

Fall 2006

Marshall Magazine Autumn 2006

Marshall University

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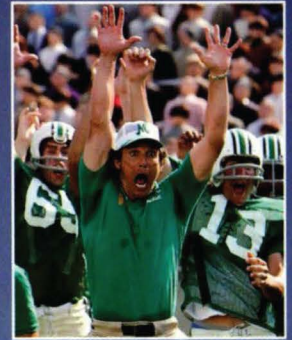
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Matthew McConaughey headlines all-star cast

Marshall



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WE ARE MARSHALL

The Movie

December 22, 2006



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Autumn 2006

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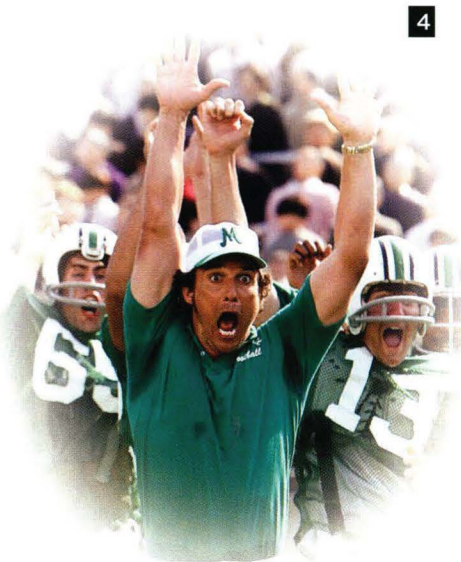
Marshall

magazine

the official magazine of Marshall University

up front

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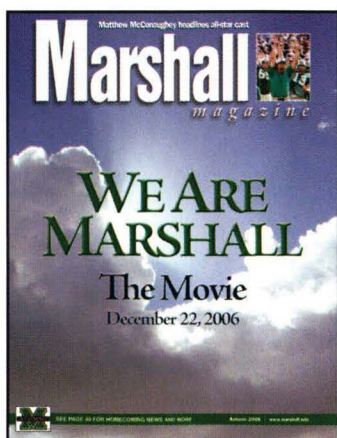
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ever GREEN

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on the cover

Alumni from around the country eagerly await the release of the "We Are Marshall" movie. Inset photo of Matthew McConaughey and players by The Herald-Dispatch.

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We Are... Marshall

As the Dec. 22 release date for "We Are Marshall" approaches, many people are wondering just what impact the movie will have on Marshall University and the community.

As I mentioned in an article published elsewhere in this edition of Marshall Magazine, I believe we can expect that Marshall University and Huntington, W.Va., will become a common household name and place. The movie will have a significant effect on Marshall's visibility and name recognition nationally, and even internationally. Although there are no guarantees, we expect that the result of that recognition will be increased enrollment, beginning in the fall of 2007.

Before the movie is released, a coast-to-coast, multi-city promotional and publicity campaign will be conducted. Virtually every major media outlet nationwide will be introduced to the film, the filmmakers and Marshall University.

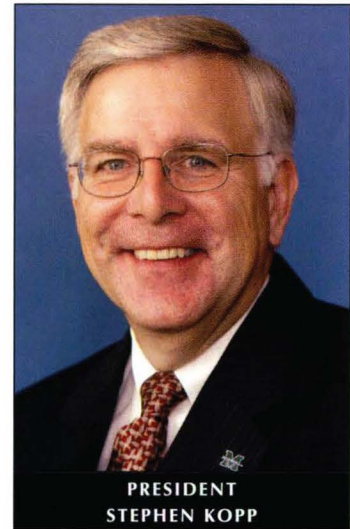
I remember when information began to circulate about the possibility that a major motion picture might be filmed on location in Huntington and on the Marshall University campus. I heard from a number of skeptics who predicted that Hollywood would never come to Huntington, W.Va. Those individuals who derided the idea as

a pipedream were quite surprised when Warner Bros. Pictures showed up in Huntington to begin filming in April and happily remained here for three consecutive weeks.

During that time, and later in Atlanta, thousands of people from Marshall and the general public were given the rare opportunity to participate in the making of the movie on-site with some of the best in the business. That opportunity, no matter how large or small, was an extraordinarily enriching and life-changing experience. For some of our students and recent graduates, such as former basketball star Mark Patton, it has changed career aspirations and opened new areas of opportunity.

As for the movie itself, I most likely will not see a final "cut" until just before its release. But I cannot imagine that the movie would show Marshall in anything but a very positive light. All indications point to an emotional and very uplifting film that will capture the hearts and spirits of millions during the Christmas season and for years to come.

We are grateful to Warner Bros. for including Marshall University in the entire filmmaking process. As most people know, the studio could have made this movie with absolutely no input from Marshall. Instead, Warner Bros. sought the



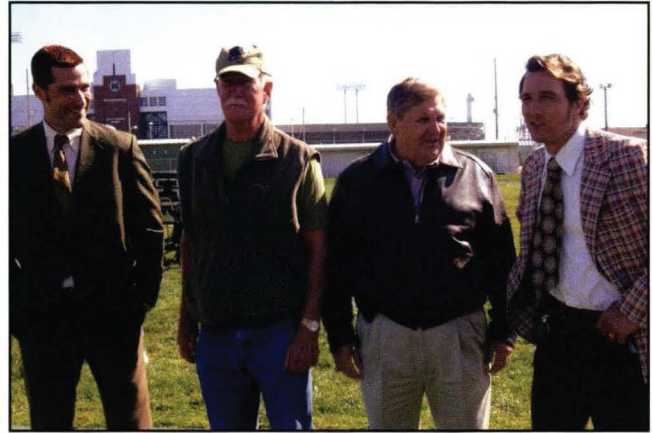
university's involvement from the outset, and we were thrilled to oblige. We also appreciate the efforts of Governor Joe Manchin, his staff and the West Virginia Film Office for helping secure the three weeks of shooting in Huntington.

The tragic Marshall plane crash nearly 36 years ago proved that tomorrow is a blessing, not a promise; a reminder that our time on this earth is precious. This defining moment unveiled the remarkable resilience and power of family and community, values held dear by West Virginians. This story of incredible courage and the struggle to overcome devastating loss will be told to the world in the movie, "We Are Marshall," in just a few short months.



The Story of

We Are



(Opposite) In one of the film's key scenes, students voice their support by participating in the "We Are Marshall" chant as university administrators meeting in the Morrow Library decide the fate of the football program. (Above) Actors David Strathairn, Matthew McConaughey and Director McG at the initial press conference in the Keith-Albee Theatre. (Above Right) The actors pose for a photo with their real-life characters: Matthew Fox, Red Dawson, Jack Lengyel, and Matthew McConaughey. (Right) Matthew Fox and Matthew McConaughey as coaches Red Dawson and Jack Lengyel on campus looking for recruits for the 1971 football team.

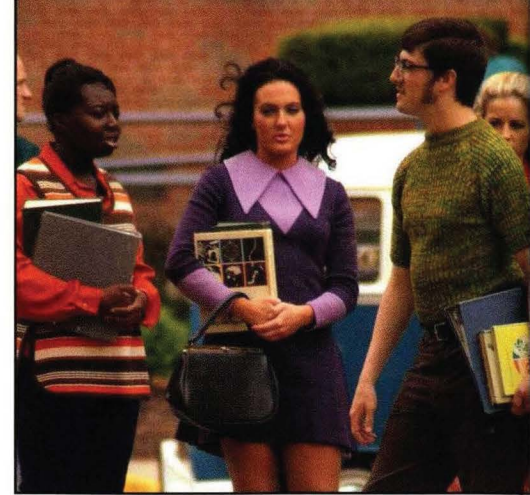
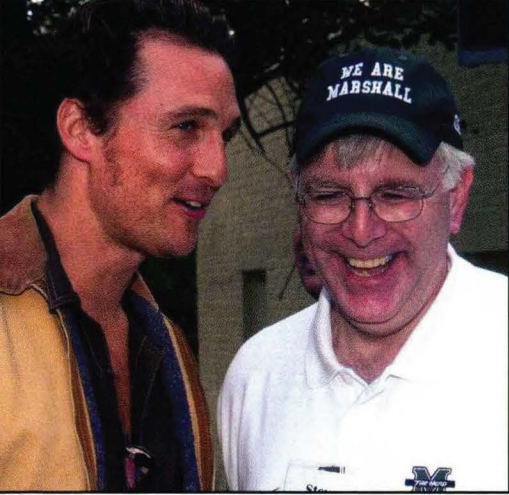


What began as a script by an unknown screenwriter has become the most eagerly anticipated event in the history of Marshall University.

Article By Dave Wellman

Photos By David E. Fattaleh, Rick Haye, Rick Lee, and The Herald-Dispatch

Marshall



(Left to Right) Matthew McConaughey and President Stephen J. Kopp share a laugh at a reception for the cast and crew at the President's Home; "Lost" star Matthew Fox colored his hair to play Coach Red Dawson; Fashion flashback to the early 1970s.

"Each year since I came to the president's office in 1997, I would get various and sundry telephone calls from would-be producers who would want to produce a movie about the Marshall plane crash. Every one was with good intentions, but typically lacked the resources and the ability to do it."

– Dr. H. Keith Spears, vice president of communications & marketing

To most who know the history of the catastrophic Nov. 14, 1970 Marshall University plane crash, it seems only logical that it has become the subject of a major motion picture. But why now? What took so long for someone or some studio to commit to turning the amazing story of tragedy and triumph into a movie?

Why, more than 35 years later, did Warner Bros. Pictures decide the time is right to use the big screen to tell the world about the crash – the worst sports-related disaster in U.S. history? It is not as if no one before had thought of telling the story of the horrible event that claimed the lives of 75 people, including most of the Marshall football team, and the miraculous, emotional recovery of a university and community that followed.

"Each year since I came to the president's office in 1997, I would get various and sundry telephone calls from would-be producers who would want to produce a movie about the Marshall plane crash," Dr. H. Keith Spears, Marshall's vice president for communications and marketing, said. "Every one was with good intentions, but typically lacked the resources and the ability to do it."

The difference this time? A script.

In late summer 2005, Hollywood again came calling. This time the message was from Warner Bros. producer Basil Iwanyk, who had made up his mind to make a movie on the Marshall crash and wanted to talk with Spears about his plans.

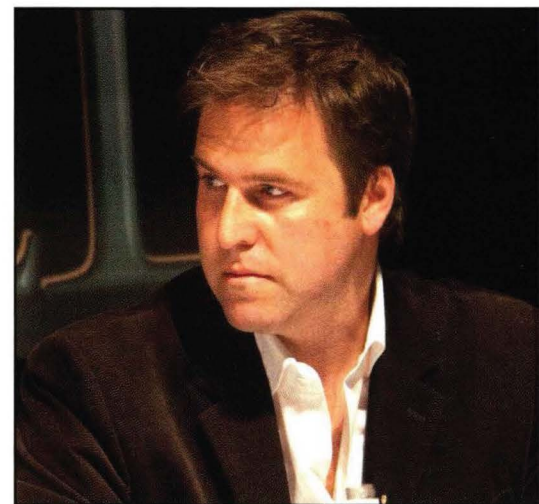
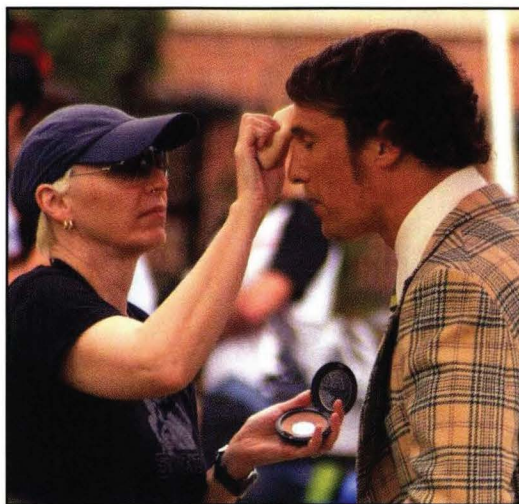
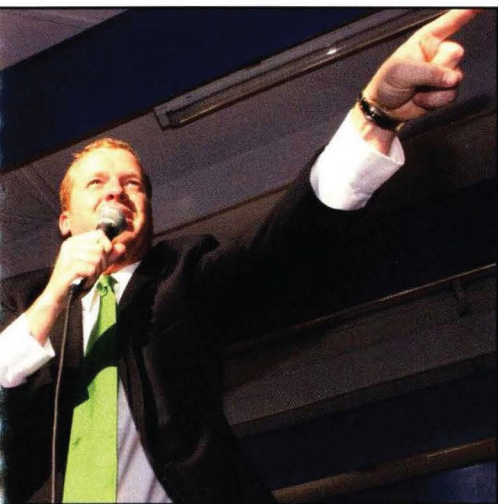
"I thought quite frankly, 'Oh boy, another one,'" Spears said, recalling his first reaction to the news that Iwanyk had called. Spears doubted that this proposal would be any different than previous ones. But Iwanyk's proposal was different. He had a script for the movie already in hand.

