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Marshall University

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See page 39 for ALUMNI NEWS and more

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The official magazine of Marshall University

Autumn 2016

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on the cover

Marshall University remembers the life of Chief Justice John Marshall, and teaches students, faculty and the Marshall community of his important legacy. Photo by Rick Lee.

Summer with President Gilbert



1. President Gilbert gave a State of the University address to West Virginia's congressional delegation and alumni and friends of Marshall in the Washington, D.C., area June 14.



2. After the devastating flooding in West Virginia this summer, President Gilbert assisted with a collection drive on the Huntington campus for cleanup supplies.



3. Dr. Vicki Stroeher, professor of music at Marshall, presented a copy of her book, *My Beloved Man*, to President Gilbert July 6. The book is a compilation of the letters of composer Benjamin Britten and his life partner, tenor Peter Pears, to each other.



4. A dedicated bicyclist, President Gilbert joined the participants in the Lose the Training Wheels camp July 22. The camp is a joint effort among Marshall, the iCanShine Foundation and the Huntington YMCA, which helps students with special needs learn to ride a two-wheel bicycle.



5. President Gilbert and senior administrators at Marshall helped with a Habitat for Humanity project in Huntington July 15.



6. President Gilbert organized this selfie with the members of the UNI 100 class of which he is the instructor.



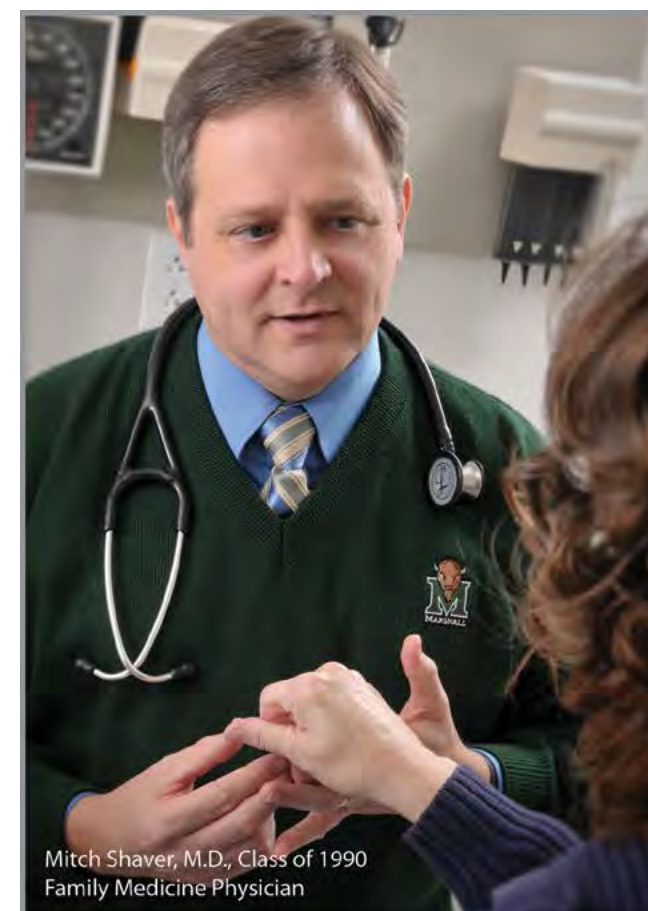
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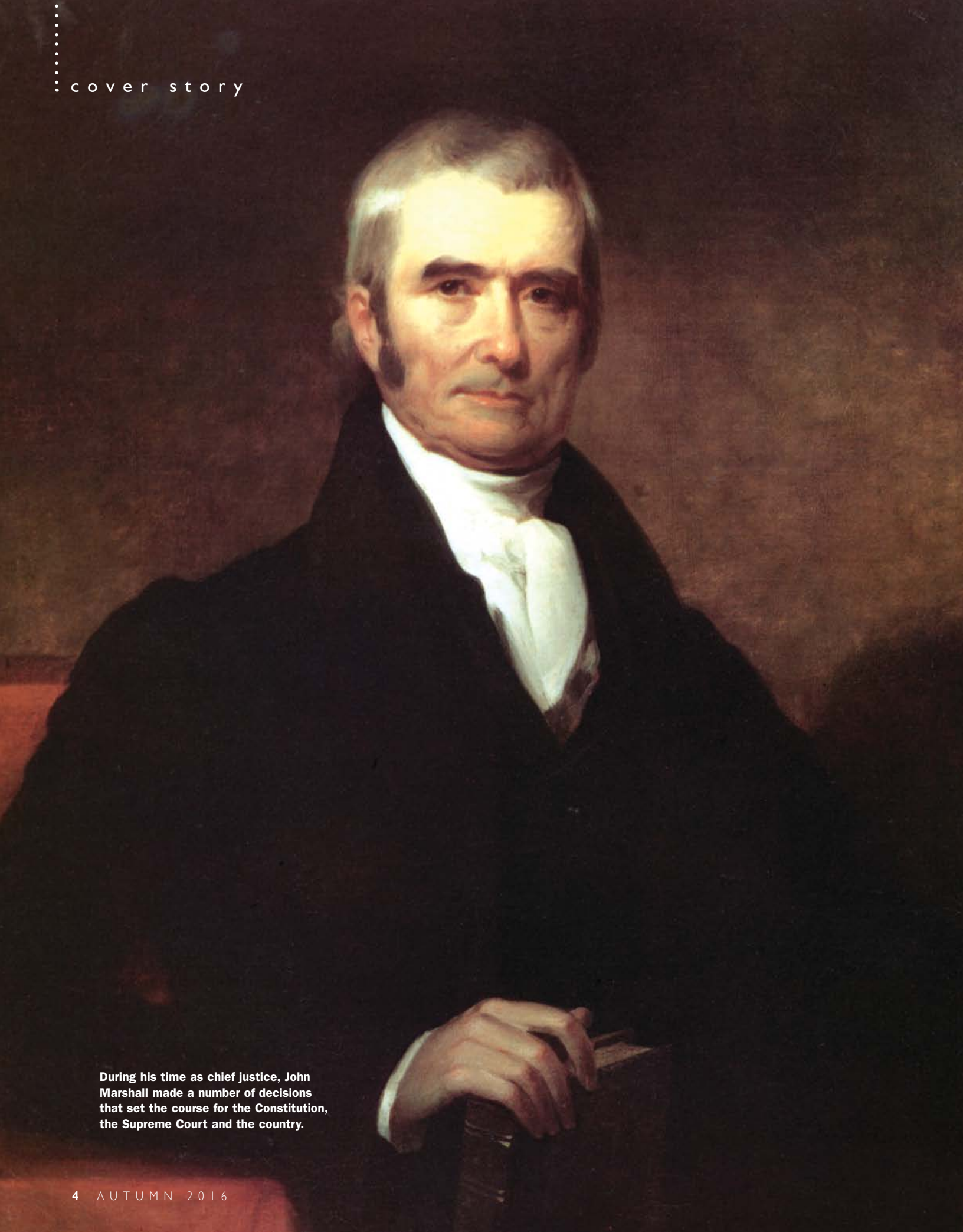
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During his time as chief justice, John Marshall made a number of decisions that set the course for the Constitution, the Supreme Court and the country.

We are his **NAMESAKE**

How university officials continue to honor the life and legacy of Chief Justice John Marshall

By James E. Casto
Photos by Rick Haye

John Marshall, the chief justice of the United States, dominated the Virginia Constitutional Convention of 1829-1830, making a deep and lasting impression on his fellow convention delegates.

One of those delegates was John Laidley, a lawyer from Cabell County. Laidley returned home and in 1837 was one of the founders of a small school that he successfully urged to be named Marshall Academy in honor of the great chief justice. Over the decades, Marshall Academy would evolve into today's Marshall University.

Like the school that carries his name, John Marshall was born in a log cabin on the Virginia frontier. At age 20, he fought in the Revolutionary War, spending the frigid winter of 1777-1778 with George Washington and the American troops encamped at Valley Forge. After the war, he established a highly successful law practice in Richmond and by 1790 had become the leading appellate lawyer in Virginia.

Marshall was elected to Congress in 1799 and appointed secretary of state in 1800. The following year, President John Adams named him chief justice. He would occupy that post for 34 years, handing down a series of historic opinions that defined the role of the Constitution, the Supreme Court and the nation.

The famed jurist died in 1835, two years before the founding of Marshall Academy, thus he never knew the school had been named for him.

"I've read a great deal about John Marshall and think he would be extremely honored to have our university named after him," said Marshall's President Jerry Gilbert. "When I speak to prospective students who visit our campus, I tell them John Marshall is right up there with the Founding Fathers. He played a significant role in the development of our legal system and helped define the U.S. Constitution. He stood for protecting individual rights and for interpreting the U.S. Constitution so everyone could benefit from the rights

“ I have a **profound respect** for John Marshall. I think his legacy is **significant** and I want the university to be **associated with him** and his career. ”

— Marshall President Jerry Gilbert

and privileges outlined in it. He stood for justice and respect. I have a profound respect and fondness for John Marshall. I think his legacy is significant and I want the university to be associated with him and his career.”

A highly visible symbol of the university’s respect for its namesake is an eight-foot bronze statue of Marshall that stands outside the John Deaver Drinko Library facing John Marshall Drive. Created by noted American sculptor William Behrends of Tryon, North Carolina, the giant statue was unveiled in 1998.

The desire to erect a life-size statue of John Marshall on campus became a reality with the construction of the Drinko Library. A plaza or commons area was envisioned adjacent to the library and its construction



Constitution Week at Marshall includes a number of activities, including a visit from a John Marshall re-enactor.

offered a clear opportunity to erect a statue which would enhance the profile of the university’s namesake on campus.

