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Philanthropists Art & Joan Weisberg and the complex named in their honor – the Arthur Weisberg Family Engineering Laboratories. Photo by Steve Payne.

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Art & Joan Weisberg ensure the future of engineering program

According to recent national survey findings, high school seniors have acknowledged that the most important factor in making their decision about which college or university to attend is the quality of the academic facilities available in their contemplated major. Not surprisingly, universities that offer well-resourced, state-of-the-art facilities and that provide distinctive, value-added educational experiences are in high demand.

At Marshall University, we are working diligently and proactively to advance the University’s competitiveness with respect to the quality and caliber of the academic facilities available to our students. Even though much work remains, we have made considerable progress. Noteworthy among these accomplishments has been the construction of the new Arthur Weisberg Family Engineering Laboratories building. Thanks to the incredible support provided by Art and Joan Weisberg of Huntington, students from our region and beyond, who have decided to pursue engineering as their college major, can now earn their Bachelor of Science degree in Engineering (B.S.E.) at Marshall University. This new facility offers our students the opportunity to study and learn in modern, well-equipped laboratories designed for a 21st Century engineering education.

Since May 2006, the Weisbergs have contributed $5 million in support of Marshall’s Division of Engineering and Computer Science. Their generous gift has largely underwritten the construction of the new $4.2 million engineering lab building, appropriately named the “Arthur Weisberg Family Engineering Laboratories.”

The magnificent 16,000-square-foot building located on our Huntington campus across 3rd Avenue from Smith Hall was dedicated on August 16, 2008 in a ceremony honoring Art and Joan, owners of State Electric Supply Company in Huntington. It was indeed a privilege to join with a very large crowd of friends and colleagues, along with 20 members of the Weisberg family, to pay tribute to this amazing couple.

As we grow our engineering program, it is clear that we would not be where we are today without the tremendous generosity of Art and Joan. Their most recent involvement and support was the singular factor in our ability to move forward on construction and development of the facility named in their honor. This building was completed just 2½ years after our Board of Governors unanimously approved the start-up of the new B.S.E. degree program at Marshall. That decision signaled the long-awaited rebirth of a 4-year undergraduate engineering program at Marshall University.

The addition of this new facility and the other capital improvements that have been completed during the last three years or so are transforming Marshall University into a destination campus that is attracting more and more students. The evidence already is clear that the new engineering major is a significant attraction to entering students. This fall’s enrollment of 140 engineering students at Marshall is nearly double the 77 students enrolled in fall 2005 – before approval of the B.S.E. degree. Since fall 2004, enrollment in our College of Information Technology and Engineering (CITE) has increased from 142 to 310 students.

Yes, quality academic facilities do matter because they are the most crucial decision point in the choice of a university for many of today’s students. The more visible and robust the opportunities are at Marshall University that potential students can see and experience, the more likely they are to choose to pursue their college education here.

Art and Joan Weisberg long ago recognized the importance of engineering education and developing an educated and adaptive workforce in Huntington and throughout West Virginia. This philosophy was embraced by Art when he began to experience firsthand that engineering is a very versatile form of education that contributes significantly to advancing personal opportunity and innovation in our society. He has affirmed the benefits of his college education again and again throughout his lifetime as he has transitioned from engineer to enterprising entrepreneur and philanthropist.

Thank you, Art and Joan Weisberg, for your vision and your support. The entire Marshall University Community expresses our eternal gratitude to both of you.
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Goodness knows Art Weisberg and his wife Joan have made something in this life. And goodness knows, too, that they’ve generously shared the fruits of that success.

“Art and Joan Weisberg have been wonderful supporters of Marshall University for years,” says Marshall President Stephen J. Kopp. Now, Marshall has recognized that support by naming the Arthur Weisberg Family Engineering Laboratories in their honor. The new $3.6 million building is welcoming its first students this fall.

Weisberg is the founder and chairman of State Electric Supply Co. Headquartered in Huntington, the company is a major retail/wholesale distributor of electrical and electronic supplies, with showrooms and warehouses in five states.

Flashing his trademark grin, Weisberg likes to describe himself as “the luckiest guy in the world.” But you don’t build a business as enormously successful as Weisberg’s by relying on Lady Luck. Doing so demands intelligence, ambition, determination and hard work.

Lots of hard work.
Opposite Page: Provost Sarah Denman and President Stephen J. Kopp present Joan Weisberg with an Honorary Doctorate degree during commencement ceremonies in May. Above: Art & Joan Weisberg have been married for 51 years.
Art Weisberg, founder and chairman of State Electric Supply Co., and his wife Joan at a ceremony in August where the Arthur Weisberg Family Engineering Laboratories building (located on Third Avenue across the street from Smith Hall) was dedicated to honor their countless contributions to Marshall University.

Hard work is something Weisberg learned about at an early age in his native Brooklyn. He lost his father when he was only two years old and his mother had to struggle to support herself and her two young sons through the Great Depression years. As soon as he was old enough, Art pitched in to help by shining shoes, selling newspapers and taking whatever odd jobs he could find.

His interest in electricity took root early. At age six, he decided to rewire a lamp – and in the process shorted out the entire electrical system in the family’s apartment.

After serving in the Army in Europe during World War II, Weisberg used the G.I. Bill to earn a Bachelor of Science degree in electrical engineering from New York’s City College. He then moved to West Virginia and in 1952, with a bankroll of $2,500, he started a one-man electrical supply business, calling on small grocery and hardware stores and selling light bulbs, extension cords and fuses from the back of his pickup truck.

Today, State Electric Supply has 41 branch locations spread across West Virginia, Virginia, Ohio, Kentucky and North Carolina. In 1968, Art and Joan Weisberg established a specialty wire fabrication company called Service Wire Co. that now has industrial customers throughout the world. Combined, State Electric and Service Wire have 850 employees in eight states. Joan, who earned her Bachelor of Science degree from The Ohio State University, is also owner and manager of Twelve-O-Six Virginia Inc., a real estate holding company.

“To me, Art is the textbook entrepreneur,” says Clarence Martin, State Electric’s chief executive officer who has worked with the Weisbergs for 35 years. “He has vision, and he embraces change at every opportunity. He built this business from nothing, and that’s a tribute to his creativity and his entrepreneurial spirit. Joan’s not only been a supporter, but a contributor to their success. She is a pillar of strength.”

Art and Joan frequently have been honored for their creativity, vision, entrepreneurial spirit and philanthropy. Art received the Charles D. Scott Distinguished Career Award in 1994 for service to the American wire industry, was named “Citizen of the Year” by The Herald-Dispatch in 1995 and was inducted into the City of Huntington Wall of Fame in 1995. Together, Art and Joan were elected West Virginia Area Master Entrepreneurs of the Year in
President Stephen J. Kopp and former Provost Sarah Denman present Art Weisberg with an honorary doctorate degree in May.

PHOTO BY ANNETTE POLAN

Art and Joan Weisberg are partners in several businesses and have received numerous awards for their philanthropy.

1998 and were elected to the Marshall University Business Hall of Fame in 1996.

Over the years the Weisbergs have generously shared their success by serving on a long list of community boards and generously aiding an equally lengthy list of causes. Their philanthropy also extends to their religious lives as shown by their generous gifts and leadership in Jewish Federated Charities, Israel Bonds and local congregational causes.

“Joan and Art are very active in both the Huntington and Charleston Jewish communities – certainly in terms of their philanthropy, but also through their extensive personal involvement,” says Dr. Lynne Mayer, resident development consultant at Marshall and a longtime friend of the Weisbergs.

“They do much to promote the arts and culture, which they recognize as essential elements of education and crucial components in the life of the community. Their support of higher education, which is most obvious through their generosity to Marshall, extends to the State of Israel, where they are recognized for giving from the heart to educate professionals at Technion–Israel Institute of Technology in Haifa. And they have also generously supported the personal needs of the troops of the Israel Defense Forces, and encouraged others to do likewise.”

