and thousands of educators around the state. Those interested in registering themselves or a child for the center’s programs may speak with the intake coordinator to begin the application process. “It’s free and easy,” Ellison said.

Once registered, participants gain immediate access to some of the center’s resources including the Lending Library and Family Coaching Sessions, and from that point, an action plan is developed and put into place. The Family Focus Positive Behavior Support program is the center’s largest direct service, garnering around 100 family participants per year.
“It’s a 10-month program and is designed for long-term support,” Ellison said. “It allows us to facilitate the building of a team around the individual, and once the program ends, the idea is to leave that group intact with its own leader. Ultimately, it assists families and individuals in establishing their dreams and the path that must be taken to accomplish them. For example, some individuals have gained employment or developed significant relationships because of their participation.”

One of the newest programs offered through the ATC is Solution Focused Positive Behavior Support.

“It is a six-session program that works towards one particular goal,” Ellison explained. “For example, a child may learn how to effectively communicate his or her emotional needs.”

In addition to its core programs, the center also maintains the West Virginia Autism Spectrum Registry, which records the number of incidences of ASDs in the state, aids in the development of undergraduate and graduate coursework in autism, gives state and national presentations and sponsors the College Program for Students with Asperger’s syndrome at Marshall.

“It was the first four-year college program in the country when it was established in 2002,” Ellison said. “The program supports approximately 50 students that are going through the typical college experience in many different areas – academics, social, etc.”

According to Ellison, the college program has a 94 percent success rate.

“It’s an incredibly high rate of success of students who have graduated or are on track to graduate,” he said. “Some graduates are teaching in public schools or working in the fields of psychology or other diverse fields. We’re very proud of it.”

The center has also collaborated with a number of other organizations, such as the West Virginia Department of Education, in its efforts to expand training throughout the state.

“The WV ATC is a resource that is invaluable to the Department of Education,” said West Virginia Department of Education Autism Outreach Coordinator JoDonna Burdoff. Some of the programs the center has implemented alongside the Department of Education are the Autism Academy, autism mentor training and a school-wide Positive Behavior Support Program.

“During the academy, we provide training to groups of Special Ed and General Ed teachers,” Ellison explained.

“Each county was asked to send a teacher that would be a leader to others,” Burdoff added. “Those that participated went back to their counties and instructed others on the methods they learned. So, even though we only trained about 100 teachers directly, thousands were affected.”

Classroom aides can undergo additional education to become autism mentors.

“This is unique for West Virginia,” Burdoff stated. “Mentors do everything from data collection to assisting students with self-help skills.”

The most recent program is the school-wide Positive Behavior Support Program.

“With this, we work with priority or focus schools to improve school climate and education quality for students and faculty,” said Ellison.

“Ten teams from the northern and 10 from the southern parts of the state will attend sessions during the summer to learn proactive strategies to prevent behaviors from happening and teaching children to meet expectations,” Burdoff added.

With its wide range of resources, programs and educational opportunities, the West Virginia Autism Training Center is successfully spreading its philosophy, “that individuals with autism can lead happy, productive lives and deserve the same quality of life that others without disabilities enjoy.”

Dawn Nolan is a freelance writer and Marshall alumna. She currently lives and works in her hometown of Huntington, W.Va.
Dr. Marc Ellison, interim executive director, said the center has a high success rate of students who have graduated or who are on track to graduate.
Embracing Diversity
n old episode of the Twilight Zone shows a woman with her face covered in bandages, revealing she has just had plastic surgery in an attempt to be "beautiful." When her bandages are removed, her doctors react in disappointment, and exclaim the surgery has not worked. However, it is revealed she already looks like a person our society would consider beautiful - but everyone else in the hospital has faces identical to one another. In the background, the State’s despot is seen and heard extolling the virtues of conformity and sameness.

The world portrayed in the television show, where everyone is exactly the same, is the complete opposite of the diverse culture cultivated by the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine.

"Diversity is a core value in the health professions," said Dr. Shelvy Campbell, assistant dean for diversity in the medical school. "[Our] mission reflects a social contract with the community and a commitment to diversity among students, faculty, staff and administration."

Traditionally, diversity referred to categories such as race and gender. Now, organizations and diversity experts have expanded the term to include a wide range of factors from age and sexual orientation to disabilities and even weight.

"Diversity is an acceptance of difference," Campbell said. "Moreover, diversity is the full spectrum of human differences and similarities, including immutable and mutable characteristics, yielding unique perspectives. It is a core value that embodies inclusiveness, mutual respect and multiple perspectives and serves as a catalyst for change."

Recognizing the importance of diversity within the school and in the health professions, the JCESOM created several initiatives to further its mission of diversity and inclusion.

One such initiative is Providing Real World Experiences for future Marshall Educated Doctors, or Project P.R.E.M.E.D. This initiative is an immersion program designed to expose selected undergraduates to life in medical school.
Diversity is an acceptance of difference; moreover, diversity is the full spectrum of human differences and similarities, including immutable and mutable characteristics, yielding unique perspectives. It is a core value that embodies inclusiveness, mutual respect and multiple perspectives and serves as a catalyst for change.

“Project P.R.E.M.E.D. gives students a chance to understand the processes of applying to and attending medical school,” Campbell explained. “Participants attend medical school classes, meet faculty and current medical students and receive educational preparatory information for the Medical College Admission Test.”

Another initiative is the Neonatal Clerkship, which provides summer opportunities for ethnic minority college students interested in medicine as a career to interact within the health care setting. The clerkship is designed to provide participants with a realistic, well-balanced experience in a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. During the month, students take part in activities that include participating on the medical team where they will attend morning work rounds with the neonatologist, resident physicians and medical students.

“Student participants will gain knowledge about the hospital, physicians and medical students and learn while having fun,” Campbell said.

The Health Career Pipeline Initiative is a summer residential program aimed at attracting high school students entering grades 10-12. Participants learn about the educational requirements, skills, typical job duties and personal qualities of specific health professionals and paraprofessionals. Participants experience hands-on activities that highlight the skills, equipment, technology and resources used by health professionals.

“The program was designed to increase awareness and understanding of the care setting and structure where many health professionals work,” Campbell said.

The core element for increasing diversity, Campbell explained, is inclusion. It can only be achieved by nurturing the organizational climate and culture through education, policy, practice and development.

“Inclusion is the process of valuing all individuals and leveraging their diverse talents, not in spite of their differences, but because of them,” Campbell said. “Inclusion requires a conscious effort to involve all human resources in the fabric and mission of the organization as a critical ‘value add.’”

The school’s ongoing commitment to diversity will ensure the adequate provision of culturally competent care to the nation’s burgeoning minority communities, Campbell said. “A diverse health care workforce will help to expand health care access for the underserved, foster research in neglected areas of societal need and enrich the pool of managers and policymakers to meet the needs of a diverse populace.”

Anna Lafferre is a freelance writer living in Huntington, W.Va. She holds a Master of Arts in Journalism.
Testing the Waters

Marshall plays critical role in ensuring the quality and safety of West Virginia’s water.
Marshall University has long been involved in water research, but the January 9th spill of the chemical MCHM into the Elk River near Charleston, W.Va., highlighted the importance of the university’s efforts to improve water quality and environmental health in the region. Faculty in the College of Science are studying the detection, predictive modeling, toxicology and remediation of chemical spills to understand how to manage environmental contamination, but Marshall’s efforts to respond to the Elk River spill and the general need to safeguard the region’s water supply involve more than just the university’s scientists. A new partnership with the Charleston Area Alliance and innovative programs in Marshall’s Environmental Health and Safety department and Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine will also play crucial roles in ensuring the quality and safety of West Virginia’s water.

