

Spring 2009

# Marshall Magazine Spring 2009

Marshall University

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Women's swim program has best GPA in nation

# Marshall



*m a g a z i n e*

Dr. Gayle Ormiston believes Marshall is at a **very important** stage in its history and **stands ready** to help define what sets the university apart

Meet Marshall's high tech guru

A professor who lives on campus?

Board member Gary Adkins

## The Provost



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Spring 2009

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- Stroke Care

# Marshall

magazine

The official magazine of Marshall University.

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on the cover

Dr. Gayle Ormiston, Marshall University's new Provost, standing on the refurbished staircases at Old Main. Photo by Rick Lee.



# Aligning with the accelerating pace of change

Advancing human intellectual capabilities and knowledge is at the heart of the value created by higher education. Over time universities, like many complex organizations, can become blinded by organizational habits that limit our capacity to recognize and act on opportunity. In so doing, we limit our horizons and jeopardize our capacity to respond to the inevitable challenges of the future.

Avoiding these pitfalls and guiding Marshall University toward fulfilling its vast potential is as imperative today as it was on my first day as president. Many of the essential elements are now in place for Marshall to assert itself as a high value, distinctive University that prepares influential leaders and responsible, forward-thinking citizens for the 21st Century. Gone is the propensity to embrace the status quo and the habits of time. Instead, we look to enterprising leaders who have the courage to inspire, prioritize and deliver results. Gone is the tendency to value process and adequacy over excelling and producing results that advance the value we create. Gone is the aversion to taking risks versus the nerve to engage in sensible risk-taking. Gone is the indifference and pessimism toward taking initiative to solve problems. Instead, challenges confronting the University are met increasingly by responsive and responsible problem-solvers.

Comparing the present landscape at Marshall University to our campus just four years ago reveals significant change and progress toward meeting the expectations of our students for distinctive, high quality educational opportunities. Facilities do make a difference; so too does modern technology (see article about Dr. Jan Fox). The **Robert C. Byrd Biotechnology Science Center** opened in the fall of 2006. It clearly was a factor in the creation of the endowment-based Marshall Institute for Interdisciplinary

Research (MIIR), the West Virginia Research Trust Fund and our ability to attract Dr. Eric Kmiec and his research colleagues to Marshall where he serves as Director and Lead Research Scientist of MIIR. His research program already is providing undergraduate and graduate students with unique entrepreneurial research opportunities. The **Arthur Weisberg Family Engineering Laboratories** opened in August 2008. This facility is an important factor in the extraordinary growth in the number of students majoring in Marshall's new undergraduate engineering program, which was established in the fall of 2005. The **First Year Freshman Residence Halls** opened last fall. They remain filled to capacity and for good reason. They are safe, secure and modern environments that clearly meet the needs of our first-year students, and will for years to come with up-to-date technology, including wireless accessibility in all areas, security phones, video surveillance, card-swipe entry access and multimedia specialty rooms.

The **Marshall Recreation Center** opened in February 2009 and already is having a positive impact on our campus. According to Dave Stewart, director of campus recreation, 9,074 people used the new facility during the first full week it was open. We believe the impact of this 123,000-square-foot facility on student recruitment and retention – not to mention the general health of our community – will be nothing short of amazing. The new **Dot Hicks Softball Field**, the new **Marching Thunder Practice Field**, the **Joseph M. Gillette Welcome Center** and the major renovations to **Smith and Harris Halls**, **Old Main** and the **Memorial Student Center** in Huntington, as well as the **Mid-Ohio Valley Center Science and Nursing Addition** in Point Pleasant, all represent



important developments that are reshaping the face of Marshall University.

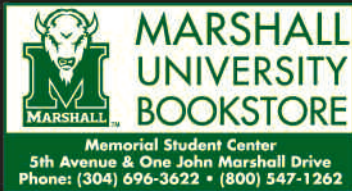
New degree programs and majors are developing that address high-demand fields and professions, which open new areas of opportunity for our students and better serve our region. The strategic vision set forth nearly four years ago continues to guide and propel Marshall forward. Despite the progress that has been achieved, considerable work remains. The ethos of Marshall University is aligning with the accelerating pace of change that has epitomized the first decade of the 21st Century.

We are positioned well to work with state and national leaders to overcome the monumental economic and global challenges that now confront us. Every time we think we have measured our capacity to transform the impossible into the possible, we look around and are reminded that we have only just begun. The extent to which we succeed will be determined by the ingenuity, aptitude and determination we bring to these precarious problems. Ultimately, future generations will measure our success by the extent to which we have elevated the capacity of our graduates to prevent their reoccurrence. □

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# Marshall's New Provost & Philosopher Dr. Gayle Ormiston

What do a precocious two-year-old and the new Marshall University Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, Dr. Gayle L. Ormiston, have in common? They both ask a *lot* of questions. For one who holds a Ph.D. in philosophy, asking questions is merely second nature. And, since his arrival in mid-August, he's been getting lots of answers and is using them to implement some exciting initiatives at the institution.

Before assuming the position held previously by Dr. Sarah N. Denman, who retired in May, Dr. Ormiston was a professor of philosophy at the University of Colorado from 1984-1989. Recruited by Kent State University in 1989 to help rebuild their B.A. and M.A. philosophy degree programs, he served as Chair of the Department of Philosophy from 1996-2002, and most recently was its Associate Provost for Faculty Affairs and Curriculum.

Article by Carter Seaton | Photos by Rick Lee







With his wife, Lynn, continuing to work in Ohio while waiting for their house to sell, and their three children away at college, Ormiston hit the ground running when he arrived on campus – literally, as well as figuratively. When he has time, running and biking enable him to become familiar with his new home. “I’m still finding my way around Huntington,” he says, “so a very good walk/run for me is out of Ritter Park and up to the Museum, around the hills there. I enjoy that.” He also enjoys reading, art, music and playing the guitar, but for now he’s busy getting comfortable in Marshall green.

According to him, the biggest challenge of his transition to Marshall has been putting names and faces together, not learning the campus or understanding the procedures, which he says are similar at most universities. Instead, he’s using his background in philosophy to get to the heart of the challenges faced by Marshall University. “In one sense what you are trying to do is explore ideas, understand the implications of those ideas, and inquire some more. You want to understand what your goals are and articulate those ideas; you want to disseminate them, and you want to get some feedback on those ideas from your colleagues,” he says. Hence the initial barrage of questions to learn what the deans, the department chairs, the faculty, and the staff were involved in when he arrived.

Associate Provost Frances Hensley says his biggest challenge was what to tackle first. But, according to her, he’s up to it. “He’s the kind of person who can handle a lot of tasks and ideas simultaneously,” she says. That’s good to know, for as Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs he’s responsible for the admissions office, the registrar’s office, financial aid, the recruitment office, student services and career services. Additionally, as provost, he is the chief academic officer of the university and oversees curriculum development, faculty development and anything that has to do with faculty affairs, or student affairs. Add President Stephen Kopp’s 2005 Strategic Plan and Signature Initiatives, which, in large part, attracted

Ormiston to Marshall in the first place, to his work load, and you’ll begin to grasp all he must handle before even thinking about his own goals, objectives and vision.

“We want to remain always on the edge of exploring and investigating what we are doing so we can continuously improve what we are offering.”

– Dr. Gayle Ormiston

Conversations with some of Ormiston’s colleagues reveal the range of initiatives that have sparked his interest so far. Maurice Cooley, Director of the Center for African American Students’ Programs, is excited that the new provost wants to explore ways to improve the academic growth of African American students – a subject dear to Cooley’s heart. Cooley says, “When he looked at the College of Science, at our medical school, and at the bio-tech and forensics programs, he saw programs that could be carefully constructed in a way that, in his vision, Marshall would be THE university in the country

where African American students would come to study in the sciences. He wants to pull them together for the purpose of promoting a course of study within this whole sector.”

