Herd’s student-athletes making the grade

Research at the university is paying dividends

See what our patients are saying about daVinci Prostatectomy at Cabell Huntington Hospital.

A letter from a Marshall Magazine reader:

Recently I was given a diagnosis that no man wants to hear, that I had prostate cancer. The diagnosis was made by Dr. Timothy Dixon, my urologist, who was suspicious when my PSA became elevated. I am so thankful to Dr. Dixon for doing a biopsy. I was then confronted with the different options available to treat prostate cancer.

Being a graduate of Marshall University, I received the autumn Marshall magazine that had on the inside cover a new procedure for treating prostate cancer. This was the world’s most advanced surgical treatment—daVinci Prostatectomy. Dr. James Jensen, a urologic oncologist, had just moved to the tri-state area and was the only surgeon within more than a hundred miles that performed this minimally invasive surgery.

On October 16, I had the surgery at Cabell Huntington Hospital with Dr. Jensen performing the robotic procedure to remove my prostate. I can’t believe how successful this new technique was. I was in the hospital just over night and was dismissed on the 17th. I had very little pain. I had very little blood loss. I returned to my job after two weeks and the biopsy showed that the cancer was contained inside the prostate. I need no further treatment.

First, I praise God for my outcome and then I thank Dr. Jensen for moving into the tri-state area and bringing this robotic procedure with him. His skill and experience certainly allowed me to go through the surgery with less pain and have a quicker recovery. I would highly recommend Dr. Jensen and his assistant if a man finds himself faced with a similar situation. Again, I want to thank Dr. Jensen and his nurse, Adriana, for their encouragement and compassion in my follow-up appointments from my surgery.

W. Gary Dutey, Ph.D.
Coal Grove, Ohio

James C. Jensen, MD
Urologic Oncologist

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- the world’s most advanced surgical treatment for prostate cancer
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*Cabell Huntington Hospital is the only facility within a 120-mile radius of Huntington to have the daVinci Surgical System.
Marshall is quickly becoming a first-class center for innovative research with help from a diverse mix of resources.

As the doors of Hodges Hall close for good, plans are being made for two new residence halls and a recreation center.

Dr. Jean Edward Smith, MU Political Science professor, is gaining even more recognition with his latest biography, FDR.

Being a student comes first to Marshall’s student-athletes, but they have what it takes to succeed both on and off the field.

Marshall alumna and partner with Somerville & Co., Susan K. Richardson, continues to support her alma mater.

Although most students are out for the summer, Summer Programs at Marshall are keeping the campus alive and exciting.
Fulfilling the promise of a better future

As you read this edition of Marshall Magazine, I ask you to reflect on the future of Marshall University and the recent progress that has been made. Presently, an attitude of transcendent change and action-oriented leadership dedicated to getting the job done and done well motivates what we are doing and accomplishing. We have entered a high-energy era accentuated by the quest to actualize the full potential of our outstanding university and its people.

As a result, we are witnessing inventions and research-based discoveries and breakthroughs in science, biomedicine, forensic science and intelligent transportation system designs that are opening gateways to new knowledge-based industries. We are boldly forging a novel public-private partnership to finance, construct and manage new facilities integral to enhancing the quality of student life. We are reinstating engineering programs that are dedicated to preparing graduates for the workplace of tomorrow. We are pioneering new international collaborations that are opening new educational and research opportunities for faculty and students.

We are emerging as a regional, residential university that students will regard as their preferred destination for higher learning because of the distinctive and life-changing opportunities provided to learn, grow and discover the future. We are developing bold new approaches to improving the quality of teacher education and advancing student access to high quality math and science instruction. We are launching new commercial enterprises that hold considerable promise both for the future of Marshall University as well as the economic development of our city, state and region. And, we are experiencing the manifestation of athletic programs that are leaders in Conference USA in terms of both academic prowess and athletic venue competitiveness.

With the established successes, we are clear in our resolve that contemporary higher education at Marshall University must bring about more multifaceted and foundational outcomes for life and career in the 21st Century. We continue to accomplish more with much less, as we have always done while holding ourselves to a higher standard that represents an unyielding commitment to quality and excellence. To a person, we take considerable pride in how well we perform and what we accomplish, despite resource limitations. That is simply the nature of the challenge. Regardless, we simply must remain committed to improving and to the mindset that as best practices evolve, we as a learning organization must evolve with them by examining what we are doing, how effectively we are doing it and how the results compare to the best. This approach simply but powerfully urges consideration of results in the following context: if we are good, how do we become better, and as we become better, how do we become the best through ingenuity, resolve and hard work?

In the end, it is these attributes that define what is possible. The solutions to the problems that lie before us can be found within us. We simply need to open our minds to the possibilities and then let them in. Inspiring others to believe and resolve to making the seemingly impossible possible is the essence of our mission. Hidden therein is the path to fulfilling the promise of a better future. Together we can turn possibilities into realities. Each of us in our own way possesses the means to make such a difference in the future of Marshall University. I hope you will consider and commit to the difference you are motivated to make.
Highly Anticipated WVU-Marshall Showdown Set for Sept. 8

It might be one of the most highly anticipated dates in the history of Marshall University athletics: Saturday, Sept. 8, 2007.

Early that day, kicking off at the unusual starting time of 11:10 a.m. after some tailgating that likely will feature some bacon and eggs on a menu or two, Marshall’s Thundering Herd football team takes on West Virginia University at Joan C. Edwards Stadium in the Friends of Coal Bowl. It will be WVU’s first visit to Huntington for a football game with Marshall since 1915.

The game is the second in a seven-game series, which began last year in Morgantown with the Mountaineers winning, 42-10. Marshall is winless against WVU in football in six tries, but will have home-field advantage on its side this time around. The Thundering Herd’s home record since the stadium opened in 1991 is 109-11, a phenomenal .908 winning percentage. A school-record home crowd of more than 38,000 is expected for the game, which will be televised live nationally on ESPN2.

Home-field advantage for the Oct. 3, 2009 Marshall-WVU game will be on the minds of both teams when they square off. According to the contract, the team that wins two of the first three games in the series will be the home team in 2009. A West Virginia victory in September gives it that home game, while a Marshall win means a 1-1 tie in the series heading into next year’s game, slated for Sept. 13, 2008 in Morgantown.

Marshall season tickets are on sale now and can be purchased by calling 1-800-THE-HERD. Marshall already has surpassed its season ticket record.

West Virginia is coming off an outstanding season in which it posted an 11-2 record and defeated Georgia Tech, 38-35, in the Toyota Gator Bowl. Running back Steve Slaton, who rushed for 1,744 yards last year, and quarterback Patrick White, who ran for 1,219 yards, both return this fall for the Mountaineers.

Marshall was 5-7 last year. The Thundering Herd returns senior quarterback Bernie Morris, who last fall passed for 1,346 yards and ran for 324, and sophomore tight end Cody Slate, who led Marshall in receptions his freshman year with 43 for 684 yards.

Marshall opens the regular season Saturday, Sept. 1 at Miami (Fla.).
Research is Pay

Article by Jessica G. Farner
Photography by Rick Haye and Rick Lee

A diverse mix of resources including funding, leadership, innovative ideas and first-class facilities are already transforming Marshall’s campus into a center of groundbreaking research.

Marshall University President Stephen J. Kopp was presented with a framed dollar bill Feb. 21, as Marshall received its first-ever payment resulting from the university’s effort to spur economic growth through the support of intellectual property developed by its faculty.

Between December 2006 and the February news conference, Marshall received two royalty checks from Ecer Technologies, LLC, of Lewisburg, W.Va. The checks were received as part of a licensing agreement between Marshall and Ecer, which specializes in the creation and application of ultra energy-efficient Solid State ElectroCeramescent Lighting, the patented product for which the agreement was forged. Firefly Lighting Innovations of Roanoke, Va., is marketing and distributing the product.

“We are celebrating the opening of a new chapter in the continuing evolution of Marshall,” Kopp said. “I predict this dollar bill will be followed by many more as Marshall intensifies its commitment to research-based economic development. We are already working on future developments, so you can be certain Feb. 21 was only the beginning.”

Kopp said the recently opened $48 million Robert C. Byrd Biotechnology Science Center soon will accommodate a new interdisciplinary research institute unlike any other in the region. The Marshall Institute for
ing Dividends
Professor Michael Norton and Rahall Transportation Institute Associate Director Richard Begley with their innovative invention.
Interdisciplinary Research (MIIR) will intensify and accelerate the rate at which Marshall’s research reaches the marketplace. “The MIIR will create a culture that will produce direct and indirect economic benefits for many years to come,” Kopp said.