"When he told me he had a script, I thought that was very significant," Spears said. The script had been written by young Jamie Linden, a 2001 Florida State University alumnus who had learned about the crash while reading a story in the school newspaper a year before he graduated. He had been obsessed with the story since reading the article, and turned it into a screenplay that Warner Bros. bought in March 2004.

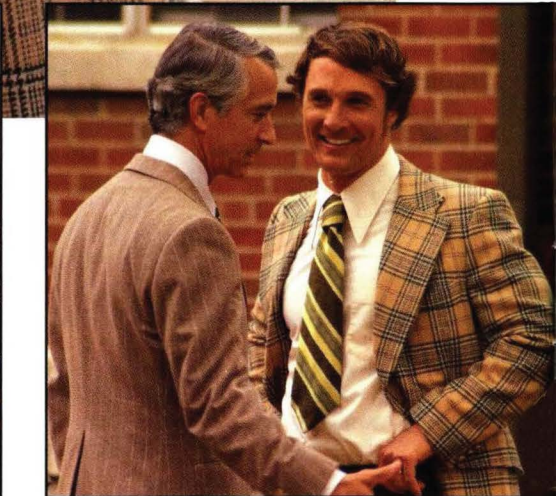
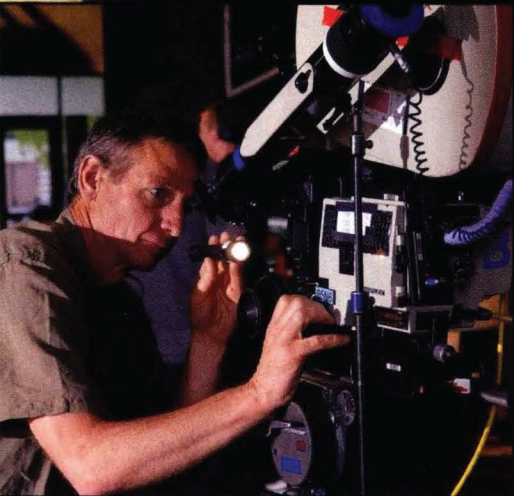
Spears, though not totally sold on the idea, listened with an open mind to what Iwanyk had to say. All the while, he remembered that the documentary "Ashes to Glory" had been released in 2000 on the 30th anniversary of the crash, and it won rave reviews and awards. He questioned whether a movie was even needed.

"We felt the documentary did a very good job of describing the intense emotion of what the community had gone through," Spears said. "We didn't think it was necessary to have a movie."

At first, Spears turned down Iwanyk's offer to visit Warner Bros. in California at the studio's expense. Eventually, Iwanyk and Mary Viola, an associate



(Top) Filming a scene in front of the Keith-Albee Theatre that recreates the rainy night of Nov. 14, 1970. (Above Left) McG, the film's talented and enthusiastic director, leads an electrified crowd in a "We Are Marshall" cheer at the block party on Fourth Avenue. (Above Middle) Matthew McConaughey getting a touch up of makeup while filming of a scene near Hodges Hall. (Above Right) Producer Basil Iwanyk fields questions at the initial press conference.



(Left to Right) Filming begins; Fans welcome cast and crew at the block party; Strathairn and McConaughey share a laugh.

(Opposite Page) West Virginia Gov. Joe Manchin presents actor Matthew McConaughey with a certificate proclaiming him an "Honorary West Virginian" during a break in filming on campus.

producer with Thunder Road Pictures in Burbank, Calif., decided to fly cross-country to Huntington to visit Spears and the university. Viola, too, was "obsessed" with the Marshall story.

The two producers made it clear during that late summer visit that they had been given great encouragement by Warner Bros. to produce the movie, whether Marshall was involved or not. "We knew that it is not imperative that the university be involved with a film about it," Spears said.

But Warner Bros. wanted Marshall to be involved in the process. "We appreciate the fact that they came to us, asking us to be actively involved," Spears said.

By coincidence, another major studio got involved in negotiations with Marshall and its Board of Governors last fall, declaring its interest in making a movie on the crash. Suddenly, producers from two studios were in Huntington, talking at different times with the Board of Governors executive committee.

Menis Ketchum, chairman of the Board of Governors, expressed his concerns as talks between the studios and board began. "Our main concern was whether a movie company would budget enough money to do the movie justice and to get it national attention," he said. "We wanted enough money budgeted so that they could get the right movie stars, and cause a buzz across the country. We wanted to be sure the plane crash story would be told in a light favorable to the crash victims."

Spears said the board had some "wide parameters" it wanted the producers to stay within. "One, honor those who were killed on the plane and their survivors," Spears

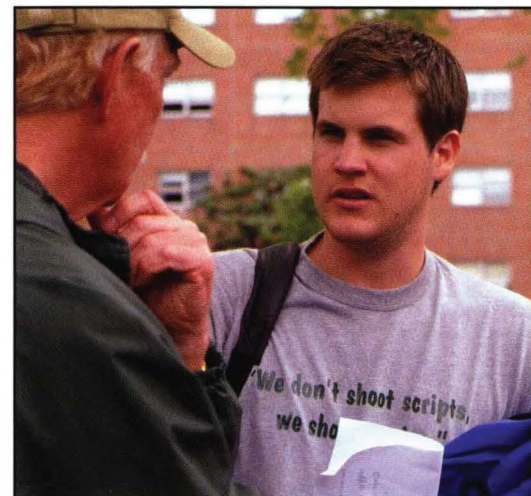
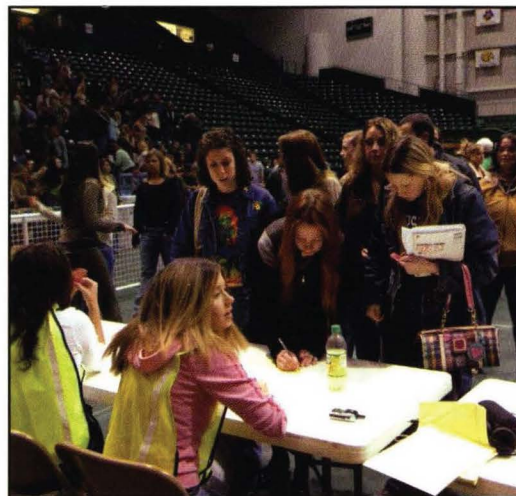
said. "Two, respect the citizens of Huntington and West Virginia, and our Appalachian culture; and three, guard the integrity of the university."

The executive committee decided to cooperate with Warner Bros. and Warner Bros. decided to fund the entire project. In early November 2005, "We Are Marshall," though untitled at the time, was on its way to becoming a reality.

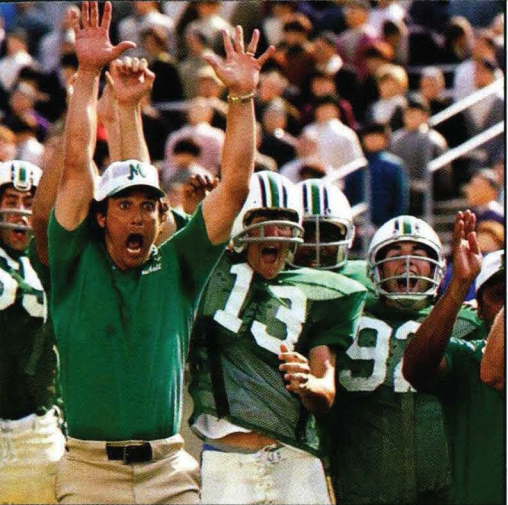
In the next several weeks, producers, directors and actors were hired, and scouting for places to shoot was ongoing on Marshall's campus and in the Huntington community. Through combined efforts of West Virginia Gov. Joe Manchin's office, Pam Haynes of the West Virginia Film Office and Marshall, it was agreed that Warner Bros. would spend three weeks in spring 2006 filming in the community and on Marshall's Huntington campus. The final two months, which would include the movie's football scenes, would be filmed in Atlanta where Morris Brown College's Herndon Stadium would be transformed into an old Fairfield Stadium look-alike.

Interest in the film ballooned when cast and crew members were publicized, one at a time. Matthew McConaughey, People Magazine's "Sexiest Man Alive," was chosen to play Jack Lengyel, coach of the Young Thundering Herd. Just like that, "We Are Marshall" had credibility. "It's an honor to be stepping into his proverbial shoes," McConaughey said of Lengyel. "What he did was some life affirming things."

Another big name to join the crew, though not as widely known as McConaughey, was McG, who is directing the film. McG had directed "Charlie's Angels"



(Left to Right) Gov. Joe Manchin and Director McG; Extras sign up for work; Screenwriter Jamie Linden chats with Red Dawson.



(Above Left) McConaughey as Coach Jack Lengyel and members of the Young Thundering Herd celebrate their last-second victory over Xavier during filming that took place in Atlanta. (Above Middle) Actor Anthony Mackie as Thundering Herd player Nate Ruffin hops a ride to the Tri-State Airport after learning that a plane had crashed. (Above Right) McConaughey addresses throngs of screaming fans at the block party in April.

and “Charlie’s Angels: Full Throttle.” Even before he was announced as director of “We Are Marshall,” McG quietly visited Huntington, hanging out and talking to people to get their take on the crash and the recovery. That visit convinced him to shoot a good portion of the film in Huntington.

“This is a tough little town,” he said later. “It’s the little town that wouldn’t quit.”

People from throughout the region and beyond wanted to be a part of the movie in one way or another. Most longed for a part as an extra. An open casting call for extras shortly before filming began attracted some 1,500 people to Marshall’s Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center. Others offered their old cars or their homes for use in the movie and some even wrote songs they hoped would be used in the film.

The movie attracted an impressive cast of stars, in addition to McConaughey. He was joined by Matthew Fox from ABC’s “Lost,” Oscar nominee David Strathairn and Ian McShane from “Deadwood,” among others. Finally, the shooting schedule was set. Filming would begin in Huntington on Monday, April 3, and continue for three weeks.

The city threw a huge block party on Saturday, April 1 to welcome the filmmakers to Huntington. The event, organized by Kindred Communications after Marshall originated the idea and the city helped plan it, took place in front of the Keith-Albee Theatre on 4th Avenue and drew thousands of people. To their delight, McG and McConaughey greeted the shoulder-to-shoulder, camera-toting fans from a stage and joined in chilling shouts of “We Are ... Marshall!”

Much of the filming that followed took place at several sites on the Huntington campus, including the

Morrow Library, Memorial Fountain, Campus Christian Center, Buskirk Field and the Memorial Student Center, to name a few. All were revamped by the set designer to look like 1970 all over again.

Downtown Huntington, too, was vintage 1970. The Keith-Albee marquee advertised “Kelly’s Heroes” as the featured attraction, storefronts were stocked with ’70s apparel and parking meters were painted gold like the old ones. Crowds gathered as close to the sets as possible not only to see the process unfold, but to perhaps get a glimpse of a movie star or two.

Throughout the pre-filming days, concerns surfaced as to how the story would be told. McG did his best to ease those worries during a pair of news conferences and other interviews with the media. “We want to get this story told properly and represent the community fairly and get the story out to the world,” he said.