The statue portrays the chief justice in his judicial robes, stepping forward. The book held in the left hand symbolizes his early education at home on the Virginia frontier. The six-foot base is engraved with the words “Revolutionary soldier. Definer of the Constitution. Devoted husband and father.”

In 2001, the university commemorated the 200th anniversary of the inauguration of Marshall as chief justice by sponsoring “The Face of Justice,” an exhibition at the Huntington Museum of Art. The exhibit included 20 portraits of Marshall, along with

various objects and artifacts from his life.

The school also produced an hour-long documentary on the chief justice, “John Marshall: Citizen, Statesman, Jurist,” which aired on West Virginia Public Television and was made available to the state’s schools and public libraries. Distribution of the documentary was made possible by a grant from Mary and Churchill Hodges.

In 2004, Sen. Robert C. Byrd sponsored legislation that designated Sept. 17, the date of the signing of the Constitution in 1787, as Constitution Day. In shepherding the measure to enactment, Sen. Byrd said it was his hope that Americans, especially



Former Interim President Gary White participates in a quoits tournament during the 2015 Constitution Week. Quoits was John Marshall’s favorite game.

the nation’s young people, would be prompted to acquaint themselves with the Constitution and study its importance.

“Sen. Byrd’s action inspired us here at Marshall to inaugurate our own celebration,” said Dr. Alan Gould, director of the John Deaver Drinko Academy for American Political Institutions and Civic Culture, which sponsors the yearly event.

While Constitution Week at Marshall has a serious purpose, it also has a fun side — the annual President’s Invitational Quoits Tournaments.

“There was more to John Marshall than the tremendously important decisions he made,” Gould



The John Marshall Fife and Drum Corps is a musical group made up of students and faculty of Marshall’s music department who perform in replica Revolutionary War uniforms and encapsulate the era of the chief justice.



JOHN MARSHALL
CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE UNITED STATES
1801 ~ 1835

One of the main campus' most notable fixtures is the eight-foot, bronze John Marshall Statue found facing John Marshall Drive between Old Main and John Deaver Drinko Library.

said. "There was a fun side to him. There was a human side to him." And quoits, the predecessor to horseshoes, was his favorite game. Quoits are rings of iron that, like horseshoes, are pitched at stakes in the center of square pits filled with red clay.

Gould said John Marshall would have a quoits festival once a month during the spring and summer in Richmond.

"He was the chief educator," Gould said. "He was the one that made the decision as to who was closest to the peg. They said on many occasions you could find him down in the dust, the chief justice of the United States, with a straw measuring which person was closest to the peg."

Gould said it's important to realize that our leaders, including the Founding Fathers, were human.

"If we put our leaders on pedestals and venerate them, oftentimes we feel that we can never obtain that," he said. "It's important to understand that yes, they were great people, but they had to overcome human frailties just like anybody else. It's important, particularly for young people, to know that he would fit in right here, right now and be ready to play quoits."

In another tribute to the chief justice, the university has organized the John Marshall Fife and Drum Corps, a project originally envisioned by Dr. Wendell Dobbs and his wife, Linda. They approached Dr. Gould, and he coordinated a fundraising effort to make the corps a reality.

"Dr. Gould immediately recognized the potential of such an organization for both our students and the institution," Dobbs said. "And then Judy Ketchum and Lena Shell provided the resources to make it happen. Without their belief in our work, this worthy project simply wouldn't have happened."

The uniformed musical group is patterned after the Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps in Washington, D.C. Members of the corps are students and teachers in the Marshall Department of Music. They wear replicas of Revolutionary War uniforms and perform tunes that would have been heard in John Marshall's day.

Dobbs said the corps' music and image "re-affirms Marshall University's link with the era and spirit of Chief Justice Marshall."

President Gilbert said the Marshall University Creed similarly underscores the positive qualities

exhibited by John Marshall: "Shortly after I arrived at Marshall, I came across the Marshall University Creed in the student handbook. It really spoke to me. I like what it says about defining the Marshall community and striving to reflect the good and admirable qualities of our fourth chief justice. The creed says that we are an educational community, an open community, a civil community, a responsible community, a well community, an ethical community, a pluralistic community, a socially conscious community and a judicious community. These are characteristics that we can be proud of as an institution of higher learning." □

James E. Casto is the retired associate editor of *The Herald-Dispatch* and the author of a number of books on local and regional history.

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The Marshall University Creed

Inspired by the example of John Marshall, we, the students, faculty, and staff of Marshall University, pledge to pursue the development of our intellects and the expansion of knowledge, and to devote ourselves to defending individual rights and exercising civic responsibility. We strive to exemplify in our own lives the core values of John Marshall's character: independence, initiative, achievement, ethical integrity, and commitment to community through association and service. As Marshall University, we form a community that promotes educational goals and that allows individuals maximum opportunity to pursue those goals.

We are:

- **An Educational Community** in which all members work together to promote and strengthen teaching and learning;
- **An Open Community** uncompromisingly protecting freedom of thought, belief and expression;
- **A Civil Community** treating all individuals and groups with consideration, decency, and respect, and expressing disagreements in rational ways;
- **A Responsible Community** accepting obligations and following behavioral guidelines designed to support the common good;
- **A Safe Community** respecting each other's rights, privacy and property;
- **A Well Community** respecting and promoting physical and emotional health;
- **An Ethical Community** reflecting honesty, integrity and fairness in both academic and extracurricular activities;
- **A Pluralistic Community** celebrating and learning from our diversity;
- **A Socially Conscious Community** acting as citizens of the world and seeking to contribute to the betterment of people and their environments; and
- **A Judicious Community** remaining alert to the threats posed by hatred, intolerance and other injustices and ever-prepared to correct them.

TIME-HONORED TRADITION

Marshall University President Jerome A. “Jerry” Gilbert will officially be welcomed to the university with an investiture

By Jean Hardiman
Photos by Rick Haye

Universities are institutions rich with tradition. It’s a way of preserving the character and qualities that mark greatness, and it’s a way of honoring those who have upheld the culture of high standards.

Just as it is celebrated during commencement, honoring the Marshall University students, who put in the grueling hours toward earning a degree, tradition is celebrated when welcoming a newcomer who will guide the steps of the university.

And in late September, Marshall will celebrate its rich heritage and honor its 37th president during the traditional investiture ceremony of President Jerome A. “Jerry” Gilbert.

It’s not an occasion he will experience without careful reflection.



An investiture “signifies the changing of the guard of the leadership and recognizes the continuity of the institution. It is not so much about the person as it is about the office,” said Gilbert, a Mississippi native who comes to Marshall by way of Mississippi State University. “I am humbled to be the 37th president of Marshall and approach the investiture with great gratitude and humility.

“There will be members of my family present at the investiture and that will be extremely important for me because they have provided me encouragement, love, support and life lessons that have guided me in my personal and professional life. In addition to my immediate family, there will be some members of my circle of friends and colleagues who have meant

President Gilbert will be officially welcomed to the university with an investiture ceremony honoring him as Marshall’s 37th president.

so much to me over the years. It will be a chance to say 'thank you' to many people, including members of the Marshall family."

Before coming to Marshall, Gilbert spent nearly six years as provost and executive vice president at Mississippi State. A scholar with a background in biomedical engineering, Gilbert also had served as the associate provost and associate vice president for academic affairs while there. He also headed Mississippi State's Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering and coordinated its biomedical engineering program.

Though he has been busy at Marshall since January, Gilbert's investiture ceremony officially marks the start of what many hope to be an exciting presidency at Marshall.

"I think the community has already seen the reasons that Dr. Gilbert was the right choice for president," said Michael Sellards, president and CEO of St. Mary's Medical Center and past chairman of the Marshall Board of Governors. "He has exhibited strong leadership qualities in his first months on the job. He has the experience, knowledge and vision to make Marshall University an even greater institution in the years ahead. Dr. Gilbert has a clear, ambitious road map

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ON THE JOB. "**

— MICHAEL SELLARDS,
MARSHALL BOARD OF GOVERNORS



President Gilbert congratulates a graduate walking across the stage at the 2016 commencement ceremony.

for excellence and he wants Marshall to play a key partnership role in the future success of our region."

The investiture ceremony is planned for 10:30 a.m. Sept. 22 at John Marshall Circle, featuring remarks on behalf of Marshall faculty, staff, students and alumni, as well as government and academic officials. Colleagues from Mississippi State are scheduled to speak as well, and President Gilbert will give his inaugural address. Following the cer-

emony will be a reception at the Brad D. Smith Foundation Hall.

"The seven months I have been at Marshall have been incredible," Gilbert said. "I have had the chance to learn a lot about the people and the spirit of Marshall and to develop a sense of being home. The community has embraced Leigh and me and we feel like destiny has brought us to West Virginia and that it is now home.

"I have been developing ideas to position Marshall for growth and increased recognition on the local and national scenes. I look forward to working with the faculty, staff, and the administration to enhance the learning and working environment at Marshall."

Wyatt Scaggs, chairman of the Marshall Board of Governors,



President Gilbert greets Norma and Charles Carroll, two of Marshall's most generous benefactors and alumni, at the president's house.

said he's impressed with Gilbert's decision-making so far and eager to watch his progress.

"I'm excited about him putting his plan in place that will combine the successful initiatives started by President Kopp along with his own initiatives (inspired by successes he saw at Mississippi State)," said Scaggs, owner and operator of Baisden Brother Hardware in Logan.

Scaggs said he's particularly interested in Gilbert's plans to offset state budget cuts by increasing revenue at the university, through renewed efforts at recruitment and retention, fundraising, marketing and research development.

Scaggs recalled Gilbert's remarks when he first arrived. He talked about wanting to make sure students felt respected and got everything they needed to finish their coursework, graduate and succeed.