Dr. Leonard Deutsch, dean of the Graduate College, says the provost is also working to shape the future vision of graduate education at Marshall, which includes making plans for future graduate degrees, tweaking the curricula and adding programs – all in due time and with resource limitations in mind, of course.

How does Ormiston keep it all straight? Charts – lots of charts that he draws on the back of used desk-calendar pages and spreads across his office conference table. He then uses them to map what must be done to continue refining the discussions and initiatives. But, the philosopher in him is not sure he wants a definitive answer. “We want to remain always on the edge of exploring and investigating what we are doing so we can continuously improve what we are offering,” he says.

With his fingers in so many pies, what has he accomplished in a few short months? When asked, he explodes with the hearty laugh often mentioned by his colleagues who call him warm, friendly, personable, upbeat, positive, genuine and approachable. “I think Marshall is at a very





important stage in its history – a very long and very good history,” he says, “to take a look at itself as a community of scholars, as a community of students to say, ‘This is what we do, now can we do it better? What is it that we can make changes on so that we can improve what we are offering the students that come to Marshall? How can we get Marshall recognized outside of West Virginia in the broader national and international arena as a place they can come to study in a number of very important areas?’”

Initially, the answers to these questions have consumed his attention. He’s been working closely with one faculty group to examine Marshall’s core foundation courses. While the process takes an inventory of sorts, it also carries an aspirational aspect. As Ormiston puts it, “My question, after many discussions with the faculty and the deans, was: ‘What can we say that distinguishes this university and the educational or learning experience that we offer from other institutions?’” That examination now guides the rethinking of some aspects of both the undergraduate and graduate curricula.

Another discussion group is focused on the First Year Experience, initiated in 2007, and how it can be continued into a student’s second year. A third-year re-orientation process also is under examination that will allow students to assess their own progress and look toward their future at Marshall. Other projects include refining Marshall’s recruitment strategies in the face of a struggling economy and a dwindling number of graduating high school students.

While he’s busy shepherding the changes that are currently underway at Marshall, those about to be brought to closure, and those that are still a dream, contrary to the old saying, all work is *not* making him a dull boy. According to Hensley, “he’s fun to work with. He has a great sense of humor and he sparks so many ideas that there is never a dull moment.” So if you see him running in Ritter Park, jazz playing on his iPod, stop and introduce yourself; but be prepared – he’ll probably ask you a question or two, as well. □

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**Carter Seaton** is a freelance writer living in Huntington. Her first novel, “*Father’s Troubles*,” was a finalist in *Foreword Magazine’s* 2003 Book of the Year Award.





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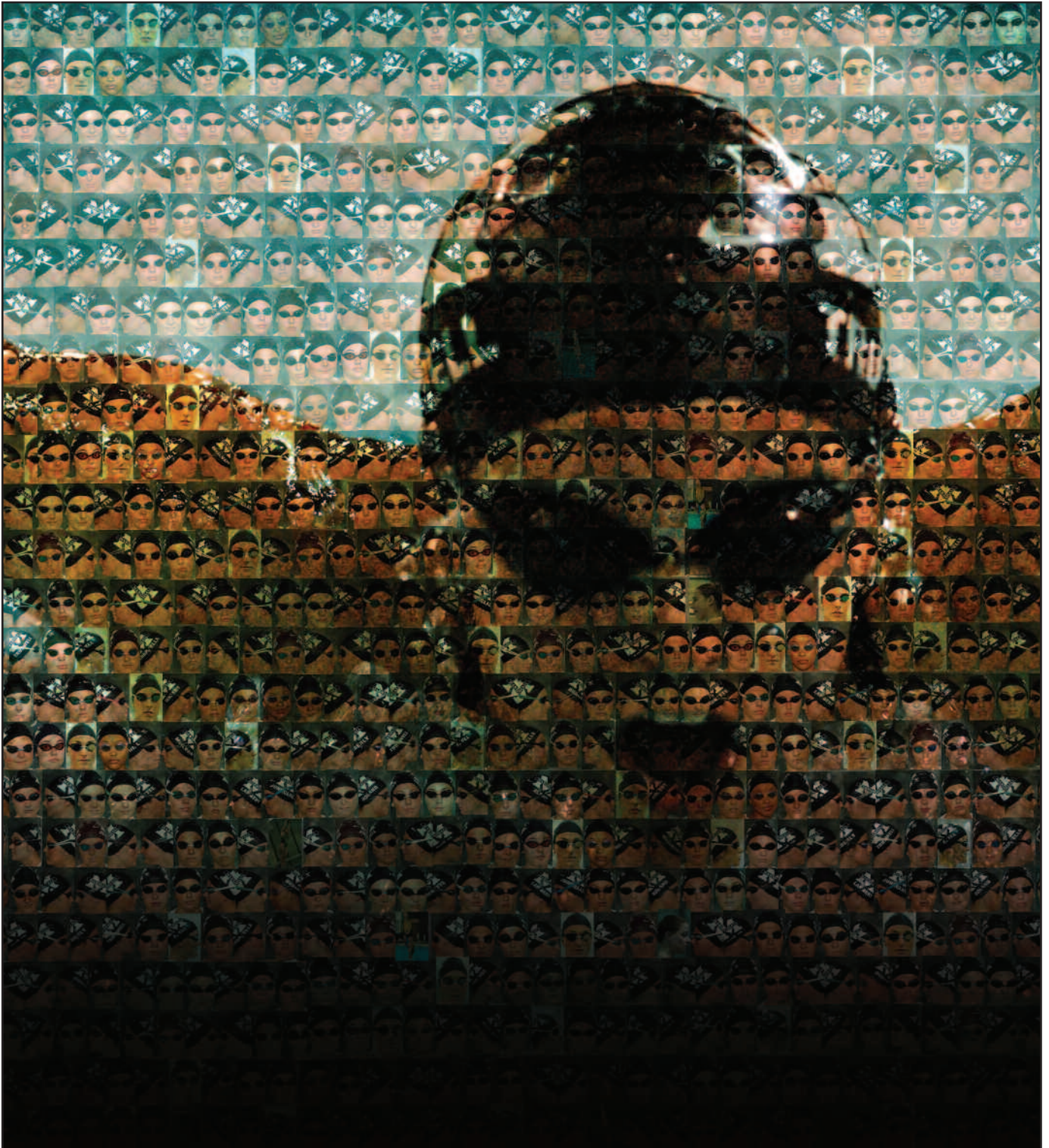


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# Nation's Best

MU's Women's Swimming & Diving has the highest GPA of any NCAA Division I program

Marshall University women's swimming and diving team is much more than swimming and diving. It's a lot of lessons in how to live and succeed in life and to make contributions to society, team members said.

"It has taught me dedication – to be committed, have passion and follow through," Kayla Truswell, a senior butterfly event swimmer from London, Ontario, Canada, said. The psychology major said she has learned to manage her time, as she has 20 hours of swimming practice a week on top of her 16-hour class load.

Kyla Jungclaus, senior freestyle swimmer from Brownstown, Ind., said her Marshall swimming experience has taught her to prioritize. "I have learned to take care of important things first." Her major is accounting and finance and she expects to work in banking and accounting. "I hope to do a better job in making our economy better than a lot of bankers apparently are doing now."

"Discipline – that's a key thing I have learned with demands swimming presents at the university level," Kristin Wheatley of Columbus, Ind., said. She is a junior breaststroke swimmer.