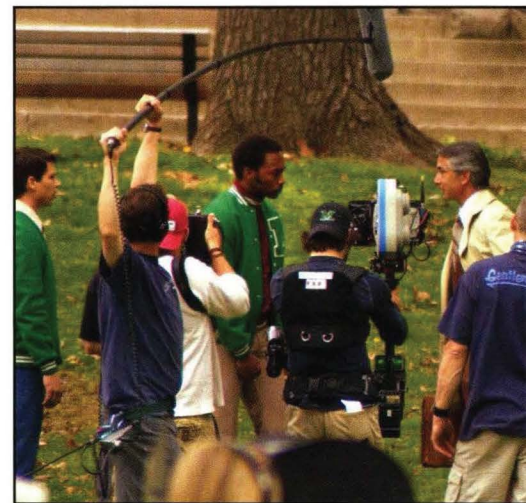
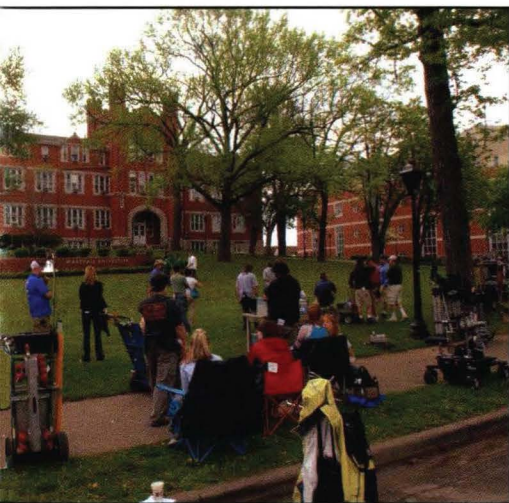
Filming ended April 22 in Huntington, then continued into June in Atlanta, and now the editing process is nearing the home stretch. “We Are Marshall” is scheduled to be released to the world in December, with premieres in Hollywood and Huntington. Marshall President Stephen J. Kopp said he expects the film to project Marshall in a very positive light.

“From what I have witnessed and in discussions with McG, I am very impressed with the professionalism and sensitivity bordering on reverence that has been shown for the story,” Kopp said.

It took decades for it to happen, but “We Are Marshall” is just months away.

Thanks to a script. □

Dave Wellman is Director of Communications at Marshall University.



(Top) Film crews capture a modern scene that sees members of both the Marshall and Huntington community gather around the Memorial Fountain. (Above Left) Film crews set up for a scene in front of Old Main. (Above Middle) McConaughey meets with two of his many female fans near Hodges Hall. (Above Right) Anthony Mackie as Nate Ruffin and David Strathairn as Marshall President Donald Dedmon in a scene outside Old Main.

In Memory

Remembering Marshall



Ms. Greatest Benefactor

Joan C. Edwards had a passion for Marshall, for Huntington and for life. Hers was a life well lived.

Article by Beverly McCoy

Born in London, England, in 1918 and raised in New Orleans, Joan Edwards cut short a promising career as a jazz singer to move to Huntington in 1937 with her new husband, James F. Edwards.

During her 54-year marriage, Mrs. Edwards became a partner in her husband's business enterprises, including racing thoroughbreds internationally and working with contractors and crews to revamp the couple's four horse racing tracks. After assisting her husband with the Edwards family's mattress business, NAMACO Industries, she ultimately became its chief executive officer, overseeing three factories.

After James Edwards' death in 1991, she was instrumental in implementing his vision to create a cancer center at Cabell Huntington Hospital, medical student scholarships at Marshall University, a conservatory at the Huntington Museum of Art, and a retirement living center through the West Virginia Diocese of the Episcopal Church.

A noted philanthropist, Mrs. Edwards personally donated more than \$22 million to Marshall University and its medical school, which was named in her honor in 2000. Her individual contributions to the university have supported growth in its athletics and arts programs, the creation of a jazz studies program, the establishment of the Susan Edwards Drake Alzheimer's Care Center, the creation of a children's cancer center within the Edwards Comprehensive Cancer Center, and the

establishment of an operating endowment for the cancer center.

"Joan Edwards was a glamorous and genteel person – charitable, visionary, gracious, sophisticated, insightful and very, very intelligent," said Dr. Charles H. McKown, Jr., Marshall's vice president for health sciences and dean of the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine.

"One of her passions was good health, and with virtually all of her passions she had one significant perspective: to focus her resources to provide long-lasting, far-reaching benefits," he said. "In health, she made her impact known through Marshall's medical school and the cancer center, which has brought to our region a new level of care for malignant illness. The people who will benefit most from her efforts are not necessarily those of us here today but our children, our grandchildren and many generations to come."

Mrs. Edwards received the Regent's Award of the American College of Healthcare Executives for her contributions to health care. She also was inducted into Marshall's Lewis College of Business Hall of Fame, made an honorary alumna of the School of Medicine, was awarded the Doctor of Humane Letters degree from Marshall, and was inducted into the Huntington Wall of Fame. □

Beverly McCoy is the Director of Public Relations for Marshall University's Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine.

We have

Article by Ernie Salvatore

Photography by Rick Hays and The Herald-Dispatch

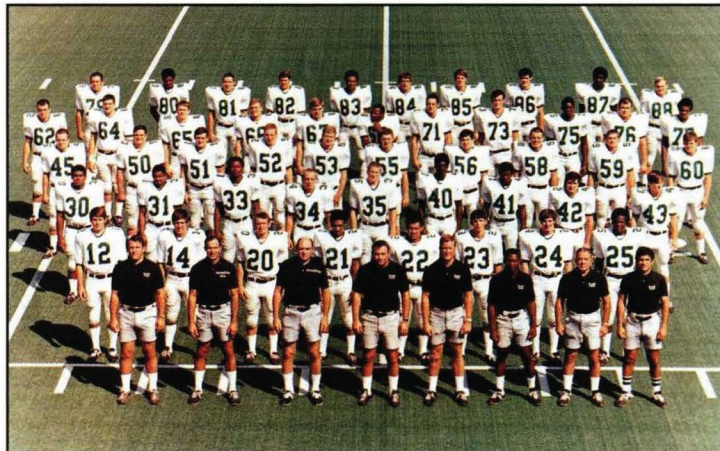
More than 35 years have passed, but the memories of that fateful night and those we lost remain with us.

*W*e have a fascination for milestones in this country. We space them neatly in 5s and 10s, then quarters and halves, each to mark a precise mathematical dimension of some sort. But, in so doing, we lessen the significance of what falls in between. These become minor way stations, mere microdots if you will, on a journey that has no ending.

That more than 35 years ago the Marshall football plane crash occurred tends to suggest that another 5 or 10 years will pass before we pause collectively once more to offer up our prayers and petitions for the repose of the 75 souls who perished.

That, of course, isn't the intention of the university. It's of far nobler design, as is the special coverage in this magazine.

"We haven't forgotten" is the simple, gentle, common message.



A team photo of the 1970 Thundering Herd football coaches and players, most of whom perished in the worst air disaster in American sports history.

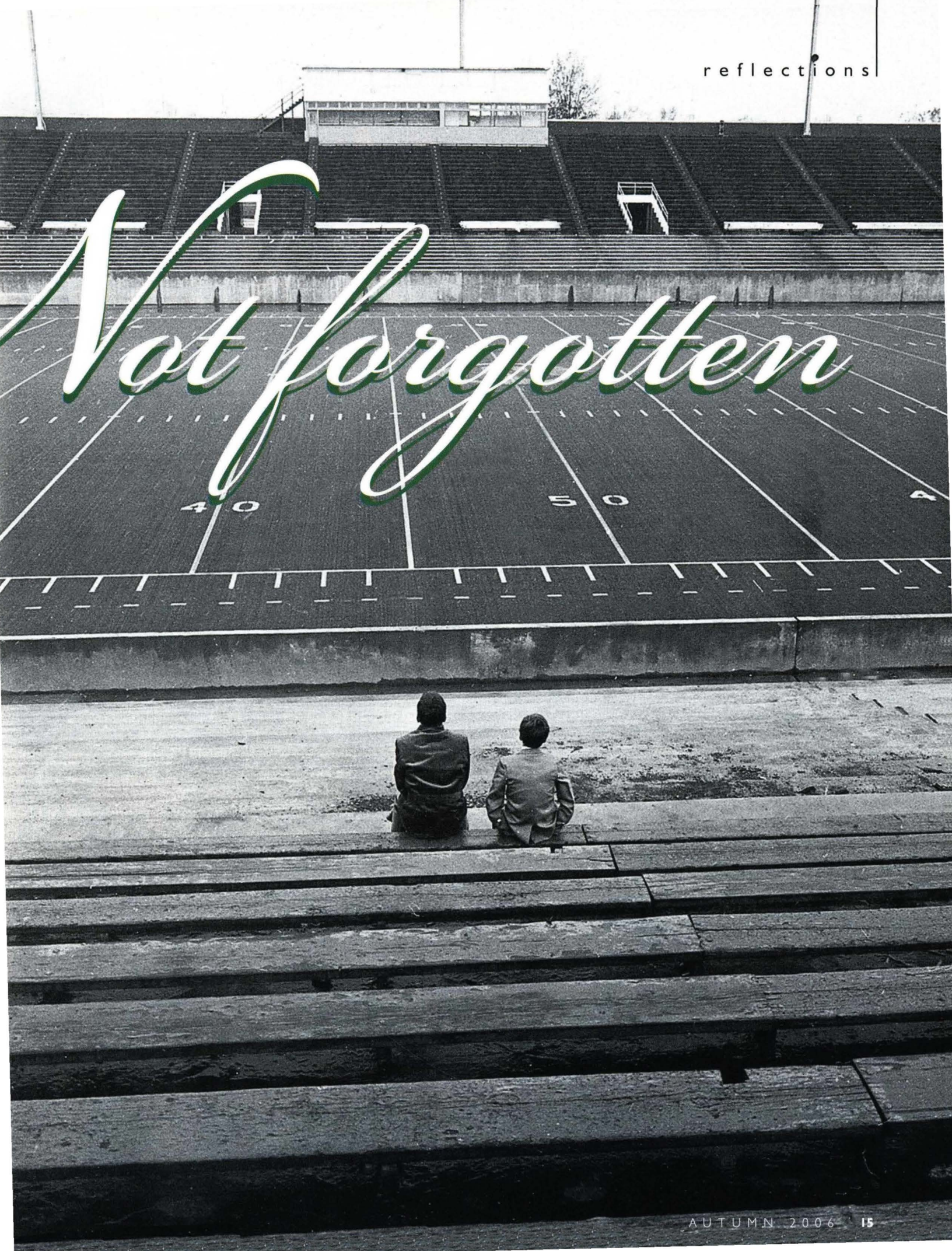
Yet, even such tenderness isn't without the consequence of pain relived. And, the pain of more than 35 years ago and its lingering aftereffects remain deep here as they must in the aftermath of tragedy everywhere. Mine disasters, floods, volcanic eruptions and senseless violence leave

behind their indelible psychological scars, too, because the mind never really lets go.

The Marshall plane crash and all of its implication certainly hasn't let go, although its grip is loosening as time moves along. Not among the living witnesses, but rather as they diminish, and that awful night of Nov. 14, 1970, recedes gradually into the pages of history.

When that happens, it'll be reduced to a chapter in history and a line in a table of air disasters. Heirs of the victims and their heirs, too, will know it only as part of family legend. Then, perhaps, the dead of Nov. 14, 1970,

Not forgotten





(Above) Thousands of members of the Marshall and Huntington community gathered around the Memorial Fountain as part of a modern-day scene that will be included in the “We Are Marshall” motion picture.

and the beloved they left behind, some who may have since joined them, will rest in peace, as I feel they must ultimately.

Thirty five years aren't enough, however, to forget. Too many memories retain a vivid sharpness. Evidence of this you'll find elsewhere, reflecting in pragmatic terms the shock that struck this community. I lived it and played a role I have no intension of reliving and replaying for you. The hurt remains too strong.