"He's a very thoughtful and participatory leader," Scaggs said. "He listens well and has already made some difficult decisions."

Choosing the right replacement for President Stephen

Kopp was one of the most difficult challenges in which Scaggs has ever participated, he said.

"The more I'm around (President Gilbert), the more I'm sure we have the right man for the job," Scaggs said.

Gilbert's investiture is another milestone for a great university, Sellards said.

"The investiture is a chance to reflect on our proud past and to focus on what's left to achieve with Dr. Gilbert, the board and our accomplished faculty and students helping lead the way," Sellards said.

Gilbert said he will work hard to maintain Marshall's proud history and its tie with Chief Justice John Marshall, "a man of integrity and vision who helped shape our country.

"I am honored as president," Gilbert said, "to be able to add just a little bit to the legacy and university history that stretches all the way back to 1837." □

Jean Hardiman is a Uniontown, Ohio, native who moved to Huntington 17 years ago to work at *The Herald-Dispatch*. She is a freelance writer, and is married with two young daughters and a grown stepdaughter.

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We Are Marshall 10th Anniversary

A look back at the motion picture that made Marshall University a household name

By Keith Morehouse

Fourth Avenue in downtown Huntington never looked so good.

Dec. 12, 2006, was the night Hollywood came to town as the movie “We Are Marshall” premiered at the historic Keith-Albee Theatre. There was glitter and glam on display for all to see. The well-worn pavement was covered by green carpet. Fans craned their necks from windows above the storefronts to see the parade of tuxedos and

evening gowns. Stars, and stargazers, were on hand for the event. A-listers like Matthew McConaughey, Matthew Fox, Anthony Mackie and Kate Mara strolled past flashbulbs and cameras. Bright lights, meet the little city.

But, it’s impossible to tell the story of “We Are Marshall” without learning what happened outside the yard lines.

On Nov. 14, 1970, a chartered jet carrying Marshall’s football team back from Greenville, North Carolina, crashed



Matthew Fox and Matthew McConaughey star as Red Dawson and Jack Lengyel leading the “Young Thundering Herd” through its first season after the 1970 plane crash.

upon approach to Tri-State Airport, killing all 75 people on board. Back in 2005, Warner Bros. had decided to take a screenplay written by Jamie Linden and Corey Helms, and to make a film about the most devastating tragedy in American college sports history.

The studio could have made the movie without Marshall’s blessing, but it would be better for everybody if the school signed off on the project. Dr. H. Keith Spears, vice president of

communications and marketing at Marshall at the time, had heard movie proposals before. But he was most impressed with Warner Bros. The studio had a script and the financial backing to make the movie work. He would serve as a constant liaison among the moviemakers, the families of those who lost loved

ones, the university and those who were portrayed in the film.

Jack Lengyel was charged with the task of trying to rebuild a program that was ripped apart by the tragedy. Some wondered if it could ever be pieced back together again. He and his assistants took on the Sisyphean-like task of trying to push the boulder up

the mountain, to resurrect a football program lost on that rainy November night. The “Young Thundering Herd” won two games in that 1971 season, and those wins might as well have been national championships. That season, and subsequent Herd successes, proved to be the inspiration for bringing the Marshall story to the masses. However, the idea was met with plenty of



One of the film’s most memorable characters is Nate Ruffin, played by Anthony Mackie. Ruffin was one of the few Marshall players not on the plane the night of the crash, and was integral to the rebuilding of the football program.

skepticism in the early going.

“It was a movie whose time had come to be told,” Jack Lengyel said. “It brought the community together, because there was a lot of hesitation. We were concerned about whether they would make a movie that really told the story or whether it would be like a ‘Beverly Hillbillies’ movie.”

Part of the way the moviemakers could allay the fears was to come to Huntington and get the “feel” of the story up close and personal. Whether it was producers Basil Iwanyk and Mary Viola walking the sidelines at a Marshall football game or director McG visiting Spring Hill Cemetery, they wanted to learn the story from the inside out.

With some financial help from the state of West Virginia, McG and



Many of the scenes for the movie were filmed in Huntington, and McG made it possible for many in the community to be involved with the picture.

Iwanyk helped convince the executives at Warner Bros. to film part of the movie in Huntington. For three weeks, downtown Huntington went back in time, transformed and dressed up as it looked in the early 1970s. Crews also filmed scenes at Marshall. The whole city was buzzing during the shoots, as Warner Bros.

involved the campus and the community, asking students and residents to get involved as extras in the movie.

During their stay in Huntington, the cast and crew took an almost reverential tone when talking about reasons for making the movie.

“Very seldom do you read stories like this that are based on something that happened, something in history,” Matthew McConaughey, who played Coach Lengyel, said at a news conference in Huntington in April 2006. “My creed has always been to ‘just keep living.’ That’s what happens in this story. Through the game of football, a team, a community comes together on the proverbial field to play and move on with memory and with hope.”

Part of director McG’s impetus

Matthew Fox (far left) and Matthew McConaughey (far right) spent invaluable time with Red Dawson (middle left) and Jack Lengyel (middle right) learning about the year after the crash to properly portray them in the film.





for taking on the project was to film some of the scenes in Huntington and at Marshall. The city and the school had to be more than bit players in this movie. The message would resonate much louder if it came from Huntington and not some studio soundstage.

"We want to get this story told properly," McG said at a news conference prior to the movie's release, "and represent the community fairly and get the story out to the world."

Convincing former Assistant Coach Red Dawson to get involved in the movie was a more difficult proposition. As strong and sturdy as the former Florida State football

player was, he was initially shaken by the idea of a movie treading on what was sacred ground to him. At first, he wasn't interested. Slowly, but surely, Dawson decided to help.

"We Are Marshall" helped him right back.

"It was very emotional starting out and the further we got involved the easier it got," Dawson said. "I can talk about it now, and I don't know when I'm going to get emotional but I can still talk about it and stay straight. It may come any minute, but it hasn't in a while. I used to have some nightmares, too, but not for a while. It's been very healing for me."

The effort put forth by Warner

Bros., and the cast and crew, noticeably impressed the coach of the Young Thundering Herd.

"We had to put some trust in Warner Bros. and fortunately it came out just the way they told us," Lengyel said. "They assured us they would tell it with dignity and honor and respect for everybody involved in the tragedy and we took them at their word. I believe they accomplished that."

The long-term effects of the movie are still being felt at Marshall.

"The most amazing thing is that we still have freshmen that come here and they say the movie is what influenced them to come to Marshall," Ginny Painter, senior vice president

of communications and marketing said. "We still get a recruiting bump from 'We Are Marshall.'"

The school plans a big 10-year celebration of the movie's release the weekend of Nov. 11-12. The plans include a reception Friday night. The Herd will wear black jerseys for the Nov. 12 game against Middle Tennessee. The memorial ceremony is set for Nov. 14.

And that date is why Hollywood came calling 10 years ago.

Huntington Mayor Steve Williams, a former Marshall player in the years after the crash, remembered premiere night like it was yesterday.

"It was so real," Williams said.

"It helped us come to terms with what happened, and it showed the resiliency of our city. We've been through some pretty rough times and taken to our knees and persevered. There was a lot of Hollywood in the movie but it showed the heart of the city and the university."

And the curtain drew to a close on a night to remember. This is the story of a city and a school inextricably tied together by tragedy. And they're both stronger for it.

The stuff movies are made of. □

Keith Morehouse is the sports director for WSAZ NewsChannel 3 in Huntington.

Special 10th Anniversary
showing of

"We Are Marshall"

plus reception
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Tickets are \$25
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"We Are Marshall" closes with a present-day shot of members of the Huntington and Marshall communities gathered around the Memorial Fountain, which was dedicated in 1972 in honor of the 75 lives lost Nov. 14, 1970.



"We Are Marshall" premiered in Huntington in December 2006, complete with a green carpet and sightings of multiple celebrities.



WHITE HOUSE RENOVATION

A collaborative effort sees the President's House
receives a much needed renovation.

By Jean Hardiman
Photos by Rick Lee



The Marshall president's house, built in 1923, stands proudly at 1040 13th Ave. across from Ritter Park in Huntington.



Because they didn't know who the new president was going to be, Phoebe Randolph of Edward Tucker Architects Inc. said those working on the house treated it as their client and stayed true to its 1920s roots.

It was 1978 when Dale Osburn took an apprenticeship job in Marshall University's Physical Plant carpentry shop.

He was a 17-year-old student in the university's cooperative education program, and he remembers well his first job in the big, white house at 1040 13th Ave., where Marshall University President Robert Hayes lived with his family.

"I remember walking in there the first time and being scared to death, thinking, 'Don't break anything,'" recalled Osburn, now the director of the Marshall Physical Plant. "I worked on a pair of doors that wouldn't close, and Mrs. Hayes baked me cookies."

It was the first of many jobs he would have in that house, a striking, Greek Revival-style home built in 1923. Osburn's biggest undertaking with the house came over the past year, when he shepherded a renovation project to help update the historic home across from Ritter Park to accommodate the latest technology and make it look as beautiful as it did for its first owner, the former Huntington Mayor William Campbell.

With the help of dozens of contractors, Marshall University renovated the 5,956-square-foot home, which has been under the university's ownership since 1971. During the 1970s, a lot of work was done on the house to change its look to the aesthetics of that time period. But a team of professional designers, painters, electricians, plumbers, tile workers and many other craftsmen worked tirelessly throughout 2015 and early 2016 to return it to its 1920s splendor while making it state-of-the-art.

"It's now a modern house with the old face to it," Osburn said. "The house has its own personality, and to see it go from a 1970s type look to its original look in the 1920s — there's nothing like it. It's been a lot of work. I've lost a lot of sleep over that house. We went more than the extra mile."

