Meet West Virginia’s Professor of the Year

Campus Rebirth

The restoration of the Memorial Fountain is just one example of how the campus continues to evolve and grow.
HealthGrades®, the nation’s leading provider of independent hospital ratings, recently released its 2008 report and Cabell Huntington Hospital received outstanding marks for joint replacement. Here are some of the hospital’s achievements:

- Recipient of the HealthGrades Joint Replacement Excellence Award™
- Ranked Among the Top 5% in the Nation (Highest possible designation) for Joint Replacement
- Ranked #1 in West Virginia for Joint Replacement
- Five-Star Rated* for Joint Replacement
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The Tenth Annual HealthGrades Hospital Quality in America Study, the largest of its kind, analyzed patient outcomes at virtually all of the nation’s 5,000 hospitals over the years 2004, 2005 and 2006.

*Highest possible star rating
**Defined as Huntington/Ashland/Ironton area

For more information, call Kristie Winters, joint replacement program coordinator, at: 304-526-2607

www.cabellhuntington.org
The newly restored Memorial Fountain was rededicated on April 9, 2008. Photography by Rick Lee.
More than 37 years ago, Marshall University made a commitment to eternally remember the victims of the catastrophic 1970 plane crash, which claimed the lives of 75 people, including most of the members of the Thundering Herd football team. The Memorial Fountain installed on the Memorial Student Center plaza in 1972 is emblematic of that solemn pledge. On April 9 of this year, we reaffirmed that commitment during a ceremony on our Huntington campus in which we rededicated the Memorial Fountain. In renewing our vow we, the Marshall Family, resolved to do whatever is necessary to affirm the memories of those who lost their lives.

This rededication event was the culmination of a series of events that began following a routine structural inspection of the fountain. The report filed by the structural engineering firm revealed that the base supporting the fountain was deteriorating at an accelerating rate due to aging, and the likelihood was that the fountain would become unstable within 18 months if nothing was done. The decision to proceed with the structural renovation to the base supporting the fountain was obvious; however, we were faced with an important decision about the scope of work that would be performed.

In January, the fountain was lifted from its original base by a 350-ton crane and moved to a nearby temporary location so a new foundation could be built. During the two months that followed, extensive repairs were made, not only to the base but to the reflecting pool and the fountain mechanical systems.

The foundation now features a classical granite surface with no exposed pipes and the fountain appears to float on the water, just as sculptor Harry Bertoia had envisioned. On April 9, less than five months after the water had been turned off for the winter in the annual Nov. 14 Memorial Service, it was turned back on during the rededication ceremony.

The Marshall University Foundation Inc., under the guidance of CEO Dr. Ron Area, spearheaded fundraising efforts to cover the $200,000 cost of the renovations. A committee of family members of the crash victims, including Sheila Nash-Foster, Courtney Proctor Cross, Michelle Prestera Craig, Parker Ward and Keith Morehouse, offered input and support of the improvements.

Marshall University physical plant members worked hard to insure the success of the project. Assistant directors Tony Crislip and Dale Osburn headed their efforts. Also, Don Van Horn, dean of the College of Fine Arts, and Brian Carrico, director of safety and health, were heavily involved in the project.

Dean Van Horn led the effort to have the 13-foot, 6,500-pound fountain displayed as envisioned by Bertoia. Carrico ensured that every aspect of the project was performed safely and that we complied with all environmental requirements.

We thank everyone who had a part in the restoration of the fountain, including the following contractors: Aero Fab, Inc., of Huntington; Cement Finishing, Inc., of Barboursville; Duncan Machine Movers of Lexington, Ky.; McColm Sears Monument Company of Huntington; Hilbert Tile & Marble of Ashland, Ky.; and Veolia Environmental Industrial Services, Inc., of Ashland, which donated all of its services and materials to the project.

We extend a very special thank you to Governor Joe Manchin for his participation in the rededication ceremony. In concluding his message, he paid homage to the crash victims when he said, “Indeed, through this fountain’s waters, they shall live on in the hearts of their families and friends forever.”

We are Marshall, and we shall never forget them.
Marshall's Elizabeth McDowell Lewis College of Business Graduate School of Management and the Charleston Area Medical Center Health Education and Research Institute School of Nurse Anesthesia have received national accreditation for a clinically oriented Doctoral program in Management Practice in Nurse Anesthesia (DMPNA).

This unique doctorate combines current nurse anesthesia skills with state-of-the-art entrepreneurial business management education, according to Dr. Nancy Tierney, director of the CAMC School of Nurse Anesthesia.

"Pushed by advancing professional accreditation requirements, future CRNAs will need to become doctoral qualified," Tierney said. "CRNAs who practice at the doctoral level will offer additional value to the health care system with their expertise in advanced leadership, policy, management and interdisciplinary practice."

The DMPNA is the first and only management practice in nurse anesthesia doctoral degree housed inside a business school within the United States, according to Dr. Andrew Sikula, Sr., director of the Graduate School of Management.

“This graduate professional program is a unique partnership between a public teaching hospital and a public research university,” Sikula said. “We are extremely proud of the Council on Accreditation’s approval and the opportunity to continue our important work with CAMC as we train outstanding health care providers for the Appalachian region and beyond.”

Marshall Names New Vice President of Multicultural Affairs

Dr. Shari Clarke, most recently the associate vice president for student affairs at Temple University in Philadelphia, has been named vice president of multicultural affairs at Marshall University. She began her duties June 1.

“The search committee was impressed with Shari’s commitment to diversity and with her enthusiasm and energy,” said Marshall Dean of Student Affairs Steve Hensley, who chaired the committee.

Clarke has extensive experience in higher education administration, including serving as Associate to the President for Diversity for the University of Nebraska Central Administration Offices. In this position she was responsible for the diversity and gender equity initiatives for all four campuses comprising the University of Nebraska. Clarke also served as Vice President for Student Affairs at Mansfield University in Pennsylvania, where she oversaw the areas of multicultural affairs, residence life, Greek Affairs, student activities and the women’s center.

“I encourage faculty, staff and the students equally to get excited about diversity; it touches and changes lives,” Clarke said. “I am looking forward to the opportunity at Marshall.”

Marshall Unveils New Doctoral Degree in Nurse Anesthesia

President Throws Out First Pitch in Cincinnati

Marshall President Stephen J. Kopp threw out the first pitch at the game between the Atlanta Braves and the Cincinnati Reds May 31. Marshall alumni and other fans attended the game as part of the Great American Thunderfest event.
With the restoration of the Memorial Fountain and construction of a new student recreation center, engineering laboratory, two residence halls and more, the Huntington campus is undergoing yet another rebirth.
If you haven’t visited the Marshall University campus recently, you’re in for some big surprises. Construction has been ongoing for months on numerous projects that are transforming the look and feel of the campus. And make no mistake about it, this ongoing transformation is part of a plan by university officials to make the experience of living and learning on campus a most attractive combination for future generations of Marshall students.

A walk across campus reveals two new ultra-modern residence halls, a massive student recreation center, a new softball field, a new engineering laboratory and more. Much more.
A bird’s-eye view of the massive three-story student recreation center (left) which will be adjacent to two new First-Year residence halls (right). University officials hope these state-of-the-art facilities will entice more incoming students to live on campus.

The new lab facility for the College of Information Technology & Engineering is nearing completion.
But perhaps the best example of this exciting rebirth at Marshall can be found at the heart of the campus. There, students and alumni can watch the waters flow from the newly renovated Memorial Fountain. The fountain that stands on the plaza of Marshall University’s Memorial Student Center in remembrance of the 75 victims of the 1970 plane crash was rededicated on April 9. Renovations on the fountain began in late January.