Siobhan Schuurman, senior diver from Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, said learning to be on time will serve her well when she goes to work at a career. "I have to get up before 6 a.m. and work all day. I will be used to having to get a lot done." Her major is psychology.

Coach Leonard Kraus became the team's first-ever head coach in 2002. He easily heaps praise on his swimmers and divers.

"I have a group of girls who are really wonderful – that's the story to be told about our team," the coach said. "My philosophy is to recruit quality people, not just athletes."

Besides performance in the pool and on the diving board, Kraus points with pride to his team's achievements in the classroom. In March, Marshall swimming and diving was recognized by the College Swimming Coaches of America for having the highest GPA of any NCAA Division I program. The team's overall GPA of 3.64 for the fall semester was the best in the nation.

"They do a lot for the community. They are out in the community all the time," Kraus added. "Sometimes just four or five of them will do things to make life better for other people."

Article by Dr. Ralph J. Turner • Photos by Rick Lee





This includes collecting food for the less fortunate, collecting clothing for Goodwill and Salvation Army, going to nursing homes to visit the elderly, reading to elementary school students and cleaning up trash in parks.

The coach verified the demanding schedule team members face. That includes starting the day at 6 a.m. for practice at the university pool, taking a full load of classes and returning to the pool from 1-4 p.m. for more practice and stretching and weight lifting. After some study time, they go to bed about 10:30 p.m.

The team launched in 2002 with a handful of members now has 27 student athletes from three countries and 13 states. The countries besides the United States are Canada, Denmark and Sweden. States are California, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Maryland, Michigan, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina, Texas, Virginia and West Virginia.

The program had more than a few obstacles to overcome.

Besides putting together a coaching staff and recruiting team members, the Frederick A. Fitch Natatorium was in very poor condition.

The natatorium opened in 1981 as part of the Henderson Center. Originally it was used for the men's swimming program that was later discontinued and the pool was dormant for many years with no upkeep.

In November, 2001, a \$400,000 renovation began on the swimming area. This included a new bulkhead (wall) that can be moved to change the length of the pool for meter and yardage swim meets.

Other improvements included a new filtration system, a state-of-the art starting and timing system, a complete painting job on the ceiling and deck tiles, new diving boards, competition flags, a new sound system, an electronic scoring system and other basic training equipment.

Rick Houvouras, owner of Star Technologies LL.C., in Huntington, a former MU men's team swimmer and one

of the women's program's key supporters, said, "It is not inaccurate to say the pool was falling apart." There had been no competitive swimming since 1988 and Marshall had no money to make the improvements.

Houvouras and a number of other community and business leaders interested in having a quality pool for Marshall women swimmers and some non-Marshall swimming activities got busy to raise money. They made appeals to and received financial support from such sources as the West Virginia Legislature, Cabell County Commission and YMCA. Some personal donations also were contributed.

Having a women's swim team was important for Marshall's commitment to Title IX, the sexual equality law. The swimming/diving team opened new opportunities for women to participate in sports at Marshall.

Houvouras praised the women's swimming and diving program and considers the money to renovate the pool well spent.

"They make great grades and work really hard," he said. "It is a grueling sport from the training standpoint. They are smart, good athletes, great students and great ambassadors for Marshall. They do a lot in representing MU very well.

"It is a great pleasure of mine to be involved in the program and to become a very good friend with many swimmers and families. It has been quite delightful."

While Coach Kraus and others are proud of the improvements in facilities, they quickly point to all the winning achievements by the women in the pool and on the diving boards.

The swim team is now competitive in Conference USA since Kraus and other coaches have made the program grow. Before arriving in Huntington, he spent three years as recruiting coordinator at the University of Toledo, where he helped achieve a dramatic rise in the overall finishes of the women's team.

“They make great grades and work really hard. It is a grueling sport from the training standpoint. They are smart, good athletes, great students and great ambassadors for Marshall. They do a lot in representing MU very well.”

– Rick Houvouras,  
owner of Star Technologies & swim team supporter



Coach Leonard Kraus, at the Henderson Center pool, with members of Marshall's women's swim team.





**MU's women's swim team, made up of 27 student athletes from three countries, is now competitive in Conference USA Championships.**

Other Marshall coaches are Assistant Coach Megan Labuhn from Indiana University, Diving Coach Lori Meierbachtol from Indiana University and Student Manager Ben Woodworth. Kraus spent four years as a member of the varsity swimming team at Ball State University.

The Herd was host for just two home meets in the 2007-2008 season, but had seven home events scheduled in 2008-2009.

The team had another good season in 2007-2008, moving up two spots at the Conference USA Championships and moving within 60 points of Houston for fourth place.

The 2008-2009 season was still under way as this article was written.

"We accomplished many of our goals we set for ourselves last year, including moving up in the conference," Kraus said.

As for the 2008-2009 goals, Kraus said, "Our goals are simple - keep growing as a team, have fun, work hard, dive clean and swim fast. If we do that we will have a winning and successful season."

This season (October 2008 to February 2009) swimmers and divers participated in 14 meets. Competition included West Virginia, East Carolina, Xavier, Radford, Youngstown State, Fairmont State, Transylvania, Miami, John Carroll, Akron, Ohio, Vanderbilt, Georgetown, and

James Madison. The C-USA Championships were Feb. 25-28 in Houston.

Women participating do it for love of the sport, not the financial support.

Kraus said the student swimmers and divers are either walk-ons with no financial support or on partial scholarships.

Wheatley said other universities also appealed to her, but it was what team members already at Marshall said about the program and coaches that made up her mind to come here.

Taped to the wall above the east end of the pool in scribbled handwriting are notes from team members that shed some light on life's lessons the women take with them:

"Think positive. Don't get frustrated."

"Relax in every meet! Don't stress little things."

"Stand up. . . Get myself to do what I don't want to do."

While the swimming and diving team has reached many of its goals, Coach Kraus said, "We've only just begun." □

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**Dr. Ralph J. Turner** is professor emeritus in the W. Page Pitt School of Journalism & Mass Communications at Marshall University and a frequent contributor to *Marshall Magazine*.

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Pat Conlon, right, talks with a student in the common area of their residence hall.

# meet Pat Conlon:

# Marshall's 1<sup>st</sup> First Faculty in Residence

When Marshall's freshmen moved into the residence halls last August, they saw Pat Conlon pushing a dolly loaded with students' belongings into the building. They likely assumed that he was one of the many parents there on campus that day to help their students settle into college life. But Conlon is not a parent of a Marshall freshman; he is a professor in Marshall's Safety Technology Department who, like the 800 freshmen moving in that day in August, planned to spend the school year living in Marshall's newly constructed First Year Freshman Residence Halls. He was helping his new neighbors move into the halls as part of his duties as Marshall's first Faculty in Residence.

The Faculty in Residence program is part of Marshall's First Year Experience program, a university-wide effort to increase the retention rate of its freshmen. The idea behind Faculty in Residence is simple: invite faculty to live in the residence halls where they are readily available to serve as mentors and resources to the students living there. Jeremy Thompson, general manager for the First Year Freshman Residence Halls, says, "The faculty member in residence walks around the halls and talks to the students in hopes of not only providing an additional set of eyes and ears in the building, but also providing the students with the opportunity to meet a faculty member and see him on a personal level. They can see Pat is trying to help them out, not only with living on campus, but with university procedures, like how to sign up for classes."

Once they have gotten to know the faculty member who lives in their complex, residents may feel more comfortable approaching other professors when they need help. "The hope is that students will see that professors are here to help them learn and grow as individuals, as opposed to just giving tests and putting work on them," says Thompson.