In the weeks after the spill, representatives from the Charleston Area Alliance contacted Marshall about forming a Water Sustainability Institute at the West Virginia Regional Technology Park. The institute, which is in the planning stage, will bring together water experts to develop and commercialize technologies designed to protect water quality. In addition to supporting the development of new clean water technology, the alliance will provide the resources needed to immediately respond to water quality crises. Other partners in the Water Sustainability Institute include West Virginia State University, the Chemical Alliance Zone, the Mid-Atlantic Technology, Research and Innovation Center (MATRIC), the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission and the West Virginia Regional Technology Park.
A partnership with Charleston Area Alliance and new programs in the Marshall Environmental Health and Safety department and the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine make this innovative research possible.
“Water is such a hugely important commodity and resource for the world, and we have it in abundance in West Virginia. We have to learn how to best protect its value and demonstrate to the world that we’re managing it with the best possible practices.”

Dr. Charles Somerville, dean of the college of science, said the gathering of experts from different universities and institutions will allow the institute to provide a valuable public service to the state.

“We’ve got people available who are experts in many aspects of water quality,” Somerville said. “The experts at the institute can serve as an independent voice on policy issues. We can make informed recommendations on whether practices are beneficial or hazardous. In the event of a crisis, we want to represent a trusted entity that can provide good information, good advice and expert help.”

Dr. John Maher, vice president for research, said the institute promotes interdisciplinary solving of real-world problems, the hallmark of research at Marshall.

“We are trying to accelerate the work being done in the area of water sustainability by bringing complementary sets of skills together,” Maher said. “January 9th brought into focus how large these issues are and how they are larger than any one institution’s capability to solve them. If we are going to get ahead of our water resource problems, we need to bring together the best minds we have in the state. Big issues require big initiatives.”

Industrial chemical spills grab headlines, but they are not the only threat to water sustainability. One overlooked threat to clean drinking water is stormwater. Stormwater runoff contains pollutants like trash, cigarette butts and pesticides. Most stormwater in Huntington ends up flowing, untreated, into the Ohio River.

“When people hear about a chemical spill, they don’t think about how we are all polluters,” said Travis Bailey, environmental specialist for Marshall’s Environmental Health and Safety department. “If you have a car that leaks oil or antifreeze, when it rains, that oil or antifreeze will wash into the Ohio River.”

Bailey oversees Marshall’s stormwater management program, an initiative to reduce the amount of storm-
water generated on the Huntington campus that flows into the Ohio River. Bailey oversees the introduction and implementation of technology that reduces runoff, such as green roofs and porous concrete sidewalks. All construction projects on the campus now include some mechanism to capture stormwater and filter it through the soil. For example, the new indoor athletic facility would produce around 110,000 gallons of stormwater for every inch of rain that falls, but underground storage tanks at the facility capture that water before it enters the storm sewer.

Bailey attends campus events and guest lectures in classes to educate the Marshall community about stormwater.

“People think that stormwater just magically disappears,” Bailey said. “Once your feet are dry, it’s all gone and there is nothing to worry about. Many people don’t think about how stormwater affects our drinking water supply.”

Universities serve as a source of intellectual capital that communities can draw upon as they make decisions about public policy. Since its inception in 2010, the Paul Ambrose Health Policy Fellows program has given family medicine resident physicians the opportunity to learn how they can influence health care policy through advocacy and research. The fellowship is a partnership among the Marshall University Department of Family and Community Health, the Robert C. Byrd Center for Rural Health and the West Virginia Higher Education and Policy Commission. It is named in honor of Dr. Paul Wesley Ambrose, a graduate of the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine known for his commitment to health care policy work. Ambrose was among those aboard American Airlines Flight 77 on Sept. 11, 2001, which crashed into the Pentagon and left no survivors.

The Elk River chemical spill presented exactly the kind of public health problem residents in the program are learning to address. The fellows spent the month of February at the state capitol, following the legislation that resulted from the Elk River chemical spill and providing input from the perspective of practicing physicians to the West Virginia State Legislature.
“We are representing Marshall as clinical experts and physicians,” said Dr. Matthew Christiansen, first-year resident and health policy fellow. “Our primary goal is to be good doctors, but we also want to make the entire health care system work better for doctors and patients.”

Dr. Kimberly Becher, third-year resident and health policy fellow, said their presence at legislative proceedings allowed them to serve as a much-needed source of information to the community regarding the health implications of the spill during a time of great uncertainty.

“As physicians, we didn’t feel we had the tools we needed to advise people on the impacts of the spill, so we did our own small-scale water sample study,” Becher said. “We attended the meetings on the spill and tried to stay up on what the legislature was doing so we could be a good resource on how the spill affected health and on the policies and legislation being discussed.”

Becher said the time she spent with the legislature showed her the importance of physicians being involved in policymaking.

“We have to have physicians who are prepared, informed and able to participate in these types of scenarios,” she said. “The ultimate service for our patients is to be an advocate for their getting the services and care they need. Part of that is advocating for community health and environmental health.”

Responding to an environmental crisis like the Elk River spill and protecting the supply of safe water for the state present problems far larger than any single organization could hope to solve. Faculty, staff and students representing many different programs and departments at Marshall will play a central role in addressing those challenges and in ensuring West Virginia’s water remains a valuable resource for generations to come.

“Water is such a hugely important commodity and resource for the world, and we have it in abundance in West Virginia,” Somerville said. “We have to learn how to best protect its value and demonstrate to the world that we’re managing it with the best possible practices.”

Molly McClennen is a freelance writer and teacher who has lived in the Huntington area for most of her life. She currently splits her time between West Virginia and Chicago, where she attends graduate school at the University of Illinois.
Office of Community Engagement gives students a chance to serve others.

A college education provides tremendous personal rewards. There are the financial benefits that accompany having a degree, the memories of fun times with friends and the intrinsic value of learning itself. But for the many college students who participate in a community service project, that opportunity to serve others is often the part of their education they value most. The Marshall University Office of Community Engagement provides that experience to Marshall students by coordinating opportunities for them to give back to the community.

Elizabeth Appell Sheets, director of community engagement at Marshall, said, “Our office assists students with implementing the university’s ideal of education and service. Part of the university experience is to learn the benefit of volunteering, both to those served and to the individuals undertaking the projects.”

The Office of Community Engagement provides referrals for students and groups who would like to participate in ongoing service projects, develops customized projects with area agencies, assists with one-time projects such as fundraisers and awareness campaigns and assigns community service referrals to students who need to satisfy judicial and community restitution sanctions.
Recently, the office worked with Project Night Night, which provides blankets, stuffed toys and books to children staying at the Huntington City Mission, Branches Domestic Violence Shelter or other shelters. The office also helped connect student volunteers with local service projects such as Huntington in Bloom, an effort to plant flowers in public spots throughout downtown Huntington, and Blessings in a Backpack, which provides food for schoolchildren to take home so that they will have enough to eat over the weekend.

In February, the Office of Community Engagement opened the MU Food Pantry. Two days a week, any Marshall student who needs food can go to the pantry, located in the Memorial Student Center basement, and receive nonperishable food for free.

“We believed that there was a need at Marshall, and that we needed to fulfill that need,” Sheets said. “Tuition costs keep going up. A lot of students are independent from their parents and support themselves while putting themselves through college. They’ve got to pay their rent. They’ve got to pay their utilities. They’ve got to pay their tuition. Paying for food is something they worry about last.”

The pantry is staffed by student employees and volunteers. Andrea Pennington, a Marshall sophomore who works at the pantry, said she and the other staff members make sure students feel comfortable when they visit.
“The students who come seem very grateful,” Pennington said. “They might be nervous at first because there is still that stigma of asking for help with food, but they always are appreciative.”

The university provides space for the pantry, but it relies entirely on donations to keep its shelves stocked. Sheets describes operating the pantry as a whole-campus effort. Staff from the Marshall University Alumni Association decorated the pantry. The athletic department collected ten barrels of donated food to stock the shelves when the pantry first opened. Sodexo, Marshall’s food service provider, donated proceeds from its Feeding America hunger relief charity fundraiser to the pantry. At least once a month, a student organization or athletic team contacts Sheets about organizing a food drive to help keep the pantry’s shelves filled.