At Marshall, the couple established the Arthur and Joan Meyer Weisberg Chairs in Software Engineering in 1992.

In 2006, Marshall announced a gift from the Weisbergs of $2.5 million in support of the Division of Engineering and Computer Science in the College of Information Technology and Engineering (CITE). In recognition of their gift, the division was named the Arthur and Joan Weisberg Division of Engineering and Computer Science.

During the May 2008 Commencement, Art and Joan each were awarded honorary degrees of Doctor of Humane Letters.

In 2007, the Weisbergs quietly increased their commitment to engineering at Marshall by expanding their 2006 pledge to $5 million. Part of this gift has gone to construction of the new engineering facility and the remainder will go into a quasi-endowment for the Weisberg Division to provide support for future needs of the program.

“It’s to honor this incredible commitment that the new engineering laboratories have been named the Arthur Weisberg Family Engineering Laboratories,” says President Kopp. “Without Art and Joan Weisberg, we would not be where we are today. Their longstanding involvement and support for engineering at Marshall has been crucial to its success. Their most recent gift has been one of the most important factors in our ability to move forward on the construction and development of the new engineering laboratories.”

Dr. Betsy Dulin, dean of MU’s College of Information Technology and Engineering (CITE), praises Art Weisberg for being generous not just with his dollars, but also his...
“He’s never hesitated when we’ve asked him to come help us,” she says.

State Electric’s Clarence Martin says the Weisbergs’ generosity to Marshall is part of their strong commitment to education.

“They place a huge emphasis on education,” he says. “We’ve utilized a number of Marshall students as interns, and hired a number of Marshall students as well. We have a tuition reimbursement program for our employees, no matter where they are, and a scholarship program for children of our employees.”

As for Art Weisberg himself, he says the reason for his willingness to help Marshall and its engineering program is simple. As the need for engineers grows, so does the importance of educating them locally.

“Ten years ago,” says Weisberg, “we didn’t have any engineers working for us (at State Electric). We have eight now, and they are very valuable. None of them went to Marshall. To keep bringing people in is very difficult. We have local talent here; we can’t sell ourselves short. Unless we have engineers (in Huntington), the standard of living is going to drop. ... If we are going to keep up in the future, we have to be technologically smart. Marshall is the vehicle we are going to use.”

Marshall President Stephen J. Kopp calls the new engineering laboratories “a tremendous milestone in the history of the university.”

“As we pursue enrollment growth and program accreditation, modern facilities do matter,” President Kopp says. “Nationally, the foremost determinant for students in choosing the university they will attend is the facilities available within the areas of study that interest them. By focusing on our foremost priorities, Marshall has experienced unprecedented progress in terms of new building construction and facility renovations that are transforming the Huntington campus into a distinctive, destination campus that better serves our students and programs.”

The new labs represent the realization of a longtime dream by those who yearned for the day that engineering again would be a four-year program at Marshall.

“These are exciting – and busy – times for us,” says Dr. Betsy Dulin, who took over as dean of MU’s College of Information Technology and Engineering (CITE) on June 1.

This is a return to familiar surroundings for Dulin, who is both a civil engineer and an attorney. She served as CITE dean from 2002 to 2006 before leaving academia to practice law with a Charleston firm. During her previous nine years at Marshall, she had served as an engineering faculty member, department chairperson, associate dean and ultimately as dean. Now she’s again back as dean.

She takes over a program that’s literally been reborn. Marshall offered a four-year, accredited undergraduate engineering degree until 1971, when the program was discontinued to reflect state mandates and priorities at that time. However, Marshall retained a freshman/sophomore program and later acquired a graduate engineering program through its merger with the West Virginia Graduate College in 1997. With the creation of the College of Information Technology and Engineering in 1998, those programs became stronger and began to attract additional students.

The addition of an undergraduate computer science degree in 2004 reinforced Marshall’s commitment to engineering and related technology programs. President Kopp sees the 2006 decision by the Board of Governors to reinstate the school’s four-year engineering degree as “a logical manifestation of this commitment.”

Initially, Marshall is offering a four-year degree in general engineering, with an emphasis on civil engineering, the kind usually associated with building roads, sewer systems...
and water lines. Other areas of emphasis – electrical, mechanical, chemical and others – will be offered as resources and student demand allow.

Currently, the College of Information Technology and Engineering has three undergraduate and five graduate programs. Classes are offered on the Huntington campus and at the Marshall University Graduate College in South Charleston.

Now, MU’s reborn engineering program has taken a giant step forward with construction of the new Arthur Weisberg Family Engineering Laboratories. Located across from Smith Hall on 3rd Avenue, the lab building sits on what used to be a parking lot. A 16,000-square-foot structure, it’s just west of the Robert C. Byrd Biotechnology Science Center. The location is not coincidental, Dulin says, as it’s hoped there will be considerable interaction between the students and faculty housed in the two structures.

The new building houses a high-tech classroom, three faculty offices and four designated labs – environmental, materials, structures and geomatics. Also included is a lounge area where students can congregate and prepare their lab reports.

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

Marshall Football’s
Top 25 Milestones
from the Past 25 Years

As chosen by the Editors

Perhaps nothing is more enjoyable to sports enthusiasts than compiling lists – lists of the best players, coaches, games, you name it. Of course these lists are always open to interpretation, which makes them all the more fun to debate. With the Thundering Herd football season in full swing, the editors at the Marshall Magazine decided to come up with our list of the program’s Top 25 Milestones from the past 25 years. And while you may not agree with some of our picks, we hope you will have some fun talking this over with other Marshall fans or hashing it out on the message boards at www.HerdNation.com.

25. In 1984, Head Coach Stan Parrish leads the Thundering Herd to its first winning season in 20 years. The Herd goes on to post 19 straight winning seasons.

24. Marshall hires George Chaump as its new head coach in 1986. Chaump was previously the quarterback coach at Ohio State under legendary head coach Woody Hayes.

23. In 1987, Marshall defeats Louisville 34-31 as quarterback Tony Petersen throws a last-second Hail Mary pass to wide receiver Keith Baxter in the end zone.

22. On Nov. 2, 2002, quarterback Byron Leftwich leaves the game with a fractured leg. Despite being in tremendous pain, he returns with a noticeable limp. Teammates then begin to carry the Heisman hopeful down the field as he tries to rally the Herd to a come-from-behind victory over Akron. The image of Leftwich being carried by his teammates garners national attention.
21. In 1987, stars Tony Petersen, Sean Doctor and Mike Barber lead the Thundering Herd to the NCAA I-AA National Championship game in Pocatello, Idaho, where it loses a nail biter to Northeast Louisiana, 43-42.


18. Following a decade of dominance at the I-AA level, Marshall University jumps up to NCAA Division I-A competition in 1997 and is invited to rejoin the MAC (Mid-American Conference).

17. In 1996, MU hires former Thundering Herd player and University of Florida defensive coordinator Bob Pruett as its new head coach.


15. First-year head coach Bobby Pruett leads MU to its first undefeated season in decades as the Thundering Herd defeats Montana, 49-29, to win its second NCAA-I-AA National Championship.

13. During the 1997 season, sophomore Randy Moss breaks a slew of NCAA receiving records and is invited to the Heisman Trophy ceremony in New York City.

12. Marshall wins the conference title in its first season in the MAC before going to its first bowl game in 50 years. The Herd goes on to dominate the MAC, winning five conference titles in six years.

11. The Thundering Herd football program takes another step forward and joins Conference USA in 2005.


9. Beloved head coach Bob Pruett retires suddenly in 2004 and the university taps former Herd star and Ohio State Defensive Coordinator Mark Snyder to lead the program into Conference USA competition.