Students appreciate having Pat available as a resource, according to Josh Sandridge, a freshman who lives in the First Year Freshman Residence Halls. "As freshmen, obviously, we have no experience in this setting at all, so we feel kind of vulnerable. If one of the faculty is actually living in the halls with us, they can offer us help."

Article by Molly McClennen  
Photos by David E. Fattaleh



“I really consider us fortunate to have had Pat to help us flesh out the program. He really wants to make a difference in student life and the retention of students at Marshall.”

– Dr. Frances Hensley,  
Associate Vice President  
for Academic Affairs

Having a faculty presence in the halls not only benefits the residents, faculty also benefit from a better understanding of their students. Conlon says, “It helps seeing what the life of a student is like. This gives you a chance to see what the students are looking at, thinking about, what catches their attention.”

Dr. Frances Hensley, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, says having a professor living in the residence halls has been helpful for the university as well. “It’s been wonderful to have Pat there to tell us what it’s like to live in the residence halls. He can tell us what’s going on, what’s working well, what things we didn’t think about.” When Conlon observed that the residents needed more benches and tables outside the halls, where they like to congregate in warm weather, he brought this to the attention of university administrators who could act to address this need.

Conlon, who has been at Marshall for two and a half years, became the university’s first Faculty in Residence almost by accident. As a member of Marshall’s First Year Experience Committee, Conlon was treated to a tour of the new residence halls while they were still under construction. At the request of the university, the new halls included apartments designated for faculty. Conlon says,



“As we were walking back, I said, ‘Who’s going to live in the faculty apartment?’ They said, ‘No one has even mentioned it.’ I said, ‘I’d be interested.’ A couple days later, Frances Hensley asked me if I was serious.”

Hensley says Conlon has made an excellent choice for the position. “I really consider us fortunate to have had Pat to help us flesh out the program. He really wants to make a difference in student life and the retention of students at Marshall.”

As compensation for the additional responsibilities required of a faculty member in residence, Conlon receives a two-bedroom apartment and meals in the campus dining halls. All his responsibilities are designed to promote interaction between faculty and residents. For example, he participates in orientation events, helps freshmen move into the residence halls, eats meals with students, teaches classes and keeps office hours in the residence hall, and invites other faculty members to conduct educational programs in the halls.

One additional way Conlon initiates contact with the

residents is through planning activities for them. Nate Hensley, a Resident Advisor in the First Year Freshman Residence Halls, says, “One thing in particular Pat did that I was really impressed with was on election night. Pat brought in snacks and set up inside the lobby where the TV is. He was pulling students in as they walked by, saying, ‘Hey, do you want to come watch the electoral votes get counted?’ By the time I came in there, the whole lobby was filled from front to back with people watching the TV and cheering when Obama or McCain got a state.”

Future Faculty in Residence will be selected by a university committee. Conlon says living in a residence hall has been a wonderful experience, one which he would be happy to have again. “You have to like students and you have to like people. If your interest is doing research in a test tube, writing, or solely in academic work, that’s great, but I guess I’ve always been a people person.” □

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**Molly McClennen** is a freelance writer living in Huntington.

**By living in the residence halls, Pat Conlon not only offers support to the students, he also serves as a resource for the university to see what life is like living in the residence halls. Students who live in the dorm where Conlon resides say it is helpful having a faculty member in the halls, especially for freshmen who are getting their first taste of college life.**







# Dr. Jan Fox

## No longer Marshall's Best-



Article by Dan O'Hanlon

Photos by Rick Lee

President Stephen Kopp sums it up best, "Jan Fox is a tremendous asset to us!" And just who, you might ask, is this Dr. Jan Fox? She is one of the keys to Marshall's success in the 21st Century.

Born and raised in Huntington, Fox attended Huntington East High School and went on to get her BS and MS in Biology from Marshall University in 1981 and 1983. She received her Ed.D. degree from West Virginia University in 2000. She is married to William Cremeans, who works for the Corps of Engineers. She has two daughters: Catherine, who works as a criminal profiler with the Cincinnati court system; and Bethany, who is majoring in engineering at Miami of Ohio.

After receiving her master's degree, Fox went to work as a researcher at the VA Medical Center in Huntington. Her skills in technology soon brought her to the attention of the dean of the MU Medical School and she arrived there "on loan" in 1983. Working with Kent Hayes and others, she helped develop the Interactive Patient which allowed medical students to simulate their work on the Web. It soon became recognized as one of the Top Ten programs on the Internet.

When Marshall President Wade Gilley went looking for an Assistant Vice President for Technology and Chief Information Officer at Marshall University to lead the development of the high-tech Drinko Library, he found the best qualified person already worked for Marshall. Fox was appointed to the position in 1996. Fox says she had been taking a class from Gilley and he told her he was "betting the farm" on technology and wanted her to be a part of that effort. She didn't disappoint him. Marshall hired one of the first Web designers for a university and became one of the first places in the nation to use the Banner computer program to allow students to register for classes online. Those of us who remember those long registration lines in the student center can certainly appreciate what a great leap forward that was!

# Kept Secret





**Dr. Jan Fox, right, with Anna Banks, has been with the university since 1996, and since then has been the driving force in the university's technological advancement.**

Barbara Winters, dean of University Libraries says, "Working with Jan Fox is never boring. She is smart and creative and full of fresh ways of looking at services. She keeps Marshall on the leading edge with regard to technology. In fact, a recent consultant report credited Marshall's IT unit with being outstanding in comparison with operations on much larger and more affluent campuses. Jan loves Marshall. She bleeds green. She could easily go into private industry and make two or three times the salary that MU pays her. But, she remains wholeheartedly committed to Marshall. There is no telling where the university would be without her longstanding commitment and contributions."

After the Drinko Library opened in 1998, Fox turned her focus to expanding the bandwidth available to the

university so it could begin to offer classes by video to remote classrooms in Gilbert, Williamson, Logan, Point Pleasant, Parkersburg, Beckley and the Graduate School in South Charleston. Today, more than 5,000 students each semester take classes through Marshall's online programs.

She then began to focus on making the Marshall campus totally wireless while adding security from all the bad things the Internet can bring with it. By 2005 she and her team had succeeded in making 90 percent of the academic areas wireless.

Dr. Arnold Miller, Assistant Vice President for Information Technology, notes that, "Jan is a very dynamic individual. She always has the students and faculty in mind. She expects the highest possible quality of service from us."

“Working with Jan Fox is never boring. She is smart and creative and full of fresh ways of looking at services. She keeps Marshall on the leading edge with regard to technology. **She bleeds green.** She could easily go into private industry and make two or three times the salary that MU pays her. But, she remains wholeheartedly committed to Marshall.”

– **Barbara Winters, Dean of University Libraries**



Krista Murch, a senior in Forensic Chemistry, said she learned the benefits of Marshall technology when she had her first child. “It would have been difficult to attend classes that year, but I was able to attend online classes and continue my education without interruption.”

Anna Banks, a graduate student in Technology Management, said, “Access to the Internet at Marshall is

like having a huge library available to you all the time.”

As for the future, Fox says rolling out Internet2, a high-performance network that supports and enhances Marshall’s educational and research mission, “will level the playing field for students and researchers at smaller institutions like Marshall.”

Longtime Marshall Board of Governors member Mike Perry says, “For many years Jan Fox was one of Marshall University’s secret weapons. She quietly and professionally put Marshall on the technology map and provided the administration, faculty, staff, students and alumni a competitive advantage over most of their peers.... That’s the good news. Now for the bad. Marshall’s secret is no longer a secret and Jan is a nationally recognized technology expert in higher education and we need to work hard to keep her.”