Whether it’s by making sure their classmates have enough to eat or caring for local children who have a need, Marshall students are finding many ways to give back to their community. Those experiences can be as valuable and meaningful to the students as what they learn in Marshall’s classrooms.

“I have heard from many of our students that they have felt personally gratified to know that even the small part they may have played helped to make a community project a success,” Sheets said.

Molly McClennen is a freelance writer and teacher who has lived in the Huntington area for most of her life. She currently splits her time between West Virginia and Chicago, where she attends graduate school at the University of Illinois.
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The Marshall University Foundation.
A MESSAGE FROM BERNARD “BERNIE” COSTON
MUAA National President, Class of ’79

Greetings Alumni and Friends,

It is hard to believe that it has been two years that I have served as your President. I am honored and humbled that the Marshall University Alumni Association (MUAA) Board of Directors has asked me to continue as your president for an additional year. I would like to thank each of you for the unwavering support I received and I commit to remain focused on advocating for each of you and the advancement of Marshall University.

Spring has come and gone and Alumni Weekend was another banner event. While Friday was rainy, sunshine was the forecast for the remainder of the weekend. Friday night the Alumni Association honored the Golden Class of 1964 by hosting a dinner followed by a night at the theatre. This year’s production by the Marshall School of Music and Theatre was William Shakespeare’s “The Taming of the Shrew.” The dinner attendees also participated in an after-dinner chat with the play’s director, Jack Cirillo. Jack made those who aren’t thespians very comfortable by explaining the storyline and the modern day spin he was able to make to such a timeless story. As usual, the cast didn’t disappoint any of the audience. Hats off to our outstanding College of Arts and Media!

Saturday morning began with a Welcome Back Breakfast for the Class of 1964 and the Grand Class. The 1964 Student Body President, Ken Gainer, was in attendance and gave some reflections on MU in ’64. Chief of Staff Matt Turner was also on hand to bring remarks from the President’s Office. The class was recognized by Dr. Kopp and MUAA with a 50-year diploma and a gift bag. Grand Class members in attendance were also recognized. The Spring Fountain Celebration had the student center overflowing with Herd supporters and Sam Botek did an excellent job as the featured speaker. The fountain flowed to life on cue to signify our rebirth and contributions to the future of MU football.

Saturday evening marked the 77th Alumni Awards Banquet as our marquee event. A capacity crowd filled the Don Morris Room in celebration of major achievements at the undergraduate level, alumni club level, the colleges that compose Marshall University, and national awards for Community Service, Distinguished Service to Marshall and Distinguished Alumnus. Each award recipient was selected by a panel of experts for his or her contributions in a particular field of endeavor. Congratulations to each awardee.

In the coming year MUAA plans to place emphasis on increasing active alumni membership and we need your help. Be on the lookout for communications through our Young Alumni organization and regional clubs as we strive to increase our numbers. We need all alumni on board as we move forward into the coming year. We need each of you to be involved and engaged.

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Bernie Coston ’79
President, Marshall University Alumni Association
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MUAA Board of Directors

The Marshall University Alumni Association is pleased to announce the 2014 Board of Directors. These individuals have been elected by the active alumni and have made a commitment to serve their alma mater. We want to thank each of them for giving of their time and talents, and helping the alumni association move forward.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
President ................................Bernard “Bernie” Coston
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Second Vice President .......... Robert Wise
Treasurer ............................... Rebecca “Becky” Morris
Secretary ................................. Charles A. Shumaker

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Melanie Moore .................... Becky Morris
Elizabeth Watson ............... Cris Young

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Jack Trainor .................... Steven Wellman

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William Drummond .......... Marie Redd
Kathleen Reedy ................. Steve Fraser
Paul Jackson ..................... Mikala Shremshocke
Charles Shumaker (Reelected)

REPRESENTATIVES
Big Green/M Club ................. Steve Williams
Black Alumni Association .... Fran Jackson
College of Education and .... Harold Blanco
Professional Development ...... Deanna Pope
College of Health Professions ..
College of Information
Technology and Engineering .... Elizabeth Hanrahan
College of Science ............... Chuck Somerville
Club Representative ............. Brian Allen
Honors College ................... Mitzi Cyrus
MUAA President Appointee .... Stan Lane
MU Foundation Representative .. Robert Osborne
Outreach and Continuing Studies.. Bonnie Prisk
Office of the President Appointee .. Barry Taylor
School of Medicine ................ Cynthia Warren
Student Government ............ E.J. Hassan

Coston family keeps giving back!

Bernie Coston, president of the Marshall University Alumni Association Board of Directors, was recently elected to serve a third term. His love of Marshall University and willingness to serve alumni continues even further. On April 25, Bernie and his wife, Pota, who is also a Marshall alum, established a scholarship known as the Coston-McDonald Memorial Scholarship, named in honor and memory of their mothers and grandmothers: Diane Coston, Rose Coston and Genevieve McDonald. All three ladies placed value on education, family and excelling in everything they did. Although unable to attend college, they afforded Bernie and Pota the opportunity to be where they are today. It is through these strong women they are able to give back to others.

The recipients of this scholarship will be a full-time undergraduate student who is a broadcast journalism major in the College of Arts and Media, or a criminal justice major in the College of Science. They must be in good academic standing with a 3.0 GPA or higher, have financial need per the Office of Financial Assistance, with first preference going to a minority student.

For more information on this scholarship, please contact Office of Financial Assistance at Marshall University.
Sixteen individuals and one club were honored at the Marshall University Alumni Association’s 77th annual Alumni Awards Banquet, sponsored by Ohio Valley Bank, Saturday, April 26. The awards banquet is always a highlight of Marshall’s Alumni Weekend, which took place April 25-26 this year.

Here is a complete list of the distinguished alumni award winners for 2014.

### National Awards

#### Distinguished Alumnus Award

**Dr. Eric R. George**

Dr. Eric R. George is a hand surgeon practicing medicine in Louisiana. A native of Huntington and a graduate of Huntington East High School, he received his medical degree from Marshall. He completed General Trauma Surgery Residency at Michigan State University, then completed a fellowship in Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery at Grand Rapids Area Medical Education Center in Grand Rapids, Mich. George currently is Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Surgery at Tulane University School of Medicine in New Orleans, La., and adjunct assistant professor of orthopaedics in the Department of Orthopaedics at Tulane. His practice, the Hand Center of Louisiana, is a state-of-the-art facility which treats NFL players and key players in the oil and gas industries, among other businesses, and is the largest in the Gulf South region. He owns a luxury hospital, the Omega Hospital, and several ambulatory surgery centers, urgent care clinics and assisted living centers.

He earned his undergraduate degree - a bachelor of science in chemistry - in 1985, and graduated from MU’s School of Medicine in 1989. His success has not come easily. At Marshall, he was diagnosed with dyslexia, and reading at barely a high school level. Dr. Pat Brown, associate dean of academic and student affairs, said, “Still, he was getting C’s where others were failing. I caught a glimpse of what must be phenomenal intelligence.” George still calls Huntington home. “We still like to get a Stewart’s hot dog, a Tudor’s biscuit and go to a Marshall game,” he said. Last year, a Marshall University Society of Yeager Scholarship was provided by George in memory of his late brother, Aaron C. George, a fighter pilot who was killed in a crash. Through his philanthropic endeavors, Eric George is major contributor to many causes including the St. Martin’s Episcopal School George Cottage, for early education of pre-school children in New Orleans, La., and through his children’s foundation. The children, Chloe and Cassidy George, developed a school for orphans in Mombasa, Kenya.

#### Alumnus Community Achievement Award

**Karen Williams**

Karen Williams is a native of Charleston’s west side. She attended Glenwood Elementary, Woodrow Wilson Junior High and Stonewall Jackson High School. Once Williams graduated from Marshall University in 1975, she immediately started teaching at Glenwood Elementary. During her five years of teaching at Glenwood, she discovered one of her major loves and passions was reading. This love was passed on to her students and the community and resulted in her obtaining her first master’s degree from MU in reading K-12. This move allowed her to give back to the community working with the Kanawha Home for Children, being a reading specialist at the district level and being an advocate for reading and literacy in the Kanawha Valley area.