I was a minor character, anyway, among many. Most of us had jobs to do sorting things out under prolonged pressure – in our offices, at the scene, at the homes of the victims' families – and, we did them, all of us, and went home and wept quietly. All of us.

The major characters were strewn around that dark, wet Wayne County hillside unable to speak again, lifeless in a terrible scenario that had exploded onto the world's

stage like an enormous clap of thunder. From it just one, partially mitigating fact eventually emerged. The rest were beyond comprehension. Most of the 75, it said, probably died instantly, fully enjoying the last moments of their lives doing what they wanted to be doing with people they wanted to be with.

That wasn't much. But, it was something.

Life, as we know, is a series of checks and balances, however. So, to make any sense the crash had to mean more than a mercifully quick extinction of 75 happy innocents. Surely, in all of that grief there lay some clearer spiritual definitions to coincide with athletics themselves.

Could the crash serve as a constant reminder, for example, that true athletic worth isn't always to be found in the final score, that there are other higher, more mystical evaluations? The victims, remember, were

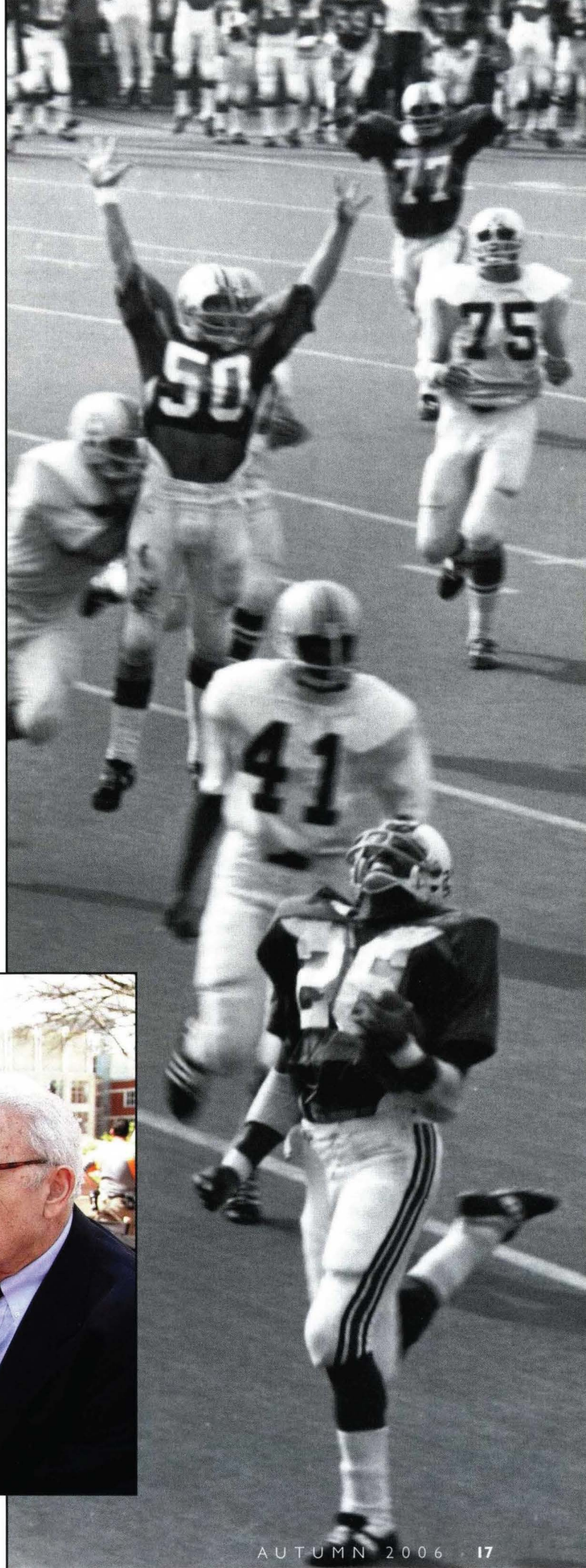
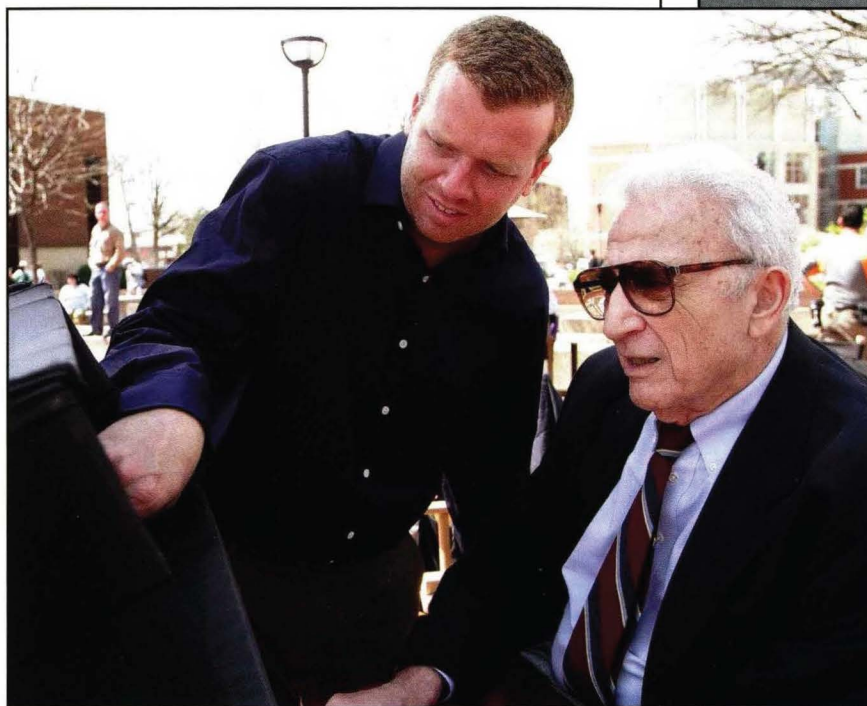
Thirty-five years aren't enough, however, to forget. Too many memories retain a vivid sharpness. Evidence of this you'll find elsewhere, reflecting in pragmatic terms the shock that struck this community.

returning from a three-point defeat. Did those three points represent the sum total of their inferiority as human beings to victorious East Carolina that day? Until the crash? How inferior were they in our minds afterward, particularly the minds of the boo birds, the second guessers, the naggers?

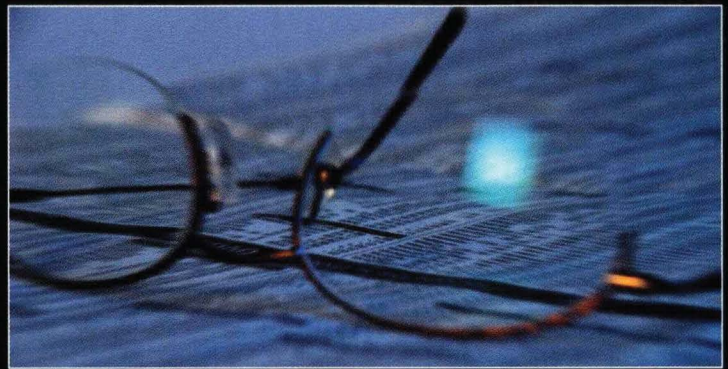
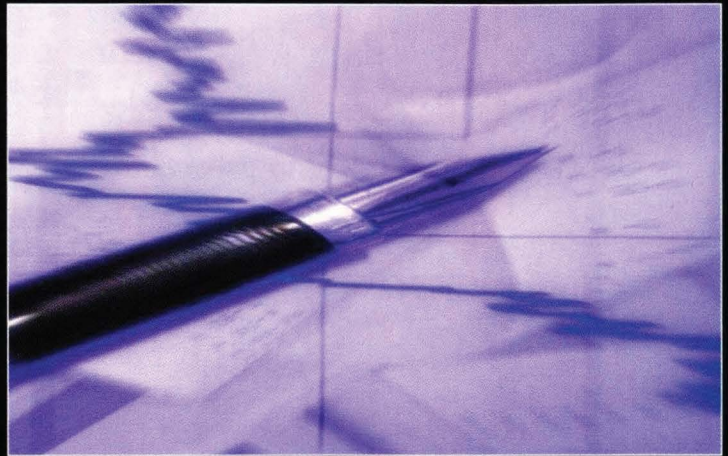
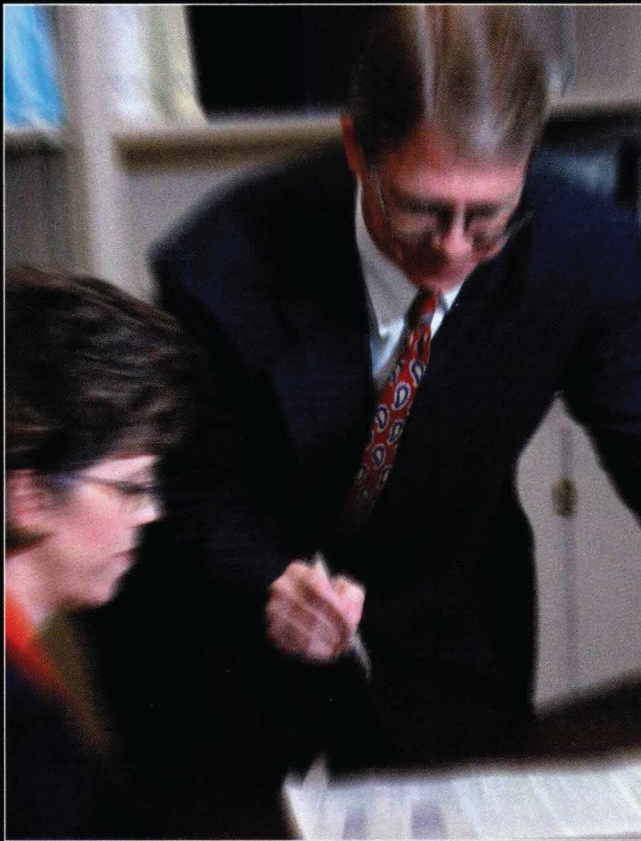
To approach the idea from a different direction, imagine the utter horror that seized the East Carolinians when they were told of the crash. Suddenly, their joyous victory meant nothing. It now had become part of the smoldering, pyrrhic DC-9. This game had been given a sudden, unwanted, human dimension too often ignored in athletics. This was the great lesson of the crash.

It didn't demean winning. It didn't deny the right of someone to seek, coach and develop bigger, stronger, and swifter athletes. But, it did make a profound statement in

(Below) Director McG goes over a scene with sports columnist Ernie Salvatore. (Right) The Young Thundering Herd's last second victory over Xavier is considered by many to be the greatest in school history. Photo by Chris Spencer.



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the days of grief that followed. It said the sanctity of the individual must always prevail, that honest human endeavor, however humble, is to be exalted forever. Human life is so brief, so temporary, so fragile, so precious.

Earlier that afternoon Marcelo Lajterman, Marshall's Argentine-born soccer-style place kicker, had barely

missed a game-tying, last-second 57-yard field goal. A five-yard delay of game penalty had taken the ball back to East Carolina's 40 and his kicking spot to the 47. Even if Marcelo's kick had been good, it still would have been his last on earth.

Sadly, within a year at Marshall, things were "normalized" sufficiently for some fans to boo Reggie Oliver, the quarterback of the Young Thundering Herd, a heroic, motley collection of walk-ons, rejects, and survivors who didn't make the fatal trip, who were now surrogates for their fallen mates.

The booers, whose eyes would mist at mention of the crash, didn't see Oliver in terms of a man whose "set-up time" was probably less than two seconds. They didn't see him as a stand-in for the dead Ted Shoebridge and Bob Harris. They saw him as a quarterback who often barely had his arm cocked before disappearing under waves of tacklers. Miraculously, Reggie led the Young Herd to two victories, easily the greatest in Marshall history.

Never had more been accomplished with less and been forgotten more quickly in a more noble cause.