The standard way to finance most university research is to get a grant, conduct the research and hope for additional funding. Kopp said this is a troublesome model if research depends on state money. If the state encounters economic hardship, research programs often are among the first to be cut. “A program can be on track for major breakthroughs, and then it suddenly comes to a halt,” Kopp said. “We have to find ways to self-fund these projects.”

Kopp is requesting a one-time investment of $26 million from the state and $10 million from businesses. He plans to use the money to create an endowment that will fund the MIIR separately from the university’s budget. The endowment principal never would be disturbed, and a portion of the interest earned would be used to hire scientists.

The scientists would not have tenure but instead would be offered annual performance-based contracts. Each scientist would be required to generate 50 percent of his or her compensation from externally funded grants or contracts within five years and each year thereafter.

“Research scientists will be responsible for involving undergraduate and graduate students actively in biotechnology research, with the goal of preparing the next generation of entrepreneurial researchers who will contribute to the economic growth of West Virginia,” Kopp said. Kopp believes his plan, which is based on an earning and entrepreneurial culture, could create 1,100 new jobs in 10 years and increase state tax revenues by more than $25 million.

Dr. Richard Begley, associate director of the Nick J. Rahall, II Appalachian Transportation Institute, teamed with Dr. Michael Norton, professor of chemistry, and researchers from Alfred University College of Ceramics in New York, the Robert C. Byrd Institute for Advanced Flexible Manufacturing and Meadow River Enterprises, Inc., a small manufacturing firm in Alta, W.Va., to develop the flat, ceramic-on-steel, light-emitting bulb.

“There is a certain satisfaction in creating something new, in being part of a creative team,” Norton said. “I believe this is only the start of a great new trend for Marshall, and I hope these events ignite the imaginations of our students and faculty, reassuring them that great things can be accomplished here at Marshall.”

U.S. Rep. Nick J. Rahall, II said news of the royalty checks contributed to a landmark day in the history of Marshall University. “Edison made more than 2,000 attempts to find the best filament for his incandescent light bulb,” Rahall said. “I don’t know if we will ever know how many tries brought us here today. But we, as West Virginians, realize hard work pays off.

“I commend President Kopp, whose vision for Marshall molds research to an emerging marketplace, and Senator Robert Plymale, director of the RTI, whose leadership in promising research promotes job development. We also are again indebted to our own Senator Robert C. Byrd and the RCBI, led by the capable Charlotte Weber, who first understood the
promise here and then worked to secure the initial $2 million grant from the Department of Energy to develop this light technology.

“Last, but most certainly not least, I also praise the inventors, the thinkers and the experimenters who are investing not only in this useful safety lighting technology, but in West Virginia.”

Weber, director and CEO of RCBI, said the organization is extremely proud to have played an important role in the project. “It’s truly exciting to think about the tremendous impact this new patent promises to have, lighting the way to new manufacturing jobs for West Virginians while reducing energy costs for the nation’s businesses and consumers.”

Norton also cited the importance of collaboration. “Comprehensive research turned this product around, and higher education became a resource for human capital. “This process also can serve as a model or path for future research and development initiatives to follow,” Norton said. “During the late 1980s, the West Virginia Legislature became a catalyst for obtaining research funding, and in our case, this support is evidenced by the involvement of RCBI and RTI.”

Begley said ElectroCeramescent lighting is an innovation in solid-state lighting technology. The product offers thin, durable and energy-efficient lighting, while eliminating concerns related to costly maintenance, high operating costs, structural design limitations, operating environments and constrictive space requirements.

ElectroCeramescent lamps are sheets of flat-treated steel, which emit a highly visible type of illumination when energized, Begley said. These lamp panels do not utilize filaments, glass tubes, fragile components or gas in their construction, allowing them to offer maximum durability and minimum maintenance.

According to Begley, while most conventional lamps obtain their light as a byproduct of electricity being converted into heat at a single point source, ElectroCeramescent lamps generate light through a direct energy-to-light conversion process. As a result, no heat is generated, an evenly lit area is produced and virtually all energy is used efficiently.

“We are at the forefront of a large commercialization opportunity resulting from a multidisciplinary research success story,” Begley said. “The combination of federal funding programs to support this and other types of research that have been masterfully established throughout the years by Senator Byrd and Representative Rahall were the catalyst for this project. And, when we combine those programs with the support and enthusiasm of President Kopp for expanding engineering and multidisciplinary research, our institution is on track for many other success stories like this in the years ahead.”

Begley said present RTI research initiatives could lead to additional patents. “We are aggressively pursuing technology that will assist in railroad safety and operations as well as customized information technology and data collection tools. We are also developing radio-frequency identification devices and products that will allow for the real-time tracking of moveable assets. Both are encompassed by the arena of safety and have direct applications to the coal industry.”

Additionally, representatives from RTI are involved in a $200 million clean coal demonstration project. A
with ElectroCeramescent technology as it was applied to transportation safety. “We saw infinite possibilities for commercial and retail products this light source can be applied to. Firefly Lighting Innovations created our first marketing strategy for several non-transportation applications, a continuing process to discover new applications for commercial use.

“Our first product campaign for the Bedside Light Tray had many marketing challenges as a unique and unknown product,” Graf said. “We are delighted to announce the successful results of our marketing efforts and to share the proceeds from the sales of the first product line with Marshall. We are encouraged that sales will continue to increase as we expand our marketing efforts both regionally and nationally.”

Eric Gould, chairman of the board of Ecer Technologies, LLC, said the research support provided by Marshall combined with the partnerships the RCBI and the RTI helped Ecer develop with state and federal agencies enabled the company to diversify its production line. “These partnerships gave Ecer the ability to complete its research and development on Light Emitting Ceramic Devices (LECD) while continuing its metal manufacturing business. As sales for the LECD continue to grow, we are looking to establish a new production facility in West Virginia closer to Huntington. This will allow us to continue our work with Marshall, the RCBI and the RTI, helping to maintain competitive manufacturing costs and enabling us to further develop the LECD technology as well as its applications.”

Jessica G. Farner is a freelance writer and Marshall University graduate.
A new era is underway in campus living where students are afforded all the modern amenities including high-tech suites, theater rooms, video conference rooms, cell phone service, an expansive recreation center and more. Much more...
The conclusion of the 2007 spring semester signaled the end of an era on Marshall University’s Huntington campus. The doors of Hodges Hall closed May 4 and will not reopen when the fall semester commences August 20.

Hodges and Laidley Halls were built in 1937. The renowned flood of that same year delayed construction and caused more than $200,000 damage to the twin buildings. When work resumed, a light brick line was added to the exterior of the buildings to serve as a high-water mark – a reminder of the area’s past.

“It is a great building with a lot of history,” said Winston Baker, director of residence services. “But, all good things must come to an end.”

During the 2006-2007 academic year, Hodges Hall served as a co-ed residence hall for juniors and seniors with 24-hour visitation privileges. Hodges boasted a capacity of 167 students, with 39 double rooms as well as 89 single and deluxe-single rooms. In previous decades, Hodges Hall housed both athletes and cadets.

The closure of Hodges Hall brings the number of residence halls on Marshall’s campus to nine: Buskirk Hall, Gibson Hall, Haymaker Hall, Holderby Hall, Laidley Hall, Twin Towers East, Twin Towers West, Wellman Hall and Willis Hall. This spring, Marshall announced that two new residence halls will be constructed to the east of the Twin Towers complex and are scheduled to open to incoming freshmen at the beginning of the fall 2008 semester. The addition of these halls will increase on-campus residence capacity by 785 beds.
“In the future, there will be two sides of campus. The academic side will be anchored by the library and classroom buildings, and the side fostering student life will feature new residence halls and the highly anticipated recreation center.”

- Herb Karlet, senior vice president of finance and administration

Residence Services also offers a variety of off-campus apartments at the University Heights complex, located approximately four miles from Marshall’s campus.

The new freshman residence halls will feature two-person suites with individual bedrooms and a shared bathroom for each suite, along with the latest technology. According to Menis Ketchum, vice chair of the Marshall University Board of Governors, the halls will offer a study room, a theater room and a video conference room. “This is what modern-day students want, and this is what we’re trying to give them,” Ketchum said.

According to Herb Karlet, senior vice president of finance and administration, Hodges Hall will be demolished within the next two years in conjunction with ongoing development and renovation projects on the Huntington campus. No building is slated for construction in its location; however, its removal will serve to open the campus.

“In the future, there will be two sides of campus,” Karlet said. “The academic side will be anchored by the library and classroom buildings, and the side fostering student life will feature new residence halls and the highly anticipated recreation center.

“The current projects will produce an open area on campus, and the end product should be amazing. We will be making much-needed improvements to the eastern side of campus while creating a nice entrance to both the stadium and the recreation center.”