Her commitment to community and literacy are exhibited in her involvement with numerous organizations that place emphasis on reading and a solid education and how it is imperative that this starts in our homes and communities. She has been the national and state chair of the Association for Developmental Education, on the board and an active member of Kanawha County International Reading Association, on the Board of Directors and a clinician of the Literacy Volunteers of Kanawha County, charter member of the Charleston District Outreach Ministries Tutor Training, a member of the National Dropout Prevention Network and the Kanawha County Literacy Coalition. Throughout her life, she has placed emphasis on giving back to her community and its residents.
Distinguished Service Award
Charles C. Lanham
Charles C. Lanham had a distinguished career in banking for 55 years after graduating from Marshall College in the spring of 1952. While developing his banking career, he served his alma mater on numerous high levels for decades. Lanham was active for many years with the Alumni Association in Huntington and later became actively involved with the Mason/Gallia/Meigs chapter located in Point Pleasant. He nurtured that chapter which provided thousands of dollars for scholarships for the Big green. In 1977, Lanham was honored by the Alumni Association with the Alumnus Community Achievement Award.

Lanham served for 12 years on the President’s Advisory Board, the forerunner to the current Board of Governors. He also served on three presidential search committees, selecting in order Dr. John Barker, Dr. Dale Nitzschke and Dr. Robert Hayes. Lanham served for more than 30 years on the board of directors of the MU Foundation. For his active and productive work in supporting the MU library, Lanham was honored in 2005 with the John Drinko Distinguished Service Award. And, the Mid-Ohio Valley Center, hailed as a “godsend” to the region by local leaders, is now owned free and clear by Marshall University, thanks in large part to Lanham’s efforts. “Over the past 19 years, the time the MOVC has been in existence, the center has served thousands of Marshall University students, which is a direct connection back to the vision of one man, Mr. Charles Lanham,” said Homer Preece, director of the center. Jim Farley, president of Nursing Care Management and past Distinguished Alumnus winner, said, “The only thing that exceeds these accomplishments is the man himself, as he is described by many as a man of character, honesty, integrity and with a humble, easygoing personality.”

Club of the Year
Mid-Ohio Valley Club
The Mid-Ohio Valley Club, which directly influenced the decision of 12 students to attend Marshall University through scholarships awarded, is the Club of the Year. The club raised enough money to award $1,000 scholarships to local students, not only from Wood County, but surrounding counties as well as a result of its annual scholarship and fundraising banquet in March 2013. The banquet drew a crowd of 274 people, including local alumni, parents, students and Marshall officials. The club also was awarded one $3,000 medical school scholarship to a local student attending Marshall’s School of Medicine. The Mid-

Ohio Valley Club also co-sponsors the “Rally in the Alley,” an annual summer coaches’ tour stop at the North End Tavern in Parkersburg. In the past four years, the club has donated $11,750 in total to the MU Foundation for the Vision Campaign, which included $4,000 in 2013.

Nancy Pelphrey
Herd Village Scholarship
Kristopher Pack and Katelyn Daly
Kristopher Pack of Beckley is a member of Marshall’s cheerleading squad, and he is majoring in nursing. Jessica Maynard, Pack’s clinical instructor during his sophomore year at MU, said he has displayed “a high degree of integrity, responsibility, and ambition. Mr. Pack is a dependable team player and expresses a drive for learning and patient interaction.” Among his volunteer activities are Alpha Sigma Phi fraternity philanthropies; Big Brothers, Big Sisters; Homes for our Troops; the Humane Society; RAINN, Ronald McDonald House charities and Race for the Cure.

Katelyn Daly of Vienna, W.Va., is an environmental science major and a member of the marching band. Among her volunteer activities are the MU Campus Flood (a religious organization); Team Amplify (drama team), CYG Refuge (a youth group) and membership in the 19th St. Church of God. She also teaches swimming during the summer. “I have found Katelyn to be very professional in her approach to class and assignments,” said Samuel T. Colvin, who teaches Daley in his IST 321 Resolution of Environmental Problems class. “She is faithful in attendance and submits quality work in a timely fashion.”

Nate Ruffin
Scholarship Award
London Straughter
London Straughter is from Charleston, W.Va., the son of Karl and Teresa Straughter. Before attending Marshall University in the fall of 2011, he attended West Virginia University Institute of Technology on a baseball scholarship. He currently is a senior at Marshall majoring in Management, Marketing, and Energy Management with a minor in Entrepreneurship. After graduation, he plans to continue his studies at Marshall, as he pursues a Master of Business Administration and a Master of Science in human resource management. He said he is heavily involved on campus and is proud to be considered a “son of Marshall.”
Young Alumni Award
James Lester

James Lester graduated from Marshall in 2007. The winner of the young alumni award is 35 years of age or younger, an active member of the alumni association, shows outstanding achievement in his or her field of endeavor, has a personal commitment to his or her community and demonstrates personal commitment to Marshall University and its students. Lester is a counselor with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs and a doctoral candidate in the field of psychology. As a disabled military veteran, he strives to improve the lives and liberties of his fellow veterans and others with disabilities, not only professionally, but also by serving several organizations and agencies around the state on boards of directors, advisory groups, and multiple committees. Lester makes it his personal aim for his “ripples in the world” to be constructive and long-lasting. He believes it is important to help in any way, whether it is sitting back and quietly providing monetary donations, getting on the phone and advocating for support from local politicians, volunteering at local centers, or by serving on committees or boards.

Awards of Distinction

College of Education and Professional Development
Charles R. Shuff

Charles R. Shuff grew up in Huntington. He graduated from Huntington High School and then Marshall University, earning a B.A. in physical education and social studies. As a professional educator, Shuff spent his entire career in the Prince Georges County Public School System in Maryland, primarily teaching physical education. Shuff also coaches soccer at Suitland High School in Maryland. He was recognized in 1984 by the Prince Georges Journal as co-coach of the year. In 1987, he was selected by the Maryland Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance as the elementary physical education teacher of the year for Prince Georges County. Shuff retired from teaching in Prince Georges County in 2004 after 36 years of service. Today, he lives in Annapolis Md., where he enjoys following the Herd and keeping up with things happening at Marshall.

Carolyn Hunter Faculty Service Award
Adam M. Franks, M.D.

Dr. Adam M. Franks is an associate professor in the Department of Family and Community Health at the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine. A 1994 graduate of the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine, Franks completed a residency in family medicine at Marshall and a fellowship in advanced maternal care (surgical obstetrics) at the University of Tennessee-Memphis. Since joining the faculty at Marshall in 2001, Franks has provided comprehensive primary care at Marshall Family Medicine in Lavalette and a fellowship in advanced maternal care (surgical obstetrics) at the University of Tennessee-Memphis. Since joining the faculty at Marshall in 2001, Franks has provided comprehensive primary care at Marshall Family Medicine in Lavalette County. In his nomination letter for the Carolyn B. Hunter-Distinguished Faculty Award, Dr. Stephen Petrany, chair of the department, described Franks as a dedicated physician, outstanding scholar and committed community volunteer. Franks has served as an assistant scoutmaster and medical officer for the Tri-State Area Boy Scout Council, an active member and elder at Highlawn Presbyterian Church and a volunteer coach for the Wayne County Youth Soccer League.