Some of the jobs undertaken were replacing the gas, water and the sewage system, along with completing much-needed



The kitchen is one of the rooms that received the most extensive renovations, including new cabinets and appliances for a stunning finish.

electrical updates and reworking the HVAC. The kitchen and bathrooms were remodeled. A second-floor hobby room was transformed into a walk-in closet.

The downstairs was beautified with new cabinetry, furniture and light fixtures. The house also has new carpeting and refinished flooring. Some of the original wallpaper was restored while other walls got new paint and refurbished trim.

Outside the home, the landscaping got a fresh look and the garage underwent a transformation as well, being

redesigned to accommodate newer vehicles rather than Model T-sized cars. Workers poured new concrete, cleaned and restored the slate on the front porch, did tuckpointing on the brickwork and much more.

It was a project months in the making. The plans were laid as the university began its search for a new president after the unexpected death of President Stephen J. Kopp. It had been many years since the house got the full attention it needed.

"It was to a point where we really



The décor for the master bathroom was inspired by Art Deco and Art Nouveau themes and features an elegant clawfoot tub.

had to make repairs," Osburn said. The roof and plumbing needed work, as did the heating and electrical systems. Also, the decor was quite dated.

The timing seemed to be appropriate to address everything all at once, Osburn said, adding that there were too many truly exceptional contractors who lent their talents to the project to name them all. The general contractor on the project was MIRC Construction.

As for Marshall employees who offered a great deal of help, they included Tony Crislip, Ronnie Hicks, Bill Black, Glen Adkins, Chris Albright, Tom Jessup, Eric Wallace, Mike Farley, Ken Holley, Danny Holland, Paul Glover, John Bailey, Dorothy Rinehardt and others.

On the designs, Phoebe Randolph of Edward Tucker Architects Inc. worked closely with Osburn and Marshall's Brandi Jacobs-Jones, Ginny Painter and Interim President Gary White, along with Susan Pierce, the deputy state historic preservation officer. The goal was to maintain historic value to meet standards of the National Register of Historic Places, which was a challenge while trying to make necessary upgrades, even when altering the garage.

Overall, however, it was a fun project, Randolph said — especially because it offered a chance to travel back to the 1920s. She incorporated art deco and art nouveau themes while planning the house's new look.

"We designed the renovation to keep with the original character of the house, and used 1920s influences for the design," Randolph said. "We used geometric patterns, colors and fabrics from that time. ... We didn't know who the president was going to be, so we felt the house was our client. What we did was fitting for the character of the house."

"We're thrilled to have the chance to help out and honored to participate. It's been wonderful to work with the Marshall staff and their facilities people."



President Gilbert speaks with Dr. Mary Katherine Gould, professor of dietetics, at an open house for faculty and staff. The first floor of the house is available for university events.

MacKenzie-Dow Fine Furniture of Huntington provided a dining room table, a buffet, and some chairs and sofas in the house, along with lighting and artwork downstairs. The company has a showroom inside Marshall's Visual Arts Center downtown and was eager to be part of such a historic project for the university, said owner Gary Adams.

"To be in the president's house is one of those jobs in Huntington you'd love to be part of," he said. "We're honored to have been asked."

Another local company that worked diligently on the house was Chandler's Kitchens. Salesman Paul Spaulding, who has worked at Chandler's for more than 50 years, spent countless hours focusing on kitchen and bath measurements for new cabinetry and appliances. There

were frequent changes along the way, and sometimes he'd have to go out to the house three or four times a day. But it was well worth it seeing the gorgeous outcome, particularly the master bath and kitchen, he said.

"I've done a lot of kitchens, and this is one of the prettiest I've ever done," he said. "I'm very proud of it. I went

to Marshall and am a big sports fan and am proud to have had a part in it."

For Osburn, renovating the house "hasn't been an 8 to 4 job," he said. "It's been a big adventure, and I wouldn't have it any other way."

"When you're a 17-year-old kid coming to work at Marshall through the cooperative education program, you kind of have a heart for the house," he said.

"This project has been a solid year of my life, but I've enjoyed it. I probably know that house better than I know my own. ... Certain things you do in your life, you never forget. This is one of those things for me." □

Jean Hardiman is a Uniontown, Ohio, native who moved to Huntington 17 years ago to work at *The Herald-Dispatch*. She is a freelance writer, and is married with two young daughters and a grown stepdaughter.

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Marshall University projects include (clockwise from left): Visual Arts Center, Erma Ora Byrd Clinical Center, INTO International Student Program, and Forensic Science Center.

ALL IN A Day's Work

Dr. Gary Rankin takes the reins as vice dean of basic sciences, and continues his success at building up Marshall University's biomedical sciences.

His mission is simple — work hard, play hard — all with the goal of helping others.

Dr. Gary Rankin joined the Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine faculty in 1978, making him one of the school's last remaining original faculty members.

Rankin said Marshall's medical school appealed to him as it was still in its early stages of development and he saw an opportunity to be a part of something special.

"Most of what I've done, I've done because it benefits other people," Rankin said. "I'm not about benefiting myself. People need all the help they can get, so I've tried to do that."

Rankin, a medicinal chemist and kidney toxicologist, has always had a love of science and originally wanted to be an astronaut. Unfortunately, a childhood leg injury prevented that dream from becoming a reality.

"I had to reevaluate career choices and thought, 'I have all As in chemistry, I'll be a chemist,' and I fell in love with organic chemistry," Rankin said. "It was a natural choice. And the idea of being able to create something no one had ever created before really fascinated me."

Rankin graduated in 1972 from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock with a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry. He continued his education at the University of Mississippi, graduating in 1976 with a Ph.D. in medicinal chemistry, and then completed

his schooling at the Medical College of Ohio with a fellowship in pharmacology from 1976-1978.

Rankin started at Marshall as an assistant professor of pharmacology. Since then, he has worked his way up to his current position as vice dean of basic sciences and chair of the newly formed department of biomedical sciences.

Joseph Shapiro, M.D., dean of the School of Medicine, said the school's departments of biochemistry, microbiology, anatomy, pharmacology, physiology, toxicology and animal resources have been combined to create a new basic sciences unit, which results in one biomedical sciences department.

With Rankin's more than 25 years experience as a department chair and his history of receiving grant funding, he was the natural choice to serve as vice dean and chair, Shapiro said.

"Gary's just a wonderful institutional citizen," he said. "He's a really selfless person who strives to make people around him look better and do better. He's, frankly, well respected by absolutely everybody and loved by everybody in the basic sciences. So, he's the logical person to put in this position. I also have a great personal relationship and understanding with Gary where we share values and both see very similar needs the institution faces."

Rankin said the restructuring allows Marshall to

By Rebecca Stephens

Photos by Rick Lee



Dr. Gary Rankin has been at Marshall for nearly 40 years, with more than 25 years of experience as a department chair making him the perfect choice to serve as vice dean of basic sciences.

stay competitive and shape its courses around research interests and common themes, such as chronic diseases or addiction.

The new biomedical sciences department is also heavily benefited by the IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence grant, or INBRE, which is a competitive federal research program established by the National Institutes of Health in 2004.

Rankin has been the principal investigator for the West Virginia INBRE program over the last 12 years. In that time, West Virginia has been awarded more than \$54 million in federal funds, which results in an economic impact of more than \$120 million. As of August 2014, the grant was renewed for another five years.

“West Virginia has been a state, like other states I’ve lived in — Arkansas and Mississippi — that really hasn’t had the advantages other states have had,” Rankin said. “This is a program that really is designed to build biomedical research infrastructure statewide.”

Rankin said the INBRE program benefits West Virginia in a number of ways. It funds research grants at undergraduate schools around the state and allows students to work with faculty members on research projects. In addition, each summer, Marshall and West Virginia University, the other lead institution in the INBRE program, host a nine-week-long summer program for students in which they complete research projects, as well as learn about the ethics and safety matters involved in the research process. The students present their research findings at the end of the summer in a symposium that alternates between Marshall and West Virginia University.

The West Virginia INBRE program also works with the Health Sciences and Technology Academy, or HSTA, which is a community-based math and science program for ninth through 12th grade students supported by an NIH award to West Virginia University. HSTA exists in 26 West Virginia counties, and primarily benefits minority and underrepresented students from rural communities. West Virginia INBRE works with HSTA to help recruit students from its pool of participants to attend one of the INBRE institutions in the state and offer the HSTA Scholars opportunities to conduct biomedical research.



In his spare time, Dr. Rankin is a veteran birder. He and his wife, Monica A. Valentovic, also a member of Marshall’s faculty, are also award-winning rosarians.

“We get to do a lot for West Virginia. That’s why I decided to get involved with INBRE,” Rankin said. “It’s really been something that’s helped the state, and has helped Marshall.”

Even when he’s not working, Rankin said he and his wife, Monica A. Valentovic, Ph.D., another member of Marshall’s faculty, still conduct science experiments — just in a different way.

“We grow roses,” Rankin said. “When we started dating, she came over to my house and said, ‘Oh, I see you have a few roses growing in the backyard, could I add some?’ Next thing I knew 25 roses show up that we were planting in the backyard.”

Rankin and Valentovic started growing roses and entering competitions in the early 1990s. Though

the first several tries didn’t earn them any prizes, they didn’t give up.

“I said, ‘Look, we’re scientists. Look around this room at all these beautiful roses. There’s a formula for how you get there and we can do it,’” he said.

And they did. Since then, Rankin and Valentovic have won more than 600 trophies, and now have about 300 rose bushes of all kinds at home. A friend even named two roses for them. The “Dr. Gary Rankin” is an orange miniature, and the “Dr. Monica Valentovic” is an orange hybrid tea, both of which grow in their garden.