The recreation center will be located on the corner of Fifth Avenue and 20th Street at the site of the former 20th Street Baptist Church. The 123,000-square-foot facility will boast swimming pools; a three-story climbing wall; a track; basketball, handball, racquetball and volleyball courts; and three fitness rooms for free weights,

(Above left) Personal cell phones with unlimited anytime minutes and unlimited long distance are just one of the many advantages of living in a residence hall at Marshall. (Above right) A Marshall student preparing for a test in his room at Marshall Commons.
An artist’s rendering of the new freshman residence halls scheduled to open at the beginning of the fall 2008 semester.

Nautilus and cardiovascular machines. The center will be open to Marshall students, faculty and staff from 6 a.m. to 1 a.m. and is scheduled to open in January 2009.

Karlet said other proposed building and development plans include a new Community and Technical College facility, baseball and softball fields and several paving projects, which will total more than $876,000. The Weiler Steel lot along Third Avenue, a gravel lot along Sixth Avenue and smaller lots behind Stadium Bookstore will be paved to increase student parking.

As Marshall embarks on expansion projects, the Residence Services staff seeks to enhance amenities in an effort to increase the number of students living on campus. Marshall currently can accommodate 2,187 campus residents; however, 1,900 students lived in campus housing during the 2007 spring semester. Freshmen and sophomore students are required to live on campus unless they live with a parent or legal guardian within a 50-mile radius.

Marshall Commons, which encompasses Gibson, Haymaker, Wellman and Willis Halls, opened to students at the beginning of the fall 2003 semester. Baker said Marshall Commons became the first residence hall complex in the nation to offer cell phone service to its residents. The cell phone service area extends from Grayson, Ky., to Culloden, W.Va., and the student plan includes unlimited anytime minutes as well as unlimited long distance. This program has proven very successful, and beginning in fall 2005, the service was extended to all Marshall residence halls.

Residents of Marshall Commons use key cards rather than traditional metal keys to access their rooms, and a state-of-the-art security monitoring system enables security personnel to observe numerous locations throughout the four buildings. In addition to cell phones, all residence halls offer high-speed Internet access as well as wireless Internet access in dining halls, lobbies and lounges. Each residence hall offers laundry facilities on
Richard Jackson donates $100,000 to Marshall from his IRA

Already a generous donor to Marshall University, 1959 MU graduate Richard D. Jackson made a new type of gift to Marshall. Made possible by the Pension Protection Act of 2006, his tax-free gift of $100,000 was made directly to Marshall from his IRA.

Jackson planned for Marshall to be the beneficiary of his IRA at his death. But federal legislation allows the transfer of a portion of these funds during the donor’s lifetime. Through December 2007, Congress is allowing individuals (age 70 ½ and above) to make tax-free direct transfers from their IRAs to qualified charities, such as The Marshall University Foundation, Inc. Eligible donors can now donate up to $100,000 directly from their IRAs. The gift provides the equivalent of a 100% income tax charitable deduction.

Jackson, a member of the university’s Heritage Society in recognition of his planned gift, serves on the Yeager Scholars Board of Directors, was inducted into the MU Business Hall of Fame and received a Doctor of Humane Letters honorary degree and the MU Alumni Association’s Community Achievement Award. Jackson is Chairman of the Board of ebank Financial Services Inc. in Atlanta and is former CEO of Georgia Federal and First Georgia Bank. He is author of four books – the most recent, On the Edge, is a travelogue about our nation’s backcountry.

For more information on giving to Marshall University, contact Dr. Lynne S. Mayer, Associate Vice President for Development at (304) 696-6214.
every floor, and students living on campus can choose one of four meal plans offered by Marshall Dining Services in cooperation with Sodexo.

According to Baker, the advantages to living on campus are numerous and transcend technology. “It has been well documented that students who live in campus housing have higher GPAs,” Baker said. “They are closer geographically to academic resources, including computer labs, the library and even their professors.

“The residence halls provide a safe living environment for students. In addition, resident advisers (RAs) offer quality programs and are great sources of advice, and the students living on campus also have opportunities for community interaction. Many develop lifelong friends while living in the residence halls.”

Jessica G. Farner is a freelance writer and graduate of Marshall University’s W. Page Pitt School of Journalism and Mass Communication.
With the release of his latest book on the life of *FDR*, Marshall University professor Jean Edward Smith has cemented his legacy as today’s foremost biographer of formidable figures in American history.

**ARTICLE BY JAMES E. CASTO**

**PHOTOGRAPHY BY RICK HAYE**

**WARD SMITH**

Saying Jean Edward Smith is a biographer is accurate but far from adequate. It’s a bit like calling Tiger Woods a golfer. The generic description may be correct but gives no hint of his remarkable talent. Smith has written more than a dozen books, including widely acclaimed biographies of Gen. Lucius D. Clay, jurist John Marshall and President Ulysses S. Grant. The New York Times placed all three biographies on its yearly lists of Notable Books, and Smith’s *Grant* was a finalist for the 2002 Pulitzer Prize in biography.

Now, his new *FDR* (Random House, $35), a mammoth biography of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, promises to add still more luster to the Marshall University professor’s laurels. A review in *Library Journal* labels the book a “page-turner.” Another review, this one in *Publisher’s Weekly*, predicts the book will appeal to “scholars, history buffs and casual readers alike.”

And conservative columnist George Will, certainly no fan of FDR and his New Deal policies, offered an enthusiastic quote for the book’s dust jacket. His latest book, wrote Will, “will secure Smith’s standing as today’s foremost biographer of formidable figures in American history. While presenting a fascinating picture of the private side of a public man, he illustrates how FDR’s complex and steely character reflected — and shaped — his era, and ours.”

A native of Washington, D.C., and a graduate of Princeton University and Columbia University, Smith taught at the University of Toronto for 35 years before joining the faculty at Marshall, where he is the John Marshall Professor of Political Science.

Smith notes he was born just three weeks before Roosevelt was elected to the White House in 1932.

“I grew up with him as my president,” he says.
“Washington, Lincoln and Roosevelt stand head and shoulders above the 40 other men who (have) occupied the White House. Washington founded the country, Lincoln preserved it and Roosevelt revived it.”

JEAN EDWARD SMITH

“FDR” is dedicated to Smith’s parents – “proud Mississippians” who were “devoted” to Roosevelt.

“My parents escaped rural poverty in Mississippi in 1928 and moved to Washington. My father was a barber and my mother a legal secretary. … We did not hang pictures of FDR in our house but it was clear to me at an early age that my parents thought he could walk on water.”

Smith may not credit FDR with being able to walk on water but nevertheless holds him in high regard, ranking him with George Washington and Abraham Lincoln as one of the nation’s three greatest presidents. “Washington, Lincoln and Roosevelt stand head and shoulders above the 40 other men who (have) occupied the White House. Washington founded the country, Lincoln preserved it and Roosevelt revived it.”

A biographer who doesn’t much like his subject, Smith suggests, is a biographer who’s headed for trouble.

“A biographer is going to spend four or five years with his subject, and if you don’t like the person you are going to be miserable. … I once had a contract to write the biography of General (George C.) Marshall but I gave up after two chapters. General Marshall was a great man and exactly the right fit for the Army chief of staff in World War II, but personally he was a very cold man and I didn’t feel comfortable with him.”

Despite his considerable admiration for Roosevelt, Smith doesn’t shrink from including FDR’s failures and miscues – including his disastrous attempt to reshape the U.S. Supreme Court and the shameful wartime internment of Japanese-Americans.

“I tried to paint FDR in his entirety – flaws as well as strong points,” he says.

On the whole, it’s clear he thinks Roosevelt’s accomplishments greatly outweigh his errors and he’s quick to tick off a lengthy list: “Saving the banking system in 1933; Social Security; the Tennessee Valley Authority; rural electrification; stock market regulation; the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation; wage and hour legislation; federal guarantees of farm and home mortgages – all of which we take for granted today.”

And he suggests that list of domestic achievements, impressive though it may be, pales when compared with FDR’s wartime leadership as commander in chief.

“FDR did not micromanage the war,” Smith says. “He chose able military leaders and let them fight the war.”

As an example, he cites the situation in 1942, when “Roosevelt pressed the military to engage the Germans in battle as quickly as possible.” Planning was underway for the landings in North Africa and, with congressional elections looming in November, it would have been beneficial to the Democrats if the landings had been staged before then. But the military said it needed more time. FDR didn’t press the issue. “And with no landings in sight come November, the Democrats lost fifty seats in the House and dropped eight in the Senate.”

So, whose life will Smith chronicle next?

“I have just begun the biography of Dwight D. Eisenhower – the most underrated president of the Twentieth Century.”

As he writes about Eisenhower, Smith undoubtedly will follow the same inflexible routine he’s practiced for years: “Up at 5:30. At my desk by 7:30. Write until noon. Seven days a week, forty-eight weeks a year.”