College of Business
John C. Burris (awarded posthumously)

John C. Burris’ musical ability earned him a full scholarship to Duke University after graduating as salutatorian of Wahama High School in 1973. He chose, however, Marshall University’s scholarship to study business administration, graduating summa cum laude in 1977. After graduation, AT&T and Lucent Technologies offered Burris a position in its management trainee program. His tenure with the phone company took him all over the world. He began with assignments in the Mid-Atlantic region, living in West Virginia, Virginia, New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

In 1991, Burris became the Managing Director/Vice President-Europe for the AT&T Business Products joint venture in London. His success in this part of the world led to him being sent to Sydney, Australia, and then Hong Kong as the Managing Director/VP for Asia Pacific. He engineered the entire infrastructure of the organization. In 1994, Burris returned to the United States as the vice president and general manager of the Gulf States Area and settled in Fort Lauderdale. In 1998, he was chosen for Leaders Council, the highest honor in Lucent Technologies. In 1999, Burris joined Citrix Systems for a 10-year run. He was a key contributor to the company’s growth with revenues increasing from $400 million to $1.4 billion.
College of Liberal Arts
Aubrey King

Aubrey King received his B.A. degree magna cum laude from Marshall in 1963. While at MU, he majored in political science with minors in economics and history and was a four-year member of the Marshall debate team. Born and raised in Laeger in McDowell County, W.Va., he was a 1959 graduate of Laeger High School. After graduating from Marshall, he was awarded a Rotary International fellowship for a year’s study at the Indian School of International Studies in New Delhi, India. He later received his master’s degree in political science from the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. King has spent more than three decades as a professional lobbyist in Washington, D.C., where he has represented diverse trade associations and other clients. He also has been an adjunct lecturer at George Washington University, teaching the politics of tourism and recreation.

Marshall University School of Medicine
R. Mark Hatfield

R. Mark Hatfield, O.D., M.D., F.A.C.S., is founder and managing member of Retina Consultants, PLLC, in Charleston. After earning a Doctor of Optometry degree from the Illinois College of Optometry, he received his M.D. degree from the Marshall University School of Medicine in 1983. He completed a surgical internship at Marshall, an ophthalmology residency at the University of Illinois School of Medicine, and a vitreoretinal fellowship at Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke’s Medical Center in Chicago. Hatfield has been honored with numerous awards over his career, including outstanding student awards in 1980 and 1981, and was elected to membership in the Alpha Omega Alpha honor society while at Marshall. Last year, he received the Illinois Eye and Ear Infirmary Distinguished Alumnus Award and was named by the Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine Alumni Association as the 2013 Distinguished Alumnus.

In addition to his medical practice, Hatfield has lectured at a number of professional meetings, including ones sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control, the West Virginia Optometric Association and the West Virginia Academy of Ophthalmology. He is a generous supporter of Marshall University and the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine. A native of Logan, Hatfield is married to the former Monica Wilton, former chair of the Marshall Foundation board of directors and a two-time Marshall graduate. They are the parents of three adult children.

College of Information Technology and Engineering
Charles Neighborgall

Charles Neighborgall, who was born in Huntington, has worked his entire career at the Neighborgall Construction Company. He started as a water boy, and now he is chairman of the board of directors. He has been a laborer, carpenter, assistant estimator, estimator, assistant project manager, project manager, senior project manager, general manager, vice president, chief operating officer, president and chief executive officer. During this time, the company put nearly a billion dollars’ worth of commercial and institutional building construction in place.

Neighborgall earned a Bachelor of Engineering Science degree at Marshall in 1967 and currently serves as an advisory board member for the engineering program. He has remained very active with ties to many organizations at Marshall, such as the Artists Series, the Society of Yeager Scholars, the Alumni Association, the Thunder Club, the Big Green and the Quarterback Club.

College of Arts and Media
William Campbell and Leslie Petteys

William “Skip” Campbell was born in Huntington in Memorial Hospital (now the location of the FoodFair on First Street and Sixth Avenue). He spent most of his boyhood shuttling between a little farm in southern Ohio and his mother’s ancestral home in Huntington because of his brother’s bout with rheumatic fever, which necessitated the family being close to a hospital. Skip attended a number of different schools due to his brother’s illness. He joined the Navy Reserves in 1964 after graduating from Huntington High School. In 1968, he returned to Huntington and earned a degree in math from Marshall. After graduating from MU, he taught math and computer science at South Point High School in South Point, Ohio, for 17 years. In 1989, Campbell retired from teaching and opened Huntington Software (a local computer software company), and ran it until 2002. In 2002, he started working at River Valley Child Development Services in Huntington. He retired from RVCDS in 2011 and is living with his wife, Leslie Petteys, in the family’s ancestral home on Seventh Avenue. Skip loves all forms of art and is eager to help with art education in Huntington.

Dr. Leslie Petteys is professor emeritus of piano and graduate studies in music at Marshall. Her work in American music...
and interest in women composers gained her national recognition. She contributed numerous articles to scholarly journals and publications and has been invited to present lectures and lecture-recitals for the national meetings of several scholarly associations. She has performed as a solo and collaborative pianist in 13 states and the District of Columbia. Her greatest joy at Marshall was her work with students, many of whom have gone on to become teachers and professional musicians. Since retirement, she continues to work with young people as a mentor. Petteys and her husband, William “Skip” Campbell, have recently become active members in the city-wide committee, River to Rail Project, and in various other projects to preserve and beautify the west end of Huntington.

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College of Health Professions
Kelly Levy

Kelly Levy, who originally is from Springfield, Ohio, has dedicated her life to giving back to those in the Tri-State communities. Currently, she serves as vice president of family service at Hospice of Huntington, where she is responsible for developing and coordinating bereavement, chaplain, social work and volunteer programs for hospice patients and their families. Levy graduated cum laude from Marshall in 1983 with her bachelor’s degree in social work. She now serves on the university’s social work advisory board and also as a field instructor for the work practicum students. She remains active in the National Association of Social Workers.

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Special Premiere of the Unsung Hero Award

The Alumni Association established a new award appropriately name the “UNSUNG HERO AWARD” which will be awarded if, and only if, an obvious recipient is present.

This very special award has been established for purposes of recognizing significant contributions of time, talent and treasures while also expressing our sincere heartfelt appreciation for the exemplary level of dedication and passion toward Marshall University’s goals and objectives with no expectation of personal gain or glory.

Our recipient this year is involved in many areas of the university community and serves our alma mater with tremendous pride. The very first Unsung Hero Award was proudly presented, with sincere appreciation for the time and talents committed to Marshall University, to our very own First Lady, Mrs. Jane Kopp.
Members of the Grand Class, who are those who graduated prior to 1964, (from left to right) are Jack Fellure, Robert Alexander, Jack Perkins, Jacqueline Alexander, Lura Singer, David Howgate and Edith R. Howgate. Pictured on the second row is Matt Hayes, executive director of alumni relations, and MUAA President Bernie Coston. Not pictured: Aubrey King

Members of the Class of 1964 are celebrating their Golden Reunion (from left to right) are Lucille Duba, Becky Morris, Jearldine Gainer, Ken Gainer, Jack Trainor and Charles Viers.

Member of the Class of 1964 and the Grand Class were honored during this year’s Alumni Weekend.

Attendees of this year’s alumni weekend were treated to a delicious catered meal.

The Alumni Awards Banquet is one of the most anticipated events of Alumni Weekend.
One balmy spring night back in the late 1960s, Bill Lockhart’s best buddy, Bill Burdette, had scored a major coup. His sister had let him borrow her prized Chevelle Malibu SS Supersport. When Burdette asked “Where should we go tonight?” Lockhart answered impulsively “Well, let’s go to Marshall.” With that, the pair of Kanawha Valley friends were off for a youthful evening of fun.

That impromptu outing had a serendipitous sequel, however. The high-spirited pair eventually enrolled at Marshall, where they were roommates. Both graduated and went on to successful careers. Lockhart, who earned a B.A. in advertising in 1974, was soon launched on a career trajectory which over the past 40 years has seen him steadily progress in the fields of corporate finance and banking, creating ever more complex financial transactions. Today he’s the co-founder and managing partner of Clinch River Capital Partners (www.clinchrivercapitalpartners.com) and CEO of Atlanta-based SoftWear Automation (www.softwearautomation.com), a company that’s literally on the cutting edge of a major manufacturing breakthrough in the sewn products industry.