8. Chad Pennington breaks nearly all of Marshall’s passing records in 1999 and is invited to the Heisman Trophy ceremony in New York City.
1. The motion picture “We Are Marshall” is released nationwide on Dec. 22, 2006. The Warner Bros. film brings world-wide attention to the story of the university’s rise from the ashes of the 1970 plane crash and is hailed by *Sports Illustrated* as the best sports movie of the year.

2. Led by stars Michael Peyton and Troy Brown, Marshall defeats Youngstown State 31-28 and wins the 1992 NCAA-IAA National Championship. The game was won in dramatic fashion as walk-on player Willy Merrick kicked the game-winning field goal (the first of his life) with time running out on the clock.

3. Quarterback Chad Pennington and running back Doug Chapman lead MU to an undefeated season in 1999 as the Herd goes 13-0 and finishes the year as the #10 ranked team in the nation.

4. Marshall University becomes the winningest Division I football program of the 1990s, edging out Florida State.

5. From 1996 - 2007, more than a dozen Marshall players are drafted into the NFL, including Randy Moss, Chad Pennington and Byron Leftwich, who are all taken in the first round.

6. Heisman Trophy candidate Byron Leftwich leads Marshall to an amazing come-from-behind, double overtime win in the 2002 GMAC Bowl in Mobile, Alabama. The final score of 64-61 was the most points ever scored in a bowl game.

Remembering a quiet football All-American

Johnathan Goddard

Article by Randy Snyder

“I still can’t believe it happened,” said former Marshall teammate Jamus Martin on the passing of former Thundering Herd All-American defensive end Johnathan Goddard. “For the first couple of days, I cried. He wasn’t just another guy on the team. He was one of a kind.”

Goddard, 27, died early Sunday morning, June 15 at Shands Medical Center in Jacksonville, Fla., due to head injuries sustained the night before in a motorcycle accident in Clay County, Fla.

To most he was a quiet student with a learning disability and an explosive play-making athlete.

Dan Disch, his former coach at Ed White High School in Jacksonville, and Bill Wilt, Marshall’s former defensive line coach and defensive coordinator, categorize Johnathan as one of their favorite players and one that simply could not be contained in a one-on-one match-up on the field.

“When Ed (Zaunbrecher, former Marshall recruiting coordinator) brought in his tape, it was a no-brainer to get him enrolled at Marshall,” said Wilt of Goddard, who chose to attend the school as a non-qualifier. Due to academic issues, Goddard was not be allowed to play for the university during his freshman year.

Though his performance on the field during his junior year would garner attention, teammate Jamus Martin received most of the accolades. It was Goddard’s performance during the spring practices between his junior and senior seasons that defined his future role in Wilt’s defense at Marshall.

“He understood the value of doing a drill to make himself a better player,” said Wilt. “He went through a maturing process. He studied film during the off-season to prepare himself to be a playmaker.

“His preparation won us the Kansas State game and kept us in the Ohio State game. He is as good as any player to ever play that position.”

“He was a silent leader, but an energizing player for his teammates,” Wilt adds. “He was harder on himself grading his performance than I was.”

“He had a goal,” Jamus Martin said. “He worked extremely hard to be where he wanted to be. He led by example. He didn’t have to say anything. He out-worked me and a lot of other people.”

Despite his volatile actions on the field, there was a definite softness that he shared with those close to him. The ferocious player that recorded four quarterback sacks against Miami (OH) and Ohio, ran back fumbles of 84 and 27 yards for touchdowns against Kansas State and Ohio State, respectively, and in his senior year led the nation with 16 sacks and 28.5 tackles for loss was considered a “momma’s boy” by friends and family.

“He was a quiet, but a lovable guy,” said former Marshall teammate and roommate Wilbur Hargrove. “Off the field he was a little quiet, but there were many times he was real playful and liked to play a lot of jokes on me. 
“He always encouraged me to bring out the wild side. He tried to get me to pierce my ear and get a tattoo.”

Hargrove did eventually get the tattoo. Among the several tattoos that adorned Johnathan’s body were an image of praying hands on his right shoulder with the words from Philippians 4:13 of the Bible inscribed above. On his left shoulder he proudly wore an image of a Bible with the word “GRANDMA” inscribed on the left side of the open book and the dates of her birth and death inked in on the right.

Kathi Goddard agrees that her son, who was born on Mother’s Day, May 11, 1981, and died on Father’s Day, was somewhat of a momma’s boy. His father served in the Navy and was often out at sea. She says Johnathan, the eldest of five kids, learned to help out and be the leader among his siblings.

“He called me every day. He never missed a day of calling,” Kathi said. “Even when he was in the pros, he would tell folks, ‘I have to call my mom to see if I have any money.’” She said she handled all of his finances and even paid his rent for him.

According to Kathi, one of the financial responsibilities he shared was assisting a friend of his, a single father, in purchasing baseball equipment for the friend’s son.

“He was always quiet,” says his mother. “He never felt like he had achieved anything. He felt he had so much more to achieve. He downplayed everything.”

In fact, Johnathan locked himself in his room while his frustrated family hosted an NFL Draft party. He didn’t emerge from the room until after he had been selected in the sixth round by the Detroit Lions. By then, most of the more than 70 people had left.

Kathi says the outpouring of support from the Marshall fans has helped in the dealing with the loss. As of July 17, Marshall supporters had raised $10,000 to cover the $13,000 in funeral expenses.

“It’s unbelievable and it really takes you back,” said his mother of the support. “The money and the encouraging words people said about him on the message boards helps get you through a time like this.

“Maybe it’s because people went through the (1970) tragedy and want to reach out to people who have suffered loss.”

Johnathan is survived by his parents, Johnnie and Kathryn Goddard; his fiance, Amy Rinehart; his four children, Johnathan Jr., Zachary, Baylee and Zoe; his brother, Thomas Goddard; and his sisters, Angela, Kimberly and Brittani.

Randy Snyder is a freelance writer living in Huntington, W.Va.
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The generosity of the Weisberg gift, among the largest in Marshall University’s history, provides a solid foundation for the new engineering program. And, with admiration and gratitude, we acknowledge our benefactors Art and Joan Weisberg.

We Are...Marshall
www.marshall.edu
Some of the Marshall cheerleaders gather with Marco at center court of the Cam Henderson Center.
Thundering Herd Cheerleaders

Marshall’s Ambassadors

Meet the student-athletes who are the heart and soul of the sports programs and see why they are some of the best ambassadors for both athletics and academics at Marshall University.

Article by Tim Stephens
Photos by Rick Lee & Rick Haye

Marshall’s cheerleaders take the cheer “We Are ... Marshall” a step further. They prefer, “We Are ... Marshall and we want you to be Marshall, too.”

The Thundering Herd cheerleaders have become tremendous ambassadors for the university. That likely never was more evident than in April, when the squad finished fourth nationally in the National Cheerleaders Association competition at the Ocean Center in Daytona Beach, Fla. While cheerleaders from some other schools played in the Atlantic or lounged on the beach, the Marshall squad told anyone and everyone about their university.

Marshall’s cheerleaders mingled with tourists on the boardwalk, played with kids on the beach and talked up MU all over Daytona Beach.

“I’m so proud of them,” Marshall cheerleading head coach Donna Dunn said. “Every minute they were there they were being Marshall University cheerleaders. They talked to little girls who saw them in their uniforms. They played with little kids. They talked to people vacationing down there. They were the best ambassadors for the school that they could possibly be.”

Being ambassadors for Marshall is as much Dunn’s goal for her student-athletes as anything. She sees the squad’s duty as promoting Marshall, whether in the confines of Joan C. Edwards Stadium or Cam Henderson Center or on a stretch of sandy beach 800 miles from home.
Dunn reminds her cheerleaders that they represent Marshall University at all times. Dunn said she is thrilled that her squad represented the green and white so well at the national competition. “Finishing fourth was wonderful,” Dunn said. “We thought, though, we were going to come home with the title. It was very exciting. We have a good group that definitely was focused on winning.”