Keep at it and after a few years you will have a hefty manuscript that, if it’s like FDR, will require nearly 900 pages to publish. That’s thousands upon thousands of words – every one of them painstakingly written, not on a computer, but by pen on a series of yellow legal pads. The filled legal pads that make up a chapter go into a flat cardboard box and, as the book progresses, the stack of filled boxes in the corner of Smith’s Old Main office grows steadily higher, slowly heading for the ceiling.

That’s called discipline and it’s the hallmark of Jean Edward Smith, a Marshall professor whose thoughtfully written, carefully crafted biographies seem certain to be read and respected for decades.

James E. Casto is a local historian, author and retired newspaperman.
Pre-order the “We Are Marshall” DVD and as a bonus you will receive a copy of a 140 page Commemorative Edition magazine about the making of the film.

Your DVD package will include the movie, the motion picture soundtrack, bonus footage, a Marshall University update and the Commemorative Edition magazine that includes 17 articles and 168 color photos of the filming that took place in Huntington and Atlanta.

The first 500 orders placed will receive a signed copy of the magazine by Jack Lengyel, Red Dawson or Reggie Oliver.

Your “We Are Marshall” DVD, Movie Soundtrack and Commemorative Magazine will arrive at your home on September 18, 2007. (The current release date set by Warner Brothers Home Video)

Own a piece of Marshall history for only $45.95. A portion of the proceeds from each sale will benefit the construction of the new Marshall University Alumni building.

To place your order call 1-800-MUALUMX or Visit our website at www.marshall.edu/alumni
Meet Marshall’s Stude

Whitney Wolejko
Marty Biagi isn’t the most well-known athlete at Marshall University, but among his peers he’s among the most admired.

A sophomore from Shelbyville, Ky., Biagi is the starting punter on the Thundering Herd football team. A member of the Conference USA all-freshman team in 2005, Biagi embodies what Marshall coaches and administrators seek in their athletes.

“Marty’s a great kid,” Herd football coach Mark Snyder said. “He’s strong on the field and off the field. He understands what being a college student-athlete is about.”

Student-athlete. Student comes first, yet athlete is not neglected. Biagi carries a 3.75 grade point average, which means more to him than does his 38.4 yards per punt mark. He is active in a variety of organizations, particularly Marshall’s Fellowship of Christian Athletes. He frequently speaks at local schools, stressing to youngsters that they develop themselves in all areas to become a complete person.

“I like to talk to kids,” said Biagi, who plans to go into coaching. “I like working with kids. I think it’s important.”

Marshall’s athletic teams are full of such students. While they often don’t grab headlines, they are Marshall. When Thundering Herd fans think of All-Americans, visions of football standout Ahmad Bradshaw might come to mind. MU boosters will be pleased to know, though, that softball catcher Rachel Folden is a two-time All-American and is the Conference USA player of the year. Folden is one of the premier players in the nation and part of an MU softball team that ranked in the top 10 nationally in grade point average each of the last two years.

In fact, if professional softball were on a par with professional baseball, Folden might be considered a modern-day Johnny Bench. “I’m really proud of our players,” Herd softball coach Shonda Stanton said. “They take their education seriously. They know that softball is important, but that they’re students first. We stress that with every player we recruit.”
“Our student-athletes deserve to be congratulated. So does our support staff, which is excellent. We’re committed to seeing our student-athletes succeed on and off the playing field.”

Bob “Kayo” Marcum, Marshall Athletic Director

Stanton isn’t the only Marshall coach emphasizing academics. In 2005-2006, a record number of Herd athletes (166 of 400) achieved a grade point average of 3.0 or higher.

While the women’s teams traditionally have outperformed the men in the classroom, last year both the men’s and women’s athletic teams posted identical 3.19 GPAs. Marshall ranked second to East Carolina in Conference USA in all-academic selections within the league. Fifteen Marshall student-athletes achieved a GPA of 3.75 or higher and nine separate MU teams posted cumulative GPAs of 3.0 or higher.

Biagi and teammates Adam Lee and Jeff Mullins were three of the 15 with GPAs of 3.75 or better. Also on the list are women’s golfers Allyson Hatcher and Whitney Wolejko; women’s soccer players Heather Burchett and Cara Hemmerich; softball players Amanda Luers and Tarah Mitchell; women’s swimmers Emily Edmonson and Ashley Ezell; and women’s tennis player Holly Asel.

“Our student-athletes deserve to be congratulated,” Marshall Athletic Director Bob “Kayo” Marcum said. “So does our support staff, which is excellent. We’re committed to seeing our student-athletes succeed on and off the playing field.”

Herd men’s cross country is one of just 86 teams honored by the U.S. Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association for academic achievement after posting a 3.279 GPA.

While the academic honors continue to pile up, so do the on-field accolades. In April, Bradshaw was selected by the New York Giants in the NFL Draft, continuing the Herd’s pipeline to pro football. Herd football center Doug Legursky was named to the Rimington Watch List as one of the better players in America at his position. Quarterback Derek Devine, known for his charitable work in the Huntington community, recently signed a contract with the NFL’s Seattle Seahawks.

While football long has been the face of Marshall athletics, Herd athletes and staff outside of Joan C. Edwards Stadium are racking up accolades.

Folden was named the FCA Huntington Area
student-athlete of the year in March and plans to work summer camps in her native California this summer. Broadcaster Steve Cotton was named West Virginia sportscaster of the year. Kelly-Anne Billingly was named Conference USA volleyball player of the year for the second time and is an honorable-mention All-American.

Marshall’s women’s basketball team has been invited to the 2007 Preseason National Invitation Tournament. Herd men’s golfer Christian Brand is the Conference USA freshman of the year. Women’s tennis player Kellie Schmitt is the Conference USA player of the year.

“Kellie being named player of the year in this league is quite an honor,” said Marshall tennis head coach John Mercer. “She has had a great season and played some tough competition. She’s a hard worker and it’s good to see that hard work pays off with a reward like this.”

Dance team member Brittany Bailey is among the most active of MU athletes in the community. A frequent speaker to youth, Bailey also will work youth camps this summer for the second consecutive year.

“I get a lot out of it,” Bailey said of the camps. “I think I get more from them than the kids do.”

Marshall softball stars Amanda and Jessica Williams will play professional softball in Chicago this summer, while women’s soccer player Kai Nordness has mission trips to South Korea and Argentina on her slate.

“It’s going to be a busy, hectic summer, but I’m looking forward to it,” said Nordness, a native of Minnesota. “When I came to Marshall from Minnesota, I never had any idea of how much I would grow and how much my life would change. I’m one of you, now.”

Being a part of Marshall athletics was a life-changing experience for Larry Davis, too. A former football star who finished his career in 2002, Davis is a successful Huntington businessman who frequently shares his story with local school children.

“I came here from Okeechobee, Fla., and didn’t really know much about Marshall,” Davis said. “Now, I’m glad that I came here. It was the place I was meant to be. I know God put me here for a reason and I’m thankful that happened because I met so many great people at Marshall.”

Marshall’s baseball team scored one of its greatest victories this season, defeating traditional national powerhouse Houston in a game at Power Park in Charleston.

“We have a lot to be excited about at Marshall,” Marcum said. “We can be very proud of our student-athletes, coaches and support staff.”

Tim Stephens is a freelance writer and the Huntington area director of Fellowship of Christian Athletes.
Top to bottom: Kai Nordness, Ashley Ezell (second from left) and Jeff Mullins. Right: Kelly-Anne Billingly
Susan K. Richardson

Board of Governors member Susan Richardson is a respected businesswoman and huge Marshall fan.

Article by Jessica G. Farnen • Photography by Rick Haye

Susan K. (Sue) Richardson, CPA, CVA and partner with Somerville & Company, PLLC, earned a bachelor’s degree from Marshall University in 1982. A native of Kansas, Richardson lived in rural communities and attended a number of schools before settling in Huntington and finding a home at Marshall.

“Huntington was the first city to offer a university large enough to enable me to complete my four-year degree,” Richardson said. “I came to Huntington from Nebraska, where the closest four-year institution was approximately 100 miles away. The distance made my goal seem impossible, but Marshall offered me the perfect opportunity to earn my diploma.”

Soon after graduation, Richardson joined Somerville & Company. She was named a partner in 1991. “I love it,” Richardson said. “I truly enjoy what I do, and I don’t believe everyone can say that. The work is challenging, and most of the time, it is a lot of fun.”

Richardson specializes in the areas of tax planning and compliance, estate and gift taxation and management consulting. She is certified in West Virginia and Kentucky and has worked with a variety of business clients, including distributors, manufacturers, professional service groups and retailers.