So the secret is out and now everyone knows why Senate Education Chairman Robert Plymale states bluntly, “Jan Fox has made Marshall University nationally recognized as a technology leader in the 21st Century.” □

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**Dan O’Hanlon** is chief judge of the Cabell County Circuit Court and was named Judge of the Year by the West Virginia Association for Justice.





# MARSHALL 2008 *Memorial*



“The life we lead and the lives we touch, the impact we have on others and the world around us and the memories we create throughout our lives all form the fabric of the life remembered,” said Marshall University President Dr. Stephen J. Kopp as he addressed the considerable crowd assembled on the Memorial Student Center plaza during the 38th annual Memorial Service Nov. 14, 2008.

Article by Jessica Farner  
Photos by Rick Haye



**Opposite page:** Head football coach Mark Snyder works with Russell Hutchinson, a member of the Ceredo-Kenova fire department, to carry a wreath to the memorial fountain. **Middle:** Marshall alum and CNN Correspondent Joe Johns served as keynote speaker at the service. **Right:** Presentation of the colors by Marshall ROTC.

# PLANE CRASH *Service*





**Top Left: Joe Johns speaks at the 2008 Memorial Ceremony, which was one of the largest yet in the ceremony's history. Middle: A student places a rose on the fountain wall in remembrance of the lives that were lost in the crash. Bottom: Marshall President Dr. Stephen J. Kopp addressed the crowd at the November 14th ceremony. Opposite Page: The unusually large number of attendees was believed to be partly due to the 2006 film, "We Are Marshall."**



Marshall alumnus and CNN Correspondent Joe Johns served as keynote speaker, and the crowd that gathered around the Memorial Fountain was one of the largest in the ceremony's history, not only because it was homecoming week, but also as a result of interest sparked by the 2006 Warner Bros. Pictures' film, "We Are Marshall." During the somber service, the names of the 75 victims of the 1970 plane crash are read, a wreath is placed, and the Memorial Fountain is silenced, but only until the following spring.

The Memorial Fountain was rededicated on Assessment Day, April 9, 2008, following the completion of renovations that began in late January. Workers used a 350-ton crane and other heavy equipment to carefully lift the fountain, resting it on a temporary platform east of the Plaza while a new foundation was constructed.

A separate monument to victims of the crash is located in Spring Hill Cemetery above the common gravesite of six players. The steps leading to the monument and surrounding benches also were upgraded, making them both safer and more accessible. "Because of the significance of the









**Top Left: Former Marshall University Provost Dr. Sarah N. Denman was one of the speakers at the 2008 Memorial Service.**

fountain, the cemetery memorial and what they both represent to all of us, we want to ensure they remain beautiful and in good working order for many years to come,” said Dr. Ron Area, chief executive officer of the Marshall University Foundation.

The fountain was delivered to Marshall in mid-October 1972 and presented to the Marshall community by President John G. Barker Nov. 12, 1972. Sculptor Harry Bertoia created the fountain, which stands more than 13 feet high and weighs 6,500 pounds. It was Bertoia’s hope the fountain would “commemorate the living, rather than death, on the waters of life, rising, receding and surging so as to express upward growth, immortality and eternity.”

A bronze plaque at the base of the fountain bears the following inscription: “They shall live on in the hearts of their families and friends forever, and this memorial records their loss to the university and to the community.”

During his keynote address, Johns, a journalist who has covered Capitol Hill for both CNN and NBC, admitted to having a



lump in his throat as he quoted legendary baseball pitcher Satchel Paige: “Never let your head down, never sit down, never shut up and never grieve. Find a better way. That’s what we do.’

“If you went to Marshall during the last 38 years, you understand what it means not to give up,” Johns said. “And so you ask me what ‘We are Marshall’ means? That’s what it means. You don’t give up. You may see your darkest day, but whoever is left is going to pick up the pieces.”

Accordingly, Kopp said remembering those who lost their lives offers continued healing to their families and friends and also serves as an essential life lesson. “In remembering, we find comfort and peace, and in remembering, we mend fragments of our lives.

“In remembering, we affirm the meaning of our lives and discover the courage to go on,” he said. “In remembering, we nurture their memories and affirm our commitment to never forget.” □

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**Jessica Farner** is a graduate of Marshall University’s W. Page Pitt School of Journalism and Mass Communications.



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## The Students Must Come First

# Gary Adkins

When Gary Adkins graduated from Man High School in Logan County, he surely would have laughed in disbelief if anyone had told him he was going to be a respected leader in public education.

“And I think anybody else who heard that claim would have laughed even louder,” Adkins says.

You see, Adkins just didn’t seem cut out for an academic career. After a couple of less-than-spectacular years at Marshall University’s Logan branch, he quit to join the U.S. Air Force.

“I’d always wanted to be in the military and I really didn’t have any idea of what I wanted to do in life. I felt like I was just wasting my time in school,” he explains.

But six years later, when his hitch in uniform was completed, Adkins was older and wiser, with a firm idea of where he wanted to go and what he needed to do to get there. He enrolled at Marshall and set about making up for lost time, first earning a bachelor’s degree in education and then a master’s in special education.

Article by James E. Casto

Photo by David E. Fattaleh

Today, Adkins can look back on an impressive career of more than 30 years in the Wayne County schools.

He got his start teaching a behavioral disorders class at Vinson High School. He was assistant principal at Buffalo High School, principal at Crum High School and played a key role in consolidating Crum and Fort Gay high schools to form Tolsia High.

“I was the last principal at Crum and the first at Tolsia,” he says.

Adkins was assistant county superintendent for five years, then succeeded Superintendent Wilts Salmons when the veteran educator retired in 2002.

Under Adkins’ leadership, Wayne County’s schools have compiled a remarkable record of achievement. All 21 schools in the county are fully accredited. A number have been named Schools of Excellence, Exemplary Schools or Blue Ribbon Schools and have been awarded school reform grants. Wayne County has the highest student test scores of any county in West Virginia’s Region II, and the county was selected to operate the first 21st Century Model School in the state in collaboration with the state Department of Education and Marshall.

Adkins brings many of those same leadership skills to his efforts as a member of the Marshall Board of Governors. Originally appointed to the board by Gov. Bob Wise in 2003, he was named to a second four-year term by Gov. Joe Manchin in 2007.

superintendent plays a valuable role on the board, frequently providing the public school perspective on issues that come before it.

And Shell has high praise for Adkins’ repeated insistence that students must always be given top priority. Paraphrasing Adkins, he puts it this way: “The students come first, and everybody else falls in line behind them.”

Shell says Adkins’ passion for educational excellence is recognized and appreciated by all who know him and work with him.

Adkins himself says he considers it an “honor and a privilege to serve on the Board of Governors and have the opportunity to give back to Marshall University.” Taking note of the university’s “fantastic” growth and development since his own days as a student, Adkins sees the need for increased enrollment as the greatest challenge facing Marshall today. “We simply have to grow our numbers if we’re going to do all the things we hope to do. At the same time, of course, we have to continue to strive for excellence.”

Adkins and his wife, Susan, an education consultant, have a grown daughter and son, Rachel Parker of Honolulu, Hawaii, and Ryan Adkins, a CPA in Carey, N.C., and five grandchildren.

Adkins cites golfing and following sports – especially the Herd – as his favorite leisure-time activities. “Although I have to tell you,” he notes, “being a county superintend-

“I’m very interested in the growth of the university and the academic standards it sets. Being as close to the university as Wayne County is, we benefit from the graduates and the veteran teachers who receive administrative certification.”