“We solemnly vow to do what is necessary to affirm the memories of those who lost their lives,” said Marshall President Stephen J. Kopp at the rededication ceremony, “and we do so with great resolve.”

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.

“Approximately a year ago, we had a structural engineer inspect the fountain, and he said we probably had 18 months before it would become unstable,” said Mark Cutlip, director of Marshall’s Physical Plant department. “The base of the fountain was in very bad condition.”

When the fountain was installed in 1972, the spray of water went all the way to the top. According to Cutlip, throughout the ensuing years, damage occurred to the water pump, affecting the height of the spray. The water pump also was upgraded during the renovation project, causing the spray once more to reach the top.

The sculpture itself previously underwent restorations to repair damaged surface areas. Additionally, the fountain pool received high-pressure water cleaning, courtesy of Veolia Environmental Services. A separate monument to victims of the crash is located in Spring Hill Cemetery in Huntington, above the common gravesite of six players. The steps leading to the monument and surrounding benches also were upgraded this spring, making them both safer and more accessible.

The estimated cost of the renovation projects was $200,000. The Marshall University Foundation, with support from a committee of family members of the plane crash victims, alumni and a number of former football players, spearheaded fundraising efforts to cover these costs. “Because of the significance of the 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 foundation.

More than 13 feet high and weighing 6,500 pounds, the fountain was created by sculptor Harry Bertoia. It was his 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.”

“I am certain, as are you, that Harry Bertoia would be proud to see how much this fountain means to the sons and daughters of Marshall,” West Virginia Gov. Joe Manchin III said at the rededication. “And I know he’d be delighted in this restoration work.”

The 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.”

Beginning this fall, several new buildings will be added to the Huntington campus landscape. They include an engineering laboratory facility, two new first-year student residence halls, and, coming in February, a phenomenal student recreation center.

The engineering laboratory, located on Third Avenue across from Morrow Library, will be a key component of the university’s Bachelor of Science in Engineering program, which has recently been renewed. The lab facility will have 16,000 square feet of space for materials, soils, hydraulics, and environmental projects, and its availability will be important to the program’s accreditation status, according to Dr. Tony Szwilski, who served as interim dean for the College of Information Technology and Engineering for the past two years.

Marshall’s First-Year Residence Halls, which are scheduled to open this fall, will combine amenities such as high-speed Internet, cable television, private bedrooms and semiprivate bath facilities. Each will include classrooms and study lounges to help every student be successful.

The three-story recreation center is located on the site of the former 20th Street Baptist Church at 5th Avenue and 20th Street. The 123,000-square-foot facility, scheduled to open in February 2009, will boast swimming pools; a three-story climbing wall; a track; basketball, handball, racquetball and volleyball courts; and three fitness rooms for free weights, Nautilus and cardiovascular machines.

A new $3 million softball complex, located across the street from the north end zone of the Joan C. Edwards Stadium, opened in the spring. According to Area, the field is one of the finest collegiate facilities in the United States. In addition to the softball field, the complex features a clubhouse with locker rooms, medical staff offices, training room and practice field.

Marshall University’s Forensic Science Center has broken ground on a new Instructional and Research Laboratory Building. The new facility will be a 16,000 square foot, three story structure located adjacent to the existing Forensic Science Center on Charleston Avenue in Huntington, West Virginia. A portion of the building’s second floor will be constructed for the specific purpose of
housing a business start-up bio-tech incubator consisting of laboratories, offices, meeting rooms and employee support areas. The incubator is being funded through a federal grant opportunity made available by the Huntington Area Development Council. The project’s architect is Edward Tucker Architects, Inc.

Both the recreation center and the residence halls have been built through a public-private partnership with Capstone Development Corp. and its partners. Capstone also will manage the facilities on behalf of the university.

“Capstone views our work with Marshall as not simply a ‘project,’ but as a long-term partnership to help transform the campus,” said Michael A. Mouron, president of Capstone Development Corp., when the projects were announced last year. “We are honored by the trust the university has placed in our team and look forward to a successful project for the Marshall students.”

“These modern facilities will make us more competitive as we expand our student recruitment efforts and dedicate ourselves to growing full-time student enrollment at Marshall University,” Kopp said. “They will also help advance a more vibrant and engaged campus environment, one that fosters greater student achievement, retention and graduation rates.”

Of course these projects do not signal the end of growth and expansion at Marshall. That is a constant part of a forward-thinking institution of higher learning. But this latest rebirth of the campus is significant in how the university is planning for the future. Officials are making great strides in creating a campus experience that is more inviting to prospective students while, at the same time, never forgetting Marshall’s singular heritage.

Jessica Farner is a graduate of Marshall University’s W. Page Pitt School of Journalism and Mass Communications. Susan Tams contributed to this article.
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The West Virginia Legislature has awarded a major go-ahead bankroll that will advance research goals and boost the region’s economy.

Bucks$ for Jobs

One tiny adjustment in a computer program. One major development in a research laboratory. A subtle difference in a scientific procedure. Any of the three can produce that “Eureka!” moment. An invention. A discovery.

Marshall University’s research has given the Huntington region a small sip of fame and fortune. Now the area is ready for a big gulp.

“Marshall really hopes to be a nationally-known research university,” says Dr. John Maher, vice president for research, as he touts the limitless possibilities for Marshall in yet-to-be-made discoveries.

“Certainly, the spin-off companies that are created tend to gravitate towards the university environment and once there, they tend to stay. And we are already seeing that in the start-up and spin-offs created up to this point.”

Marshall University has been clamoring to get support for its research. It’s a very competitive game. Everyone is looking for grants and government money to begin and sustain programs and projects.
Gov. Joe Manchin is joined by Marshall University President Stephen Kopp (third from left), West Virginia University President Mike Garrison (third from right), faculty of both universities and other state leaders as the “Bucks For Jobs” bill is signed into law. The new law could bring $15 million in seed money for vital research taking place on campus in Huntington.

*Article by Kathy Young Carney • Photos by Eric Steele & Rick Lee*
The West Virginia Legislature has awarded a major go-ahead bankroll that will advance research goals and boost the region’s economy. The “Bucks for Jobs” bill, signed into law in early April, provides Marshall with $15 million to use as seed money to get new projects into the laboratory. West Virginia University receives $35 million through the same legislation. The universities have five years to match the state money through donations.

“This type of program has a lot of attraction for both private and corporate donors,” says Maher. “Donors are always looking at the impact of their donation. So here is a research trust fund that is really directed at trying to step up the game of the university in terms of their research enterprise. It’s also matched dollar for dollar.

“We expect that there’ll be a mix of private individual, private foundation, corporate and corporate foundation gifts coming in.”

Dr. John Maher, Vice President for Research, wants Marshall to be a nationally known research university.

There are some strings attached to the money, although no one is complaining. The areas of research are restricted to genomics (efforts to determine the entire DNA sequence of organisms and fine-scale genetic mapping efforts) and nanotechnology (the control of matter on the atomic and molecular scale).

Marshall will begin with hiring senior scientists to serve as research directors. The program will then expand to nine core scientists. These scientists will use the Buck for Jobs money to get started, but their quest for money must continue so that they are self sustaining within five years. At that time they are expected to be generating 50 percent of their salaries through additional grants and monies. As they become less dependent upon the Bucks for Jobs money, those funds will be used to support another new project.

“I think the thing that is really the centerpiece of how Marshall is going to engage and apply these resources is President Kopp’s concept of Marshall Institute for Interdisciplinary Research (MIIR),” Maher elaborates.

“It’s a very novel concept. These researchers will in some sense be independent of the university but very strongly affiliated with the university. It will be a performance environment where their appointment is going to be really predicated upon their research success. They will have to bring in research grants as part of their appointment.

“This idea that we’re going to form this interdisciplinary research institute is really the cornerstone of the Marshall approach.”