The employees of Somerville & Company are commemorating the organization’s 75th anniversary this year. In 1932, Nathan Goff Somerville started the N.G. Somerville Audit Company with a goal of assisting clients throughout the Tri-State. At the time of Somerville’s death in 1952, the partners formed the base of current operation and renamed the firm Somerville & Company in his honor.

Since then, the Huntington firm has experienced tremendous growth. Members of the Somerville team are known for their leadership and active participation in both community and professional organizations. The company also shares a strong connection with Marshall. “We bleed green at Somerville,” Richardson said.

Richardson has continued to nurture her personal affiliation with Marshall as well. She presently serves as the chair of the Institutional Board of Advisers for the Marshall Community and Technical College. She also sits on the Marshall Board of Governors and is a member of the advisory board for the Division of Accounting and Legal Environment in Marshall’s Lewis College of Business.

“Marshall has grown enormously since I began taking classes,” Richardson said. “It has been exciting to watch. When the football stadium was being built, there was this ‘if we build it, they will come’ attitude throughout Huntington. It worked, and I think that mentality persists.”

Richardson said she is excited about continued growth and renovation on the Marshall campus, including the
addition of a recreation center – a lure for prospective out-of-state students – and especially a new home for the Community and Technical College. “This is a pivotal time in the history of the Community College. Many changes have occurred since the original Senate bill separating – but still linking – the Community and Technical College with the university. We are involved in the process of looking for the right person to take the reins as our new president and we also are focusing on a new facility and new programs.

“I really have enjoyed my involvement with Marshall, and I will continue to do anything I can to help the university and the Community and Technical College,” Richardson said. “It has been very gratifying to be a small part of the Marshall community.”

Richardson and her husband, Mark, also a partner with Somerville & Company, have six children, Traci, Laura, Steven, Susan, John and Wesley, and eight grandchildren. The couple resides in Rome, Ohio. “No one can believe it, but actually I am quite domestic,” Richardson said. “I love to cook and garden, and I do some needlework. I also am a voracious reader.”

Jessica G. Farner is a freelance writer and graduate of Marshall University’s W. Page Pitt School of Journalism and Mass Communications.
A variety of camps and specialized schools are offered to students of all ages throughout the summer. University officials hope these experiences are only the beginning of an enduring relationship with Marshall.
The spring semester has drawn to a close, and new alumni are embarking on life after college. Fall, frenzied freshmen and football games will not return to Huntington until late August. However, during the summer months, Marshall’s campus continues to bustle with activity as well as current and prospective students.

A variety of camps and specialized schools are offered to students of all ages throughout the summer. University officials hope these experiences are only the beginning of an enduring relationship with Marshall. The West Virginia Governor’s School for the Arts will usher 84 high school juniors from across the state to the Huntington campus for a three-week, intensive arts experience that began July 1.

“Students chosen for the Governor’s School for the Arts auditioned in one of six categories: creative writing, dance, instrumental music, theatre, visual arts and vocal music. According to Cindy Stickler, assistant dean of the Governor’s School for the Arts, the social experiences garnered during the three-week program are incomparable. “Some of these kids are alone in their high schools. They come here and are included in a community of students that think as they do and share the belief that the arts are important.”

Stickler said students receive comprehensive arts instruction. “The experience goes beyond their chosen area. It includes each of the six areas with a goal of fostering a life-long interest in and understanding of the arts.”

The Governor’s School works to broaden the program participants’ understanding of the arts via interdisciplinary courses that emphasize common artistic elements. Activities include classes, special programming and a four-day trip to New York City to visit museums and attend a Broadway show.
Fifteen students who participated in the 2005 Governor's School for the Arts will begin taking classes at Marshall when the fall semester begins, aided by a scholarship for Governor’s School alumni. “The 2005 Governor's School students will be college freshmen this fall, and for the first time, we are able to offer them a Governor's School for the Arts scholarship to attend Marshall,” Van Horn said.

Only students who attended the Governor’s School are eligible for the financial aid; however, they are not required to select majors encompassed by the College of Fine Arts. Van Horn said the plan is to extend the scholarship opportunity to students who attend this year’s Governor's School for the Arts and will enter Marshall as freshmen in 2009.

Marshall's College of Information Technology conducted the Exploring Engineering: Academy of Excellence Sunday, June 17, through Friday, June 22. Thirty high school juniors experienced college life by staying in one of four Marshall Commons' residence halls while engaging in hands-on engineering activities, touring engineering facilities and working with engineering professionals and students.

Beth Wolfe, coordinator of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) outreach, said the goal of the Academy of Excellence is to spark interest in engineering at Marshall among potential students. “I think we have been successful in terms of recruiting students who are interested in engineering. Events and experiences that take place throughout the week are a good way to bring students to Huntington not only to see, but also to experience campus.”

Participants are given the opportunity to design and construct catapults and robots, measure water quality and take field trips to local engineering facilities and projects, among other activities. “Our goal is to spend time building instead of sitting in a classroom,” Wolfe said. “Several alumni from the Academy of Excellence attend Marshall, and this is evidence that the students really enjoy the hands-on experiences they receive here.”

The summer months also are bustling with a multitude of Marshall athletic camps. Programs are provided by Marshall's baseball, basketball, football, soccer and volleyball teams.

According to Randy Burnside, Marshall sports information director, Marshall's athletic personnel have made a commitment to develop and offer quality, well-rounded summer camp experiences for both boys and girls. These programs enable participants to learn more about their respective sports, while improving their skills, creating new friendships and last, but certainly not least, having fun. Campers receive top-notch instruction from Marshall's coaches, meet athletes from a variety of backgrounds and experience campus life.

“The university represents a great resource to the community. Our programs in particular are well-situated to offer summer activities that also serve as great recruiting tools, because we bring students here and introduce them to campus so they learn more about Marshall than they would have otherwise.” - Don Van Horn
Burnside said summer athletic camps are instrumental with regard to helping coaches recruit Marshall’s future star athletes. “Sports camps give coaches an opportunity to watch and rate possible recruits while offering young athletes an avenue to visit Marshall and see everything our campus has to offer.”

Football, volleyball, basketball and soccer camps were offered during June on Marshall’s campus. Aspiring football players in grades one through 12 visited Joan C. Edwards Stadium June 9 and June 16 for Marshall football’s Thunder Day Camp. Marshall coaches and team members taught fundamentals and techniques to participants, providing them with an opportunity to scrimmage on the artificial turf of James F. Edwards Field. An advanced camp for incoming high school seniors also was offered June 10.

Marshall’s volleyball program sponsored a three-day team competition camp and coaches clinic June 14 through June 16 for varsity and junior varsity high school volleyball teams. This competitive, fast-paced camp included two days of skill sessions, team practices, and competitive matches, and the final day included a team competition tournament.

The Thundering Herd volleyball team also will offer a high intensity, individual skills camp July 18 through July 21. Burnside said the recent success of Marshall’s volleyball team has rendered the individual and team volleyball camps two of the most popular athletic camps among girls throughout the Tri-State.

Marshall’s women’s basketball team also sponsored two camps during June. Girls ages 5 through 12 attended the Little Dribblers’ Camp June 11 through June 14 to learn basketball fundamentals, including dribbling, passing and shooting as well as defensive techniques. In addition, high school varsity and junior varsity women’s basketball teams from throughout West Virginia and bordering states participated in the Team Shoot-out Camp June 23 and June 24. Teams were given the opportunity to play a minimum of six games during the
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two-day session. An individual skills camp for middle and high school players also will be offered August 4.

Marshall’s men’s basketball program facilitated a camp for youth and teens preparing to enter grades three through eight June 19 through June 23. The camp included skills contests as well as one-on-one and three-on-three tournaments and culminated with an awards ceremony. It also offered aspiring basketball players an opportunity to learn from Marshall’s new men’s basketball coach, Donnie Jones, a former assistant at the University of Florida. The Gators captured their second consecutive NCAA national championship during the 2006-2007 season.

Marshall baseball coaches and players offered a parent and child camp June 30, allowing parents and guardians the opportunity to learn and participate alongside their children, ages 6 to 18. The team also scheduled Young Herd Summer Camps July 9 through July 12 and July 16 through July 19, providing youth baseball players, ages 6 to 12, a chance to improve their batting, fielding and throwing skills. In addition, advanced, specialized camps were will be available for players ages 13 to 18.

Marshall’s soccer coaches and players took their experience and knowledge on the road, sponsoring a residential team camp for high school varsity and junior varsity teams June 16 through June 18 in Cedar Lakes, W.Va. According to Bob Gray, Marshall men’s soccer coach, the team camp lays the groundwork for a successful season because players receive individual attention from members of the coaching staff. The team also offered two individual skills camps in June at the Hurricane County Wave Pool and the Kennedy Center YMCA. A second camp will be offered August 6 through August 9 in Putnam County and Wayne County.