According to the company’s information, they are developing an automated, high-speed, vision-based robotic sewing machine which counts the threads and measures fabric distortion as it moves through the sewing process, along with a lightweight robot, dubbed LOWRY, which will transport the fabric components.

“Manufacturers of brand-name garments have historically chased cheap labor around the world,” he says. “The first thing we will do is to work with existing manufacturers of products to lower their costs of production. LOWRY, our fabric transport robot, and our robotic sewing machine, which through a high-speed camera process tracks and measures the sewing which results in a perfect stitch every time.”

Lockhart went on to earn an M.B.A. from Mercer University in Georgia, but is quick to give credit to his liberal arts education at Marshall and to legendary political science professor, Dr. Simon Perry, for giving him a grounded start in what proved to be a highly competitive field.

“Dr. Perry once said ‘liberal arts grads have a higher level of intellectual disposition,’ which translated means you’re more flexible and trainable and I believe that’s absolutely true.” And another invaluable trait Lockhart has honed through the years is simply the art of listening.

“My father always said, remember you
have two eyes, two ears and one mouth, use them proportionally," he recalls fondly. "I have found over the years that listening is the most important aspect."

At Marshall, Lockhart, who was born in West Virginia but spent several years living in Virginia before moving to St. Albans where he attended St. Albans High School, quickly immersed himself in his studies and an active life both on campus and beyond. He was a reporter and assistant sports editor for The Parthenon – where he learned to be objective, he says – and an officer of Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity. During one school year he worked in a downtown Huntington men's clothing store and during his senior year worked a five-day-a-week shift from five to midnight spinning records at a local radio station. But of all his Marshall accomplishments, none can compare to the crowning achievement, which came when he met and won the heart of fellow student, Linda Chandler, who has been his wife for the past 39 years.

The tragic Marshall plane crash of 1970, which took the lives of 75 football players, coaches and community members, had special significance to him because he lost two childhood friends, Allen Skeens and Roger Childers, along with fraternity brother Marcel Lajterman and several other acquaintances as well.

"I had studied for a biology exam with Allen only a couple of days before," he remembers sadly. "The fraternity was having a function and we were waiting for Marcel when we got the horrible news. It was such a terrible loss, they were first-class gentlemen, all of them."

At Marshall, Lockhart's creative side bloomed, cultivated by his imagination and agile mind even though he says laughing that his original choice of an advertising major came about because "it was the only liberal arts major that didn’t require a foreign language and it had enough business that it didn’t require calculus." But he had several memorable professors at Marshall who recognized his inventiveness and drive and set him on the path that has seen him achieve success at very lofty altitudes.

In addition to Dr. Perry, with his vast vocabulary and his scholarly lessons, Lockhart says, there was management professor Dr. Robert Alexander, whom he places "at the very top of the list. He’s a true professional, a son of Marshall, very creative with absolute integrity – he made a lasting impression on me. Dr. Bill Ashford opened my eyes to sales and marketing as a career. Then there is Dr. Bill Kehoe, also a marketing professional and Professor Bob Junas, my advertising advisor. Professor Junas had worked in an advertising agency so we connected and he encouraged my creativity. They were all great mentors." And he’s generous in giving credit where he feels it is due. "I got a great education in the Mercer and Kanawha county schools. I felt well prepared upon arrival at Marshall and was well prepared at graduation. I absolutely got a great education at Marshall."

He earned his Mercer University M.B.A. by taking night classes while working for GE Capital Corporation, then later Greyhound Financial Corporation, before joining Bank of America, where he spent 10 years before returning to GE Capital in 1995. In September 2001, he formed Clinch River Capital Partners.

A resident of Atlanta for the past 40 years, today he’s busy working with the exciting prospects of SoftWear Automation. He and Linda, who graduated in '74 as well, are parents of two sons, Chandler, who is a consultant in Washington, D.C., and Brandon, who is doing graduate work in South Korea while teaching English.

If he had advice to those who just graduated it would be to not be afraid of failure. "Steve Jobs, founder of Apple, failed multiple times and so did Abraham Lincoln, before they achieved great success. There is no shame in failure, but there is shame in the failure to try. Observe, listen, keep your nose to the grindstone, look for opportunities, and always take the high road."
Please share your news with us by sending it to the Marshall University Alumni Association; One John Marshall Drive, Huntington, W.Va. 25755. Preference will be given to active alumni; other news will be printed as space allows and should be received within six months of the event. For more Class Notes, go to www.marshall.edu/alumni.

1960s

Bob Withers (B.A. ’67, M.A. ’69) is the author of Guyandotte, a chronicle of the historic town now part of Huntington, that dates back to 1810 when it was chartered. The book uses photos of family events from generations of families. Among those pictured is Dagmar, a television celebrity of the 1950s whose fame placed her hometown in the national spotlight. Business and several church groups and their activities are featured, along with old homes, many of which still exist, including a two-story frame structure that was floated down the Ohio River in 1810 then reassembled in Guyandotte. The house has since been restored and is open for tours. Floods from the Ohio and Guyandotte rivers are covered, along with the town’s centennial and sesquicentennial celebrations of 1910 and 1960. Withers retired from the Huntington Herald-Dispatch in 2007 after a 38-year career as a reporter and copy editor. He has written, cowritten or edited 18 books, dozens of magazine articles and hundreds of newspaper articles about railroads, steamboats and historical subjects. His first book, The President Travels by Train, was published in 1996 and has been kept up to date with supplements. He has been a pastor for more than 40 years, 31 of which have been at Seventh Avenue Baptist Church in Huntington.

1970s

Wayne J. Popowski (MA ’73) who is Chief Psychologist with the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections, recently received commendation from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives and the Department of Corrections on his 40th year as a psychologist for the Commonwealth. In addition, he is a presenter on non-suicidal self-injury, with focus on self-mutilation and cutting. He recently presented at Drexel University College of Medicine’s Behavioral Healthcare 21st Annual Forensic Rights conference. He will be a principal speaker at the 2014 Correctional Mental Health Care Conference in Denver this summer.

1980s

Noah David (Dave) Frantz (B.A. ’81, M.A. ’87) was recently inducted into the Florida Athletic Coaches Association Hall of Fame in Daytona, Fla. A high school golf coach for 27 years, Frantz was also named Florida Dairy Farmers’ “Coach of the Year” for the third year in a row as his Lakewood Ranch Mustang boys’ golf team from Bradenton, Fla., won their third consecutive Florida High School Activities Association championship in Class 2A.

Karen E. Klein (B.A. ’88, M.A.J. ’95) has been hired as an attorney at Moore & Biser Law Group, PLLC, South Charleston, W.Va. Her practice areas include insurance defense, coverage and bad faith; administrative law; automobile liability; and general civil litigation. She also serves as vice-chancellor to the Rt. Rev. W. Michie Klusmeyer, bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia, and was recently elected as registrar and to the vestry of St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church, Charleston, W.Va.

2000s

Jason Frye (B.A. ’00) has published two travel guides for the Avalon Travel’s Moon series. Moon North Carolina and Moon North Carolina Coast give North Carolina visitors an insider’s look at the state. They are available in print and digital formats, online and in stores.

Eva (Morton) Ruppert (’05) began working at the MU School of Medicine as registrar in academic affairs in February. She continues her duties with Dollar Energy Fund while assuming her new responsibilities at TSG. In 2012, she received the Young Professional of the Year Award from the West Virginia Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America. She also has won three Crystal Awards from PRSA for design work and execution on campaigns. She serves on boards of directors for PRSA-West Virginia, FestivALL, Goodwill Industries of the Kanawha Valley and Friends of the Clay Center.