The Herd expected to win and in Dunn’s eyes, it did. Marshall stood third after the preliminaries, despite having two cheerleaders dropped during routines. No other squad in the top five had drops, but neither did any other squad perform a routine as difficult as was Marshall’s.

“Everybody else hit their stunts and the next day we hit ours, too,” Dunn said. “Our difficulty level was better than everyone else’s. We had one girl matched with one guy, while others had three or four guys matched with one girl at the base. That’s where I thought we had an advantage.”

The cheerleaders had their hopes up as the announcer listed the results of the top 10. With each name that passed, Dunn became more confident. After Indiana State was announced as fifth, there was a long pause before he said, “from Huntington, West Virginia, Marshall University.”

Fourth, certainly impressive, wasn’t what Dunn had hoped the Herd would achieve. It was, however, higher than any Marshall squad ever had finished. Marshall had competed at the national level four times and never placed higher than 11th, which it achieved in 2003.

The fourth-place finish was a result of months of hard work and dedication, not only by the cheerleaders but by
Marshall’s fans, who raised money to send the Herd to the competition. Marshall gained a free bid by winning a championship at summer camp at the University of Louisville, meaning its entry fee was paid and hotel rooms were secured. Travel expenses, though, had to be raised and Marshall’s fans came through.

“We want to thank the people who donated,” Dunn said. “We couldn’t have done it without them. Our fans made this possible.”

At the beginning of the season, Dunn wasn’t so sure she had one of the top four teams in the country. Neither were some of her cheerleaders. Injuries had taken their toll and cohesiveness was a concern. Lindsay Pierce suffered a concussion and a few cheerleaders left the squad to concentrate on academics.

“We really needed to come together as a unit,” said Allen Jordan, a cheerleader and veteran of the Iraq war. “We didn’t need to be going different directions.”

Come together the squad did, rallying behind Dunn and captains Stephanie Perry and Chad Greenhill.

“Stephanie is a true leader,” Dunn said. “When she graduates, I don’t know if we can find anybody to replace her. She’s just wonderful. Chad, our male captain, is an unbelievable kid. He is so good.

“We came a long way. We had the injuries and other things happen, but our kids prevailed and didn’t let anything get them down. We never lost the will to win.”

Other members of the squad include Josh Berry, Charlie Betts, Emily Childers, Kayla Davis, Micaela Davis, Erin Dickson, Josie Eagle, Hali Eplin, Carrie Ferguson, Mirah Gillispie, Adam Hall, Isaiah Hayes, Sara Holsinger, Megan Kelly, Candice Michael, Lindsay Pierce, Shane Strafford, Kelsey Waybright and Damien Williams. Dunn’s assistant coaches are Duane Nutt, Richie Singer and Chris Furman.

Dunn, who has coached MU’s cheerleaders for 20 years, said her pride in her cheerleaders never has been higher.

“They’re already champions,” Dunn said. “The whole time they are in public they don’t think of themselves but of Marshall. Whether they’re cheering for football, volleyball, basketball or in competition, they put Marshall University first.”

Now that competition is over, the cheerleaders are back to work. The new members of the 2008-2009 team have been out in public, making visits and promoting the university, in addition to cheering at Herd football games. Dunn said there is no off-season anymore.

“Being a Marshall cheerleader isn’t just about cheering the team on,” Dunn said. “It’s about getting the fans to be a part of the game. I tell our kids that I want the fan sitting in the top row to feel like he’s sitting in the front row. That’s why we push the PR aspect so much. We want the fans to feel that Marshall is their school and their team.”
Tim Stephens is a freelance writer and the Huntington area director for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

The face of Marshall University is one only a mother buffalo, and maybe a few thousand Thundering Herd fans, could love.

Marco, Marshall’s lovable mascot, is a job too big for any one person. In fact, three people manned the furry costume last year. Claire Jones spent half a season as Marco before getting married and moving away. Andrew Lowers and Ashley Barton also served as Huntington’s favorite buffalo on scholarship.

“Being Marco is one of the most thankless jobs anyone can have,” said Donna Dunn, Marshall’s cheerleading coach and the overseer of Marco. “We had three really good kids this year. It’s hot in that costume and it takes a lot of work, but Marco definitely is the heart of Marshall in my opinion.”

Playing Marco in August particularly is difficult. The turf at Joan C. Edwards Stadium has registered a temperature of better than 110 degrees at times. Add to that the bulky suit and the activity required to keep 40,000 fans fired up, and the level of fun can decrease dramatically.

Dunn, though, said Marco is underrated in the eyes of the public.

“All it takes is for Marco to hold up a sign to get the crowd going when no one else can,” Dunn said. “Marco is the face of our university. Everything has Marco’s picture on it.”

Marco is a hit with fans, particularly children who pet the costume as if it is a real buffalo. Dunn said she’s not surprised.

“People really respond to Marco,” Dunn said. “People ask for Marco to come for appearances. He’s in great demand. That’s why we had to get three people to be him. It’s a tough, very demanding job.”

*Hours subject to change. Please call 1.877.425.3656 to confirm.
This year Coach Snyder named each of our seniors on the football team as a captain. At the same time these young men are representing our university on the football field, they are preparing for careers beyond the gridiron.

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Cody Tominack (Dec 08)  
Emanuel Spann (Spring 09)  
Joe Bragg (Dec 08)  
Ian Hoskins (May 08 graduate)  
Matt Parkhurst (May 08 graduate)  
Darius Passmore (Dec 08)  
Maurice Kitchens (Spring 09)  
E.J. Wynn (Summer 09)  
Aaron Johnson (Spring 09)  
C. J. Spillman (Fall 09)  
Matt Altobello (May 08 graduate)
Mark your calendar for the last week of January as the MU Jazz Festival celebrates its 40th anniversary in style with three days of events culminating with a concert by Brazilian music legend Sergio Mendes.

Article by John Gillispie • Photos by Ed Bingham
Keeping any event alive and active for four decades is a major accomplishment and speaks volumes about the people involved. Such is the case with the Marshall University Jazz Festival which will celebrate its 40th anniversary in style during the last week of January. To mark the historic event, Brazilian jazz great Sergio Mendes will serve as the featured guest artist when he winds up the festival on Jan. 31, 2009.

According to Ed Bingham, director of jazz studies, MU’s Jazz Festival brings many things to the Tri-State. “It has provided a great venue for jazz performances here in Huntington. Through that venue some of the greatest jazz performers in the world have come through and performed for us and had personal interaction with the students.”
When Sergio Mendes performs at 8 p.m. Jan. 31, 2009, at the Keith-Albee Theatre, he will join a long list of important jazz artists who have performed as part of the MU festival. Some of those artists include Art Pepper, Herbie Mann, The Tommy Dorsey Orchestra with Buddy Morrow, The Count Basie Orchestra, Bob Thompson, Arturo Sandoval, and Paquito D’Rivera and the Dizzy Gillespie All-Star Big Band.

Sergio Mendes was booked as part of the Marshall Arts Series and his concert was a planned collaboration between the Artists Series and MU’s Department of Music, says Don Van Horn, dean of MU’s College of Fine Arts.

Despite the attention that big names bring to the event, it is important to remember that the goal of the festival is to provide learning experiences, Bingham says.

“The point of the festival from the beginning is to bring in professional musicians to work with our college students and regional high school students and give them the chance to work together shoulder to shoulder,” Bingham says.

Van Horn agrees. “The thing that is most impressive about the jazz festival in the 14 years I have been here is the quality of guest artists and clinicians that have been brought in... the quality and the name recognition have grown just about every year. I think along with that, it’s not just name recognition, but the actual quality experience the students take away has grown. It’s not just about bringing in a big name. A big name does not guarantee that students are going to get anything out of it. What the faculty in the department of music has done, and they are to be complimented on this, is they have worked very hard to raise the profile of the guest artists brought in, but they have been very attentive to finding people who will give the students a quality experience.”