Burnside said he is pleased Marshall seems to be offering a greater number of summer camp experiences for prospective students and athletes alike. “Marshall’s Huntington campus is growing and expanding, as are its academic and athletic offerings. We need to continue to take advantage of all opportunities to showcase our facilities and resources, and summer camps allow us to do just that. It’s a win-win situation.”

Sandy Savage is a freelance writer living in Ashland, KY. She also works as the Advertising Manager for The Parthenon, Marshall University’s Student Newspaper.
Dear alumni and friends,

I have somewhat mixed feelings about this column. You see, it is my last as president of your alumni association. It really seems impossible that I’ve had this position almost two years now. Time has flown.

So, as you can imagine, I’m a little sad and maybe a smidge relieved! It’s been such a busy two years of travel and appearances, work on a new center, running board meetings and being at almost all the committee meetings and club phone calls. But I’ve had such a wonderful time meeting all of you, even by e-mail. The crowning glory of it all is to say the “Movie” happened while I was president. Hollywood came to Huntington and Marshall in such a big way, and it was really fun to have a front row seat for it all, plus a Hollywood-style premiere.

I’m also very proud of all my board members and how hard they’ve all worked to further our visibility with students and the community.

We’ve started, and revitalized, some clubs in our alumni club network under Chris Howard’s wonderful leadership of the Alumni Club Committee. He started a quarterly club presidents call so our presidents can chat with each other about issues and ideas. It has been very beneficial to all involved to share ideas and events.

Progress continues on our new alumni center. The Marshall Foundation has become involved and is working with us to develop our plans. The facility will serve both the Alumni Association and Foundation needs. We have long outgrown our present building and are really looking forward to being in new quarters.

We have gained a new alumni director, Tish Littlehales, so new faces are appearing at the office all the time. She has tremendous enthusiasm about our organization, so we look forward to her new, fresh ideas.

Our vice president for alumni development, Lance West, has moved on to the Foundation to become a full-time fundraiser. We certainly wish him well in this new endeavor.

I hope to continue to see all of you at Marshall Alumni events and as always if you need to reach me, my e-mail is sharonp71@aol.com.

Sincerely yours,
Sharon Porter
President MUAA

To Marshall University alumni and friends,

I take great pride in writing this column as your new director of alumni relations. I have many fond memories of my years at Marshall as an undergraduate and graduate student. Therefore, promoting our university throughout the country is an endeavor I am very proud to be a part of.

Each year the Alumni Association takes the opportunity to pay tribute to the distinguished accomplishments of our graduates, and honor the efforts of some our brightest students. This was the focus of Alumni Weekend 2007, April 19-21. Hundreds of alumni and friends came back to our beautiful campus to help us celebrate in style, while sharing memories of their days at Marshall. The weekend was a tremendous success thanks to the support and participation of the Marshall community.

We also take the opportunity of Alumni Weekend to further advance the goals of the university and our community. Again, we thank our alumni, faculty, staff and students who make all this possible.

The first event of the weekend was Friday evening’s Champagne Reception at the Marshall Community and Technical College’s Culinary Institute, located across from Pullman Square. Folks packed this beautiful facility to toast Marshall’s past, present and future. Deb Williams, the institute’s program director, and her staff did a wonderful job preparing the room for many guests.

A special treat was a glimpse into Marshall’s future provided by President Stephen J. Kopp, who unveiled a rendering of the university’s Engineering Lab building. This magnificent $3 million facility will be located west of the Robert C. Byrd Biotechnology Science Center on Third Avenue, and could be open by fall 2008.

The weekend continued on Saturday with a class luncheon honoring the 1957 graduating class and graduates from previous classes. President Kopp, Dr. Robert Alexander and Dr. Sam Clagg spoke to the honored classes.

The weekend was highlighted by the 70th Annual Alumni Banquet, which was attended by about 300 people. Special thanks to our award winners, who are highlighted later in this issue.

On Saturday afternoon, nearly 8,000 fans, many of whom tailgated in the Joan C. Edwards Stadium west parking lot, enjoyed an afternoon of football at the Green-White spring football game. Members of the 1971 Young Thundering Herd were honored at halftime.

I hope those of you who attended Alumni Weekend 2007 can add these activities to your list of cherished memories at Marshall. We already are looking forward to seeing you again this fall at the Marshall vs. WVU game and, even more importantly at Homecoming on Saturday, October 27.
We would like to welcome our new board members, elected in April, as well as those still serving their terms. We look forward to working with everyone these next few years. – The staff of the MU Alumni Association
Alumni Association

2007 Distinguished Alumni Award Winners

Eleven alumni and students were honored at the Alumni Awards Banquet on Saturday, April 21. The Boone County, West Virginia Club received the Alumni Club of the Year award.

The Distinguished Alumnus Award was presented to NFL football player Mike Bartrum. Regarded as one of the best long snappers in the league, his skill as a tight end made him invaluable during his 13-year career with the Chiefs, Packers, Patriots and Eagles.

At Marshall, Bartrum was a two-year starter and three-year letterman (1989, 1991-92), earning All-Southern Conference honors as a senior and guiding Marshall to a Division I-AA national title. He and his wife, Jennifer, have a daughter, Taylor Katherine, and three sons, Cody, Zachary and Ty. They reside in Pomeroy, Ohio.

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

The Community Achievement Award was presented to Dan M. Butcher. Butcher ('81), a native of Bear Creek in Lincoln County, has had successful careers with The Washington Post and other news outlets, as well as his multi-state landscaping firm. His devotion to his roots in Lincoln County has led to a number of community projects including Friends of the Arts, a group that brings cultural events to the area, and numerous projects benefiting Lincoln County High School and local 4-H clubs.

He currently resides in Celebration, Fla., with his wife, Kathy, and his daughter, Sophie.

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

The Distinguished Service to Marshall Award was presented to Dr. Sarah N. Denman. Denman, currently Marshall's provost and senior vice president for academic affairs, has been with the university in various capacities since 1975. She received both her bachelor's and master's degrees from Marshall, and her doctorate in education from West Virginia University. She is known as one of the greatest advocates for the mission of the university and for her tireless devotion to promoting Marshall throughout the country.

Denman is married to another well-known figure at Marshall, Dr. William Denman, retired professor of communications studies and past director of the Yeager Scholars Program. Their daughter, Kate, works for West Virginia Congressman Nick J. Rahall.

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

The Carolyn B. Hunter Distinguished Faculty Service Award was presented to Dr. Edwina Pendarvis. Pendarvis recently retired as a professor of special education, as well as an advocate for gifted education. She served as interim executive director of the John R. Hall Center for Academic Excellence, 2005-2006, and received the Drinko Research Fellowship in 2001.

In addition to publishing numerous scholarly articles, she is also an accomplished poet. Her work has appeared in Appalachian Heritage, Appalachian Journal, Pine Mountain Sand & Gravel, Now & Then and Wind Magazine, among others. Pendarvis received Marshall's Distinguished Faculty Service Award in 2006.

Pendarvis has two children, a son, Damon, and a
daughter, Penny. Damon lives in Cincinnati, Ohio, and Penny in Albuquerque, N.M.

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

The recipients of the Nate Ruffin Scholarship were Jessica Nichole Slash and Kisha Latonya Joyner.

Slash is a sophomore in the College of Science with a GPA of 3.8. She is the great-niece of the first black superintendent in Cabell County, Joe Slash. She has been inducted into the Gamma Beta Phi National Honor Society and the Phi Eta Sigma National Honor Society, and was recently nominated to join The National Society of Collegiate Scholars. After graduating from Marshall she hopes to continue to medical school.

Joyner is a sophomore accounting major. Originally from Baltimore, Md., she moved with her family to Fort Ashby, W.Va., where she was the first African American to graduate from Frankfort High.

Nate Ruffin was a member of the 1970 Marshall football team, but an injury kept him from making the trip to Greenville, N.C., for Marshall’s game with East Carolina on Nov. 14, 1970. He became an advocate for Black Alumni Inc. as well as the university until his death in 2001.

Two Nancy Pelphey Herd Village Scholarships were awarded to deserving students.

Robyn Helton of Huntington is captain of the Marshall cheerleading squad. As a theater major, Helton has been involved in a number of productions, including roles in several independent films and commercials, and is a member of the stage crew for the Department of Theatre. In addition to working part-time, Helton has found time for a number of volunteer activities such as the Big Brother/Big Sister Program, the Lion’s Club and the Ronald McDonald House.

Christopher McDerment, a native of Hurricane, is a member of the Marching Band. A music education major, McDerment also has performed with the Wind Symphony, the Symphonic Band and the Perpetual Motion Saxophone Quartet. He also volunteers to help raise money for breast cancer research.