That covers the “Bucks” portion of the legislation. “Jobs” refers to the economic development that is expected to spin off from any new discoveries. The areas surrounding Marshall are already seeing some of this. The Marshall University Research Corporation is one of the top 10 employers in Huntington. The jobs are more than the professors and a staff. They include jobs that are directly related to what’s happening between Third and Fifth avenues in Huntington.

“Bricks and mortar are the evidence of Marshall’s commitment to research,” says Maher. “The Byrd biotechnology center started out as a concept where Marshall was going to bring together researchers from the School of Medicine and researchers from the College of Science.”

“The start-ups (new businesses), the research activity, those are sort of trailing indicators. We make an investment. Several years down the road we see the pay-off of that investment. As the state brings this very significant commitment to universities, we’re going to see increased impact of this type down the road for three, four to five years as we go forward.”

At the forefront are the original goals of the school’s research, which include improving education while solving socioeconomic and health problems. Marshall University underclassmen will have a chance to participate in the nationally competitive discovery process. Maher predicts nationally prominent professors will be teaching and
“We have world-class intellectual capital here. That’s what’s been responsible for success so far. These additional resources are really going to help us build on that very strong foundation.”

– Dr. John Maher, vice president for research at Marshall University

leading the programs.

“We have a very significant effort through several programs to promote the undergraduate research experience,” he adds.

Starting in 1990 MU leaders have been working to market intellectual property (the inventions and discoveries) developed in the university’s labs by its people. The university gains royalty payments as it licenses the new properties. The research has made bankable developments in life sciences, medical software, biotechnology, lighting, DNA and railway transportation.

Sometimes the new research leads to new companies. Sometimes established companies come to Marshall knowing what they want if they can just get someone to develop it. Either way, the university wins.

“We have world-class intellectual capital here,” Maher says. “That’s what’s been responsible for success so far. These additional resources are really going to help us build on that very strong foundation.”

Kathy Young Carney is a freelance writer living in Scott Depot, W.Va.
Dr. Montserrat Miller

After winning nearly every teaching award on campus, Montserrat Miller is named West Virginia’s 2007 Outstanding Professor of the Year

Essayist and homespun philosopher Robert Fulghum famously wrote that “all he needed to know he learned in kindergarten.” No doubt the state’s 2007 Outstanding Professor of the Year, Marshall University associate professor of history Dr. Montserrat Miller, would disagree.

From her family’s lively dinner table discussions of issues and ideas, in English, Spanish and Catalan, to her East Lansing, Mich., public school education; from her college years at Marshall University to her doctoral studies at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, her passion has been learning and teaching. Her teaching philosophy includes this statement: “Each course offers me a new opportunity to make a difference in the lives of my students, and through the pursuit of this goal, to experience personal and intellectual growth.” Sounds like lifelong learning, doesn’t it? And, judging from all the awards she’s won in her eleven-year tenure at Marshall, it’s working for her and for her students.

Article by Carter Seaton • Photos by Rick Haye & Rick Lee
Miller joined Marshall’s faculty in 1996 and promptly made a name for herself, receiving the history department’s Merit Award each year from 1997-2001; the 1998-99 Pickens-Queen Teaching Award; the 1998-99 Outstanding Student Advisor Award; the 2006 College of Liberal Arts Outstanding Teaching Award; and the 2007 Charles E. Hedrick Outstanding Faculty Award.

Dr. Donna Spindel, Miller’s history department colleague and interim dean of the College of Liberal Arts, says, “I believe she has received just about every teaching award Marshall gives.” Now, she’s capped off that list with this highly prestigious award from the Faculty Merit Foundation of West Virginia.

If there were an award for familial ties to Marshall, Miller might win that as well; seven generations of her family have ties to the institution that she loves so deeply. She attended the Marshall Lab School as a young girl, and later received both her BA and MA degrees here. Her father, John Miller, graduated from Marshall, where he taught Spanish in the late 1960s and again from 1976 until his retirement in 1984. Her grandmother, writer and newspaper columnist Doris C. Miller, had bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Marshall, and her papers – including a voluminous correspondence with author Jesse Stuart – are stored and research-ready in Marshall’s Morrow Library. Miller’s great-grandmother, Anna Luther Copley, was a graduate of the Marshall Normal School and Copley’s mother, Miller’s great-great-grandmother Rebecca Stock, attended Marshall Academy. That’s five generations of graduates; in addition, Rebecca Stock’s father, Jacob Stock, was the bricklaying contractor on the first section of Old Main. And, Miller’s three grown children, Bryan, Lenna and Elizabeth, are graduates of Marshall as well.

With a life so immersed in education, one might assume that attaining this teaching award would be easy, but that’s far from true. According to Spindel, the Faculty Merit Foundation award is highly competitive and the process is both lengthy and rigorous. Initially nominated by recently retired Provost and Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. Sarah Denman, Miller first had to provide lengthy written responses to specific questions put to all the nominees. Notified in December 2007 that she had become a finalist, she was then invited to Charleston for an in-depth interview by the Board of Directors. James E. Casto, president of the board, explains that following those interviews the members usually sit around and argue a lot. But, this year was different. “This year there was not a lot of argument,” he says. “Montserrat clearly excelled in her application and her interview. The decision was very quickly arrived at.”

Those who know Montserrat as a friend, teacher or colleague aren’t at all surprised by that. “She’s been a fabulous colleague,” says Spindel. “There’s no job she will turn down. She’s very tough. And students just love her. It’s sometimes hard to find that combination: someone who’s really tough and serious and hard-nosed with their students, but they love her nonetheless. Her association with her students goes beyond the academic, just the teaching role; she’s interested in the students’ lives.”

And her students echo that. Undergraduate Christina Scenna calls her incredibly supportive both academically and emotionally. “Because of this, challenges seem less daunting and achievable,” she says. Another student, senior political science and history major Josh Lynn, calls her one of the most influential professors he’s had. “She is an energetic professor who engages her classes and makes history and the teaching of the discipline very exciting for everyone in the class.”

Miller’s passion actually changed the course of Chaz Yingling’s life. “I realized what an impact a professor could have when she coupled her passion for the topic with application in the classroom and care for students,” he recalls. “I was a sophomore then, and after the class I changed my major and sought her out as my advisor. I really learned what it meant to be a professional historian from her.” Now Yingling is working on his master’s degree in Latin American Studies at Vanderbilt with plans to pursue a Ph.D. in history.
Each course offers me a new opportunity to make a difference in the lives of my students, and through the pursuit of this goal, to experience personal and intellectual growth.”

– Dr. Montserrat Miller

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.
When folks discuss the traits of current Marshall University Board of Governors member Brig. Gen. Harley Floyd Mooney, the words decisive, commanding and worldwide experience are echoed by many in painting the picture of this retired army officer.

“It was an easy and natural choice,” says former West Virginia Gov. Bob Wise, who appointed Mooney to his position on the Board of Governors in December 2004. “He was widely respected. He has a commanding presence. He’s a decisive person and he has an awareness of what Marshall needs.”

“He’s direct and does not mince words,” adds Marshall Board of Governors Chairman Robert Shell. “He analyzes things clearly and quickly and doesn’t talk a lot. He’s a quiet guy, but when he says something, it’s no holds barred.”

In describing himself, the plain-spoken general, who will be 80 in July, suggests his contribution to the board is a little simpler.

“About the only thing I bring to the Board of Governors, I think, is some worldwide experience and I hope some common sense. All too

Article by Randy Snyder
Photo by Rick Lee
often we tend to forget as we go through life that all of the smart boys and girls weren’t born when we were. There are plenty of bright people around here and you need to listen carefully.”