During the day on Jan. 29 through Jan. 31, the dozens of high school jazz ensembles participating in the jazz festival will meet and rehearse in the Jomie Jazz Center before performing on stage at the Joan C. Edwards Playhouse for Sergio Mendes and other professional musicians, Bingham says. Since the state of West Virginia does not have an all-state jazz band, Bingham says, the festival fills that void by selecting the best young musicians from all the different ensembles to form The Thundering Herd All-Stars.

“Those clinics are held throughout the day Thursday, Friday and Saturday. At night, there are various kinds of performances. Our university jazz ensemble will perform...
and our faculty jazz ensemble, Bluetrane, will perform. They may invite other guest ensembles to come in,” Van Horn says. “The all-star ensemble is put together by picking the very best of the students from the different bands. We put them together into a single ensemble and the guest artists will work with them. The all-star ensemble will perform at night.”

The 40th Anniversary Jazz Festival will be dedicated to the late J.D. Folsom, the MU trumpet professor who founded the event.

“He was visionary with what could be done trying to promote jazz programs and jazz bands,” says Bingham. “He formed jazz bands at MU. ... He took something that didn’t exist before and formed a jazz band and with short funding brought in a lot of high school, professional, and college bands and has had some very prominent jazz performers here you wouldn’t expect with the kinds of budgets that existed back then.”

Sergio Mendes concert to be held in January

Brazilian jazz great Sergio Mendes performs at 8 p.m. Jan. 31, 2009, as part of the Marshall Artists Series and the MU Jazz Festival’s 40th anniversary. The performance by Sergio Mendes is sponsored by The Law Office of Doug Reynolds, The MU Department of Music, American Babbitt Bearing, Pritchard Electric, Chapman Printing and First Sentry Bank. For information on the concert, contact the Marshall Artists Series at (304) 696-3326 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays.

MU Jazz Hits Europe

To illustrate just how far the jazz program has come in the past 40 years, the MU 12.0 Jazz Ensemble has been invited to perform at three European music festivals, including one in Montreux, Switzerland, in July 2009.

“We’ve put together two trips,” Van Horn says, “One trip to send the students, and a second trip for friends and alumni. We have developed an itinerary for this group of alumni and friends to spend about 10 days in Europe. We have included additional educational opportunities for people on that tour. In addition, their presence is a tremendous show of support to our students who will perform.”

People interested in participating in the trip for alumni and friends or making a donation for the student trip are encouraged to call Melanie Griffis, the director of development for MU’s College of Fine Arts, at (304) 696-3686.

“What we are going to try to do is to encourage the kids to do fundraising on their own,” Griffis says. “They will be responsible for a portion of it. We are blessed with an endowment for the jazz program and a certain amount can go to it. There may be alumni who may want to make donations specifically to help kids go and have this experience. It’s a great cultural opportunity for our students.”

John Gillispie is a 1988 graduate of Marshall University and the public relations director for the Huntington Museum of Art.

Left: Brazilian legend Sergio Mendes will be the featured guest artist at the 40th Annual MU Jazz Festival. Top: The MU Jazz Band will be performing in Europe in July.
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Marshall Medicine comes to Honduras

The scenery of Honduras might be reminiscent of West Virginia, but stark differences in living conditions changed forever the Marshall medical students who worked a week there this summer through the Global Medical Brigades program. “It’s very humbling to see how people live there, then come back and see what we have here,” said Gregory Burg. Sydnee McElroy was moved by the “amazing care” a family provides at home to an uncle after a stroke. “He had the cleanest bedsore I had ever seen, but one of the worst,” she said. “In the U.S., he would have been immediately hospitalized and maybe in intensive care.” Instead, he gets loving care at home – with its nine people and three beds.

The Dr. Paul W. Ambrose Memorial Fund allows Marshall University Medical School students to share their time and talent with the people of Honduras...
The Marshall team had a chance to leave its mark in the vicinity of Nuevo Paraiso as well – literally as well as medically. Painted by Kimberly Becher with a Q-tip, this large stone joins those of other visiting school teams as a long-term reminder of Marshall students’ presence.

“It’s very humbling to see how people live there, then come back and see what we have here.”

Backed up by a physician, students like fourth-year Ryan Brislin helped treat people’s general health problems: colds, minor infections, allergies and parasites. Problems such as hypertension were a special challenge because the locally available medicines differ from those common in the United States.

Kathryn Turley, Jen Riley and Susan Lopata take a rare quiet moment with children at a local orphanage. The youngsters were far less interested in their guests’ medical knowledge than in their suitability as strong backs for vigorous – VERY vigorous! – piggyback sports.

Recollections and photos courtesy of Marshall University medical students.
Seventeen Marshall medical students made the trip, along with Dr. Richard Crespo and four others. Underwriting the trip was the Dr. Paul W. Ambrose Memorial Fund, which honors the young Marshall medical alumnus whose big vision – and bigger heart – were stilled in the 9/11 terrorist attack on the Pentagon. In presenting a book about their trip to Paul’s parents, Dr. Kenneth and Sharon Ambrose, trip organizer Megan Thomas thanked them “for giving us a piece of Paul’s heart.”

Underwriting the trip was the Dr. Paul W. Ambrose Memorial Fund, which honors the young Marshall medical alumnus whose big vision – and bigger heart – were stilled in the 9/11 terrorist attack on the Pentagon.
Hundreds of people walked long distances and waited in the hot sun for the students’ aid. On one clinic day, an interested 12-year-old girl came back to sit with the Espanol-challenged Kimberly Becher and began translating. “I got to teach her a few things; she taught me a lot,” the MU student said.

With an eye toward prevention, students used a Global Medical Brigades plan to build a prototype smokeless stove that improves air quality in homes. “We want to treat the root cause, not just symptoms,” one student explained.

Students traveled light for the trip – except for medicine, that is. Much of their luggage space was filled with thousands of containers of medications and vitamins to give to the patients they saw. Sorting the mountain of medicine into take-home bags was a full-day job.
Although she grew up in the northern panhandle of the Mountain State, Letitia “Tish” Chafin is deep-rooted in southern West Virginia, thanks to a successful law practice and as a member of Marshall University’s Board of Governors.

She lived in the Ohio River Valley steel town of Weirton, where her father worked at Weirton Steel. She graduated from Brooke High School, one of the state’s first consolidated schools, in 1982.

After graduation she first attended West Virginia University for her freshman year. “That is where the vast majority of everybody I graduated with went to college.”

Then in her sophomore year she decided to venture out on her own and transferred to Marshall University in Huntington.

She graduated from MU in 1986 with a degree in marketing. Chafin then hit the workforce selling computers to state governments with NCR. She was based in Charleston, but her territory included the eastern part of the United

Article by Kyle Lovern
Photo by David E. Fattaleh
States, concentrating on West Virginia. Chafin did that for seven years, but after NCR decided to close the Charleston office, she wasn’t “too keen on leaving the state.” So Chafin decided to go to law school at West Virginia University, where she graduated in 1996.

Now married to State Senator H. Truman Chafin, D-Mingo County, and a mother of two young daughters, she holds down their law office in Williamson, especially when her husband is busy with the legislative sessions.

“Most of our practice is in southern West Virginia,” she says, “but we are also licensed to practice law in the state of Kentucky.”

Of course juggling her busy schedule as an attorney, a mother and being the member of several organizations, Chafin does not have as much time as she used to.

She and the senator have two daughters, Carah, 8, and Carly, 5, as well as her step-daughter, Lizzie, 16, who spends a lot of time with the family. “Carah is a rabid Thundering Herd fan,” Chafin says, smiling.

At one point Chafin was an avid skier, hitting the slopes of Snowshoe and Silver Creek. At one time, she was a member of the Ski Patrol at Snowshoe.

Her main hobby now is riding the Harley Davidson motorcycle she and her husband purchased. They also have an electric car that they use to drive around that organization. This is something of which she is obviously proud.