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

The Cam Henderson Scholarship Award was presented to Huntington native Andrew Blain. Blain, a graduate of Spring Valley High School, is a member of the Marshall baseball team, where he is known as the Herd’s most dependable left-hander out of the bullpen. He earned Conference USA Commissioner’s Honor Roll academic honors.

Blain works as an academic tutor with the Student-Athlete program and is a member of Campus Crusade for Christ and Golden Key Honor Society.

The Cam Henderson Scholarship was established by the Alumni Association in the name of legendary football and basketball coach Cam Henderson. It is given yearly to the student-athlete who best exemplifies the spirit of scholarship while participating in athletics.

The Boone County, West Virginia Club was chosen as the Alumni Association Club of the Year. Under the leadership of President Chris Howard, the club hosted numerous receptions, game-watching parties and other social functions throughout the year for the purpose of attracting new members and potential students to attend Marshall. A total of 15 new members were added to the roster last year.

The Young Alumni Award was presented to Matthew G. White of Huntington. White has been with ZBA Financial Group for three years, and helped create CarSign, an innovative Internet company, in 2006. He is involved with a number of business groups, including the Young Professionals Committee of the Huntington Chamber of Commerce. Here he spearheads the Lunch Program, a link with Marshall’s College of Business that educates students on local business culture.

While at Marshall on a baseball scholarship, he broke a team record for games played in a career, 184. White and his wife, Katrina, are expecting a baby girl in June.

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

The MUAA Board Member of the Year, Chris Howard, was announced at the MUAA board meeting and recognized at the awards banquet.

The 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.
Why Marshall?
I grew up with only one university. My dad had been taking me to Marshall football games as long as I can remember.

First impression of campus
I was very impressed because I went to Wirt County High School, which was very small. I graduated with fewer than 90 students, so at first this place was enormous.

Favorite faculty member
There are a lot of great faculty members here at Marshall. The one I’m closest with would be our organization’s advisor and the dean of student affairs, Steve Hensley. He is very dedicated and has a great Marshall spirit.

Favorite class
Most people stereotype accounting majors as being boring people, but this isn’t exactly true. Some of the most memorable moments have been with Dr. Jeffrey Archambault. I’ve had two courses with him and I have found both classes very interesting!

How did you choose your major?
I knew I wanted a degree from a business-related field, but I wasn’t sure which one. Eventually, I chose accounting because I was told it was the most difficult major to attain. I guess I wanted a challenge.

Hobbies
I love to watch movies and play golf. Between my roommates and me, we have more than 600 DVDs. I love to play golf because it’s very relaxing. You can tell a lot about someone by the way they play golf because you’re playing against yourself. It really ends up being a mental game, if nothing else.

Plans for the future
I am in the process of applying for graduate school at Marshall University. I am planning on attaining my MBA within two years.

The importance of the Alumni Association
I’m not even an official alumnus yet, but I can already admit they have a crucial role in the university. They have been instrumental in helping with several events and I think they provide a lot of information to alumni that otherwise they wouldn’t have. They’re doing a great job!
Under the leadership of President Chris Howard, the Boone County Friends of Marshall Club has hosted receptions, game-watching parties and other social functions for the purpose of attracting new members and potential Marshall students. It is no wonder they won the Club of the Year for 2006.

This year they conducted their annual golf tournament on June 9 at Riverview Country Club in Madison, with proceeds going to the club’s scholarships for Boone County students. Tailgate parties are in the works for home games this fall, as well as scholarship presentations at local high schools and friend- and fund-raising events throughout the year. The club also has a major presence at Paint the Capital City Green each year.

For information about the Boone County Friends of Marshall Club, please contact Chris Howard at (304) 369-2509 or by e-mail at owl872@yahoo.com.
Spotlight

Marshall Alums living abroad

Articles by: Jenny Drastura

Keith Sarver
BFA’93, BA’94, MA’97

Keith Sarver took an active role in art projects and student activities during his years at Marshall. As a graduate student, he helped create the art association, Artatak, to encourage communication and cooperation between art students and the community. He also worked as an instructor and computer lab assistant, and helped with exhibition installation in the Birke Art Gallery.

“All of these activities gave me invaluable experience and helped me develop skills for living abroad,” said Keith. “The most important skills were learning to communicate and work with people of diverse backgrounds, and also ingenuity, creativity and patience!”

After graduating from Marshall, Keith was awarded a Fulbright Grant as a teaching assistant. He taught conversational English at two high schools in Paris, Lycée Arago and Lycée Technique Boulle.

He currently lives in Maisons-Alfort, a suburb of Paris. “I have been here for seven years now, doing many things, as is usual for those who know me,” Keith said. “I work part-time for Paris International, a company that provides tours and interpreters for an international clientele. For them, I am maintaining Web sites, as well as doing some graphic design. I am also an Internet rater for LionBridge Technologies Inc., a job I perform online from home. And last, I am a group leader of English conversations for a small private company called Konversando, where I work about 12 hours per week with participants of various levels.” He has also had the opportunity to participate in a couple of group art exhibitions, and recently won second prize in an emblem design contest for LG Electronics Inc.

“Unfortunately I have been unable to continue much drawing and painting, though it’s my continuing dream to find time and a studio to do so,” Keith added. A selection of his photos from travels around Europe and Africa can be seen on his Web site (www.keithsarver.com).

“One of my activities is my nonprofit cultural association I created with a French friend about three years ago, Paris Terra Cultures. We decided to create an online catalog/directory of the cultural heritage for every country of the world, and an arena for cultural exchange and support for expatriates of all nationalities. This keeps me busy in my ‘free time’ as I am the webmaster, graphic designer and treasurer.”

For Keith, living and working in a foreign country can be difficult. For the first couple of years, the language barrier was his biggest challenge, although he always had colleagues who could speak English. “When you don’t speak the local language so well, and you’re trying, it’s very fatiguing mentally,” Keith said. “You’re constantly making the effort to understand and be understood and attempting to concentrate at more than 100 percent. And, although France is a Western culture, many things are so different from the U.S. that even speaking the language fluently is not enough.” Keith added that finding common items can be very difficult. “Pop Tarts and corn bread mix are almost impossible to find, and when found, exorbitantly priced!”

Keith enjoys his life in France, visiting museums and galleries, wandering around and finding hidden corners in Paris and frequently going to concerts. He often takes trips to the countryside to discover more about the French, their country and their culture. The Lewisburg, W.Va., native also finds time to come back to the United States and visit.
Lynda Lewis McConnell  
**BA’60**

In 2004, Lynda McConnell heard about a program offering the opportunity to teach English conversation to high school students in various countries. The program is offered by the Division for Global Mission of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and is open to people with no dependents, such as recent college graduates and retirees. As knowledge of the language of the host country was not required, she could hardly wait to get her application off.

“For the school year I am living in Kosice, Slovakia, a small country in central Europe,” Lynda said. “I came here in August 2005 and returned to my home in Roanoke, Va., in 2006 for the summer. A routine physical exam showed a health concern that delayed my return until December. With continued medical support in Slovakia, I have committed to another year of teaching.

“I teach English conversation to students age 15-19 in a Slovak gymnasium. The students are very similar in appearance and personality to American teenagers. My classes are no larger than 20 students, all of whom have had several years of instruction in the English language. We work on vocabulary, English literature, writing skills and everyday use of the language. I am active in the English-language church here, usually giving the children’s sermon on Sunday mornings.”

Since Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic and Austria are within easy traveling distance, Lynda is able to take short trips to these countries. She has met other American teachers at Quality Schools International. “These new friends, my three flatmates, and a few other Americans make up a very congenial group for socializing and traveling. Cultural activities are easily available in a city the size of Kosice and are very inexpensive.”

Lynda considers adaptability to be the key for living in a foreign country, particularly one where so few people speak English. “Slovak food is not so different from American food, heavier sometimes with more use of potatoes and rice than in the U.S. Christmas dinner usually features carp. My students told me last year about purchasing the carp live and keeping it in the bathtub until time to prepare it. They delighted in my shock at how they make it ready for baking.”

When in the United States, she haunts consignment and thrift shops and yard sales. “My students don’t understand the concept of yard sales, but ‘secondhand’ shops abound. Most Saturday mornings find me making the rounds of the many shops in Kosice.”

Lynda’s memories of Marshall are what she calls “universal and timeless,” undoubtedly shared by many. “Bridge in the student union, endless cups of black coffee, strolling across campus in the spring with someone special, dances and impromptu parties. One of the most lasting effects of my years at Marshall has to do with the Marshall Artists Series. Even all these years later, I recall some of the plays and concerts we took for granted. I am so glad to know that it continues, a lasting legacy of Dr. Curtis Baxter’s dedication.

“I will always be grateful to Marshall for making a college education affordable. I received a solid grounding and a respected degree, and was able to pay all expenses by working part-time for a lawyer in downtown Huntington.”