The general credits many others when describing his background and successes. The walls of his Charleston office are adorned with autographed photos of generals under whom he served, memorabilia from troops he’s commanded and a bronzed glove from when he served as the commander during the burial of President Harry S. Truman.

Though he has been awarded 34 service medals that include five Gallantry Crosses, three Bronze Stars, two Silver Medals, one Distinguished Service Medal and three Purple Hearts, he sticks to crediting his family and fellow servicemen for his successes.

Mooney was born and raised in Marion, Ohio, to what he describes as a solid working class, blue-collar family of four. His younger brother died when Harley was four. His father worked as a tool-and-die maker and his mother was a homemaker.

“He analyzes things clearly and quickly and doesn’t talk a lot. He’s a quiet guy, but when he says something, it’s no holds barred.”

– Robert Shell, Chairman of the Marshall Board of Governors

“These people believed in hard work,” says Mooney of his parents and his extended family members who also lived in Marion. “They believed in honesty and believed in helping one another. We had a little thing called discipline. Everyone knew the rules.

“We had some very strong male and female figures. My mother and her mother were in the forefront. They clearly were not shrinking violets when it came to sharing their opinions.”

Mooney says he believes in “character leadership.” He says these are your fundamental beliefs that shape the way you lead. These leadership skills instilled into him at an early age were quickly put into play in his adulthood.

While going through the U.S. Army’s boot camp in Ft. Bliss, Texas, Mooney was selected to go straight to Officer Candidate School. He received his officer’s commission as a second lieutenant at the age of 18. His career led him to Italy at the tail end of WWII and to Korea and Vietnam. He also received a bachelor’s degree in history from WVU and two master’s degrees, one in history, the other in government, from Ohio University. He was appointed brigadier general at the age of 47.

Following a forced retirement due to a heart attack, he returned to West Virginia and was appointed by then-Gov. Jay Rockefeller as Superintendent of the West Virginia State Police. He served in this position for four years.

During this time he met with Marshall officials and established the first associate degree program for the state police. He also served with Shell on a Society of Yeager Scholars screening committee.

Mooney also serves on the boards of two banks and at Champion Industries. He welcomed the opportunity to serve on the Board of Governors at Marshall. He says he already had a connection to the university and calls former football coach Jim Donnan a close friend.

He saw the appointment as an opportunity to serve at a critical time for Marshall.

“The opportunity to have served on this board comes at a time when we’re picking the most important thing that’s going to happen at Marshall for years to come and that was Stephen Kopp as president,” says the general. “Believe me, we have the exact right guy for the exact right time for the exact right place.

“This has been a fascinating opportunity to be on Marshall’s board. It has been an education to me. It’s interesting to watch the interplay of how programs are driven and the management style of the new president.”

Mooney says Marshall is at an import juncture in shaping the lives of students. The general says one of the biggest things in the future of Marshall has to do with the West Virginia Research Trust Fund. The $50 million fund will give Marshall the ability to match private endowment gifts made in support of research with state funds.

“Marshall is the economic engine for southern West Virginia,” says Mooney. “I don’t think people yet realize the impact of what President Kopp’s and West Virginia Gov. Joe Manchin’s $50 million trust fund is going to have on this state in research.

“We have entering freshmen that will be going after jobs that don’t exist today. We’ll be developing people for the future.”

“If we can get a students to think critically, write a declarative sentence, communicate clearly and think on their feet, then they will be ready for anything that life hands them,” he concludes.

Randy Snyder is a freelance writer living in Huntington, W.Va.
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“Local girl” makes good in career that has helped hundreds of people along the way and gained respect of fellow professionals. New goals are ahead as Dr. Sarah N. Denman retires as Marshall’s provost.

thing about Sarah

There’s something about Sarah.

Donald Van Horn, dean of the College of Fine Arts at Marshall, said, “When you think about all Sarah has done for Marshall it is incredible. One word comes to mind when I think of her – service. She really defines institutional service. She has made a huge difference in Marshall’s ability to be successful in helping students reach their goals.”

David N. Harris, retired director of equity programs and associate director of human resources at Marshall, said, “I have such respect for her professionalism, her interpersonal skills, her kindness and her overall being. She has been so empathetic toward everyone. She is the most fair and most objective person I have met in my entire life.”

Dr. Frances Hensley, associate vice president for academic affairs, who worked side by side with Sarah for 12 years, said, “One of the things that has amazed me is that no matter where I go people know Sarah.

“I was at a meeting in Wheeling and I had no idea this person knew Sarah. She said she had heard Sarah was retiring. She said, ‘when I think of Marshall I think of Sarah.’ I told her we do too. She said Sarah has been the face of the university in a lot of places.”

Article by Dr. Ralph J. Turner Photos by Rick Haye & Rick Lee
They’re all talking about Dr. Sarah N. Denman.

And to most people in our region and beyond it’s not even necessary to mention her last name, because she is so well known and respected for all she has done not only for Marshall University and higher education in West Virginia but for community service as well.

Denman announced in January that she would retire as provost and senior vice president for academic affairs at the university.

She began her career at Marshall in 1975 serving in various roles including associate dean of the Community College, vice president of academic affairs and most recently, provost. Before that she was an English and speech teacher at Ceredo-Kenova High School in Wayne County just west of Huntington.

She is modest about her many successes preferring to give credit to others. But they insist that it is Sarah’s leadership that makes things happen.

Among achievements she has played a key role in have been the merger of the West Virginia Graduate College in the Charleston area as part of Marshall, development of the Marshall Community and Technical College, working with State Sen. Robert Plymale to help bring back an engineering program to campus, new general education requirements, national accreditation for the university, specialized accreditation for many programs, increased graduate and undergraduate research, increased faculty recognition for their work, and celebration of the arts and academics.

“There are times you can’t really do what you want to do,” she notes, citing a lack of funding. “But if you remember that you’re doing all this for the students, then you find a way.”

She addressed change on campus, particularly at this time when a number of key administrators and highly respected faculty members are retiring.

“The old guard was once the young guard,” she said. “We need to remember that and I am very excited by our young faculty and our new faculty. They are wonderful. They are full of energy and full of ideas, and I don’t have an ounce of worry about the future.”

Denman has won praise and appreciation for a wide variety of community service from work at her Baptist church in Kenova to serving on numerous boards of directors of nonprofit organizations.

Margaret Mary Lane, director of the Huntington Museum of Art, described Denman’s community service as “a smiling face and a person who is ready to serve with incredible expertise. It always amazes me how much community work she is involved in when her schedule at Marshall is so demanding. She still finds time to volunteer on weekends.”

Hensley has high praise for her boss, noting Dr. Denman’s many sterling qualities. “When she talks about an administrator being a servant that is not a glib statement to Sarah. She really means that and she has lived it for 33 years.

“I have watched Sarah teach a freshman seminar course and she worked so hard to get ready for her class. She thinks through the whole class - what can I do that will engage my students that will not only make learning fun, but also will move students to another level.”

Hensley and many others cited Denman as a great problem solver.

“I think about when we first came to this office one of the first major challenges was the merger of the West Virginia Graduate College at South Charleston and Marshall. A lot of people worked very hard on that.

“Sarah has worked very hard to make that merger work and that required a lot of just what Sarah does. She does not demand endless meetings or detailed reports. That is not her style. Instead, Sarah likes to get in her car, take some people with her and drive to South Charleston and then say, ‘Let’s all sit down and talk.’”

Denman herself, interviewed in her first floor Old Main office at Marshall, was asked, “If you were writing this article, what would be the Sarah Denman story?”

“I think the Sarah Denman story is really the story of most West Virginians and people who love the state,” she said. “They work hard. I think my story is not a whole lot...
“When you think about all Sarah has done for Marshall it is incredible. One word comes to mind when I think of her – service.”