Jeff Price (B.A. ’94) basketball coach at Sinclair Community College in Dayton, Ohio, was the subject of a lengthy feature story on the sports page of the Dayton Daily News last November. Titled “Always about the pixie dust,” the article recounted his work with student-athletes and his efforts to involve them with the community, such as helping serve Thanksgiving dinners at the Dayton Boys and Girls Club, taking part each spring in the Dayton City cleanup, answering phones at the Muscular Dystrophy telethon, visiting Dayton’s VA hospital and helping with voter registration. Each year the team makes one big road trip, rotating among Philadelphia, Washington, D.C., and North Carolina, where players visit notable and historic places. According to the article, Price coached at Davis and Elkins College then moved to Earlham College, and later to Sinclair in 2000 as an assistant coach. He became head coach in 2003 and was named athletic director last year. His two sons, Michael and Kyle, also have attended Marshall.
New adventure novel set on Huntington campus

West Virginia adventure author Eric Douglas’ (B.A. ‘89) latest novel, Heart of the Maya, is now available. This book is the fifth in the Mike Scott adventure series.

“I’ve always said Mike Scott was from West Virginia, but this is the first chance I’ve had to bring him home. As an international news photographer, Mike is always traveling,” Douglas said. “This time he has come home to speak at Marshall University, where he graduated from the School of Journalism. He quickly gets caught up in unraveling the murder of a classmate, and then the story takes a turn and he chases off to the Mayan Riviera to find a missing statue that connects the Adena people to the Mayans.”

In addition to the series, Douglas is a regular columnist for Scuba Diving Magazine, writing the “Lessons for Life” and “Ask an Expert” columns. More about Heart of the Maya, or Douglas’ other books is online at www.booksbyeric.com.

Save the Date!

HOMECOMING

Saturday

October 11

Mark your calendar and plan on joining the Marshall University Alumni Association for Homecoming 2014!

More details to come in the Autumn issue.

The Greenbrier Classic

MON JUNE 30 thru SUN JULY 6, 2014

The Greenbrier Classic, a PGA TOUR, FedExCup event.

Do not miss this year’s Classic Concerts! These tickets are going to go fast!

To order your tickets visit the badges for charity site at www.greenbriershopping.com/ftch.html and don’t forget to use Marshall University Alumni Association as your favorite charity.

MAROON 5

FRI JULY 4, 2014

JIMMY BUFFETT

SAT JULY 5, 2014
IN MEMORIAM

Mary Ann Blackburn (‘50) of Palm Harbor, Fla., died Feb. 25. She grew up in Pineville, W.Va., and was a home economics major at Marshall before marrying and raising a family in Williamson, W.Va. A master gardener, she was a talented and creative dressmaker and artisan in all forms of clothing and crafts.

Jay Robert Childress (BBA ’93) of Beckley, W.Va., died May 8. He attended West Virginia University and graduated from Marshall with a degree in accounting. He, along with a business associate, had operated Keyrock Energy since 1995, along with several other mining ventures located primarily in southern West Virginia. A member of Faith Baptist Church in Prosperity, W.Va., he was active in school functions associated with the Greater Beckley Christian School. Donations may be made in his memory to the Childress Education Fund, c/o Chase Bank Main Branch, Beckley, W.Va. or the Greater Beckley Christian School, PO BOX 670, Prosperity, WV 25909, Attn: Jim Fritz.

Mary Browning Ferrell (BA ’54, MA ’56) died March 14 in Woodstock, Va. After graduating from Marshall, she married Theodore (Ted) Ferrell, also a Marshall graduate, and moved to Charleston, W.Va. where she was employed by a telephone company and became a public school teacher. She also taught at Morris Harvey College, which later became the University of Charleston. The daughter of a United Methodist minister, she was a lifelong Methodist who taught adult church classes at St. Mark’s United Methodist Church in Charleston and later had an active role at Trinity United Methodist Church in Alexandria, Va., where she was a longtime member of the choir, worked on a variety of programs and served more than 16 years as an administrative assistant. She is survived by her husband, two sons and five grandchildren. Contributions in her honor may be made to the Woodstock United Methodist Church, 156 S. Muhlenberg St., Woodstock, VA 22664.

Dr. Shirley Martin Howard (BA, ‘40) retired obstetrician/gynecologist, died April 24 in Alexandria, Va. She earned her B.A. degree from Marshall College and graduated from the Medical College of Virginia in Richmond, Va., in 1943. She received her OB/GYN training at Gallenger City Hospital in Washington, D.C. She established her private medical practice in the nation’s capital in 1950, before moving it to Falls Church, Va. where she cared for patients and delivered babies in the metro Washington D.C. area until her retirement in 1985. She served on the faculty of George Washington University School of Medicine from the 1950s to 1983. She was a member of the American Medical Women’s Association and the American Medical Association. She was a golfer and loved music, especially the harmonica, which she had played since childhood. Donations can be made in her memory to the Dr. Shirley Martin Howard Scholarship Fund, c/o the Marshall University Foundation, Foundation Hall, 519 John Marshall Drive, Huntington WV 25703.

John Paul Ostoski (BA, ‘41) of Cocoa Beach, Fla., died Oct. 19. He graduated from Sharples High School in Sharples, W.Va., and went on to earn a bachelor’s degree from Marshall and an M.B.A. from Stetson University in Deland, Fla. During World War II he worked on research for a highly secret project, the atomic bomb. He also was employed at Mound Laboratory as a chemist, working with concentrating polonium, which was used as the trigger for the atom bomb. In his management career he was a lead engineer, supervisor and manager. He was a key member of the Rockwell launch team on most of the Apollo program including Apollo 11, which placed an astronaut on the moon. His name is enshrined on the Apollo monument in Titusville, Fla., which pays tribute to those who contributed to the mission.

Franklin D. Perry (BA, ‘62) died Jan. 31. Born in Barboursville, W.Va., he was a veteran of the U.S. Air Force and was stationed in Texas, Delaware and Korea. For more than 30 years he was employed at the Wright Patterson Air Force Base in computer systems analysis. With an avid interest in ballroom dancing, he was also known for his singing, gardening and storytelling talents.
On March 2, 2014, Mr. Bill Smith of Delbarton, W.Va., passed away, leaving behind a lifetime of stories of dedication to his family, friends, school and community. As a former student, I loved him dearly; and, as the years passed, I became blessed to call him a friend. I, however, didn’t truly understand the impact he had made on the formation of our small town (nor of the sacrifices he’d made along the way) until I heard of his endless acts of selflessness at his memorial service.

Mr. Smith was a dedicated coach and teacher for over 30 years. However, to say that merely grazes the surface. From the stories shared at his service, Mr. Smith instilled not only the values of education and leadership, but also those of character and “family.”

As a teacher, he stressed the importance of continuing one’s education, and always spoke highly of his beloved Marshall University. As a coach, Mr. Smith led his players to many winning games. While that is an accomplishment, it is overshadowed by what appeared to be the secondary acts that accompanied it. He made his students feel like family, bringing them together as a unit much stronger than a mere sports team. Not only did he organize the fundraisers for the students’ uniforms, but he humbly took the uniforms home and washed them after every game. And, at practice, he was known for commandeering the home economics room to prepare home-cooked meals for his players, sharing his love through his famous spaghetti or beef stew.

A former student shared that when her father was dying from cancer, she later learned that Mr. Smith had secretly visited him in the hospital and gave him the peace of knowing that he—along with the other Burch High School staff—would watch over her in the years to come. The stories go on and on.

Being a somewhat shy, modest man, Mr. Smith didn’t disclose the details of his earlier years, which are what helped to shape him into the generous man that he had become. At his funeral, I learned that his father passed away at an early age. From that point on, he watched after his older sister, kid brother, and mother—a role that would last throughout his life. ... When he began college at Marshall University, he drove home (quite a distance) in order to drive his mother and her friends to watch his brother’s high school basketball games. Then, once his brother began attending Marshall, he offered both emotional and financial support, from his meager earnings. He dedicated the rest of his life to caring for his ill mother and to his school.