Lynda is a graduate of Huntington High School. She also has a Master of Science degree in library science from The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.
Charleston native Steve Bloom found Marshall's special education teacher program to be very rigorous. “I was well prepared for my teaching responsibilities and ready to face the challenges of graduate education,” Steve said. He would go on to Florida Atlantic University for a master’s in educational psychology and later a doctorate in special education from the University of New Mexico. And then, on to a career he loves.

Steve and his wife, Kathy, now reside in Okinawa, Japan. “We’ve been with the Department of Defense since 1982 and have worked in Spain, Italy and now Japan. I joined the school system for the opportunity to live and work overseas. It has been a great privilege to serve the U.S. military by providing their children a world-class education, while they serve our country at locations around the world.”

Steve is deputy director for the Department of Defense Schools-Pacific. “Our mission,” Steve said, “is to provide a quality education from pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade for eligible family members of the U.S. military and DOD civilian personnel. From our offices in Okinawa, we oversee 45 schools located on Okinawa, mainland Japan, South Korea and in Guam with a total enrollment of approximately 25,000 students.

“Although our students have much in common with their stateside counterparts in public schools, they do face unique challenges,” Steve added. “These children are highly mobile and, due to current world events, face the uncertainty of having a parent regularly deploy, possibly into harm’s way.”

Steve is also involved with the high school sports program, especially wrestling. “Our wrestling program varies from most stateside schools as we compete primarily in Olympic Freestyle competition. We sent a team of young wrestlers from the Far East (Team Okinawa) to the USA Wrestling Cadet and Junior Nationals in Fargo, N.D. Additionally, our students have the opportunity to compete against Japanese students, and my sons have even trained with the Japanese National Coach and National Team members.”

“Living in Japan allows for many interesting and exciting family adventures. Travel is a great joy, with Okinawa serving as a great jumping-off point to visit many countries in the Pacific Region. Growing up here has allowed my children to visit Thailand, Vietnam, Korea and Indonesia. For us, learning the culture of the people of Japan and the Far East has been an exceptional learning opportunity for our family.

“Our children were born all over the world,” Steve added. “Jacob (16) and Harry (15) were born in Spain; Benjamin (12) in Japan and Lianna (6) in China. I think they have a special appreciation for diversity and a special pride in being American. Visiting friends and family in the summer is very important for them.”
Tom F. Young & Jane C. Pickens Young

Tom Young had been encouraged as a high school student in St. Marys, W.Va., to come to Marshall by then-Congressman Ken Hechler, who had been a Marshall professor. “He was right,” Tom said. “I enjoyed the programs and life in Huntington. It was in my junior year that I went on a ‘Travel, Work and Learn’ program to Europe. German Professor Walter Perl and Spanish Professor Harold Murphy took us to Germany and Spain. That was my first formative experience in foreign lands and culture. I never looked back.”

Young went on to become a foreign area officer and military intelligence specialist in the U.S. Army and spent more than 20 years in foreign lands. “Marshall’s academic, social and cultural programs provided both my wife, Jane, and me with the necessary knowledge and background to be very successful in our respective areas of endeavor.”

Tom and Jane had grown up together in St. Marys, attending grade school and high school together. “We qualify as high school sweethearts,” Tom laughed. Jane’s teaching degree enabled her to teach business education in many schools along the way, including those in Ohio and in Fairfax, Va., where their two children, Curtis and Ali, were born. Most recently, Jane was director of the Pleasants County Community Foundation. She has joined Tom overseas whenever she could.

Over the years the Youngs have lived in Germany, Beirut, Jerusalem, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Sarajevo. In the summer of 1976, Tom was kidnapped by militia in Lebanon, but released unharmed. From 1991 to 1993, as a colonel, he was assigned to the U.S. Embassy in Amman, Jordan, as the defense attaché and security assistance chief. “We had a wonderful home and experience in Amman. I was an advisor to the current King Abdullah of Jordan, who at the time was a brigadier general in the Jordanian Army. Our official position gave us a unique capability and insight into the peoples and leaders of that beautiful country. We made many friends during our Middle East days.”

After retiring as a full colonel from the U.S. Army in 1996, Tom was not ready to slow down. His 31 years in the military prepared him for a second career as a defense consultant with several defense contractors. “Currently I am assisting the government of Bosnia-Herzegovina in building a new, combined Ministry of Defense and single Armed Forces. My contribution is in helping to establish a new Military Intelligence Branch of Service, organizations and functions.”

“Jane and I loved our experiences at Marshall,” Tom said. “We were Greeks--Jane an Alpha Xi and I a Lambda Chi. We enjoyed the expanded experience of being part of a fraternal society at Marshall: the Mother’s Day Sing, participation as wannabe athletes in the Intramural Sports program. I was a freshman the year Marshall became a university. Jane and I still talk about the greatest pizzas ever made, Monte’s Pizza, and we were patrons of Wiggins. I spent many, many ‘quarters’ at the El Gato Bar and Grill – long gone.

“We both value our experience with Marshall academics,” Tom added. “I loved history, political science and philosophy. I am confident that my successful academic endeavors later in life at the University of Maryland, Harvard and other schools were immeasurably enhanced by tough professors such as ‘The Bear,’ Dr. Herschel Heath, and his sidekick, ‘professor of the civil war,’ Dr. Charles H. Moffat.”
Visit the Web site above for the latest in Marshall Alumni News.
90 Years Ago

Marshall College vs. Muskingum on the YMCA Field in Parkersburg? (Beating them 19-0, by the way.)

How about a 19-19 tie with the Transylvania Kentuckians in Lexington, with 21 completed passes and a net gain of 240 yards for Marshall?

The 2nd Regiment of the West Virginia National Guard from Camp Kanawha “came down to give battle to the ‘Wearers of the Green’” but lost the war, 17-0.

What a season it was. The Big Green beat Kentucky Wesleyan 101-0. The college yearbook, Mirabilia, described the game with great enthusiasm. “The big Marshall huskies went through the Kentucky Wesleyan team like jack-rabbits through a briar patch... When one bunch had carried the pigskin over until they were tired, Coach would send in another lineup.”

It was the Ohio Northern game that closed out the “most successful football season in the history of Marshall College.” This was the Turkey Day attraction on Marshall’s field. With the first kickoff, the fight began. “Never was there a cleaner, harder fought, and more sensational football game played on the home lot,” reported Mirabilia. Marshall scored the only touchdown and won 7-0.

The Big Green ended the season with 7 wins, 2 losses and one tie, but outscored opponents 269-102. The team also defeated Rio Grande, Otterbein and Morris Harvey. Losses were to Marietta and Davis & Elkins.

Marshall University Longaberger Basket Offer.
This is the Longaberger TV Time Basket, trimmed in green and white with football tacks around the upper edge. The gold-colored engraved tag reads... We Are Marshall.

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Enterprise Rent-a-Car
With this new 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.

Liberty Mutual
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.

Marshall University Longaberger Basket Offer.
This is the Longaberger TV Time Basket, trimmed in green and white with football tacks around the upper edge. The gold-colored engraved tag reads... We Are Marshall.
“Political science is a racket!” claimed the new associate professor of political science as he took a few swings with a tennis racket at an imaginary tennis ball. He followed his declaration by a challenge to his students that he would give them an A if they could beat him two out of three sets.

Dr. Ken Hechler wasn’t serious about that grade but he was right-on serious about teachers using innovative techniques. One entertaining approach was his telephone hook-up from class to various Washington, D.C., offices to speak to Tennessee Sen. Estes Kefauver, Minnesota Sen. Hubert Humphrey, and others to get a current view on issues discussed in class. By hooking the telephone to a speaker, the entire class could participate.

Hechler would bring in “historical figures” like Alexander Hamilton to explain their role in history. Hechler was quoted as saying, “You can get people to think by making things more dramatic and realistic.”

Hechler would go on to serve as a U.S. Congressman from West Virginia (1959-77) and Secretary of State (1985-2001). He served on President Harry S. Truman’s White House staff from 1949 to 1953. He attributes the idea to pursue his own political career to the influence of students in those first classes at Marshall.

He is the author and editor of several books including Working with Truman: A Personal Memoir of the White House Years and Bridge at Remagen. The latter was made into a major motion picture in 1969, premiering in Huntington.

Hechler, a native of Roslyn, N.Y., holds a B.A. from Swarthmore College, and an M.A. and Ph.D. from Columbia University in history and government. Hechler served on the faculties of Columbia University, Princeton University and Barnard College in the pre-war years.

This column is designed to give you the opportunity to share memories of your student days at Marshall College/University. You can send your memory, 300 words or fewer, to Marshall Memories, MU Alumni Association, One John Marshall Dr., Huntington, WV 25755; or e-mail alumni@marshall.edu.
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