– Donald Van Horn, dean of the College of Fine Arts

Different from most of the people I work with every day. They care about the people around them, they care about the state in which they live, and they care about taking care of other people. I don’t think I am that much different.”

Next question: “Who are your heroes?”

“My mother and father were very much heroes to me, because they did not have a college education but they were well read and they listened to good music. They encouraged my sister and me to always reach. There was never a doubt we would go to college no matter how hard that would be on my parents.

“My sister (Sue Akers, who lives in Kenova, W.Va.) is one of my heroes. She taught third grade for 36 years at Ceredo Elementary School and she just retired last year. She has impacted more lives than I ever could.”

Their father was a mail carrier. “He was an unusual one,” Denman said. “He really knew the people on his route. He took care of them. He would often take their utility bills and pay them at the drug store or the bank. He would get prescriptions filled for them. He took people to doctors’ appointments and helped them with their children. My dad died very early,” she said, tears welling in her eyes. He had a massive coronary when he was 52.

“When he died, people came in droves to the funeral home. They would say, ‘You don’t know me, but let me tell you what your father did for me.’

“My mother lived until she was 82. They were just good people. She worked in the home – and that was not easy work – until we were in high school and then she was a teacher’s aide in elementary school and then a dental assistant.”

Dr. Sarah Denman (center) receives a proclamation announcing April 29, 2008 “Sarah Denman Day” in the City of Huntington from Brandi Jacobs-Jones (left), Marshall alumna and Director of Administration and Finance for the city. With them is Marshall President Stephen J. Kopp.
After graduating from Marshall in three years with a degree in English and speech, Denman taught at Ceredo-Kenova High School where she did a lot of things in addition to teaching. She directed plays, led assemblies and took charge of the yearbook, student council and honor society.

“I loved my students and we had a wonderful relationship. They felt comfortable to speak up and express themselves. Some of those students I had during those six years at C-K I still see. I have gone to their reunions. It was very special.”

Sarah’s leadership potential showed up in her high school years. She was the first woman to be elected student body president at C-K.

“I thought it appalling that the school had not ever had a girl as student body president. I thought it would be great to change history.”

Laughing, Denman said her platform promised three benefits if elected: better communication at the school as to what was going on, a live band and dance, and mirrors in the boys restrooms. “I won by a landslide.”

Her family also is very important to her.

“I am very proud of my daughter, Kate, and what she does and, of course, very proud of my husband Bill. He is the ultimate teacher.”

Their daughter works in Washington, D.C., as a legislative assistant for West Virginia Congressman Nick Rahall. Bill is a retired communications studies professor, who actually was one of Sarah’s professors when she attended Marshall as a student.

Although Sarah’s time schedule as provost was demanding, she and Bill worked out their schedules to make room for family.

“I have a husband who worked in higher education on this campus.
and have a daughter who was raised in higher education on this campus. She was a part of everything we did.”

Her church and religious faith are important.

Sarah regularly attends Kenova Baptist Church, describing it as a “huge part of my life. My faith has been very important to me.” She has been active with the choir, Sunday school and as chairwoman of the Christian Education Committee.

“My faith is really what gets me through,” she said. “When you asked me earlier if there have been any disappointments in my life I said no. I think it is because my faith helps me get through every day of my life, and things are not disappointments, they are opportunities. I think my faith and my upbringing in my church have helped me to be a very tolerant person and to really understand and to live my faith.”

Dr. Leonard Deutsch, dean of the Graduate College at Marshall, said, “Dr. Denman may be retiring as provost at Marshall University, but she will not retire from good citizenship. She is dedicated to serving the common good and to creating a better world.”

Hensley said, “Without taking any credit away from anyone else, I do think Sarah has made us a better institution. It is vastly different than when Sarah came here and the changes she has implemented will serve students for years to come.”

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

**Said about Sarah...**

“The university’s faculty will miss her knowledge, concern and commitment. She has made their lives better and she has earned their respect. The students who have attended Marshall during her tenure are indeed fortunate to have profited from and been influenced by the results of her efforts, as is the case of those who will follow them.”

- Dr. Robert B. Hayes, former Marshall president and head of numerous Marshall programs

“As her record reveals, Sarah moved in her professional career to become the most effective vice president/provost at Marshall University.”

- Dr. Bernard Queen, dean of the Marshall College of Education, retired

“Marshall University owes a tremendous debt of gratitude to Sarah. She is a highly respected individual in higher education in West Virginia recognized by not only her peers, but by governors, legislative leaders, media representatives, business and labor officials, alumni and perhaps to Sarah most importantly, students, as someone who passionately and deeply cares for the life changing potential of education at all levels.”

- Michael Perry, community leader, member of the Marshall University Board of Governors and former interim president of Marshall University

“Dr. Denman is someone I am going to miss a great deal. She has been a valuable resource for West Virginia and Marshall in promoting higher education. Not only has she served Marshall well, she has served the state well by focusing on student issues and academic betterment.”

- Dr. Bruce C. Flack, vice chancellor of West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission

“In July, 1991, while serving as vice president for academic affairs, I had the good fortune of selecting Sarah as my assistant vice president. When choosing her, I knew she had potential, but I never envisioned the impact she would have on Marshall University.”

- Dr. Alan Gould, executive director, Drinko Academy

“I can’t remember how many academic vice presidents I worked with in my 36 years as a faculty member, but the one thing I know for certain is that Sarah Denman is the best.”

- Dr. George T. Arnold, professor emeritus, School of Journalism & Mass Communications, Marshall University

“Dr. Denman has been instrumental in bringing engineering back to Marshall. Without her leadership and vision it would have been much more unlikely it would have happened. She always seems to have the interests of students and faculty at heart rather than her own interests”

- Dr. William Pierson, chairman of the Weisberg Division of Engineering and Computer Science, Marshall University

“Sarah is the most knowledgeable person about Marshall I have ever met and she has a mind that’s so sharp, it’s scary. In addition, she is, without doubt, the most compassionate, caring administrator I have ever known.”

- Dr. Leonard Deutsch, Graduate School dean, Marshall University

“I think she is going to continue to be active in the community. She is not the kind of person who is going to sit still long. She is going to be out doing things. I have a lot of interests, too, so I think we will continue to be active in the community.”

- Dr. William Denman, retired Marshall professor and husband of Sarah
3rd annual Assess

The assessment process allows members of the Marshall community to offer their opinions and provides the university with crucial information.

Article by Jessica Farner
As a component of Marshall University’s ongoing assessment program, which is firmly rooted in the institution’s mission, faculty, staff and students were afforded a variety of opportunities to provide feedback during Marshall’s third annual Assessment Day April 9.

The assessment initiative grew from both an administration and faculty concern regarding institutional quality and accountability. In addition to enabling members of the Marshall community to offer their opinions, the assessment process provides the university, as well as its colleges and programs, with crucial information regarding overall institutional effectiveness.

“Assessment Day is refreshing – a wonderful way to highlight assessment on campus,” said Dr. Mary Beth Reynolds, interim director of assessment. “The process allows us to take a day to reflect on what we’re doing here at Marshall. In the past, Assessment Day has been extremely useful in terms of stimulating dialogue.”
“Are the educational opportunities we offer the best they can be? We want to know what faculty, staff and students think, and their feedback will be implemented to improve the comprehensive Marshall experience.”

According to Dr. Frances Hensley, associate vice president for academic affairs, this year’s Assessment Day activities boasted 1,579 student and 323 faculty and staff participants. Hensley and Dr. Robert Edmunds initiated Assessment Day in 2006.

“We strive to increase student involvement in the assessment process, but we were pleased with the level of participation this spring,” Hensley said. “Everyone has such busy schedules, but Assessment Day is an important opportunity to stop and evaluate, and every year it has gotten better and better.”