On Nov. 21, 1970, in Fairfield Stadium, a week after the crash and the day Marshall was to have ended that fateful season in Athens, The Rev. Father Robert Scott, the team chaplain who didn't make the trip, offered the following eulogy to the crash victims:

"Oh Lord of all of us, you know how human we all are and thus you do understand why we must be here at this hour. We know there will be no game today. The game has been called off by Your summons of our friends to Yourself. But we are human and selfish and cry over their absence.

"So we have come to their home field and to show our affection for them we lay a wreath in the middle of this beautiful AstroTurf, of which they were so proud. Perhaps as we stand together on this turf where they gave their all for us, we may feel close to them our brothers. No one of us will ever enter this stadium ... and no Marshall game will ever be played here without thoughts of them. Oh Lord, grant them eternal peace and rest which enables them at this very hour to look upon us here and smile and be with us. This is our faith. This is our hope!

"Amen." And, amen I say to you. All of you. □

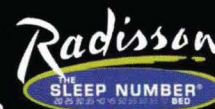
Adapted from "We Have Not Forgotten" in Ernie Salvatore's book Sportin' Life, a collection of columns published by The Herald-Dispatch in 1998.



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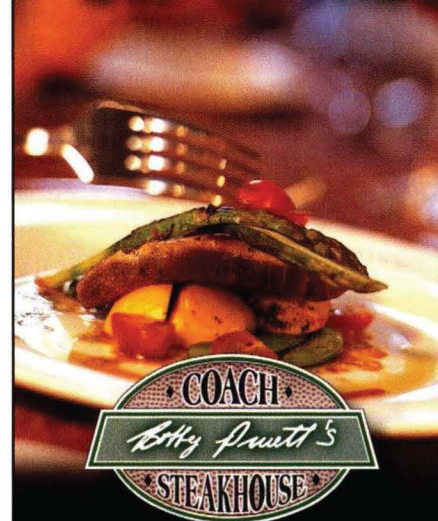
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Article By Dr. Ralph J. Turner • Photography By Rick Hays

Release of motion picture called a golden opportunity to spread the word about the special story that is Marshall University

Marshall administrators believe a lot fewer people will be saying “Marshall University – where’s that?”

It’s about the “We Are Marshall” movie and the special story that will be told to the nation.

Dr. Sarah N. Denman, Marshall provost and senior vice president, said, “Marshall University has been an institution that has touched lives and changed lives for many generations. This institution affords students a quality education from caring faculty and staff with the

sense of community that shapes the future for all who enroll here.

“The movie will allow so many to see and hear about the Marshall story. It will give so many more people the opportunity to come and be a part of this wonderful institution and truly be part of the Marshall family. Very few institutions of higher education can boast about a town/gown relationship such as we have here. My hope is that every viewer of this movie will take the time to learn more about Marshall University in Huntington, W.Va. I am confident they will be glad they did.

“The opportunity to be part of an educational experience of teaching, research and service is what all of higher education offers. Few can do this in a caring community environment such as we have at Marshall.”

The movie is not scheduled for release in theaters until Dec. 22, but Marshall administrators have worked months planning to take advantage of the attention the Warner Bros. Pictures film is expected to generate.

Primarily, the movie is about the resurgence of the football program and Marshall and the Huntington



community recovering after the Nov. 14, 1970, plane crash near the Huntington airport. All 75 people in the plane died including members of the football team, coaches, university staff, community leaders and airline crew. It remains the worst air tragedy in the history of collegiate athletics.

Marshall President Stephen J. Kopp said, "This is a story about overcoming devastating adversity, the unconquerable nature of the human spirit, and the power of a university and a community joining together to rebuild and accomplish the seemingly impossible."

Potential benefits from the movie already realized or expected include greater national name recognition for Marshall, increased enrollment, a boost in giving to fund-raising campaigns, closer alumni relations, greater support for sports teams, help in recruiting student athletes, attracting additional quality faculty and staff, and learning opportunities for students.

Many believe the movie has energized not only Marshall faculty, staff and students, but the entire Huntington community.

"The filming of a major portion of the movie in Huntington in April has energized the Marshall University campus as well as our alumni and community in very significant and meaningful ways," President Kopp said. "The unprecedented events in April have fostered a positive attitude about what is possible here. Yes, good and memorable things can and do happen here in Huntington, W.Va."

Thousands turned out for events related to the movie production including a downtown block party and the Green/White spring football game. Hundreds also participated in filming in Huntington and Atlanta. The movie-makers who were in Huntington three weeks said the response is the most positive they ever have experienced. They then moved onto Atlanta because of the production facilities available there. There, they again received tremendous support from alumni.

Menis E. Ketchum, chairman of the Marshall Board of Governors, said, "People now realize good things can happen in Huntington. I really think it will be a beginning or part of a revitalization of Huntington."



(Above) Actor Matthew Fox talks about his role in the film at a news conference in Huntington. Marshall officials hope the national spotlight focused on the film will help the university further its mission. **(Top Left)** Marshall Vice President for Communications & Marketing Keith Spears introduces actor Matthew McConaughey to the Huntington community. **(Bottom Left)** Head Football Coach Mark Snyder says the national exposure the program will receive is priceless.



Thundering Herd Football Coach Mark Snyder said, "Nobody can put a price tag on the national exposure our whole athletic department will receive. Because it is all about our football heritage I expect us to reap great rewards in recruiting. We won't have to tell our story. It will have been told for us."

Dr. H. Keith Spears, vice president for communications and marketing and considered the key person in interesting Warner Bros. to come to Huntington to make the movie, said, "The film is a golden opportunity to place the school's name before millions of people. In itself, the movie is a great promotion for the university. And the release of the movie on DVD will include a special feature on Marshall University that will bring yet another wave of recognition to our institution."



“My hope is that every viewer of this movie will take the time to learn more about Marshall University in Huntington, W.Va. I am confident they will be glad they did.” - Dr. Sarah N. Denman

President Kopp said he expects increased enrollment as a result of the movie.

“Enrollment growth at Marshall University is essential to future success,” he said. “This movie has the potential to greatly assist us in achieving our goals but we have considerable work ahead of us to take full advantage of the opportunities and interest created by the release of the movie. Although there are no guarantees, our expectation is that we will begin to experience the benefits of publicity from the movie with respect to enrollment growth beginning in the fall of 2007.”

John K. Kinzer, interim chief executive officer for the Marshall University Foundation Inc., said alumni want a way to reconnect with the university. He said he believes this eventually will result in increased financial gifts.

The movie is generating a lot of discussion when Marshall students contact alumni as part of the Annual Fund telephone fund-raising efforts, according to Rebecca McPhail Samples, Annual Fund director. “The ‘We Are Marshall’ movie has created a renewed interest in our alumni involvement at Marshall. I think this is the perfect opportunity to educate our graduates about why giving back matters and how they can each make their own mark on the future of this university.”

Campaign fund planners have worked with Todd Marcum, Marshall alumnus and president of Access Marketing in Roanoke, Va., in creating this year’s Annual Fund campaign. The theme is “While Hollywood is telling the story of our PAST...you can help write THE NEXT CHAPTER.”

Lance A. West, vice president for alumni development, said, “Alumni are excited about the visibility for Marshall and all the positive feelings for sharing the success story of the rebirth of the football program and the wonderful alumni and friends support for the entire university community.”

He said alumni love the title “We Are Marshall.” “It gets our name out front and center and has a strong connection for alumni to relate with.”

West added that the movie has provided a lot of alumni involvement. This includes the filming in

Huntington and Atlanta, citing the more than 17,000 who attended the annual Green-White game and the supporters who showed up in Atlanta to be part of the crowd for stadium filming.

“A lot of former Marshall athletes attended and alumni from all over the country came to be a part of this activity,” he said.

President Kopp said Marshall students have benefited tremendously from this experience. Students majoring in theater, broadcast communications and other fields received internship and experiential learning opportunities by working with the film crew and by acting in small cameo roles.

West said Director McG and the others associated with the movie have been very positive about Marshall and Huntington and it is a plus to have such support from major professionals in the movie industry.

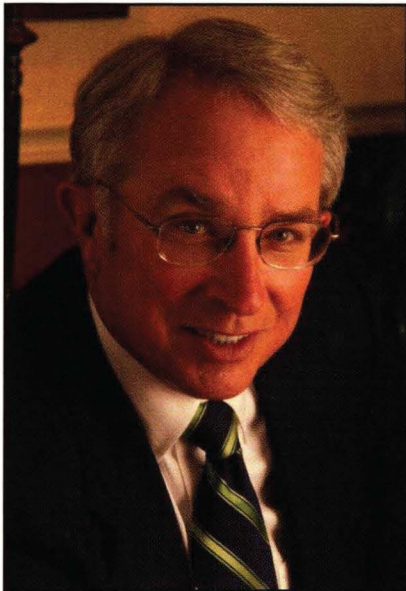
Spears said one of the rewarding points of advice before the filming started came from Homer Hickam of “Rocket Boys” fame, whom university representatives contacted about the experience of having a movie produced from his book.

“Homer’s advice was to bring the filmmakers into the Marshall circle. ‘Make them part of The Herd’ was his encouragement. ‘Your story will be their story.’ He was right,” Spears added.

Kopp said based on what he witnessed while the movie company was on campus and discussions with director McG, he is very impressed with the professionalism and sensitivity bordering on reverence that has been shown for the story. “I fully expect to see Marshall projected in a very positive light in the movie.”

He related a special time during the filming on campus.

“The filming of the ‘fountain scene’ for the movie was a very emotional experience for those of us involved. Jane (Mrs. Kopp) and I had the opportunity to meet spouses, children and relatives of the people who perished in the plane crash. For some assembled, it was their first time back to campus in many years. The day was one of quiet conversation and expression of grief. It



“People now realize good things can happen in Huntington. I really think it will be a beginning or part of a revitalization of Huntington.”

Menis Ketchum, chairman Marshall Board of Governors

was a day of remembrance, honoring and celebrating lives lost and a reminder to all of us of how precious life is and how precious our time on earth is.”

John R. Savory, former Internet Web administrator for Marshall, said the number of hits on the Marshall Web site increased significantly during the Huntington filming. The university has a Web site for the movie: www.marshall.edu/movie/. Administrators expect hits to increase once the movie is promoted and released.

“The university is making plans regarding the impact of the release of the movie on information technology resources to ensure high availability and ease of access,” Savory said. “This planning includes the evaluation of existing resources and contacting schools who have experienced a similar increase in visits due to a major motion picture.”

Spears has major responsibility for the campaign to take advantage of the opportunities to promote Marshall.

Plans include:

- Movie T-shirt days leading into home football games;
- Promotions around the Hollywood and Huntington premieres;
- Nationally, special viewings by alumni across the country;
- Stories about the movie in *Marshall Magazine* and multiple other publications;
- All give-aways associated with regional or national events in which Marshall participates will reflect the “We Are Marshall” movie.

President Kopp added, “When the film is released, it will have a very significant impact on Marshall University’s visibility and name recognition nationally. Prior to release of the movie, a multi-city promotional and publicity campaign is scheduled. Virtually every

major media outlet will be introduced to the film, the filmmakers and Marshall University. Through this campaign and the publicity that follows, it is very reasonable to expect that Marshall University and Huntington, W.Va., will become a common household name and place.

“Indeed, it is already happening,” he said. “I was in Baltimore for an alumni event. I was wearing a Marshall shirt. During a ride down on the hotel elevator an older woman looked at me several times and then asked whether I was from the university featured in a new film being made. She had heard about it from her granddaughter and was wondering. I answered in the affirmative only to learn that the woman is Kate Mara’s grandmother.” Mara is an actress who plays a Marshall cheerleader in the film.

It will not be long before major events take place to more fully introduce the Marshall story to the nation.

The Huntington premiere of the movie is tentatively scheduled for Dec. 12, possibly at the Keith-Albee Theatre. A Hollywood premiere also is planned around that time and the nationwide release date is Dec. 22.

It is common for major actors such as those starring in the movie to appear on network television shows to promote their films. In this case it also means telling the MU story to the nation.