– Gary Adkins, superintendent of Wayne County Schools

When he was appointed to the board, Adkins told The Parthenon: “I’m very interested in the growth of the university and the academic standards it sets. Being as close to the university as Wayne County is, we benefit from the graduates and the veteran teachers who receive administrative certification. Marshall definitely has a positive impact on Wayne County’s schools.”

Board Chairman Bob Shell says the Wayne County

ent is pretty much a 24-7 proposition that doesn’t leave you much time for anything else.” □

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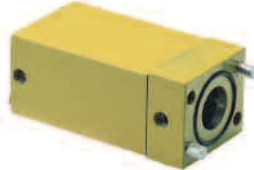
**James E. Casto** is Associate Director for Public Information at the Robert C. Byrd Institute for Advanced Flexible Manufacturing (RCBI).



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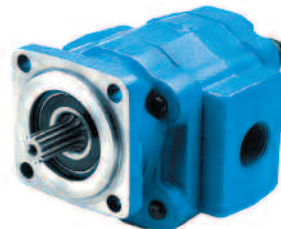
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## Alumni

### April 24-25

*a message from*  
**Nancy E. Campbell**  
*MUAA National President*  
*Class of 1979*



Spring is my favorite time of year, especially at Marshall. The trees blossom, bringing enchantment to our Huntington campus. The greenness and freshness of the area always makes campus special in those weeks after winter fades.

So, have I enticed you to come back for a visit this spring? I hope so. The Marshall University Alumni Association and our staff are working hard to make your visit for Alumni Weekend, April 24-25, extra special. I am always amazed at how much more beautiful the Huntington campus looks every year. It is as if even the weather and nature know we want to put on a special weekend for our alumni. So, please make plans to come back.

The Class of 1959 will be having its 50th reunion. They have wonderful memories to share. Our 72nd Annual Awards Banquet will honor our distinguished award winners. The Green and White game, the scrimmage that ends spring football practice, is also scheduled, as well as the MUAA tailgate party prior to the game. Check out all of our events on these pages.

We continue to develop ways for you to show your Herd Pride. One project we have been working on is state license plates. As this goes to print, we should be ready to start sales of specialty plates in Pennsylvania and Maryland. We already have plates for Virginia. If your state does not yet have a Herd plate, please contact our office at (304) 696-2901 or (800) 682-5869 so we can check it out.

Don't forget your local alumni club. Our clubs are finalizing plans for their spring and summer events, including golf outings, tennis matches and Senior Send-Off events to welcome local graduating seniors who have been accepted to Marshall. Other events are the Maryland Crab Fest, the Cincinnati Reds baseball game and the Atlanta Club's West Virginia Day. Watch the MUAA Web site for other club events and check your "snail mail" for a postcard of events in your area.

Better yet, contact your club president and volunteer today. It is always fun. Also, as you make your summer vacation plans, check out the club Web sites. I have joined many club activities in other states as I travel for work. I assure you, a Marshall club is always willing to welcome fellow alumni - even for one day. Who knows, you may meet someone you haven't seen since college.

Have a wonderful spring season, and I hope to see you in April.

Nancy E. Campbell  
E-mail: [nancy.campbel@marshall.edu](mailto:nancy.campbel@marshall.edu)

### *Alumni Relations Staff*

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- Nancy Pelfhrey, Coordinator of Alumni Programs
- Jenny Drastura, Alumni Editor/Web Administrator
- Jonathan Sutton, Accountant
- Dan Van Dyke, Graduate Assistant

Please join us on April 24th and 25th to celebrate Alumni Weekend 2009. We will be focusing on class reunions and the 72nd Annual Awards Banquet.

We are pleased to announce that this year's activities will be sponsored by:



We value these partnerships and, with their support, the Alumni Association is able to provide more value for all who participate.

#### **Weekend events are as follows.**

##### **Tuesday**

Marshall University ROTC's **Dining Out** will be held at the Don Morris Room in the Memorial Student Center. The timeline is as follows:

5:30 p.m. Arrival and Cocktails

6 p.m. Begin Ceremony and Dinner

The cost is \$40 per person and \$75 per couple. More details on this event will be forthcoming on the ROTC Web site (<http://www.marshall.edu/rotc/>) and through direct invitations. For more information, please contact Maj. Jeffrey D. Stephens at (304) 696-6450 or on his cell at (304) 617-2636, or e-mail him at [stephenj@marshall.edu](mailto:stephenj@marshall.edu).

##### **Friday**

There will be a meeting of the board of directors of the MU Alumni Association at the Erickson Alumni Center from noon to 4:30 p.m.

Visit our Web site today:  
[www.marshall.edu/alumni/](http://www.marshall.edu/alumni/)

# Weekend 2009

## “Bridging the Past with the Future”



Alumni Weekend will officially begin Friday evening with a **Welcome Champagne Reception** from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Culinary Institute to celebrate the 50th Reunion Class, 1959. The cost is \$15 per person.

Following that event will be an opportunity to attend an entertaining evening show at the **Funny Bone Comedy Club** featuring a national comedic talent, to be announced.

### Saturday

A **Heritage Society Coffee** will be held from 9:30-10:30 a.m. at the Drinko Library Atrium. Call Ed Zimmerman at (304) 696-3739 for more information.

The **Class Luncheon** will honor the 50th reunion class (1959). They will be joined by the Grand Class – those who

graduated before 1959. The event will be held from 11:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. in the John Marshall Dining Room, Memorial Student Center. The cost is \$15 per person. There will be a **Trolley Tour** of campus following the luncheon.

The highlight of the weekend is the **72nd Annual Alumni Banquet** honoring our distinguished alumni and friends. A **President's Social** will be held from 6 to 6:45 p.m. at the Memorial Student Center. The banquet will follow at 7 p.m. The cost for the banquet is \$45 or \$75 per couple.

Check our **Alumni Weekend Web site** at [www.marshall.edu/alumni/alumniweekend2009.asp](http://www.marshall.edu/alumni/alumniweekend2009.asp) for additional details.

## Marshall University Alumni Association 2009 Distinguished Alumni Award Winners

A very special group of alumni and students will be honored at the Alumni Awards Banquet on Saturday, April 25.



The **Distinguished Alumni Award** will be presented to **Joe Gillette** (BBA'73) of Marietta, Ga. Gillette is owner of Wen-Four Foods Inc., and 16 Wendy's restaurants. He dedicates a great deal of his time to Marshall, including membership on the board of directors of The Marshall University Foundation Inc.; vice president of the Society of Yeager

Scholars board; president of the Thunder Club; and member of the Big Green Coaches Circle.

This award is given to Marshall alumni for outstanding national achievements in their particular fields of endeavor.

The **Community Achievement Award** will be presented to **Robert (Bob) N. Melott** (MA'62) of Tulsa, Okla.



Melott is a co-founder and retired vice president for information systems, admissions and records at Tulsa Junior College (TJC), now Tulsa Community College. When he joined TJC as vice president in 1969, he helped establish the first new public institution of higher education in the state in 50 years. During his tenure, more than 400,000 people attended the college. He was also active in Rotary, moving through the ranks to governor of his district, which included four states.

This award is given to alumni for success in their fields of endeavor and personal contributions to their respective communities.