“I’m only the fourth woman to hold that position and the third person from Mingo County,” Chafin says. “This is a great honor.”

As for her time on the MU board, she states that it is a “great opportunity to give back to the university.”

“It’s been a great experience for me,” Chafin says from her Williamson office. “I’ve met a wealth of talented people on the board.”

“It’s a lot of work and we take our job seriously,” she adds. Chafin serves on the Academic Committee, something she feels strongly about.

“Marshall has a great staff and we’re lucky to have President Stephen Kopp,” Chafin says.

She is pleased with the academic programs at MU and the current recruitment of students, who are coming from all over the U.S.

Chafin sees a bright future for Marshall. “There is so much construction going on now. The new engineering lab, new dormitories, new health & recreation complex…and the med school is fabulous,” she says. She also mentions the new Robert C. Byrd Biotechnology Science Center and other progressive strides the school has made in the past five years.

“Marshall has had a positive impact on West Virginia. The school has a lot to offer. There is so much construction going on now. The new engineering lab, new dormitories, new health & recreation complex...”

– Tish Chafin, V.P. of the State Bar Association

Charleston. And yes, she carries an extension cord in the car with her. She hasn’t had any trouble plugging in when she parks to recharge the vehicle.

Chafin was first appointed to Marshall’s Board of Governors in 2005 by former governor Bob Wise. She was recently reappointed by Gov. Joe Manchin for another term.

Chafin is also the current vice president of the State Bar Association. From that office she will become the president-elect and in 2010 she will serve as president of

“Marshall has had a positive impact on West Virginia,” Chafin stresses. “The school has a lot to offer.”

She feels strongly that MU has helped and will continue to help improve the economic development of the state. She says that by serving on the Board of Governors you can really make a difference. “They just don’t want followers, they will listen to you and respect your opinions.”

Kyle Lovern is the Editor of the Logan Standard in Logan, W.Va.
Living apart from family. Getting along with a roommate. Finding books in the library. The challenges confronting college freshmen extend beyond term papers and midterms.

For students who lack the skills and resources to help them cope effectively, those challenges can turn into obstacles that prevent them from graduating. Marshall is one of a number of colleges offering programs to increase the likelihood of freshmen completing their college education. While many of these programs have existed for years, the university has recently collected them as parts of a comprehensive First Year Experience Program.

“The First Year Experience helps with the transition between high school and college so students can smoothly make that jump into everything that’s expected of them...being an adult. Being independent...taking on more rigorous academic courses,” says Michelle Duncan, Director of University College. “If we provide a really solid First Year Experience, then students can have the skills they need to progress to graduation and beyond.”

Marshall’s First Year Experience Program begins when students arrive for orientation the summer before they begin classes, and continues to offer opportunities throughout the year. One goal all its components share is helping freshmen build connections to the Marshall and Huntington communities, as well as to one another. Research shows those connections are an important reason why students stay at a college to graduate.

Freshman Convocation, held the Sunday before classes begin each fall, provides a visible example of those connections. The freshman class, faculty, and administrators gather on campus and are led by the Marshall Fife and Drum Corps through downtown Huntington to the Keith-Albee Performing Arts Center for the convocation program.

“There’s something symbolic about that walk downtown,” says Dr. Frances Hensley, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs. “There’s something exciting about that gathering of the freshman class. It sets them apart, and they quick-

article by Molly McClennen • photography by Rick Haye
Marshall’s new First Year Freshman Residence Halls provide another opportunity for freshmen to forge connections. All students living in the halls will be freshmen, which provides them with plenty of opportunities to build friendships with their peers and for the university to target support services and programs directly to freshman students. The university plans to offer tutoring, academic advising, informal presentations by faculty, and classes inside the halls.

Marshall is also beginning a pilot Faculty in Residence Program, which provides apartments within the halls for faculty members. “The idea is that the students are able to have a faculty relationship outside of the classroom. The students see the faculty member as an approachable person, a person who may have on jeans and a t-shirt and eat in the dining hall with them,” says Hensley.

Another component of the First Year Experience is One Book Marshall, which requires all incoming freshmen to read a common book. This year’s selection is The Things They Carried, by Tim O’Brien. The book serves as a theme for events that take place throughout the year, including a visit during the 2008 Freshman Convocation from O’Brien.

“The purpose of One Book is for students to have a common experience,” says Duncan. When they come to Marshall, they might not know the people who live next door to them or the person next to them in class, but it will be easier for them to strike up a conversation: ‘Hey, did you read the book?’”

Freshman Kristen McKinney first heard about One Book Marshall while still in high school when friends who were entering Marshall read last year’s book, Jeannette Walls’ The Glass Castle. “We are all from different schools. There’s not a real set curriculum for all the high schools, and because we are all from different places [and] we’re all doing different majors ... we need some common ground. The book is a good way to do that,” she says.

The process of selecting the 2008 One Book began with a campus-wide request for students, faculty, and staff to submit nominations. The One Book Marshall Committee narrowed the nominations, with members reading the four finalists over winter break before making a final selection. Sophomore Taylor Brown was one of five students who served on the committee. “This is not some arbitrary classic that you are forced to read in high school and you don’t understand. We tried to pick a mainstream book that is popular and has relevance to what’s happening at the time,” she says. Regarding her own experience reading the One Book as a freshman, Brown says, “It was astonishing to me how many people actually did read the book. There were groups within our freshman class on Facebook dedicated to discussing that book.”

Formal discussions of the One Book are held in UNI 101, a required class for all freshmen that introduces students to the skills they need to succeed at Marshall. UNI 101 classes are small, allowing students to feel comfortable participating in discussions and getting to know their instruc-
tor. “If they have a discussion in UNI and they’re comfortable, the hope is that comfort level will spill over into their other classes. If they see their UNI instructor as an approachable person, the hope is that they will also begin to see their other instructors as approachable, that they’ll gain a level of comfort in their UNI class that will spill over into other aspects of their academic experience,” says Hensley.

All sections of UNI 101 address six required topics: time management, library use, student support services, university policies, career planning, and One Book. Instructors are given freedom to choose other topics for the semester, based on what they believe will benefit their students. UNI instructors must be full-time employees of the university and hold at least a master’s degree. “The idea is to have someone who will be around to see a UNI class through to graduation and be a continuing contact person and mentor for those students,” says Hensley.

Participating in Freshman Convocation, living in the First Year Freshman Residence Halls, discussing the One Book with friends, and taking UNI 101 are experiences that are likely to have a lot of fun associated with them. But the goal of the First Year Experience Program is a serious part of Marshall’s mission: making sure all students have the resources they need to complete their education. Hensley says, “The aspiration is to retain 100% of our freshman students. I know that is never possible because there are always things beyond our control, but there are things we can influence, and we are making a commitment to the students to help them in their own progress.”

Molly McClennen is a freelance writer living in Huntington.
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Stroll the boardwalk along Lake Geneva before swaying to the sounds of Marshall’s 12.0 Jazz Ensemble as they perform in the world-famous Montreux Jazz Festival. Savor the wine and cuisine of Lyon among spectacular Roman ruins. Indulge your senses amid the boutiques and museums of Provence. Sunbathe near the sun-drenched Mediterranean Sea of the French Riviera.

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

Marshall University Homecoming 2008

On behalf of the Alumni Association board, I would like to invite you to join us for the Homecoming festivities on Nov. 15. This promises to be a great day and, as always, we have an eventful week planned leading up to the Saturday parade and football game against the University of Central Florida Knights. Check out everything going on, come back, relax and enjoy a great time at Marshall. We look forward to welcoming you back.

The theme for the Homecoming parade is GO GREEN ... GO HERD. This is a simple phrase that has gained much attention over the past several years as we have all become environmentally conscious. GO GREEN... GO HERD brings a whole different meaning to the phrase GO GREEN.