An example of the kind of publicity Marshall is likely to receive can be found in a story on the national Business Wire on the Internet:

“We Are Marshall” tells an inspiring true story set in Huntington, W.Va., a small town steeped in the rich tradition of college football. For decades, players, coaches, fans and families have come together to cheer on Marshall University’s Thundering Herd. For this team and community, Marshall football is more than just a

sport. It's a way of life. But on a fateful night in 1970, while traveling back to Huntington after a game in North Carolina, 75 members of Marshall's football team and coaching staff were killed in a plane crash.

"As those left behind struggled to cope with the devastating loss of their loved ones, the grieving families found hope and strength in the leadership of Jack Lengyel, a young coach who was determined to rebuild Marshall's football program and in the process helped to heal a community."

Spears said, "Even with all the excitement, we are always aware of those who lost their lives in this tragic event. Would we ever, ever trade a plane full of our dearest students and friends for a movie 35 years later? No. Never.

"But, would our colleagues ever forgive us for allowing this opportunity to pass by and to share their legacy with the world? No. This film production is a bittersweet experience for all of us who are close to it."

President Kopp concluded, "The making of this movie is a testament to many people and an unwavering commitment to a better future. It is a milestone in the life of a proud university and community and reveals what can happen when we approach life with a positive attitude and expect good things to happen." □

Dr. Ralph J. Turner is professor emeritus in the W. Page Pitt School of Journalism & Mass Communications at Marshall University. He has enjoyed a distinguished career as a professional journalist as a reporter and editor for newspapers. He has also written for magazines and worked in public relations. He wrote, designed and edited the Marshall University official sesquicentennial pictorial history.

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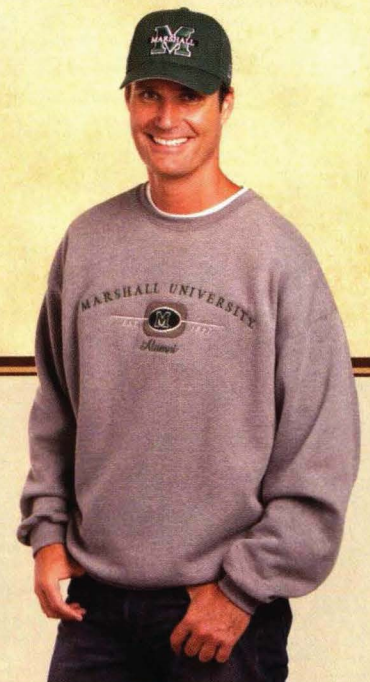
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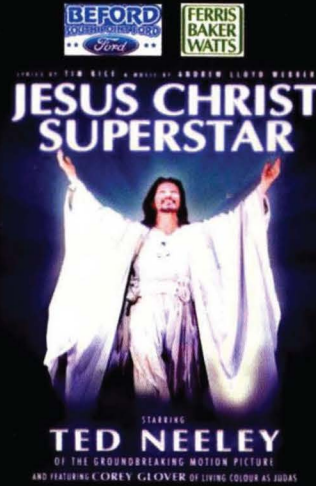
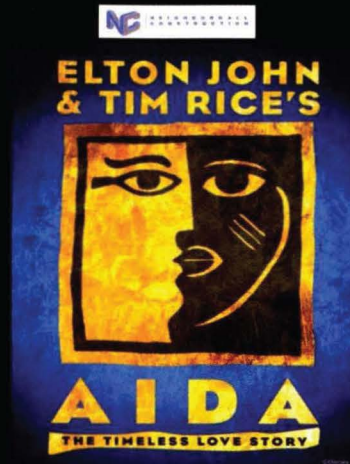
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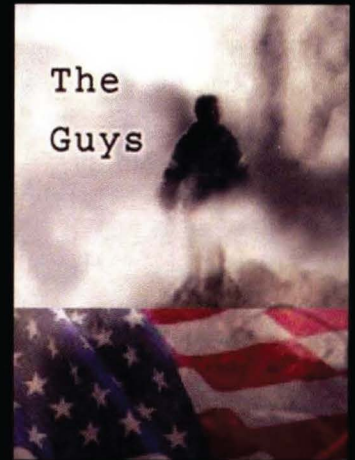
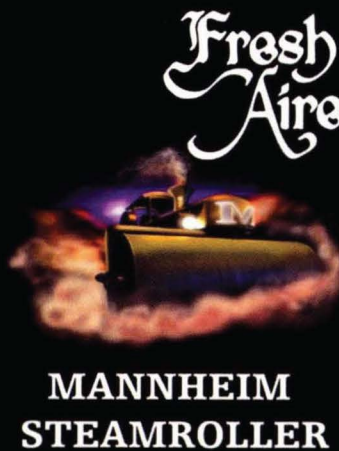
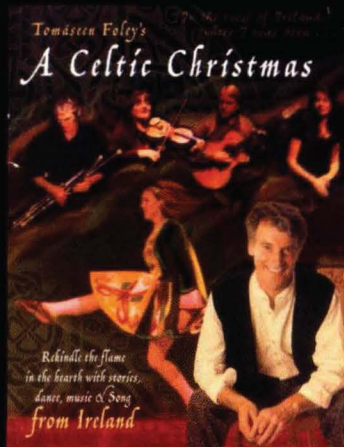
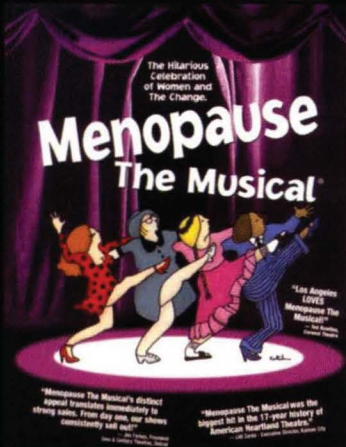
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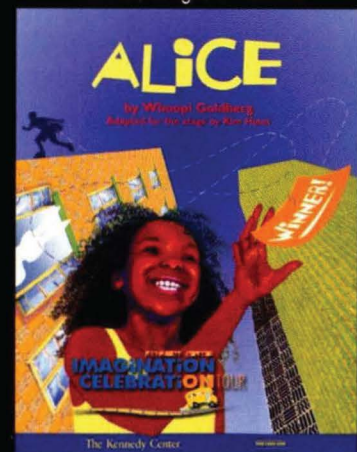
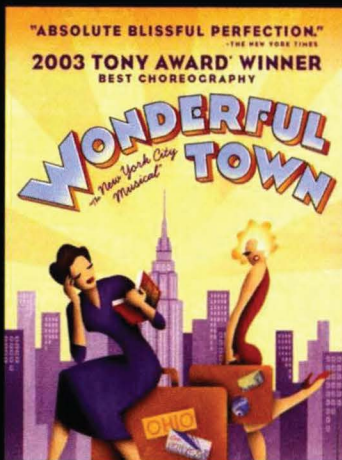
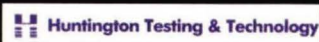


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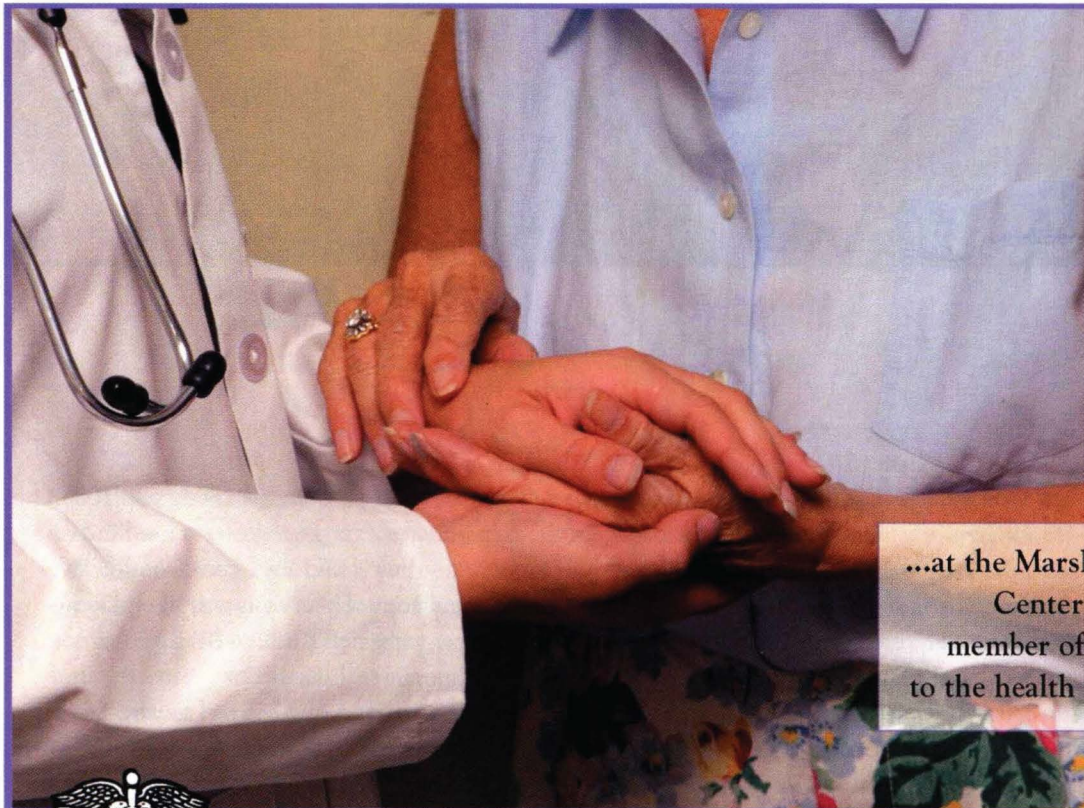
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Bring O

Last football season, Mark Snyder felt as if he had to take a final in advanced chemical engineering with just two days to study an entire semester's worth of material. Marshall's head coach is more comfortable as he enters the 2007 season and he thinks the rest of the Thundering Herd is, too. The result, Snyder hopes, is an improved football team from the club that finished 4-7 last year.

"I have a better feel for things, now," said Snyder, who was hired to replace legendary Bobby Pruett a mere two

days before spring practice concluded in April, 2005. "Last year there was no time to get to know what kind of players we had, what they could and couldn't do. We were moving to a new conference, so it was like playing 11 out-of-conference games. I think we'll have a lot better feel for the opponents this year."

Snyder also had just six returning starters to work with a year ago and was hindered by NCAA-imposed scholarship cuts. This season, he welcomes 16 starters back and the scholarship reduction is a thing of the past. Those players feel more comfortable in Snyder's system after having practiced it and played in it for a year.

Article By Tim Stephens

Photos By Rick Hays and Marilyn Testerman-Hays

As Mark Snyder enters his second campaign as Head Coach of the Thundering Herd, he faces one of the toughest schedules in school history. But as Snyder likes to say, "If you want to be the best, you have to play the best."

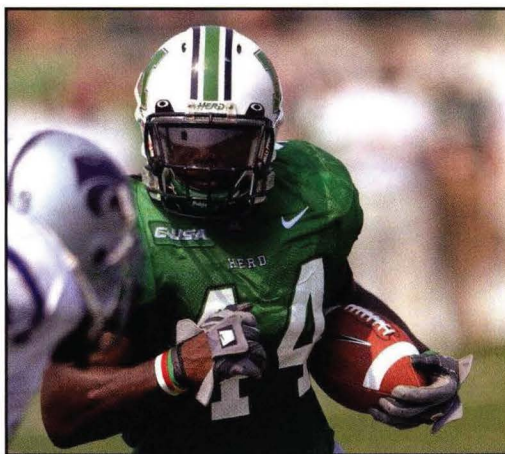
2006 n The Herd

"When you're a player, there are three stages," Snyder said. "Who am I. Where is everybody else. Go play fast. Once you figure out who you are and what you're supposed to do, you then learn what everybody around you is supposed to do. Then you go play fast. Until you learn the first two things, you can't play fast."