The **Distinguished Service to Marshall Award** will be presented to two individuals, **John McHaffie** and **Robert Walker, M.D.**

*(continued on page 39)*





# Alumni Weekend • April 24-25, 2009

## Reservation Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_ MU Class Year \_\_\_\_\_

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Your Guest \_\_\_\_\_ MU Class Year \_\_\_\_\_

*Tickets for reservations received after April 17 will be held at first event.*

	No. of Tickets	Price Per Person	Amount
<b>Tuesday</b>		Marshall ROTC's <b>Dining Out</b> • 5:30 p.m. Cocktails • 6 p.m. Ceremony & Dinner • Don Morris Room, Memorial Student Center • Call Maj. Jeffrey Stephens at (304) 696-6450 for details.	\$40/person
			\$75/couple
<b>Friday</b>		<b>Champagne Reception to celebrate the Class of 1959</b> • 6 - 7:30 p.m. • Cooking and Culinary Institute, 917 Third Avenue.	\$15.00
		An entertaining evening show at the <b>Funny Bone Comedy Club</b> featuring a national comedic talent, to be announced.	To Be Determined
<b>Saturday</b>		<b>Presidential Coffee for the Heritage Society</b> • Drinko Library Atrium • 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. • Call Ed Zimmerman at (304) 696-3739 for more information.	Complimentary
		<b>Class Luncheon</b> to honor the 50th Reunion Class (1959) and the Grand Class — those who graduated before 1959 • 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. • John Marshall Dining Room, Memorial Student Center	\$15.00
		<b>Trolley Tour of Campus</b> immediately following luncheon	Complimentary
		<b>Annual Green and White Spring Football Game</b> • Time to be announced • Joan C. Edwards Stadium • For tickets call (304) 696-HERD or (800) THE-HERD • Tickets are \$5.	/
		<b>President's Social</b> • 6 - 7 p.m. • Memorial Student Center Plaza	Complimentary
		<b>Alumni Awards Banquet</b> honoring Distinguished Alumni and Friends • 7 p.m. • Don Morris Room, Memorial Student Center	\$45/person \$75/couple

To make reservations and for more information, call the Office of Alumni Relations at: **(800) MU-ALUMX (682-5869)** or **(304) 696-2901**.

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**John Curtis McHaffie** (BSE'59) of Oro Valley, Ariz., has worked diligently over the years to restore the four-year engineering program to Marshall University. This award coincides with the 50-year anniversary of McHaffie's receiving his Bachelor of Engineering degree from Marshall. After an illustrious career with the U.S. Air Force and in the private sector as an aerospace engineer, he retired as principal, consultant and president of Support Systems Inc. in 1994.

**Robert Walker, M.D.**, of Barboursville, W.Va., joined the Marshall University faculty in 1979 and became chair of the Department of Family and Community Health in 1986, associate dean of Clinical Affairs in 1991, and vice executive dean in 2001. He was named "Professor of the Year in West Virginia" in 1989; a "Distinguished West Virginian," the state's highest honor, in 1996; and "Rural Health Educator of the Year" by the National Rural Health Association in 2000. He currently serves as vice chancellor of West Virginia's three Health Science Centers and has served as an advisor to Congress. Walker has maintained a family practice in Lincoln County for 33 years and is the medical director of Hospice of Lincoln County.

The Distinguished Service to Marshall Award is given for loyal and unselfish service to Marshall, and is not limited to Marshall alumni.



The **Carolyn B. Hunter Distinguished Faculty Service Award** will be presented to **Barbara Winters**. Winters has worked in libraries in four states during a career of more than 32 years, and has been Dean of Libraries at Marshall since August 2000. She graduated from The Moody Bible Institute of Chicago, Virginia Commonwealth University and Catholic University of America. She most recently completed work as executive producer on a 2-hour documentary film about Ken Hechler's life, called *In Pursuit of Justice*.

The Hunter Award was created by the MUAA for the purpose of recognizing outstanding achievements and providing incentives for continued service from faculty to the community, the university and students in their respective fields. Award nominees are evaluated on their professional service to the community and their service to the university and its students.



The College of Education and Human Services will honor **Dr. Dorothy "Dot" Hicks** with the **Second Annual Distinguished Education and Human Service Award**. Hicks is a retired, longtime faculty member and coach of women's golf, tennis, badminton and volleyball, as well as teacher education courses and coordinated teaching clinical supervision. She served as an associate athletic director and faculty rep for the Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women and the Southern Conference, NCAA.



The **Nancy Pelphrey Herd Village Scholarship** will be awarded to two Huntington students. **April Bennett** (shown left), a freshman music education major, is a member of the Marching Thunder band. **Candice Michael**, a junior political science major, is a cheerleader.

This scholarship was established in 1998 by the MUAA board of directors, in honor of Nancy Pelphrey, Herd Village coordinator. Funds from the scholarship come from proceeds from Herd Village.



The **Cam Henderson Scholarship Award** will go to junior accounting major **Tyler J. Gatrell** of Boyd County, Ky. Gatrell won the MU Baseball Leadership Award and made the dean's list in both 2007 and 2008.

The **Nate Ruffin Scholarship** will be awarded to **John Alexander Inman**. Inman graduated with a bachelor's degree in business management in 2008 and is currently working on a second degree in culinary arts and hospitality management at the MCTC. One other recipient is expected to be announced at the awards banquet.

This scholarship is awarded to a graduate or undergraduate Marshall student, with priority given to an African American full-time student with a 2.5 GPA or better as an undergraduate or 3.0 GPA or better as a graduate.

The **Atlanta, Georgia Alumni Club** has been chosen as the Alumni Association Club of the Year. Under the leadership of President John Gilmore (BA'95, MA'98), the club hosted numerous game watching parties, receptions and other social functions throughout the year for the purpose of attracting new members and the recruitment of potential Marshall students. The club members have been particularly dedicated to fundraising efforts for the new Erickson Alumni Center and Foundation Building. The Atlanta Club has been active since October 1984.



The **Young Alumni Award** will be presented to **Doug Martin** (MS'06) of Delbarton, W.Va. As a graphic design teacher at Mingo Career and Development Center, he has helped his students win more than \$1 million in scholarship money over the past three years. He has been invited to sit on the National Board Committee of the George Lucas (Star Wars) Educational Foundation, where he will be a voice of change for education on a national level.

The criteria for the Young Alumni Award are that the person must be 35 years old or younger; an active member of the Alumni Association; show outstanding achievement in his or her field of endeavor; have a personal commitment to their community; and demonstrate service to Marshall University and its students.

The **MUAA Board Member of the Year** will be announced at the MUAA board meeting and recognized at the awards banquet.

The candidate must be successful in promoting the association's vision statement among students, alumni and friends; promote the association's core values; and work to move the association to the next level by bringing in new ideas.

For more information about the nominees and criteria for awards, please visit [marshall.edu/alumni/AlumniWeekend2009Awards.asp](http://marshall.edu/alumni/AlumniWeekend2009Awards.asp).



# Homecoming Review 2008

In spite of the rain and a loss to the Central Florida Knights, many Herd fans enjoyed Homecoming 2008.



Members of the Homecoming Court are, left to right: Matt James (Mr. Marshall 2007), Stephanie Perry (Ms. Marshall 2008), Sean Hornbuckle (Mr. Marshall 2008) and Amy Isble (Ms. Marshall 2007).



Left: Basketball coach Donnie Jones (left) and football coach Mark Snyder (right) are interviewed by Marshall icon Woody Woodrum at the Coaches Breakfast.





Homecoming Parade Grand Marshal and CNN correspondent Joe Johns (BA'80) spoke at the ceremony at the Memorial Student Fountain on Friday, Nov.14 The fountain is turned off annually on this day in remembrance of the 1970 plane disaster.



The Marching Thunder braves real thunder to takes its place in the Homecoming Parade.



Lindsay Pierce, senior education major from Ona W.Va., cheers on the Herd.



Right: The "new" Marco makes his debut as he leads the Herd out onto the field.

Thundering Herd



# flashback

## Shawkey Student Union



Shawkey Student Union.