And when you come back, set aside some extra time to tour the Huntington campus. The growth that continues to take place is amazing. There are great things happening, including the new Engineering Laboratories building, dedicated in August. There is a lot of new student housing completed for this fall and the new exercise facility will be ready to go next spring. And my favorite, the new Erickson Alumni Center and Marshall University Foundation Hall, is underway! This campus is not just Old Main, so if you have not been back recently, don’t forget your map and walking shoes because the campus is growing.

Our Alumni Association is growing, too. As a board, we took the momentous step of voting to incorporate as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation. This is a huge step forward for us as an organization. We are now the Marshall University Alumni Association Inc. This will allow us to grow as an organization and to be in a better position to handle the needs of our clubs and their members.

Remember, I hope to see you at Homecoming on Nov. 15. Please stop me to say "hi."

Nancy E. Campbell
E-mail: nancy.campbel@marshall.edu

Alumni Calendar
Save these Dates!

Please watch for details of the following Alumni Association events!

Beaming with Pride—Join us on Friday, Oct. 31 at 3p.m. for the Beaming Ceremony, as we sign a beam that will be placed in the steel structure of the new Erickson Alumni Center and The Marshall University Foundation Hall. Ceremony will take place at the John Marshall Statue, One John Marshall Drive.

Homecoming—The Herd clashes with the University of Central Florida Knights November 15.

Alumni Reunion Weekend—Class of 1959 and the Grand Class (those graduating before 1959), Friday and Saturday, April 24 and 25, 2009. For information about reunions and reunion committee meetings, contact the alumni relations office at the numbers below.

A number of fraternities and sororities are planning reunions this fall, including Sigma Sigma Sigma, Alpha Sigma Alpha and Zeta Beta Tau. Information about these events will be posted on the online MUAA Calendar.

CLUBS & CONSTITUENCIES

Club events scheduled for 2008 include a number of tailgate and game-watching parties. Please check the club pages at www.marshall.edu/alumni /clubs.asp to see if there is an event in your area. If you are interested in helping with events or starting a club in your area, please contact the alumni relations office at the numbers below.

For the most current information about all alumni events, visit www.marshall.edu/alumni.

Information is also available from the Alumni Relations office: (304) 696-2901 or (800) 682-5869, or you may e-mail alumni@marshall.edu with questions.

Visit our Web site today: www.marshall.edu/alumni/
This year the Herd hopes to conquer the Central Florida Knights in a Homecoming victory November 15 at 4:30 p.m. in the Joan C. Edwards Stadium. Following are some of the exciting events occurring during Homecoming week.

This year Homecoming is graciously sponsored by Bank of America, Liberty Mutual and the Marshall University Bookstore.

**Monday:**
Office Decorations. Employees are asked to decorate their offices to promote Homecoming 2008, using the theme, Go Green...Go Herd! Prizes will be awarded at the Coaches Breakfast Friday morning.

**Thursday:**
The Naming of the Homecoming Court will be in the lobby of the Memorial Student Center at noon. Office Decoration Judging will begin at 1 p.m.

**Friday—Green & White Day:**
The first official Alumni Association event of Homecoming weekend is the Coaches Breakfast at the Erickson Alumni Center. This live radio broadcast lets those present as well as radio listeners get to know the coaches a little better. The DAWG, 93.7 FM, will start broadcasting at 6 a.m.; the coaches will join us throughout the morning.

Noon—Memorial Fountain Ceremony. The fountain will be turned off at the Memorial Student Center in remembrance of the 1970 plane disaster. CNN correspondent and Homecoming Grand Marshal Joe Johns will speak at the ceremony.

On Friday night fly like an eagle and attend a great Homecoming concert featuring the Steve Miller Band Live! at the Big Sandy Superstore arena in downtown Huntington! Tickets are available to the general public at the arena box office, (304) 523-5757, and at all Ticketmaster locations for $35 and $45 plus applicable fees. The concert is sponsored by the Marshall University Alumni Association and the Student Activities Programming Board.

**Saturday:**
The Homecoming Parade, GO GREEN...GO HERD!, sponsored by the Student Government Association, begins at noon downtown at the Big Sandy Superstore Arena and ends at the Joan C. Edwards Stadium. Join Marco, the Marshall cheerleaders, the Marching Thunder and some special dignitaries as we get ready for the Homecoming football game against Central Florida. Come see how the floats and bands celebrate GREEN through awareness of our environment as well as awareness of our great university! This year’s Grand Marshal will be CNN correspondent Joe Johns (BA’80). Johns is based in the network’s Washington, D.C., bureau. He joined CNN as a congressional correspondent in January 2004 after covering Capitol Hill for NBC News for more than 10 years. He reports on government accountability, waste and fraud for Anderson Cooper 360° and other programs throughout the network.

Then... Join the MU Alumni Association prior to the game for Lunch Under the Tent at the corner of Fifth Avenue and 19th Street. Great location to watch the parade. Tailgate to begin at 1 p.m. Tickets $10 per person; please call 304-696-2901 for reservations.

A spirit-building Memorial Walk by members of the Thundering Herd football team will begin 2 hours before kickoff from the Cam Henderson Center to the Stadium.

MU vs. University of Central Florida, Kickoff 4:30 p.m.

The Step Show, sponsored by the National Pan-Hellenic Council, will be held on Saturday after the game. Show begins at 8p.m. at the Jean Carlo Stephenson Auditorium in Huntington City Hall, at the corner of 5th Avenue and 8th Street. Tickets are $15. Please call (304) 696-2283.
Submit a Nomination for the 2009 Alumni Awards

The Alumni Association proudly recognizes achievements of distinguished alumni, friends and students by presenting awards at its annual Alumni Weekend Banquet. Past honorees have included outstanding educators, successful business people, prominent scientists, sports and entertainment personalities and ordinary people with extraordinary devotion to Marshall.

The Awards Committee makes its decision based on nominations received before November 14, 2008. Nominations received after that date will be considered for 2010.

The nominee must be able to attend the Alumni Weekend Awards Banquet on April 25, 2009, if he/she wins.

**CATEGORIES:**

**Distinguished Alumnus/Alumna**—Given to Marshall alumni for outstanding national achievements in their particular fields of endeavor.

**Alumnus/Alumna Community Achievement**—Given to alumni for success in their particular fields of endeavor and personal contribution to their respective communities. (A Marshall alumnus/alumna is any former student who has received academic credit at Marshall University and whose class has graduated).

**Distinguished Service**—Given for loyal and unselfish service to Marshall. This award is NOT limited to Marshall alumni.

**MUAA Board Member of the Year**—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.

**The Young Alumni Award**—Presented to an alum who is 35 years old or younger; an active member of the Alumni Association; shows outstanding achievement in their field of endeavor; has a personal commitment to their community; and demonstrates service to the Marshall University and its students. This award is not open to members of the MUAA board.

**The Dr. Carolyn B. Hunter Faculty Service Award**—established to recognize contributions and to provide incentives for continued service from faculty to the community, the university and students in their respective field.

For a list of past award winners, go to www.marshall.edu/alumni/nominate.asp.

If you would like to submit the name of an individual you believe is qualified as a nominee for one of the awards, please complete this form and get it to us by November 14, 2008. The Awards Committee will review the qualifications of nominees and select the recipients.

Award winners will be asked to submit a number of photos for a video presentation during the Awards Banquet. Please make sure the nominee would be willing to submit these photos within two weeks after notification of having won the award.

Please include the following to support your nomination in order to provide the selection committee with as much information as possible. Each award winner must be able to accept the award in person at the Alumni Awards dinner.

1. An explanation of how your candidate fulfills the criteria for the award category for which he/she has been nominated;
2. The nominees’ vita/résumé, including career highlights, volunteerism, honors and awards, community service, professional organizations, publications, etc.;
3. Letters of nomination detailing personal knowledge of the candidate and his/her personal and professional achievements; and
4. Other supporting documentation, such as copies of magazine and newspaper articles.