No player has to learn as much as quickly as does the quarterback. Marshall is in a similar situation as it was last season in that junior Bernard Morris and senior Jimmy Skinner are vying for the starting job. The two put up nearly identical statistics in 2005. Each completed 114 passes and threw six touchdown strikes. Skinner

threw for 1,135 yards with eight interceptions and Morris 1,121 yards with six picks. Neither conjures images of former Herd stars Chad Pennington and Byron Leftwich, both first-round picks in the NFL draft. Skinner and Morris, though, are capable, Snyder said.

"We are who we are and we've got what we've got," Snyder said. "We have two guys who had a year of ups and downs. We want to take the pressure off the quarterback until he becomes what we want. You can't will it or wish it. We have some talented guys but we overloaded them last year. You can't play with confidence if you don't know what's going on."



(From Left) Revving up the crowd in 2003 at Tennessee. Tailback Ahmad Bradshaw looks to punish defenders. Strike up the band.

“I think our schedule will help us in the long run. It’s a tough schedule, but we think we can make some long-term gains from it.”

– Coach Mark Snyder

The main pressure valve for the quarterback is talented junior tailback Ahmad Bradshaw, a pre-season all-Conference USA selection who rushed for 997 yards and caught a team-high 56 passes a year ago. Bradshaw is the rare combination of a workhorse and a breakaway threat and is backed by promising sophomore Chubb Small, who tallied 839 all-purpose yards in 2005.

Joining Bradshaw in the backfield more often will be a fullback, likely 6-foot-3, 245-pound junior Will Albin, a bullish blocker and short-yardage runner.

Snyder knows Marshall can’t rely just on the running game. The Herd’s inability to throw long passes last year (MU averaged just 9.9 yards per catch) allowed defenses to stack eight defenders near the line of scrimmage, hindering the running game. The Herd returns Hiram Moore, a sure-handed senior who caught 63 passes for 630 yards and four touchdowns last season. Also back are junior Marcus Fitzgerald and sophomore Emmanuel Spann (27-233 in 2004). Spann sat out last season with a knee injury.

Sophomore Ridge Corbin and true freshman Travius Thompson feature the speed Snyder hopes will allow Marshall to throw deep.

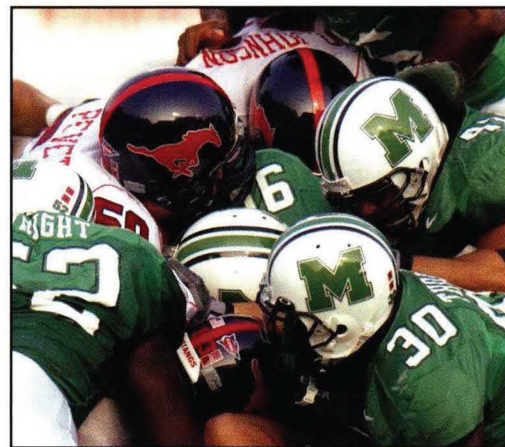
Snyder is optimistic about an offensive line that returns four of five starters. Junior Doug Legursky is an all-conference candidate at center and is flanked by junior guards John Inman and David Ziegler. Senior Seth Cook is a solid left tackle. Senior Wesley Jones will try to stave off the challenge of a bevy of youngsters at right tackle.

“We have some good guys on the offensive line to take the heat off our quarterback,” Snyder said.

Snyder is eager to see how his defense performs. A former All-American safety at Marshall, Snyder has coached defense his entire career. Last season, though, was difficult for him in that he and heralded defensive coordinator Jim Collins had difficulty meshing because of the short time after the coaching transition. Adding to

Quarterback Bernie Morris looks to have a breakout year.





(From Left) Wide receiver Hiram Hoore on the run. Herd fans are ready to rumble. Marshall's defense is much improved.

the problem was that Snyder, former defensive coordinator at Ohio State, and Collins, former defensive coordinator at Florida, were accustomed to running two very different systems.

"It was hard last year because I couldn't help call defenses," Snyder said. "I'm more at ease this year. Jim and I are from different schools of thought and we've kind of married the two for this season."

Marshall figures to be improved on defense. Depth is better, veteran leadership exists and talented young players exist.

"We have increased depth at linebacker," Snyder said. "Essentially, we have five guys who can play three positions. That increases our chances."

Senior Dennis Thornton is a standout at weakside linebacker, where he made a team-high 104 tackles last season. Senior Matt Couch also provides a veteran presence as he moves from the middle to the outside. Snyder is high on sophomore Ian Hoskins at strongside linebacker. The Herd figures to get a huge boost in the middle from Josh Johnson. Originally a Georgia signee, Johnson was one of the highest-rated linebackers in the nation coming out of high school. Senior Brandon Souder also is a solid man in the middle.

Sophomore defensive end Albert McClellan is a budding star, having made 40 tackles, including seven for losses, and three sacks last season. Shavar Greer, who had four sacks last year, returns at the opposite end and figures to be pushed by speedy junior college transfer Ryland Wilson. Juan Underwood, Chris Terrell and Blake Merritt are solid defensive tackles.

The Herd returns just one starter in the secondary, but he's a pro prospect. Senior Curtis Keyes is a devastating hitter at strong safety and may be the premier defensive back in the conference. Junior Jeremy Rodamer is an athletic free safety. Sophomore J.J. Johnson, who saw considerable time as a nickel back as a true freshman, takes over one corner. The other corner is up for grabs,

2006 Marshall Football Schedule

Sat., Sept. 2, West Virginia, Away
 Sat., Sept. 9, Hofstra, Home
 Sat., Sept. 16, Kansas State, Away
 Sat., Sept. 23, Tennessee, Away
 Wed., Oct. 4, UCF, Home (ESPN2)*
 Sat., Oct. 14, SMU, Away*
 Sat., Oct. 21, UAB, Away*
 Sat., Oct. 28, Memphis, Home*
 Sat., Nov. 4, Tulane, Home*
 Sat., Nov. 11, East Carolina, Away*
 Sat., Nov. 18, UTEP, Home*
 Sat., Nov. 25, Southern Miss, Away*

* - indicates C-USA game
 Home games are in green.

with freshmen Zarrick Matthews, Chuck Roberts and Ashton Hall the main contenders.

"Those guys need to have short memories," Snyder said of his cornerbacks. "We can be a good defense if we can keep from getting the ball thrown over our heads."

Snyder gets excited about special teams, realizing they can be game-changing, even season-changing, units. Two field goals last season could have been the difference in a 4-7 record and a 6-5 mark.

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"We were near the top of the conference in all of our special teams areas except for field goals," Snyder said. "We excelled on special teams more than we did on offense or defense."

Snyder recruited junior college transfer Anthony Binswanger to compete with Ian O'Connor for the starting kicker job. Snyder said competition is a good thing.

"We have someone to go to if the other guy isn't performing well," Snyder said. "Recruiting a kicker also has allowed Ian to work more on his punting."

O'Connor figures to share punting duties with Marty Biagi.

Marshall plays at Kansas State and at Tennessee before opening conference play Oct. 4 at home against Central Florida. The Herd then visits SMU and UAB back to back before coming home to take on Memphis and Tulane. Marshall sandwiches games at East Carolina and Southern Miss around a home game with UTEP to round out the schedule.

"If you want to be the best, you have to play the best," Snyder said. "I think our schedule will help us in the long run. It's a tough schedule, but we think we can make some long-term gains from it." □

Tim Stephens is a freelance writer and the Huntington area director of Fellowship of Christian Athletes.



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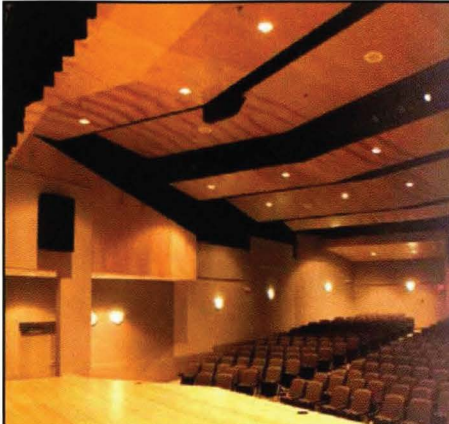



Partners (Clockwise from top)

Mark E. Richardson, CPA
 Floyd E. Harlow, Jr., CPA
 Susan K. Richardson, CPA, CVA
 Barry L. Burgess, CPA

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An Ama

Article by Tim Stephens

Photography by Rick Hays, Marilyn Testerman-Hays and Mallory Hays

The annual Green-White game drew a reunion of champions, Hollywood stars, film crews and a record-setting crowd.



zing Day

April 22, 2006. The day the Herd met Hollywood.

That's the day Marshall played its most remarkable spring football game in history, even though few likely remember the score and virtually no one recalls much about who were the stars – at least not the stars wearing helmets and shoulder pads at Joan C. Edwards Stadium.

The cast and crew of the movie “We Are Marshall,” starring Matthew McConaughey as former MU coach Jack Lengyel, stole the show along with members of the Thundering Herd’s 1996 football squad, a team that went 15-0 and won the NCAA Division I-AA national championship behind Randy Moss, Eric Kresser and gang.

Their presence attracted a Green-White Game-record crowd of 17,346. To put that in perspective, it would have been the largest crowd in the history of Fairfield Stadium, where Marshall played from 1928 through 1990.

“Unbelievable,” Marshall coach Mark Snyder said. “I’ve been at Ohio State where we’d have 55,000 for a spring game and I’ve never seen anything like this. I’ve never seen the atmosphere like this for a spring game anywhere I’ve been.”

Herd fans heartily chanted “We are...Marshall” and “Let’s go Herd” right on cue from the movie crew, which



The film crew pose for one last photo in Huntington.



Matthew McConaughey takes time out for some fans.



The 1996 I-AA National Champions together again.

“Unbelievable. I’ve been at Ohio State where we’d have 55,000 for a spring game and I’ve never seen anything like this. I’ve never seen the atmosphere like this for a spring game anywhere I’ve been.” – Mark Snyder

will feature the sound bites in the film that chronicles Marshall’s rise from the 1970 plane crash that killed 75 players, coaches, fans and crew members. At times, the atmosphere was more game day than at some actual games. At others, it was surreal. “We Are Marshall” Director McG announced he would donate \$1,000 to Marshall for every field goal he made. McG kicked three before telling the Herd faithful he would donate \$20,000 to the university, drawing a roar reminiscent of a Moss touchdown catch.

McConaughey and fellow actor David Strathairn joined Moss and former Herd star quarterback Chad Pennington as honorary captains in the game. Moss and Pennington played to the crowd, teasing each other and signing autographs, as did other Herd NFL alumni such as Kresser, John Wade, Troy Brown and Andre O’Neal.

“What a great day this is for Marshall,” said O’Neal, a former linebacker with the Kansas City Chiefs. “This is just incredible.”