“It’s a lot of fun and we’ve met a lot of great people doing it,” Rankin said.

Rankin is also an experienced birder and has traveled the world in search of different species of birds. So far, he’s seen 769 different types of birds in North America.

“I’m hardcore about it,” he said.

Of his life and his work, Rankin said his mantra is, “work hard, play hard.”

“I love this area and I love the people here,” he said. “I’ve had chances to leave, but I think I can make a difference here and improve the quality of life for others. So, as long as I have the opportunity to do that and I have my birds and my roses, I can’t complain.” □

Rebecca Stephens is the managing editor of the *Marshall Magazine*.



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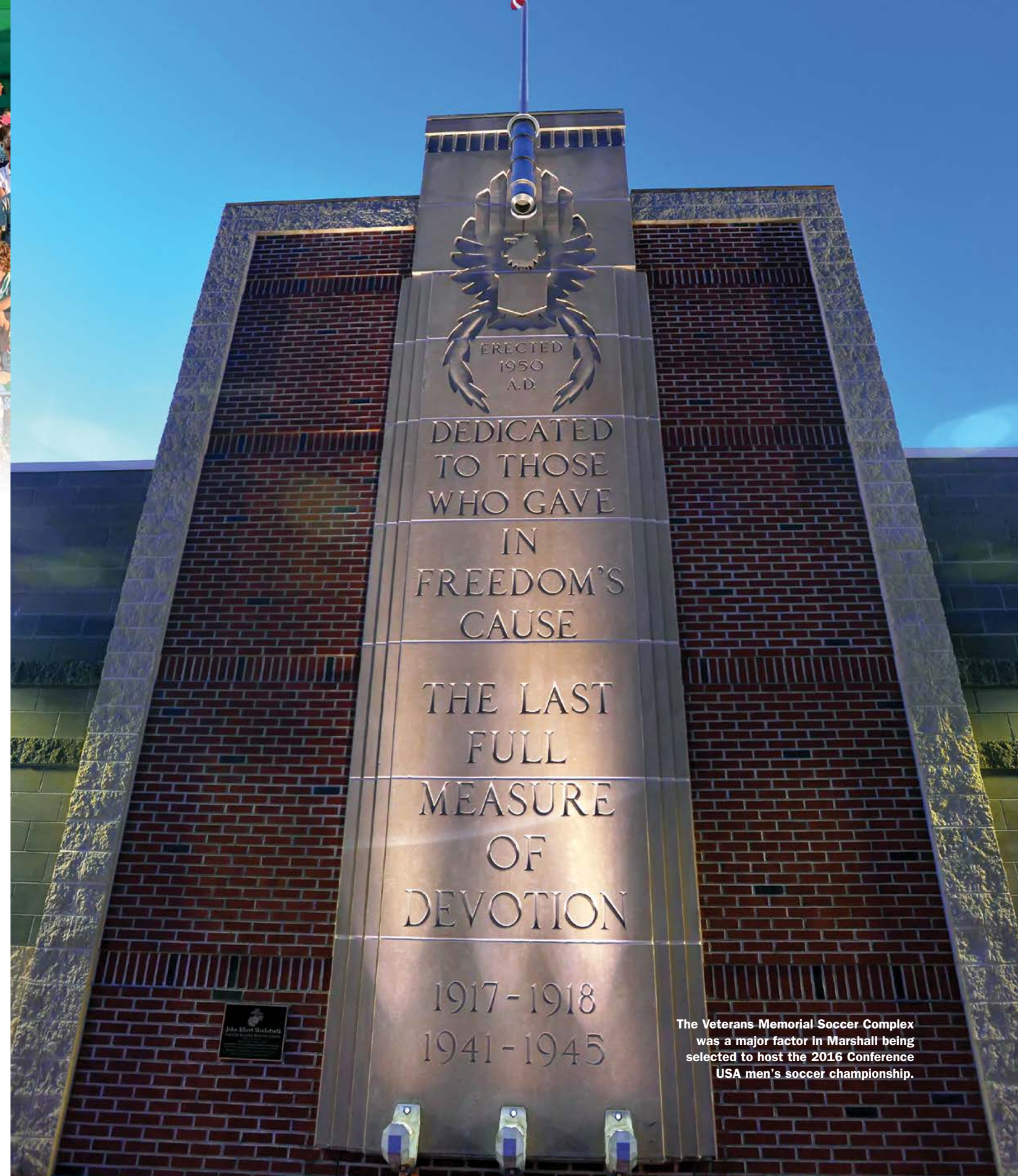
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Home Team ADVANTAGE

Marshall gears up to host its first Conference USA championship this fall.

By Samuel Speciale
Photos by Rick Haye

Ask any Thundering Herd fan. There's no doubt Marshall University athletics has a championship pedigree. No matter the sport, a tally of important wins since the university fielded its first teams more than 120 years ago is impressive, and yields numbers schools twice Marshall's size would be proud to call their own.



The Veterans Memorial Soccer Complex was a major factor in Marshall being selected to host the 2016 Conference USA men's soccer championship.



Wins in stadiums all over the country — and Marshall has plenty of them on the books — are one thing, but victory at home is even sweeter. Marshall hopes to do just that this fall when the school hosts the 2016 Conference USA men's soccer championship on the Hoops Family Field at the Veterans Memorial Soccer Complex in Huntington.

"I was absolutely thrilled," said Coach Bob Gray when asked how he felt about hearing Marshall was selected to host the soccer championship tournament. Gray, a coaching legend at Marshall, enters his 21st season with the soccer team this fall. His more than 400 wins in his 39 total seasons of coaching ranks him among the top five active NCAA Division I coaches. While the team has competed for championships under Gray's tenure, this will be the first time Marshall serves as host.

"We get to showcase our program and our facility, and bring attention to our community and city," Gray said. The Veterans Memorial Soccer Complex, built on the site of the old Veterans Memorial Field House at the corner of Fifth Avenue and 26th Street, is in its third year after completion of the \$9 million project in 2013. For many years, hosting the championship would have been tricky for Marshall. For one, there was a lack of a hosting facility like the new



soccer complex. And, until recently, Gray said C-USA by-laws prevented championships from even being played on fields like Marshall's, which is covered in artificial turf. While play on artificial turf is becoming more common in the sport, due to its lower maintenance costs and durability compared to grass, many teams do not have the kind of access to such practice facilities and fields like Marshall does.

"We're the only one in the conference with turf like this," Gray said. He admitted it creates a bit of a home field advantage.

But some backroom politicking sealed the deal. "Mike (Hamrick) deserves the credit for getting us here," Gray said, adding that Marshall's athletic director sold the team's state-of-the-art 1,006-seat soccer stadium as a viable place for a championship.

Discussions on where to play all 2016 C-USA championships started about a year ago, but the final decision came in June during a conference Board of Directors meeting. One year after playing in the championship game, Marshall



soccer would host its first conference championship.

In those meetings, Hamrick was bold. "I told them we wanted to host men's and women's soccer," he said. "He made it happen," Gray added.

While a first for Marshall soccer, the tournament is only the third C-USA championship of any sport to come to the Jewel City. Previous football championships include the 2014 football championship in the Joan C. Edwards Stadium and the 2007 volleyball tournament at the Cam Henderson Center. Marshall soccer was set to host a championship in the 2000s when the Thundering Herd was part of the Mid-American Conference, but bad weather caused the tournament to be moved to another school.

Hamrick said Marshall's soccer complex was the reason why conference officials agreed to host the championship in Huntington. He also touted Marshall's reputation in college athletics.

"It's one of the top soccer facilities in college athletics. And we don't just think that; we know it," Hamrick said. "They wouldn't have voted



to bring it here if they didn't think we'd do an excellent job of hosting."

The tournament is played in three games over five days, alternating in a Wednesday-Friday-Sunday format. The top seven of the conference's nine teams will compete. Marshall advanced to last year's championship final in Charlotte as a No. 7 seed, and beat Charlotte and South Carolina before losing to Florida International. Other schools playing C-USA men's soccer include Florida Atlantic, Kentucky, New Mexico, Old Dominion and UAB.

There are benefits of hosting the championship, which will be shown on national television. For instance, Gray said the tournament will help advance the soccer program's profile as it brings attention to Marshall and Huntington that otherwise would not have been received. "This only benefits our future, and will help us bring in top-notch players," he added.

"When you bring in that many teams with traveling parties of 35 to 40 people — there's fans, family, media — and they're here for three or four days eating at our restaurants, staying in our hotels and shopping at our stores, there will be an economic impact," Hamrick said. Add that to the estimated \$397.7 million impact the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission says Marshall has on its community and the state.

The economic impact will be welcome, but the spotlight comes during a difficult transition for the team, which graduated eight seniors last year. "It's tough to replace that kind of experience," Gray said.

While the team is trying to

integrate new players, Gray said he is confident.

"I feel we did a good job of bringing in new talent," he said. "Half the squad will be new faces, but that's not always bad." That's because new players, competing for playing time, sometimes push themselves to the next level. Gray said he expects that to translate to wins on the field.

But the season won't be an easy one for Marshall. Conference USA is one of the top in collegiate soccer, and the team isn't guaranteed an automatic bid to the tournament.

"We're going to come out of the gate with a lot of the momentum from last year," Gray said, adding that the team exceeded expectations last year and can do it again this year. In 2015, Marshall was projected to come in eighth place out of nine in the conference, but the team fought its way to seventh for a bid to the championship tournament.

Projections for this year continue to underestimate the team's potential. "It's disappointing to be eight out of nine again this year," Gray said. "But it's motivation to get there again."

No matter the season's outcome, Gray said he hopes the community embraces Marshall soccer the way it does the football and basketball programs.