I hereby nominate the following person for _________________________________________________________________

Name_____________________________________________________________________________________________

Address___________________________________________________________________________________________

Phone __________________________ Business/Occupation __________________________

E-mail _____________________________________________________________________________________________

My name___________________________________________________________________________________________

My address_________________________________________________________________________________________

My phone__________________________________________________________________________________________

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Please send with the above documentation to:

Alumni Awards Nominations
Marshall University Alumni Association
One John Marshall Drive
Huntington, WV 25755
Marketplace and Affinity Partners

Please continue your support of the Marshall University Alumni Association by doing business with our Marketplace and Affinity Partners. For more information, go to our web site at www.marshall.edu/alumni/affinity.asp, or call us at (304) 696-2901 or (800) 682-5869. And, keep checking back to see what new benefits we have to offer.

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MUAA Vanity Plate (open to non-alumni also)

License plates issued by the state of West Virginia feature the official Marshall University athletic logo, with its stylized "M" and graphic buffalo set above the "M." The bottom of the new plate features the "Marshall University" word mark, lettered in Marshall green.

Join in some Online Community Fun!

Visit www.marshall.edu/alumni/alumninews.asp if you...

...have a photo of your baby or pet in Marshall gear.
...have a photo of yourself in Herd gear from a famous (or infamous) landmark. (MU gear must be prominent.)
...have a story about being spotted in your Marshall gear.
...have a Marshall Theme Room.

Be sure to visit the site to see what other MU fans have been up to.
Note: Subject to change. For latest updates, please see www.marshall.edu/alumni/clubs.asp.
Spotlight

Bringing hope and medicine to those less fortunate in Haiti

As students in the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine, Warren Sayre and Mike White had visions of doing some sort of volunteer ministry in medicine once they graduated. That dream eventually came true and the experience is one they will never forget.

Mike, a physician in family practice and wound care in Newberry, S.C., and his wife, Karin, would be the first to fulfill the dream. Karin’s father had worked with the directors of an orphanage in Haiti on water wells. He learned that a medical doctor had not been to the orphanage in several years. So, in February 2007, Mike and Karin visited Bercy, Haiti, to lead a medical clinic.

“We loved every minute of it,” Mike said. “I had the opportunity to examine the kids at Cabaret Baptist Children’s Home and then hold a 3-day medical clinic. A church is located on the same grounds and a school is across the lane. Karin is a teacher, so she helped with teacher training and also helped in the pharmacy.”

Mike, who works in the wound care field, was not prepared for the number of injuries and wounds he would encounter. “I saw malnutrition, starvation, worms, infections… as well as many coughs and colds,” Mike said. “But the number of wounds from fires, accidents, even one from a machete, was alarming.

“I am thankful to God that He led me to wound care medicine three years ago. As part of my work in South Carolina, I was seeing many diabetic foot ulcers and wounds that would not heal. A local wound care center was hiring and training MDs who were interested in wound care, so I took the training.”

“Being in Haiti made me appreciate so much what we have here,” Mike continued. “Steve Petrany, my preceptor in the Marshall primary care curriculum, had encouraged me to go to Ebenezer Clinic while in medical school. This led to me going on a mission to Honduras while in residency at Florida Hospital. This pushes people to think outside of the local area and provide a way to help. The experience would plant the seed that would guide us the rest of our lives.”

The Whites have two girls, Lauren, 6, and Leanna, 9. Mike and Karin are now processing the adoption of a son, Clifford, a 4-year old Haitian with hip dysplasia whose mother has put up for adoption so he can have the necessary surgery and care.

A return to Haiti in 2008

This summer Warren Sayre had the opportunity to join Mike in Haiti. “Mike and I had kept in touch since graduating from medical school,” Warren said, “so when the opportunity came for me to go back with him, I jumped at the chance. I’ve always enjoyed traveling to different countries, and experiencing new cultures. I was excited about hanging out with an old friend and using my medical skills to try to bring hope to a desperate country.”

In June of this year the two former classmates were reunited. They saw approximately 300 patients each of the three days the clinic was open. “Trips like this one to Haiti reminded me of the reasons I started down the road to a medical profession in the first place, to help people and to share hope.”

Several faculty members made an impact on Warren while he was in medical school. “Bob Walker, Steve Petrany and Mike Gibbs each made an indelible mark on me. But probably one of my most memorable experiences was spending time with Ross Patton at his practice in Barboursville and traipsing through the Ecuadorian jungle with him on a mission trip. He taught me about connecting with the hearts of my patients. And, there’s a special bond between people who have drank banana juice together!”

Warren, a family practice doctor in Clinton, Tenn., and managing partner in the Summit Medical Group, credits the School of Medicine for his success. “Being from Cottageville, I knew I wanted to go to medical school in West Virginia and I knew I would choose a field in primary care,” he said. “After researching Marshall and interviewing with them, it was a no brainer. Marshall has one of the best family practice programs in the country. I like the diversity of interests the faculty shared such as travel medicine, wilderness medicine, rural health, etc. Experiencing the Marshall primary care curriculum during my third year of medical school definitely matured me as a physician. But the single greatest accomplishment I made at Marshall was talking my wife into marrying me. Having her by my side is definitely what makes me most successful!”

Warren and Angie Garrett Sayre, a 1997 Marshall graduate, have three children, Elijah, 5; Benjamin, 3; and Lydia, 1.

The Web address for the orphanage is www.cabaretkids.blogspot.com. The site has pictures from the doctors’ trips to Haiti.
Ride with Pride
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License Plate

Marshall University license plates are currently available in West Virginia and Virginia.

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. To request an application and select your number, call Jonathan Sutton at (304) 696-2901 or (800) 682-5869, or send an e-mail to sutton11@marshall.edu.

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

We are in the final design stages and will begin offering Marshall plates in Pennsylvania and Maryland soon, so stay tuned for an announcement.

The Marshall GO HERD plate (see photo) may be purchased through the Office of Alumni Relations. The cost of the plate is $25.
Almost 50 Years Ago

If they could see us now!

WMUL-FM has come a long way since this photo was taken in the early sixties. Under the leadership of Dr. Charles G. "Chuck" Bailey from 1985 to the present, the station has won more than 800 national and regional awards! That averages to more than 30 awards per year.
Visit www.marshall.edu/lalumni for the latest in alumni news.
we finally had a home and the importance of the alumni association became more apparent. The struggles to make the Erickson Alumni Center a place to house our alumni offices, host events and be a destination was not accomplished overnight, but came about through the efforts of many.

I would particularly like to mention the dedication of three other colleagues I had the pleasure to work with at the Erickson Alumni Center: Phyllis York, Nancy Pelphrey and Jerry Schroyer. I’m truly indebted to them for all they did to support me and the association. It is so thrilling to see the association continue to grow in stature and importance while watching as the new Alumni/Foundation Center emerges from the efforts of many who dreamed of it for years. The center will continue to strengthen the association and become the first stop for alumni and friends as they return to Marshall.

I have bittersweet emotions as I look at the Erickson Alumni Center as a temporary shell and aging beauty as we all await the new center. The Erickson Alumni Center, in my opinion, allowed the association to turn the corner and become a major player within the university and be recognized as the important link to the "outside." I am honored to have been just a small part of the association's early years and someone who helped alumni and friends reconnect with Marshall.

As director, I had the honor and privilege of meeting and working with so many individuals who "bleed green," whether they were board members, club members or one of those Herd faithful at the many, many pre-game receptions. It truly made all those weekday, weekend meetings/events all worthwhile. I have so many fond memories and will cherish them forever.

I look with pride as the Alumni Association continues to grow and play a more significant role in the development of the university. You've come a long way baby, and I'm thrilled to have been there for a portion of it.

Linda Holmes was the Alumni Association director for 14 years. She is currently director of development and alumni affairs for the Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine.
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