Reynolds said Marshall’s Mid-Ohio Valley Center in Point Pleasant and the Graduate College in South Charleston also were included in Assessment Day 2008. “We were very pleased with their contributions. It was wonderful to have university-wide participation.”

During the morning of Assessment Day, students, who were dismissed from classes until 4 p.m., completed university-wide surveys offered by campus departments, organizations and programs, including the Admissions Office, the Bookstore, the Bursar’s Office, Career Services, the Registrar’s Office, Sodexho (which operates the campus dining operations) and the Women’s Center. For the first time, surveys were available online or via traditional paper format. Simultaneously, faculty and staff met by department to modify or review annual assessment of student learning reports, which are intended to measure student-learning outcomes.

After lunch, students reported to their respective departments, where faculty and staff had organized assessment activities such as focus groups, interviews, performances and town hall meetings. “Often, there is a lapse in communication among faculty, staff and students,” Reynolds said. “The afternoon sessions enabled students to voice their concerns to the faculty. Many times, there is a viable explanation as to why things are accomplished in a certain way, but this reasoning has never been offered to students. Assessment Day remedies such breakdowns in dialogue.”

A lunch catered by Buddy’s Barbecue, Pepsi and Sodexho was provided on the Memorial Student Center Plaza and offered free of charge to Assessment Day participants. The John Marshall Fife and Drum Corps, under the direction of 2007-2008 Drinko Fellow Dr. Wendell Dobbs, provided lunchtime entertainment.

According to Reynolds, staff members Karen Barker and Jennifer Lauhon organized many Assessment Day events, including the picnic lunch. Barker and Lauhon are administrative assistants in the Office of Assessment and Program Review.

In addition to the complimentary lunch, faculty, staff and students participating in Assessment Day were eligible to win prizes. Student prizes included a laptop featuring a Webcam, a Nintendo Wii package, four tickets to King’s Island, a Dell printer, an Apple iPod, two Winterplace Ski Resort packages, two rounds of golf at Orchard Hills Golf Course, four passes to Marquee Cinemas, a $50 Wal-Mart gift card, a $50 Speedway gift card and a $50 Kroger gift card.

“The feedback we have collected from faculty, staff and students will assist us in recognizing the university’s strengths, and perhaps more importantly, areas for improvement.”

– Dr. Mary Beth Reynolds
Faculty and staff prizes included a laptop featuring a Webcam, a family membership to the YMCA Kennedy Center pool, a massage courtesy of Maggi’s Massage Therapy, tickets to the Marshall Artists Series production of *Little Women*, two rounds of golf at Stonewall Jackson Resort, two rounds of golf at Snowshoe Mountain Resort, one round of golf for four at the Greenbrier Resort, four passes to Marquee Cinemas, a $20 Marshall Bookstore gift card and a $50 Wal-Mart gift card.

Reynolds said further efforts have been made to bridge the feedback gap following Assessment Day 2008. “We asked all departments to provide Assessment Day results no later than May 2. Representatives from each department informed our office as to what activities were offered, what was learned via these activities and how this information will be used to improve programming. Results will be included in each department’s annual assessment of student learning reports and will be made available on the Office of Assessment and Program Review Web site.”

One common question was included in each university-wide survey: *If you could change one thing about Marshall University’s facilities, what would it be?* According to preliminary data, Reynolds said faculty, staff and students have requested better temperature control throughout the buildings on campus.

“The request might not be easy to accomplish, but we certainly will pass the information along,” Reynolds said. “This is only one example of the beneficial information we garner through Assessment Day. The feedback we have collected from faculty, staff and students will assist us in recognizing the university’s strengths, and perhaps more importantly, areas for improvement. We are helping to fulfill Marshall’s mission by promoting a culture of assessment, and Assessment Day is a major contribution.”

Jessica Farner is a graduate of Marshall University’s W. Page Pitt School of Journalism and Mass Communications.
During the summer of 1991 I was approached by Dr. Ned Boehm, Marshall’s Director of Development at the time, who pitched me an idea for an article in my magazine – the Huntington Quarterly.

Ned told me about an intriguing Marshall alumnus who was the first individual ever to donate $1 million to the school. He went on to explain that over time the university had lost touch with this benefactor and it was his intention to correct the mistake. That was the first time I had ever heard the name John Drinko. Ned then asked me to consider putting the prominent Cleveland-based attorney on the cover of my magazine, stating that it could be extremely important to the university.

I was reluctant at first, as I had never before put a non-Huntingtonian on the cover. But after thinking it over, I told him: “If it will help Marshall, then I’ll do it.” Ned then made plans for photographer David Fattaleh and me to spend three days with Drinko in Cleveland. It would be a visit that I would never forget.

When David and I arrived at the impressive law offices of Baker & Hostetler in downtown Cleveland, we were met by several of Drinko’s associates who escorted us into an enormous conference room. There, they handed us an itinerary for the next three days that was planned down to the minute. It was a whirlwind visit that included a tour of the law firm (at that time the 16th largest in the nation); the Cleveland Clinic (where he was a major benefactor) and every corner of the Greater Cleveland area.

We spent nearly every minute with Drinko, an intellectual who awoke at 5 a.m. every day to read newspapers from across the nation. His motor never stopped. By the end of our second day both David and I were exhausted. Sitting in his living room, Drinko continued discussing politics, religion, philosophy and education until at least 2 a.m., when David and I fell asleep. We simply couldn’t keep up with the 70-year-old dynamo.

To say that Marshall University lost a dear friend when John Drinko passed away in Palm Springs, Ca. on Jan. 30, 2008, would be a profound understatement. In fact, dozens of institutions of higher learning across the country lost a great advocate and benefactor. But John Drinko’s first and most significant love was for Marshall University, where the seeds to his phenomenal success were first planted.

John Drinko arrived at then Marshall College in 1938 wearing a shirt made of burlap that his mother had crafted for him. But the poor kid from rural St. Mary’s, W.Va., distinguished himself in the classroom. With an IQ of 185, he was able to exchange ideas with his professors, many of whom he later credited with having a tremendous impact on his life. From Marshall he went on to law school at The Ohio State University before accepting a position with Baker & Hostetler. There, he quickly set himself apart from the other associates from schools like Harvard, Yale and Princeton.

Legendary founding partner Joseph C. Hostetler saw the potential in the West Virginia native and began grooming the young man to one day succeed him. By 1969, Drinko was named managing partner of the firm and set about expanding the scope of its work. Under his leadership, the firm grew from 64 attorneys in one office to more than 500 attorneys in eight cities across the United States.

Following the Marshall plane crash in 1970, Drinko chartered a plane to Huntington so he could personally help his alma mater deal with the tragedy. Using his
connections, he successfully raised $130,000 for the victims’ families before writing a check himself for an undisclosed amount.

The enduring legacy that John Drinko leaves behind is something that was taught to him by his mother. When he was just a boy she urged him to say "thank you" and express the proper gratitude to those who helped him in life. He never forgot those words. The highly successful attorney always remembered the foundation of opportunity that was laid for him at Marshall and later at Ohio State. As a result, he donated millions of dollars to those schools, and numerous others, during his lifetime. His name is recalled, appropriately enough, in the halls of academia from Huntington to Cleveland and beyond.

At Marshall, he and his wife Elizabeth Gibson Drinko are recognized for their countless contributions. In addition to the numerous scholarships they funded, there is the Drinko Fellows program, The John Deaver Drinko Academy for American Political Institutions and Civic Culture, the Elizabeth Gibson Drinko Honors Convocation and,
of course, the state-of-the-art John Deaver Drinko Library.

After the Huntington Quarterly cover story on John was published in the winter of 1992, he called to thank me and asked to order additional copies for a few of his friends. I was shocked when he told me to ship him 500 copies.