"Let's fill the stands up every game. Soccer is the No. 1 sport in the world. It's time for us to get on board and create an electrifying atmosphere."

This fall, the team will play 18 games — nine at home and nine away. Only seven will advance to the C-USA championship tournament. The team that wins will go on to

compete in the NCAA tournament, but it's not uncommon for runners-up to get bids as well.

"In the past, four teams have gotten in," Gray said. "That's half our conference."

Either way, Gray said he likes his team's odds. Should Marshall make it to the championship tournament, Gray expects familiarity with the turf and colder temperatures to give them team a home-field advantage. □

Samuel Speciale is a writer and freelance photographer based in Charleston, West Virginia. He graduated from Marshall University in 2013 with a degree in print journalism. Follow him at www.twitter.com/samuelspeciale.

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Yeager Scholars Program

An exclusive scholarship program named for the man who broke the sound barrier celebrates 30 years of excellence.

By Katherine Pyles
Photo by Rick Lee

Not much has changed for the Society of Yeager Scholars in the past 30 years, and that's a good thing. Students still study abroad at Oxford University the summer after their sophomore year. They are still provided full tuition, room and board, along with a stipend for textbooks and other supplies. They still become proficient in a foreign language and go through four interdisciplinary seminars in subjects some would argue are foreign languages themselves. They still get to meet Brig. Gen. Chuck Yeager, who turns 94 in February.

Class sizes remain small, with six to 12 scholars chosen each year through a rigorous application and interview process. This year, the Joseph and Pamela Gillette Class of 2020 includes eight students from West Virginia, Ohio, Italy and Japan. As for the students themselves, it's their differences that remain the same year after year.

"Despite the fact that scholars will never take a class other than seminar with many of their classmates, the groups still develop incredibly close bonds," said Laura Greer, graduate of the Frederick J. Gumm Class of 1999 and member of the Society of Yeager Scholars Board of Directors. "Science majors attend their classmates' music and dance recitals. Psychology majors come to their biology classmate's senior project presentation on wetlands. They become a family over the course of their four years together."

Since welcoming its first class in 1986, the Yeager program has graduated hundreds of leading professionals in fields too many to name. Katie Kramer, a member of the Ashland Inc. 25th Anniversary Class of 2015, became the youngest American female to swim across the Strait of Gibraltar. Josh Carpenter, a member of the Ashland Inc. Class of 2003, argued a case before the U.S. Supreme Court. Hunter Barclay, a member of the Dr. Daniel P. Babb Class of 2019, spent the summer studying in Wales as a recipient of the Fulbright Summer Institute Award. Sarah Nix, a member of the James and Verna Gibson Class of 2018, will spend her junior year studying in Japan as a recipient of the Boren Award.

"There's no formula for what makes a great Yeager Scholar," said Dr. Nicki LoCascio, dean of the Honors College. "There's no 'typical Yeager.' They are all very, very unique."

In addition to their diverse academic interests and achievements, the "Yeagers" are known for taking on a number of community service projects, from river cleanups to donation drives to Habitat for Humanity builds. Two members of the Wolfe Family Class of 2017, Sara Brumbaugh and Ben Jones, were among a team of students who worked with the Huntington Police Department to determine more effective patrol zones.

"It's hard for people to pinpoint what a math major is able to do," said Brumbaugh, a double major in applied mathematics and secondary education. "For me, this was a great opportunity to show how you can use math to help people."

This fall, the scholars will have another great opportunity: an informal book club led by Marshall University President Jerome Gilbert. Cara Bailey, Yeager outreach coordinator, said President Gilbert's involvement and support have been invaluable, especially when it comes to his frank discussions with the scholars about what's expected of them.



Cara Bailey (left), Yeager outreach coordinator, and Dr. Nicki LoCascio, dean of the Honors College, serve at the forefront of the Yeager Scholarship program and ensure its continued success.



Photo courtesy of the Society of Yeager Scholars

Seen here with students in 1997, Marshall's Yeager Scholars get to meet Brig. Gen. Chuck Yeager and hear stories about his life and his work.

"These students have received support that other students haven't, and there's a responsibility that goes along with that," said Gilbert, who has also prompted the scholars to develop an "embedded tutoring" program to assist their classmates. "I believe they'll feel a very strong connection to Marshall because of the opportunities they've been given, and I'm excited to see the ways they give back to their fellow students and their university."

For Huntington native Will Sheils, member of the Class of 2020, that connection to Marshall comes easy.

"I've known my whole life that you can get a great-quality education at Marshall," said Sheils, an accounting major. "But with the Yeager Scholarship, it's more than a great education. You get to go through these incredible experiences with similarly minded people, who all want to better themselves and their communities. The people are what make the program special."

The scholarship is contained within the university's Honors College, created in 2010 to raise the profile of honors students at Marshall. While LoCascio and Bailey guide the Yeager program's curriculum and other aspects, the Board of Directors oversees fundraising and recruiting. The scholarship is funded by private donations, including an endowment administered through the Marshall University Foundation.

"Folks who were on the 'ground crew,' who got together and came up with this brainchild, still support the Yeager program today," said R. Scott Anderson, CFO of the Marshall University Foundation and member of the Francis Class of 1992. "And the main

reason supporters keep coming back is the opportunity to get to know the students. It's energizing and engaging to see what they're doing and what they're capable of."

When the Yeager program welcomed Cara Bailey as outreach coordinator in 2014, the program gained not only an advocate and mentor for the students, guiding them through the university's most demanding academic program, but also a devoted member of the Marshall family.

"The Yeager program has been through 30 years of university presidents, 30 years of infrastructure changes, 30 years of financial ups and downs and governmental bureaucracy — and it's survived," Bailey said. "There's a reason for that. It is important for our university, our community and our state to have this scholarship."

According to board president Rex Johnson, the best is yet to come.

"Last year we had 28 scholars, and this year we'll have 30," Johnson said. "Soon we'll have 32, and ultimately we'd like to go even higher than that. And these are top-notch students who could be going to any university in the nation, but they've chosen Marshall because of this opportunity. For 30 years, we have attracted the best and brightest from all over, but especially from West Virginia, and I'm looking forward to seeing what the next 30 years will hold." □

Katherine Pyles is a freelance writer and editor who lives in Huntington.



Yeager Scholars receive a unique opportunity to study abroad at Oxford University the summer after their sophomore year.

YEAGER

The man behind the name of Marshall University's most prestigious scholarship.

By Jack Houvouras

At the age of 93, Brig. Gen. Chuck Yeager shows few signs of slowing down, but that shouldn't come as a surprise for the aviation icon once known as the first fastest man alive. The Hamlin, West Virginia, native earned that title on Oct. 14, 1947, when he did the unthinkable and broke the sound barrier. Today, 68 years after that historic feat, he still enjoys hunting, fishing and, yes, flying. He still travels the world speaking to audiences about the subjects he knows best — aviation and a career in military service.

Before he became famous for breaking that "brick wall in the sky," Yeager was one of the best dogfighters in the military, shooting down scores of enemy planes during World War II. While most pilots dream of becoming an "ace" during times of war, Yeager accomplished that feat in just one day, shooting down five German planes in the skies over France. He went on to become the greatest test pilot in the game, flying experimental aircraft for the United States Air Force and breaking numerous speed and altitude world records. It was Yeager and his brethren who did the legwork for what would later become NASA.

Yeager was already a household name when writer Tom Wolfe released "The Right Stuff," a book about America's test pilots and the Mercury astronaut program. Wolfe's book and later the movie by the same name would make Yeager a bona fide star. As Wolfe saw it, Yeager was the measuring stick by which all pilots, and later astronauts, were judged. He was the best of the best.



Photo courtesy of Brig. Gen. Chuck Yeager.

That's why it only seemed fitting that when Marshall decided to form a scholarship in his honor in 1986, the program's motto was "Only The Best."

"I was very adamant that there would be no political influence in appointing scholars," Yeager explained. "I told them, 'If I ever see that happen, I'll walk away from it.' And they've kept it honest. They only pick the best. They're really sharp kids."

Each year Yeager tries to meet the newest class and share some of the things he's learned throughout his long life.

"It's pretty simple. I don't give anyone advice. I just give the same message: 'Those who do it on their own are the best. You can't just hope that success will be handed to you on a silver platter.'"

From a lowly private in the Air Force to brigadier general, from one of the best fighter pilots in World War II to the man who broke the sound barrier, today Chuck Yeager is considered by many to be the greatest pilot who ever lived. And, as he approaches his 94th birthday, he is still living life at full throttle. What better example of success and achievement could a young scholar hope to emulate? □

Jack Houvouras is the publisher of the *Marshall Magazine*.

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A MESSAGE FROM BENJAMIN M. SANDY

MUAA National President, Class of '07 and '11



Fellow Marshall Alumni,

There's nothing quite like a college football Saturday. Well, let me be a little more specific. There's nothing quite like a Homecoming football game on a fall Saturday in Huntington, is there?

This issue of the *Marshall Magazine* features a look ahead at the Homecoming weekend. I hope you're considering joining many other alumni who are traveling from all over the country to visit. We are set to play the Florida Atlantic Owls on Saturday, Oct. 15. For game tickets, please visit the athletic ticket office website (www.herdzone.com).

In addition, there are many activities planned all week leading up to the game. To stay up to date with all the homecoming-related news and updates, please visit our website (www.herdalum.com) for more information. Catching up with classmates, taking a tour of campus, tailgating and the chants of "WE ARE ... MARSHALL" are awaiting you!

Are you involved in an alumni club? We have clubs all over the country, and many of them host events like game-watching parties every week. For our fans that can't make it to every game, the ability to watch Marshall games with fellow Herd fans is a great experience. Visit our website or our Facebook page for a complete listing of our clubs and contact information. Alternatively, you can always e-mail our alumni relations staff for assistance at alumni@marshall.edu.