It has been said more than once, “If we were all a little more like Bill, the world would be a better place.” As family and friends traveled from hundreds of miles, a familiar theme unfolded: their friends told them that they were envious of the tight-knit family we call a community. A great deal of that can be attributed to Mr. Smith.
It was the late 1950s, an era that saw President Dwight D. Eisenhower sign a bill authorizing Hawaii as the 50th state; Mattel's Barbie introduced to thunderous success; Buddy Holly, Richie Valen and the Big Bopper perish in in a plane crash; “Bonanza” and “The Twilight Zone” make their television debuts; Lee Petty win the first-ever Daytona 500; and the Los Angeles Dodgers beat the Chicago White Sox in the World Series.

Back home at Marshall College, the current bust of John Marshall was installed in front of Old Main by its sculptor, art professor Joseph Jablonski. Hal Greer was celebrated on the basketball court. At residence halls students loaded and unloaded gear from lumbering, chrome-encrusted autos that sported bigger fins than a shark. Fraternities held dances with names like “Stoneage Stumble” and “Cannibal Hop,” and Dr. Robert Alexander began his long and illustrious career as a member of the Marshall staff.

It would be an academic odyssey that would see him go from Director of Placement Affairs to the College of Business, where he served as a mentor, teacher, department chair and, ultimately, a 10-year tenure as dean. He would go on to earn a master’s degree from Marshall and a Ph.D. from Ohio University in business. Along the way he accrued virtually every honor Marshall could bestow, including being named a prestigious Drinko Fellow, all while dedicating many years of dedicated public service to the city of Huntington, culminating in his selection as mayor in 1982. The city would further honor him by enshrining him in their Hall of Fame in 2002. He was inducted into the Marshall College of Business Hall of Fame and the Milton High School Hall of Fame as well.

After leaving the deanship of the College of Business in 2003, he was appointed a Distinguished Professor of Management and continued to teach classes and mentor students for another 10 years, racking up a remarkable 54 years of service.

Alexander says had it not been for a newspaper story, he might not have found himself on the Marshall staff at all.

“After graduating with a B.A. in 1957, my wife and I eventually moved to Michigan, where I taught high school English and planned to continue my education,” Alexander says. “President Stewart Smith contacted me about a new position, director of placement, so I went to Huntington and interviewed.” But there was a hitch—the Michigan job came with a salary of $5,000 for 10 months, while the Marshall job offered only $4,600 a year. So reluctantly, after much family debate, Alexander felt duty bound to return to Huntington and turn down the offer in person. “Imagine my surprise when I picked up the Sunday newspaper and on the front page there was a photo of me, accompanied by a press release announcing that I had not only accepted the new position but I would begin work the next day! After that, I didn’t have the heart to tell the president no.”

And he did show up for work the next day. “An office wasn’t ready yet and I didn’t have a telephone, so I worked out of the president’s conference room and used one of his phones.” But before noon he had made his first placement, a precursor of what was to come in a long and meritorious career that would successfully meld academia and public service.

Actually his entire association with Marshall has never been traditional. A Milton native, Alexander joined the Air Force during the Korean War and spent the next two
and-a-half years as a skilled high-speed radio operator. In Korea, he would serve under three generals and would transmit the message negotiating the cease fire with the North Korean communists in September 1952.

After a brief stint working at what is now Special Metals in Huntington, he enrolled at Marshall College in 1953 with no thought that he was about to begin an association that would spin into the next century. His first few months were brutal. For a time he worked eight-hour evening shifts through the week and day shifts on weekends, all the while carrying a full academic load. But by his junior year, he was piling up awards and honors—he was a member of the exclusive honorary, the Robe; a member of Omicron Delta Kappa; and secretary of the Phi Kappa Alpha fraternity and on track to become president. He was student body president his senior year.

However his biggest accomplishment at Marshall, he’ll tell you, was the successful courting of his wife, Jacqueline, whom he met in the Morrow Library. They’ve been married for 58 years with two successful children and five high-achieving grandchildren.

It wasn’t all work and no play, however. As a PKA member Alexander was part of a fraternity prank that became legendary. The fraternity staged their annual Cannibal Hop at Camden Park, complete with tables decorated with bones obtained from B&B Butcher Shop. One year, as favors the brothers gave their dates beautifully wrapped long floral boxes with instructions to sit in a circle and open them simultaneously after a countdown.

What they didn’t know was that each box contained a live baby alligator. “There was pure mayhem,” he chuckles. “Girls and alligators scattered everywhere.” The alligators were later set free in hospitable habitats, he says, none the worse for the experience.

Although there were these good times of light-hearted fun and revelry, there was stark tragedy looming on the horizon. It would leave the entire Marshall and Huntington communities reeling.

In 1970 Alexander was the president of the alumni association when the tragic plane crash took place, and it was by far the most traumatic and somber time of his entire tenure. “I was involved with that crash from five minutes after it happened until the last unidentified person was buried,” he said somberly. “It was an unimaginable tragedy which affected everybody.”

Although retired now, the Alexanders continue to give back to the institution that has been such an integral part of their lives. There’s a scholarship in his name, formed at the time of his retirement so friends, colleagues and students could honor him, and he and Jacqueline, also an MU grad, have established a second one, the Robert and Jacqueline Alexander Scholarship to aid business students.

If he has a mantra, it’s from his high school teacher, Roxie Belle Henderson, wife of the legendary Cam Henderson, who urged students to “always serve the community.” Robert Alexander undoubtedly has served not only Marshall University in unparalleled fashion, but extended his service to the local community and well beyond.
A MESSAGE FROM MATT HAYES
Executive Director of Alumni Relations, Class of ’95 and ’97

Dear Fellow Alumni and Friends of Marshall University,

I’m confident most of you would agree 2014 is racing by at a fast pace. Every so often I attempt to pause and reflect on what events have transpired along with the opportunities which lie ahead for our alma mater. Often times these moments of reflection and planning provide a reminder of how blessed I am to serve in alumni relations here at Marshall University. I am very grateful to be serving in this position and to be working with so many dedicated and talented individuals who care deeply for our Alma Mater.

The past year has presented both tremendous opportunities and challenges as Alumni Relations continues to move forward. The growth experienced during the past several months is a testament to our resiliency and commitment to making your alumni association the very best it can be. We are very grateful for the new partnerships we have formed over the past year and look to continue forging long-term relationships that will assist us in providing first-class alumni programs and engagement opportunities.

Work continues in the area of further expanding active member benefits beyond what alumni associations of many other schools our size offer to their members. We take a great deal of pride in the benefits we are able to provide to our active members. We need everyone to activate their membership and begin making a difference for the students now at Marshall as well as those considering Marshall University for their higher education goals. Activating your membership in the Marshall University Alumni Association is as easy as 1-2-3. 1) Make a gift in the amount of your choice to the Marshall University Foundation, Inc. 2) Obtain your active membership card and 3) Begin enjoying the many benefits of active membership. To see a complete list of active member benefits please visit www.herdalum.com/membership.

Your gift will make a significant difference in our ability to support university programs and projects. You may earmark your gift to benefit the college or department of your choice. Any gift to the Marshall University Foundation will result in students being served and the giver receiving an active 12-month membership to the Marshall University Alumni Association. Everyone wins!

Regardless of how quickly time may seem to be passing by, we must remain focused on what matters most to the future success of Marshall University. Please find your place to get involved and actively support your alma mater. If our office may be of service to you or assist with helping you find your place, please call us at 304-696-3134. Until next time, GO HERD!

Best Regards,

Matt Hayes ’95 and ’97
Executive Director of Alumni Relations
Commitments by which we stand.

Having a keen sense of ethical conduct, and being honest and truthful in both what we say and what we do is how we, as individuals, and as a financial institution, measure true success. For more than 100 years, these key values have been at the center of how The First State Bank and its leadership, from generation to generation, have approached banking. They are ideals our team works hard to put into motion every day to deliver the service our customers not only deserve, but have grown to expect. Visit one of our three convenient locations to learn how you too can get the banking service you deserve.

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