Anyone who knew John saw in him an enormously generous and loyal man. He possessed so many talents and gifts that it is hard to comprehend. But first and foremost he was an advocate for education, especially higher education, and how it could transform a person’s life. The young man from St. Mary’s, W.Va., was living proof of that.

I will miss so many things about John, including his monthly phone calls to check up on me, my family, my business and what was new at Marshall and in Huntington. More often than not, he knew more about what was going on behind the scenes than I did. Even as he grew older his mind never faltered. He could recall with ease the professors he studied under at Marshall, basketball games, Huntington streets and more. He was brilliant in a way that was humbling. But more than anything he was generous with his time, talent and resources. He was one of those rare people who truly enjoyed helping others.

In the end, his mother had taught him well. John Drinko spent most of his life saying “thank you” to every person who ever helped him along the way. And all that we can do in return is learn from his example and say “thank you” for a life well lived.

Jack Houvouras is publisher of the Huntington Quarterly and Marshall Magazine.
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a message from
Nancy E. Campbell
MUAA National President
Class of 1979

If you live in the Huntington or Charleston region, you possibly are involved in many Marshall activities – athletics, plays, concerts, even culinary events. For those of us who live away from the area, we can benefit from the continued growth of Marshall’s Alumni Association club network.

The connection with Marshall is very much alive for many of us who live far away. That connection lives within our alumni clubs – clubs that are transforming from the game-watching groups of the early ’90s to the full-service clubs of today. West Virginia has 11 clubs throughout the state, so you can still enjoy the companionship of fellow alumni without the long drive.

Clubs outside the state are just as strong, with golf tournaments, dinners, baseball events, ladies’ teas and tennis tournaments, as well as tailgate parties. The Cincinnati, Baltimore, D.C. and Atlanta clubs host events at professional baseball games. Each year the Greater Washington, D.C., and Baltimore, Md., alumni clubs put on the Annual Mid-Atlantic Marshall Day, co-sponsored by Phyllis and Bill Eaton of Walnut Grove Farm.

Do you live in Florida? We have clubs in Jacksonville, Palm Beach, Ft. Lauderdale (South Florida Club), Ft. Myers (Southwest Florida Club), Sarasota/Bradenton and Tampa/St. Petersburg. We also have clubs in southern California, Houston, Dallas, Atlanta and southern Mississippi. If you live in the midwest, there are clubs in the St. Louis and Chicago areas, as well as in Memphis and Lexington. There are three in Ohio (Cincinnati, Columbus and the northeastern area).

On the east coast, the MUAA is visible in South Carolina in Charleston, Myrtle Beach and Hilton Head. The Atlanta Club co-sponsors a West Virginia Day during the summer. In North Carolina, you can see the green and white in Wilmington, Charlotte and Raleigh/Durham. We also can be found in Richmond, Roanoke, D.C., Baltimore, Pittsburgh and even New York City.

To see if there is an event in your area, check out our Events Calendar at http://www.marshall.edu/alumni.

We are... everywhere. If you live in one of these areas and have not contacted your local club, please do so. You are missing out on great friends, great entertainment and, I venture to guess, great food. I have been to a number of club events over the past year as president and I can assure you that every event I have attended has been great. If you did not see a club where you live, perhaps we could start one. Contact Nancy Pelphrey at pelphrey@marshall.edu. She will help you get started in time for some football game-watching parties this fall.

I look forward to seeing everyone at various club events this summer and throughout the year.

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

Visit our Web site today:
www.marshall.edu/alumni/

Alumni Relations Staff

Tish Littlehales, Director of Alumni Relations
Nancy Pelphrey, Coordinator of Alumni Programs
Jenny Drastura, Alumni Editor/Web Administrator
Jonathan Sutton, Project Representative
Benjamin Wooten, Graduate Assistant

Save the Date!

Please watch for details of the following Alumni Association events!

**Paint the Capital City Green** in Charleston, Marshall’s biggest and best Pep Rally, August 20.

**Tailgate party** in Morgantown, celebrating the football game between the Marshall University Thundering Herd and the West Virginia University Mountaineers on September 27.

**Homecoming**, November 15 against the University of Central Florida.

Check for other events on our Web site at www.marshall.edu/alumni/.
Ten board positions were filled as a result of the 2008 election for the MUAA board of directors. Each board member will serve a three-year term from 2008 to 2011. We look forward to working with our new board this next year. – The staff of the MU Alumni Association

The Newly Elected Board Members are:

- Dr. C. Blaine Carpenter of Gibsonia, Pa.
- Ryan Harrah of Barboursville, W.Va.
- William “Mickey” Jackson of Columbus, Ohio
- Jeffrey McDowell of Huntington, W.Va.
- Rebecca Morris of Huntington, W.Va.
- Richard Plymale of Lexington, Ky.
- Jack Trainor of Fort Lauderdale, Fla.
- Edwin Vinson Jr. of Richmond, Va.

The 2008-2009 Officers are:

- **PRESIDENT**

- **FIRST VICE PRESIDENT**
  Martha Hill of Charleston, W.Va.

- **SECOND VICE PRESIDENT**
  Chris McNeely of Barboursville, W.Va.

- **TREASURER**
  Bob Wilhelm of Huntington, W.Va.

- **SECRETARY**
  Rebecca Morris of Huntington, W.Va.

- **MUF LIAISON**
  Roger Dyer

- **EAC COMMITTEE CHAIR**
  Wayne Windle of Huntington, W.Va.

- **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**
  Chris Howard, Teddy Kluemper, Mike Hanlon and Natalie Zigmond

Nominate Your MUAA Board Members for 2009-2012

The Alumni Association is now accepting nominations for 10 positions on the MUAA Board of Directors.

The term of office is three years beginning July 1, 2009.

**Qualifications are that a candidate:**

- Must be an active member of the Alumni Association through an annual gift to The Marshall University Foundation Inc.;
- Be energetic and enthusiastic in support of the university and concerned with its growth and potential;
- Be available to attend two on-campus board meetings during the year; and
- Be willing to assist in his/her home area in promoting Marshall and the Alumni Association.

Nominations must be received in the Office of Alumni Relations by December 15, 2008.

Nominee’s Full Name __________________________________________
Address ______________________________________________________
Telephone _____________________________________________________

Reason for Nomination _________________________________________
Nominator’s Name _____________________________________________
Address ______________________________________________________
Telephone _____________________________________________________

Please send to: Alumni Board Nominations, Marshall University Alumni Association,  
One John Marshall Drive, Huntington, WV 25755-6200

The MUAA Nomination and Election Committee will screen the nominations and select 10 for the ballot to run for the director positions. Self nominations will be accepted.
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 September 30, 2008. Nominations received after that date will be considered for 2010.

The nominee must be able to attend the Alumni Weekend Awards Banquet 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.

MUA AA 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 Alumnus/Alumna 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 MUA AA 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 September 30, 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. He/she must be able to attend the Alumni Awards Banquet, date to be announced.

Please include the following to support your nomination in order to provide the selection committee with as much information as possible.

An explanation of how your candidate fulfills the criteria for the award category for which he/she has been nominated;

1. The nominees’ vita/résumé, including career highlights, volunteerism, honors and awards, community service, professional organizations, publications, etc.;
2. Letters of nomination detailing personal knowledge of the candidate and his/her personal and professional achievements; and
3. Other supporting documentation, such as copies of magazine and newspaper articles.

I hereby nominate the following person for _______________________________________________________________

Name _______________________________________________________________________________________________
Address _____________________________________________________________________________________________
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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.

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.

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).