The MUAA Board of Directors is striving to make Marshall University an even better place, and we could use your help! Even though elections take place in the spring, we are always accepting nominations to join the board. If you're passionate about helping improve Marshall and the alumni association, please consider applying.

Lastly, over the last several months I've gotten to know President Gilbert, who is a great addition to the Marshall family. It's easy to see that he is very passionate about seeing our university succeed. Also equally impressive are his "selfie" skills that he showcases on Twitter (@marshallupres)! I highly recommend following him. It's great to see our university president engaging with students on campus as much as he does.

Thank you for reading and especially for your contributions towards our alma mater. It's a wonderful time to be an alumnus of Marshall University, where exciting things are happening!

Benjamin M. Sandy, '07 and '11
President
Marshall University Alumni Association

ALUMNI RELATIONS STAFF

MATT HAYES, Executive Director
LARRY CRUM, Assistant Director
ROB ELLIS, Assistant Director
DAVID JOHNSON, Graduate Assistant

HOMECOMING THUNDERING '20s!



It's that time of year again!

Homecoming returns to Marshall University's Huntington campus the week of Oct. 10-15 with a truly classic theme as we return to a time of jazz, speakeasies and Gatsby during the Thundering '20s!

Homecoming 2016 will be filled with activities for students, alums and Herd fans of all ages for a full week — all leading up to the 2016 Homecoming game against Florida Atlantic University on Saturday, Oct. 15 at 7:00 p.m.

This is your opportunity to show your Herd spirit, break out your green-and-white gear and return to Marshall to cheer on your Thundering Herd! For a comprehensive list of homecoming activities, visit HerdAlum.com or call the Marshall University Alumni Association office at 304-696-3134. We hope to see you at as many events as your schedule will allow.

Monday, Oct. 10

OFFICE DECORATION

ALL WEEK

All campus offices are asked to decorate using the "Thundering '20s" theme. The offices will be judged on Thursday and prizes will be awarded at the Friday, Oct. 14, Picnic on the Plaza. Prizes will be awarded in multiple categories.

THUNDERING POMP COMPETITION

ALL WEEK

Student organizations will be asked to create a 'pomp' piece to be used in the Homecoming parade float. Judging will take place on Thursday, Oct. 13.

PENNY WARS

ALL WEEK

Student organizations with the most pennies in their jars will win their respective categories. The winning organization will receive half of the money collected and the other half will be donated to the philanthropy of their choosing.

Tuesday, Oct. 11

CANNED FOOD ART

NOON

Student organizations will be tasked with building a self-sustaining structure out of canned food related to the "Thundering '20s" theme. All food items collected will be donated to the Huntington City Mission.

UNITY WALK

5:00 P.M.

All students, teams, organizations, residence halls, faculty, staff and community members are invited to walk the Huntington campus perimeter and show their Marshall pride!

MEET THE COURT

6:30 P.M.

Meet the candidates for Mr. and Miss Marshall. Voting begins immediately following the Unity Walk.

Wednesday, Oct. 12

SO MU THINK YOU CAN DANCE?

NOON

Show off your sweet 1920s dance moves on the Memorial Student Center Plaza!

Thursday, Oct. 13

HOMECOMING PARADE

6:30 P.M.

Join us in a celebration of Marshall University during the annual Homecoming Parade! Floats, marching bands and everything you love about parades will fill the air, this time under the lights on a Thursday night!

YELL LIKE HELL

6:30 P.M.

Students organizations participating in the parade will show their pride and see which group has the most spirit.

PEP RALLY AND BONFIRE

8:00 P.M.

A new tradition! Students can enjoy a massive bonfire with plenty of entertainment and activities featuring university coaches and team members!

ROCK THE REC

9:30 P.M.

Join Marshall as we fill the Rec Center following the pep rally for the first night of Thundering Herd basketball practice.

Friday, Oct. 14

PICNIC ON THE PLAZA

11:30 A.M.

Marshall's largest and most exciting on-campus Homecoming party returns! The Marshall University Alumni Association will be throwing a party with free food, drinks, music, games and lots of fun.

WEISBERG ENGINEERING COMPLEX TOURS

1:00 P.M.

Take a tour of the brand new Arthur Weisberg Family Applied Engineering Complex.

PARENTS AND FAMILY WEEKEND WIN RECEPTION

4:00 P.M.

Post-registration win reception and family photos in the rotunda of the Brad D. Smith Foundation Hall, home of the Erickson Alumni Center.

BLACK ALUMNI ASSOCIATION RECEPTION

6:30 P.M.

Meet-and-greet reception at the Pullman Plaza Hotel followed by comedy show and dance party.

Saturday, Oct. 15

ALUM RUN

8:00 A.M.

Join your fellow alums on a run from Pullman Square to campus with multiple age groups and prizes.

SIGMA SIGMA SIGMA HOMECOMING BREAKFAST

8:00 A.M.

The Sigma Sigma Sigma sorority will be hosting a breakfast and silent auction in the Sigma house for alumni and friends of the sorority.

MU ALUMNI TAILGATE

NOON

Tailgate with the Marshall University Alumni Association. Food, drinks, music and fun on the field beside Harless Dining Hall with a number of special guests all leading up to the big game!

HOMECOMING GAME VS. FAU

7:00 P.M.

Watch as the Thundering Herd battles FAU in a crucial Conference USA showdown.

HALFTIME ACTIVITIES

HALFTIME

Watch as we crown Mr. and Miss Marshall and present awards to student organizations following a busy week of activities.

BLACK ALUMNI ASSOCIATION CASINO NIGHT

9:30 P.M.

Casino night with dinner and dancing at the Pullman Plaza Hotel.



ON THE MOVE

A summer of fun across Herd Nation!



In mid-June, representatives from the university, athletics, alumni and many of the colleges made the trip to Washington, D.C., for the annual State of the University address.



The Marshall University Alumni Association hosted Marshall Day at Power Park in July at a West Virginia Power baseball game versus the Augusta Greenjackets. MUAA associate director Rob Ellis and his son, Sawyer, threw out the first pitch.



The Marshall University Alumni Association national board took a moment from their busy summer to pose for this image in front of the Memorial Fountain in July.



In July, the Charleston, South Carolina, alumni club, alongside a West Virginia club, got together to sponsor a flood relief benefit for those affected by the June flooding. The event raised more than \$4,000 for the flood relief program.



Mark Hayes came across this image proudly on display in the Wild Wing Café in Myrtle Beach!



In August, Marshall alum Jerod Smalley posted this image sporting his favorite Marshall hat at the Olympic Games in Rio.

2017 Alumni Weekend!

April 21-22, 2017

Mark your calendar for a weekend full of fun and fellowship as the MARSHALL UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION presents ALUMNI WEEKEND the weekend of APRIL 21-22, 2017. The university community will celebrate as alumni from around the country return to Marshall's Huntington campus for a weekend full of activities.

You will have the opportunity to renew old friendships, make new friends, remember your days at Marshall and witness the amazing changes here on the Huntington campus.



Make plans to join us today and be sure to visit us at www.herdalum.com for special discounts and complete details for Alumni Weekend 2017!



SHARE IN THE ALUMNI EXPERIENCE!

Connect with the Marshall University Alumni Association on social media and share in the alumni experience!

Friend us on Facebook, like us on Twitter and follow us on Instagram for up-to-date news, photos and live updates from all of the major alumni events and happenings on campus and around the country as the MUAA brings Marshall University to you!



Marshall University
Alumni Association

www.herdalum.com



For the *Health* of It

The Story of Evan Thoman

By Pat Dickson

The Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center (JSC) may be packed with rocket scientists engaged in dense intellectually challenging work that can change the world, but they need and want to keep healthy and be happy just like everyone else. And two-time Marshall grad Evan Thoman is the man who makes it happen.

For Thoman, (B.A. '07, M.A. '10), keeping some of the nation's top scientists and support teams healthy is all in a day's work. As the manager of employee wellness and fitness services, he oversees the employee wellness program for the more than 11,000 employees of NASA's Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas.

The Johnson Center's employee wellness program is a robust and comprehensive one, according to Thoman, who oversees its day-to-day operations. The program is focused on a well-rounded approach to well-being including programs directed toward healthy eating and physical activity, tobacco cessation, individualized health coaching and programs specific to condition management. And for NASA employees, in their often high-pressure workplace, there are stress management classes and even financial education classes offered through the center.

Thoman's been in Houston for less than two years but in that short time, he and his team have racked up an impressive number of awards and accolades for their work from the American Heart Association and the American Cancer Society.

While employer-sponsored wellness programs are



Evan Thoman

not uncommon, NASA's is different, Thoman said. "I work with real rocket scientists here; they are some of the smartest people on the planet. So, I often have to think through how I want to present health and wellness information to them."

He adds that he has found using scare tactics as they relate to motivating employees to make a change doesn't work. "It's not enough to say, 'If you don't change your lifestyle habits, your risk of having a heart attack within the next 10 years increases dramatically.' But, if I say, 'Let's talk about what we can do now, so when you go home this evening, you still have the energy left to play with your kids,' I get more attention and people are more willing to listen. They are even willing to take the risk to try something new if there is perceived value in the change."

Actually Thoman stumbled into the field of employee wellness by accident. "I thought I was going to be a strength and conditioning coach. I was majoring in exercise science and during my undergrad days I volunteered in the athletic department, serving under several strength and conditioning coaches, I thought that was what I was going to do. But once I started my graduate assistantship position within the Marshall University Department of Campus Recreation, it was then that my eyes were opened to the complete spectrum of health and wellness. There is so much more to 'being well' than just physical fitness.