Part of many students' daily routine was spending time in the Shawkey Student Union, built in 1933 and named after President Morris P. Shawkey, 1923-1935. Students danced to the juke box, played bridge and held various club and Greek events. The building was used until the Memorial Student Center opened in 1971. The old student union was located in front and just west of the present student center. This photo is from 1955.

# Ride with Pride with a Marshall University License Plate

Help spread Marshall's name along the highways and byways of your state and across the nation!

In addition to our Marshall license plates for the state of West Virginia, we now have plates available in Virginia, Pennsylvania and Maryland.

In West Virginia, the price of the plate ranges tentatively from \$50.50 to \$75 (and renewal at \$45 annually) depending on when your current license plate expires. The plate numbers range from 1001 to 9999.

And, we are pleased to announce that \$30 of the initial amount is a 100 percent tax deductible donation that will be used to fund programs sponsored by the Marshall University Alumni Association.

To request an application and select your number for West Virginia, Pennsylvania or Maryland, call Jonathan Sutton at (304) 696-2901 or (800) 682-5869, or send an e-mail to [sutton11@marshall.edu](mailto:sutton11@marshall.edu).

In Virginia, check with your local DMV office for more information and pricing.



The Marshall GO HERD plate (see top, left photo) may be purchased through the Office of Alumni Relations. The cost of the plate is \$25.

## Marketplace and Affinity Partners

Please continue your support of the Marshall University Alumni Association by doing business with our Marketplace and Affinity Partners. By doing so, you will be generating additional revenue to support the programming and operations of the Association. For more information, go to our web site at [www.marshall.edu/alumni/marketplace.asp](http://www.marshall.edu/alumni/marketplace.asp), or call us at (304) 696-2901 or (800) 682-5869.

### **Bank of America** The Bank of America® Credit Card with Worldpoints® Rewards



The WorldPoints® card is the only credit card that supports Marshall

University and earns points towards cash back, air travel, merchandise and more - all with no annual fee and a low annual percentage rate! Learn more or apply online today for the Marshall University WorldPoints™ Platinum Plus® MasterCard® Credit Card.



### **Liberty Mutual**

#### Liberty Mutual Insurance

The nation's eighth-largest auto and home insurer makes more than 90,000 Marshall alumni instantly eligible to receive an

additional discount – up to 15 percent on auto and 5 percent on homeowners insurance. Discounts are available where state law and regulations allow, and may vary by state.



#### Enterprise Rent-a-Car

Enterprise Rent-a-Car. With this partnership, active alumni will be given the opportunity to rent cars from Enterprise at a reduced rate.



#### GradMed short-term health insurance

GradMed short-term health insurance can protect you during those critical weeks or months until you have arranged for coverage through a new employer or other sources – from 30 to 180 days.

*By presenting your active Alumni Association membership card to these businesses, you will receive a discount as noted by each participant. These offers are designed to bring added value to your membership in the Alumni Association and to thank you for your support.*

*The Marshall Hall of Fame Café at 857 Third Avenue in Huntington offers a 15 percent discount on food, drinks (excluding alcoholic beverages) and merchandise at the Café Gift Shop.*

*Stadium Bookstore, 1949 Fifth Avenue, offers alumni a 15 percent discount on purchases (excluding books).*

Please keep checking the Alumni Association web site for additional affinity programs and benefits of being an active member.

# Marco is looking for you!



## Join the 34,000 other alumni who are benefiting from the Alumni Association Online Community and...

- Receive our monthly e-newsletter;
- Update your alumni record;
- Get a permanent forwarding e-mail address;
- Search the database for former classmates;
- View or post Class Notes;
- Find products and services offered by other alum in our Yellow Pages;
- Upload your resume; and
- Chat with other alumni through Social Networking

### How to register for the online community:

Go to [www.marshall.edu/alumni](http://www.marshall.edu/alumni), click on the Online Community bar and follow the simple steps. It is easy, painless – and free! Please register today!





# Class Notes



Visit [www.marshall.edu/lalumni](http://www.marshall.edu/lalumni) for the latest in alumni news.

## Veterans Club Instrumental in Marshall Gaining University Status

Marshall Memory by Ron Lyons, BFA '61, MA '65 and Robert "Bobby" Nelson BA '51

The Veterans Club, a campus organization made up of Korean era war veterans, was very active on campus between 1959 and 1961. Little did any of us know, or realize, the significance we would play in Marshall College becoming a university.

The Veterans Club president, Robert "Bobby" Nelson, who later served as mayor of Huntington; the vice president, James Manno; and about 25 club members met about twice a month in the Science Hall Auditorium. Joining them was club sponsor and Marshall faculty member Dr. Howard Mills.

Time and memories escape us as to how a motion was made during a meeting to help give a needed boost to persuade the West Virginia Legislature to approve a pending bill to give Marshall university status. During the discussion, it was suggested that a petition of names be collected on campus at basketball games and other activities.

Our strategy was to use the petition to influence a favorable response by the Legislature to pass the Senate Bill for the name change.

Following the lead of the Veterans Club, a delegation of student government leaders headed by John Karickhoff, student body president, and Bobby Nelson, president pro tempore, traveled to Charleston during the 1959 school year.

"We had made an appointment to see Gov. Cecil Underwood to present him with a petition supporting Marshall College being granted university status," Nelson said. "We were ushered into the office where we were formally greeted by the governor. He told us he was a former teacher and had high

regard for Marshall, then the state's leading teachers college. He said he had heard of efforts by many citizens, not just from Marshall veterans and students, supporting university status. We then presented him with a petition signed by more than 1,500 students, faculty, administrators and staff. He complimented us on our initiative and informed us that it would be up to the Legislature to grant the status, but he personally supported it. We thanked him and departed his office.

"On our way out, we encountered Herb Little, an Associated Press reporter. We gave him a copy of the petition. He took it, and the next day an article written by Herb appeared in many newspapers across the state, giving added exposure to our effort to make Marshall a university."

Later, at the State Capitol, Ron Lyons, Whitesville junior; Dick Hodges, Mt. Hope sophomore; and Dan Fannin, Barboursville sophomore, were introduced on the Senate floor by Sen. Lyle

Smith from Cabell County. Ron Lyons presented the petition, asking the Legislature to elevate Marshall College to university status. In 1961 Marshall College became Marshall University!

Starting in 1961 the Veterans Club members all received diplomas that said "Marshall University." The wonder of it all... how many thousands of students have since received a Marshall University diploma? After all is said and done, we veterans say, "Go Herd!" We are very proud to have been a part of this historic change.

*Ron Lyons is a retired school guidance counselor. Bobby Nelson is an instructor of political science at Marshall.*



The Veterans Club in 1959. Robert "Bobby" Nelson, center first row, and club advisor Dr. Howard Mills at right



# father. soldier. Son of Marshall.

**John "Jamie" Honaker** loved his family, his university and his country.

In June 2000, Jamie kissed his wife and new baby, Jackson, and loaded up a car for his Officer Basic Course. He never made it. Jamie was killed in a collision with an 18-wheeler on his way to Fort Bliss, Texas.



*Jamie in Bosnia*



Jamie's friends and family worked together to form a scholarship in his memory. These were not rich people – at least not in the sense ordinarily associated with the word. But they were able to raise money to create a scholarship fund. Each year, deserving cadets are awarded the John Jamethon Honaker Memorial ROTC Scholarship.

{ 2008 Honaker Scholarship recipients  
David Corbitt and Daternia Hay

This is just one of the stories of love for this university you can read in the Marshall University Foundation Annual Report. Read it online at [www.mufannual.org](http://www.mufannual.org), and find out how you can build on the tradition of people who love Marshall University.



*Growing up to be a Herd fan:  
Jamie's son,  
Jackson*



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