NOTE: A passport with at least 6 months validity after sailing is required to sail.
For more information please visit http://www.travel.state.gov/.
Catching Up With

Cincinnati Club

Left to right: Marshall President Dr. Stephen J. Kopp; Cincinnati Club member John Chafin; Marty Brennaman, longtime radio voice of the Cincinnati Reds; and MU grad Jim Farley, who won the opportunity to catch the ceremonial first pitch thrown by Dr. Kopp at Marshall Day at Great American Ball Park, Thunderfest 2008, on May 31.

Marco clowns around with Mr. Redlegs at Thunderfest 2008. The Cincinnati Reds played the Atlanta Braves, winning 8-7.

Baltimore, Maryland Club

At Marshall Alumni Club Day at Camden Yards, Baltimore, alums gather to watch the Orioles vs. the Nationals on May 17. Marshall Alumni Association National President Nancy Campbell (far left) paid a visit to help make some new Marshall friends.
Lincoln County Friends of Marshall

The Lincoln County Friends of Marshall Spring Banquet on April 22 featured men’s basketball coach Donnie Jones. Left to right are Justin Blankenship, club president; Deidra Roberts, secretary; Donnie Jones; David Kushner, treasurer; and Kevin Miller, vice-president. Proceeds from the banquet enabled the club to award four $1,000 scholarships to qualifying Lincoln County students who will be attending Marshall in the fall.

Houston, Texas Area Club


Greater Washington, D.C. and Baltimore clubs

More than 200 people attended the Third Annual Mid-Atlantic Marshall Day and Crab Fest held by the Greater Washington, D.C. and Baltimore, Maryland alumni clubs at Walnut Grove Farm in Centreville, Md., on June 14. The event was sponsored by the Marshall University Alumni Association and Phyllis and Bill Eaton of Walnut Grove Farm.
Erickson Alumni Center Alumni Lounge to be named for Nate Ruffin

The new Erickson Alumni Center (EAC) Alumni Lounge will be named in honor of Nate Ruffin, thanks to a gift pledged by Black Alumni Inc. to the EAC Building Fund.

The $100,000 pledge was announced during the Alumni Weekend Awards Banquet on April 12 by newly elected Black Alumni Inc. President Bernie Coston. Also present were Ruffin’s widow, Sharon, and longtime friend of the Ruffin family, attorney William “Bill” Redd.

The Nate Ruffin Legacy Initiative has raised $50,000 toward this naming opportunity. Fundraising is underway to raise the additional $50,000.

Ruffin was a member of the 1970 Marshall football team. Because an injury kept him from making the trip to Marshall’s game with East Carolina on Nov. 14, 1970, he was not aboard the plane that crashed near Tri-State Airport on the return trip, killing 75 people, including 37 players.

Ruffin was active in many aspects of university life. Among other achievements, he was a representative for the university at the NCAA meeting in Spring of ’71; served on three presidential search committees; served as a booster and recruiter for football and basketball 1972-91; served on the MU Alumni board of directors for eight years; and served as a member and an officer of Black Alumni Inc. (two years as president).

In his professional life, he was employed by ACF Industries from 1973 to 1985, last as personnel manager. He then joined The Herald-Dispatch and Gannett as director of human resources, and later as vice president in Washington, D.C., until his death in 2001.

If you wish to make a gift to the Nate Ruffin Initiative, you can send a check to The Marshall University Foundation Inc., One John Marshall Drive, Huntington, WV 25755. Or you may make your gift online at www.marshalluniversityfoundation.com. Be sure to designate your gift for the Nate Ruffin Alumni Lounge. You may also contact Bernie Coston, Black Alumni president, at (770) 892-3364.

Ride with Pride
with a Marshall University 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 hope to begin offering Marshall plates in Pennsylvania and Delaware soon, so watch this space for an announcement. If you would like to see a Marshall University vanity plate in your state, e-mail sutton11@marshall.edu with your request, and we will see if we can make it happen!

The Marshall GO HERD plate (see photo) may be purchased through the Office of Alumni Relations. The cost of the plate is $25.
If you missed the 2007 Herd Fan Cruise with the MUAA Alumni Club at Sea, act quickly as our cabin availability is limited. After a fun cruise with great reviews on Royal Caribbean’s Enchantment of the Seas in 2007, we’re sailing her again November 1-6, 2008 (Saturday to Thursday) on another 5-night getaway departing Port Everglades (Fort Lauderdale). This time we’re sailing to Georgetown, Grand Cayman, and Cozumel, Mexico, with two fun and relaxing days at sea.

This fall’s sailing is conveniently centered between the Oct. 28 (Tuesday) home football game with Houston and the Nov. 8 (Saturday) game at East Carolina. The MU Alumni Club at Sea is already planning to link the 2009 Herd Fan Cruise with our game at Central Florida.

More information is available on the MUAA Alumni Club at Sea Web site, www.muaa.membercruises.com, or by calling (877) 882-8204. Note: Final payment date is August 8, 2008.

The Marshall women’s rugby team matched up against players from the past at the Annual Alumni Rugby Weekend game at CSX Field on May 3. Score: Varsity 10, Alumni 5. In the men’s competition, the alumni team beat the students 33-7. Although rugby is not a university-recognized sport, it is alive and well as a collegiate sport under USA Rugby regulations.
Visit www.marshall.edu/lalumni for the latest in alumni news.
A few years ago, I went to an alumni gathering to watch a Marshall football game on television. A young alum greeted me and asked what year I graduated. When I replied, "1951," he exclaimed, "Good God," and walked away without another word.

That illustrates what Russell Baker once wrote in his New York Times column: "As we age, the supply of people conversant with our own culture starts to diminish, then runs at a very slow trickle, then dries up almost completely (and) we are left in a world filled with people who do not think of our lives as life but as history."

So that’s the trouble with writing about memories of student days at Marshall when those student days were so long ago, a time when temporary wooden classroom buildings on the north side of Old Main were needed because of the influx of veterans going to school on the G.I.Bill after World War II.

Old grads have Marshall memories, not of Marshall as it has become but of Marshall College as it was. Old grads remember when:

The Journalism Department was in the basement of the Morrow Library. (It didn’t occur to us then how fortunate that was. We were able to tell our children that when we were in school, we spent every day in the library.) There was a journalism faculty of three: Page Pitt, Virginia Lee and Chester Ball.

A women’s residence hall (College Hall) was in a part of Old Main.

We remember the non-stop bridge games in the Student Union. (Is bridge still an intramural activity?) And we remember Don Morris, a really nice guy. That old Student Union was a second home for some of us.

Memories of Marshall wash over us...the dances...saying long goodnights to dates at College Hall and Laidley Hall or the sorority house...

Like last year’s grads, old grads have memories of good times and bad at Marshall...happiness and heartbreak (why did Joy drop me like an old shoe?). Crushes and crises. Those were the days.

Sports memories? We have those, too. We looked forward to the basketball season because Cam Henderson’s high-scoring, run-and-shoot Big Green (yes, Big Green) teams were always entertaining, even in pre-game warm ups. We can still see Bill Toothman leading that fast-break, those behind-the-back passes, the opponents trying to keep up.

At half-time of a Marshall basketball game in 1966, some of those old guys put on an exhibition and they had the fans on their feet and cheering once again. Old grads remember, too, the basketball heroics of Hal Greer and Leo Byrd.

If I said it seems as if those days were only yesterday, would your eyes roll?

George Hanna is now retired and lives in Leesburg, Fla. He can be reached at geralhanna@comcast.com.
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Gary Patton, Ph.D., LPC, NCC, has joined the St. Mary’s Regional Cancer Center as an oncology counselor. The diagnosis of cancer is never easy, and Dr. Patton has many years of experience helping patients and their families cope with illness. Dr. Patton is now part of the most experienced team in the region when it comes to cancer treatment and care.

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