"My entire approach is about having boots on the ground and communicating the importance of wellness to each and every employee ... Learning from them and listening to them, in some ways I've become their mentor, someone they can turn to when they need to overcome a challenge. It's an honor and a privilege; and I take their trust in me very seriously."

Thoman was chosen for the NASA position after a highly competitive, nationwide search. He shared that he and his wife, Whitney, also a MU grad., weren't planning to leave West Virginia, but "when NASA calls, you go," he says, laughing. "It was a tough decision to

make — scary really — and a lot of thought went into the decision, but it was a risk we were both willing to take."

The couple moved to Houston in November 2014 and Whitney, who has a M.S. in Exercise Science from Marshall, quickly found a position as a clinical exercise physiologist at The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center.

"I'm practical, she's clinical. We make a good team," he explained. And, like her husband, Whitney lives the fitness lifestyle, joining him at the gym for regular workouts.

"I'm extremely fortunate to be in a position that allows me to make a positive impact on so many lives" Thoman says. "To know that I can play a small part in being able to help my employees be better at home and work, that's very gratifying." □

Pat Dickson recently retired from the position of coordinator of media and community relations on the South Charleston campus.

CORRECTION and CLARIFICATION

The framed jersey at which Charles and Norma Carroll were looking on page 45 of the Summer 2016 issue of *Marshall Magazine* was that of basketball player John Taft. Taft's number 22 was retired and he presented the jersey to Charlie.

In the same article regarding Charlie's football game attendance: From 1987 through 2004, Charlie did not miss a single football game, home or away, including championship playoff games and bowl games. During that time period, Norma missed only three, all championship road games.

The editorial staff at *Marshall Magazine* regrets the error and is happy to set the record straight.





Please share your news with us by sending it to the Marshall University Alumni Association;
One John Marshall Drive, Huntington, WV 25755. *Preference will be given to active alumni;*
other news will be printed as space allows and should be received within six months of the event.
For more Class Notes, go to www.marshall.edu/alumni.

1960s

Merle Cole (B.S. '69) recently published "A Century Ago: Creating a State Constabulary for West Virginia," marking the coming centennial of the creation of the State Police in 1919. He lives in Daniels, West Virginia.

Joe Stewart (B.S. '68), who worked for the state of West Virginia as a public health chemist, has written "The Broker," a novel with some autobiographical aspects to it.

1970s

The Rev. Ward "Skip" Cornett III is now fully retired as of August 2015. His last official project was to organize a major Jewish-Christian conference on Peace in the Holy Land at Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, Ohio, in June 2015. Although retired, he continues to teach in congregations and serves as the Ohio coordinator for Churches for Middle East Peace.

Mike D'Antoni (B.A. '73) has been named head coach of the NBA's

Houston Rockets. He played point guard for the Thundering Herd in the 1970-71, 1971-72 and 1972-73 seasons and appeared in the NCAA and National Invitation tournaments. He also coached in Italy, with a 288-101 record, and served as an assistant coach on the gold-medal-winning U.S.A. teams in 2008 and 2012.

Edward J. McQuail III (M.A. '75) was named the Beaver/Bluefield high school archivist and historian by the Bluefield High School Foundation, the school administration and its faculty senate. He also is treasurer of the Bluefield (West Virginia)

1980s

Jamie Dickenson (B.B.A. '81, M.B.A. '87) has a new book, "Too Smart for the Ivy League." This publication focuses on how to give your kids the best education for the least amount of money.

Chris Parsons (B.S. '88), who lives in Dublin, Ohio, is writing a book about the history of UFOs.

1990s

Dan Henthorn (B.A. '90) has directed and acted with Theatre West Virginia, and teaches high school theatre. He lives in New Martinsville, West Virginia.

2000s

John Caserta (B.A. '03) is currently a medical device rep with Bausch & Lomb and lives in Hurricane, West Virginia. He is planning to start his own pharmaceutical business.

2010s

Travis Donahue (B.A. '16) was among 57 students nationwide to receive a Phi Kappa Fellowship to pursue a Master of Public Health at the University of Michigan. Founded in 1897, Phi Kappa Phi is the nation's oldest and most selective collegiate honor society for all academic disciplines.

Todd Hanchock (M.B.A. '10) is pursuing a musical career in Nashville, Tennessee, with his band, Adairs Run. Their first album has just been released.



Nineteen of the Cooley family members who are Marshall alumni were in attendance at the Cooley Family Reunion July 15-18 in Huntington. They included Brandi Jacobs-Jones (R.B.A. '00) and her husband, Aaron (B.A. '02), and daughter, Alden; and Maurice Cooley (B.A., M.A. '75) and his wife, Deborah (B.B.A. '80), and children Luke ('16) and daughter, McKenzie (B.A. '14), former Miss Marshall and now a third year law student at the West Virginia University College of Law. Events included a welcome reception Friday evening, a golf outing and day of visiting Saturday, an evening dinner dance at Brad D. Smith Foundation Hall, home of the Erickson Alumni Center, church service at First Baptist Church in Huntington and a family cookout at the home of Maurice and Deborah Cooley. The total attendance was 65.

Richard Plymale
(B.B.A. 1951)



Richard Plymale

Richard Plymale (B.B.A. '51) has received the Distinguished

Alumni Award from the Fort Gay, West Virginia, High School Alumni Association. The award was presented Sept. 2 in Louisa, Kentucky.

Plymale served 22 years on the board of the Fort Gay High School Alumni Association, including the past 20 years as its president. Under his leadership, the Fort Gay High School Memorial Scholarship was established through the Marshall University Foundation Inc. Recipients of this academic scholarship are graduates of Tolsia High School in Fort Gay.

The scholarship was officially established in 1999, and the first

award was for \$500. The program has grown significantly since then, benefiting 24 Fort Gay scholars. Four scholars, one in each undergraduate class, will share \$12,000 in the 2016-17 school year.

Plymale served in the United States Navy during the Korean War, and he is a Mason, Shriner, and member of the Royal Order of Jesters. He is an active member of his home church, Hill N Dale Christian Church, in Lexington, Kentucky.

Plymale married his wife, Jean, in August 1950. He is the father of two children and has three grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Marshall Journalism alums take five Ohio Valley EMMY Awards

Marshall University School of Journalism and Mass Communications alums were announced as "winner" five times at the 52nd Annual Ohio Valley Regional EMMY Awards Aug. 6 in Lawrenceburg, Kentucky.

For Bryant Somerville, a 2007 graduate who now anchors for WBNS 10TV in Columbus, Ohio, taking home three of those EMMYs was an "unreal feeling." Somerville's three awards came from his work at WBNS.



Bryant Somerville, 2007 Marshall University graduate, was honored with three EMMYs at the 52nd Annual Ohio Valley Regional EMMY Awards on Saturday, Aug. 6.

In addition, Russ Barbour and co-producer Suzanne Higgins were honored for their West Virginia Public Broadcasting historical documentary "Jay: A Rockefeller's Journey." Jason Pheister with his colleagues Alison Momeyer and Bryan Levin at Time Warner Cable were recognized in the sports, one-time special category for "Massive Supporters."



Journalism grad Russ Barbour, pictured with Marshall University Professor Dan Hollis, was honored along with his co-producer Suzanne Higgins for the West Virginia Public Broadcasting history documentary "Jay: A Rockefeller's Journey."



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A MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE OF ALUMNI RELATIONS

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM THE FUTURE

Greetings, Fellow Alumni and Friends of Marshall University:

Testing ... one, two three. Hello? Is this thing on?

Oh, hi there. How are you? I hope all is well back in good ol' 2016, because today we are speaking to you directly from the year 2153.

It's a bit hotter in the future — due to the fact that there are, you know, 13 billion people here on earth — and personal space is a bit harder to come by, but otherwise, life is good! Facebook is the leading source for news in the U.S., Marshall is the two-time reigning NCAA national champions (Go Herd!) and flying cars ... sorry to burst your bubble, but they still are not around.

Back to the matter at hand. So you must be asking yourself, what all-important message could possibly be coming to you from some 137 years into the future? Are we preventing a great tragedy? Trying to change the shape of the planet? Rescuing little Timmy from a well?

No, this message is much simpler, but just as important — give.

Give to your school. Give to a cause. Just, give.

Marshall University is an amazing school. It is our home, the birthplace of our dreams, our legacy. Now imagine the possibilities of that school in 50, 100, 150 years. The possibilities are endless. Just think of the growth seen here in Huntington since you last roamed the halls as a student.

A brand new, state-of-the-art recreation center? Engineering complex? A new indoor athletic complex? Biotechnology center? An amazing library? Or maybe it's the little aesthetic things — the John Marshall statue, new signs, updated buildings, a new campus bookstore.

All of this is possible because of you. You who graduated from this fine institution. You who went out into the world and made a life for yourself. You, a proud alum of Marshall University.

It's true, some give a lot, others give less. But every gift makes a difference in building Marshall University up even higher on the international stage. It allows for the growth of our campuses and centers, and also gives the very students who occupy those buildings a chance to be here and be successful.

And, as an added bonus, any gift of any size made to Marshall University makes you an official, active member of the Marshall University Alumni Association.

I come to you today, not to tell you who the next president will be (although, just WAIT and see what happens with that one), but to tell you that Marshall University can and will be even greater through generous gifts from people such as yourself.

Until next time, fellow alumni, Godspeed and GO HERD!

Best Regards,
Rob, Matt and Larry



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"Excellence. I expect it from my team — challenging each player to know their assignments and execute on every play, knowing that the most prepared and most invested team always wins." — **Doc Holliday**



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Mark A. Studeny, MD

**Marshall Health interventional cardiologist
St. Mary's Cardiac Cath Lab Director**

Dr. Studeny was the first interventional cardiologist in the Tri-State to use this new technology on patients.