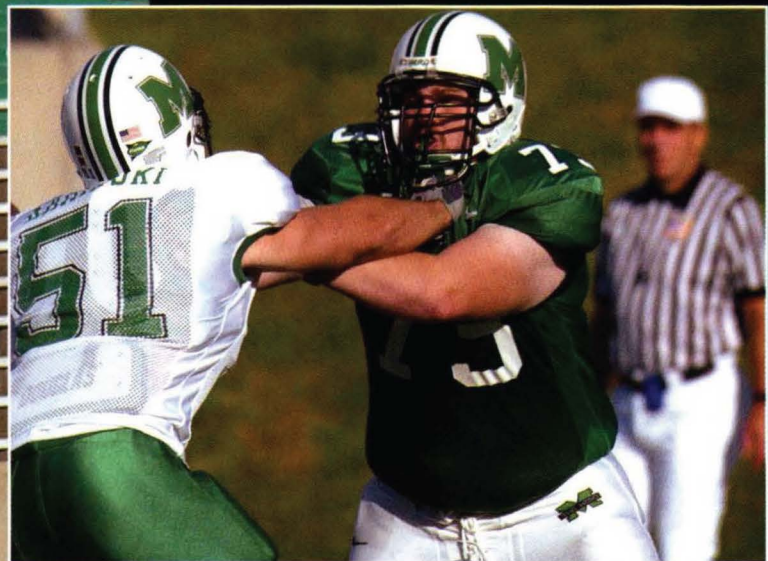
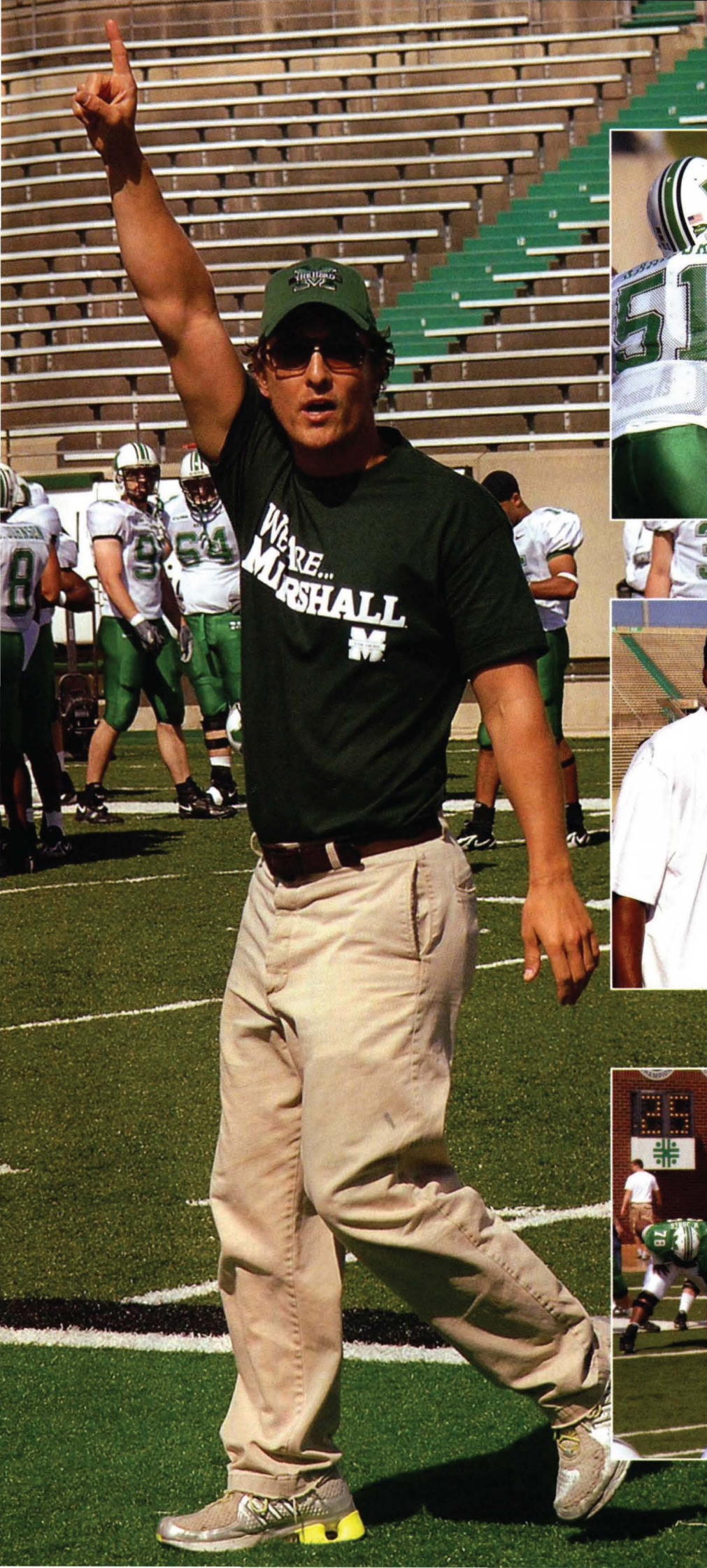
Incredible indeed. Moss and Pennington announced plans to endow a scholarship in honor of the 1996 team, considered by many the greatest team in the history of I-AA.

“It’s great to come back and see all these guys,” said Moss, an all-pro with the Oakland Raiders. “To be able to come back with our family at Marshall, this has been just great.” Pennington agreed.

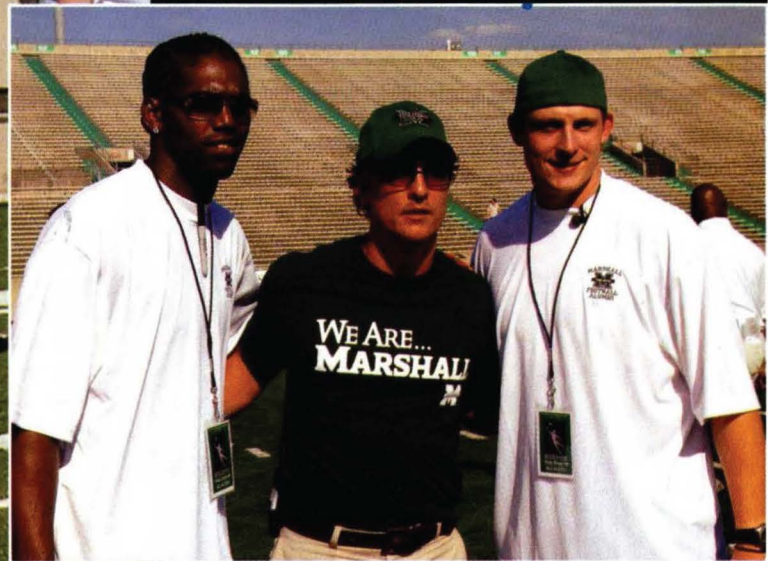
“Marshall has done so much for all of us,” Pennington said. “This is an opportunity for us to give back to the place that has done so much for us. We want to make sure this program continues to be successful.”

Near the end of the game, McConaughey thanked the crowd.

“I love Huntington,” McConaughey shouted to the crowd as actress Kate Mara, also in the movie,



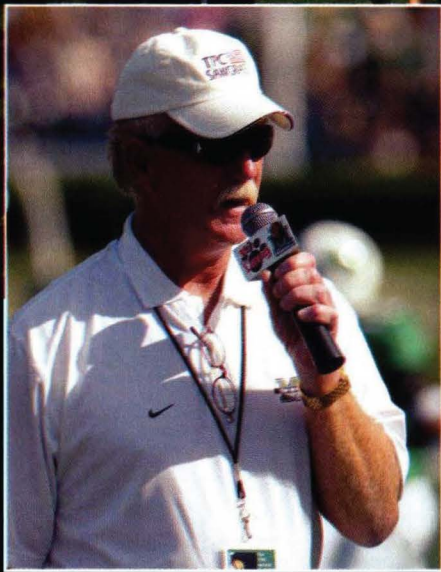
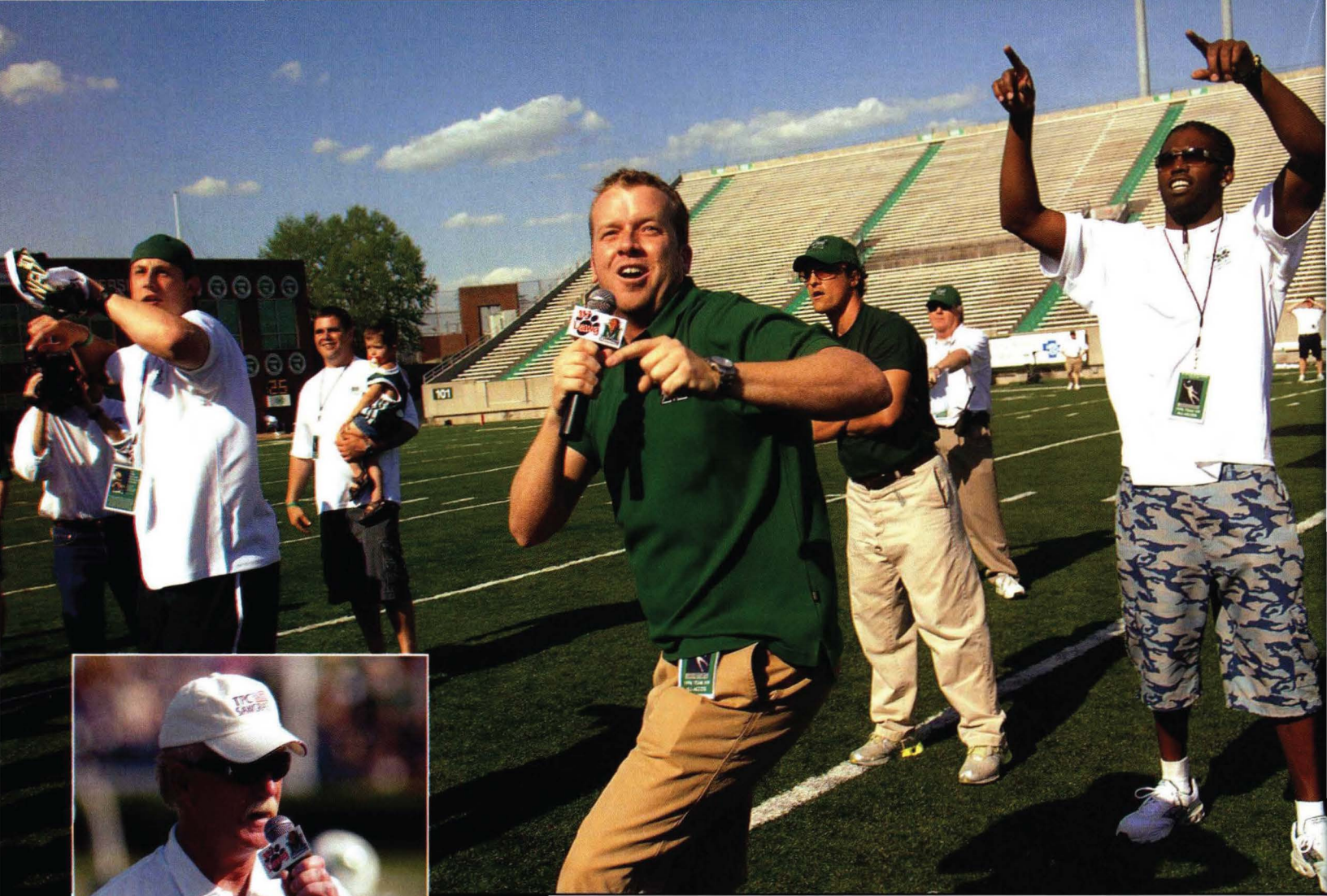
Amidst all the excitement a football game raged on.



Moss, McConaughey and Pennington pose for a fan



Coach McConaughey jokes with Ahmad Bradshaw



(Above) Film Director McG was joined on the field by Chad Pennington, Matthew McConaughey and Randy Moss as he led the crowd of 17,346 in a thunderous “We Are...Marshall” cheer. (Top Left) Former Assistant Coach Red Dawson addresses the crowd. (Bottom Left) McG wowed the crowd with a 40-yard field goal and then donated \$20,000 to the school.

smiled from the sideline. “You are terrific. It’s an honor for me to be a part of telling this story. I look forward to coming back.”

The White defeated the Green 17-0 in a game that wasn’t strictly by the book. Several breaks took place so that the actors and stars from the Herd’s past could address the crowd, firing them up and priming them for the movie premiere and, Snyder hopes, for the Herd’s season, which began Sept. 2 at West Virginia.

The hoopla surrounding the movie could be a huge benefit to the Herd, which had its share of potential recruits visiting during the weekend of the Green-White Game.

“This thing with the movie can do nothing but help us,” Snyder said. “This could be huge for our program. You can’t buy advertising like this. Everyone in America will know Marshall University.” □

Tim Stephens is a freelance writer and the Huntington area director of Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

Look for our Chris Keeney and Jeff Willis in the "WE ARE MARSHALL" movie riding vintage motorcycles provided by Benjy's.

A scene from Fourth Avenue in the "We Are Marshall" Movie.

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everGREEN

www.marshall.edu/alumni

Homecoming 2006

October 27 & 28

In tune with the upcoming premiere of the movie, *We Are Marshall*, Marco is all set to call "ACTION!" to start off a great Homecoming Weekend!

Marshall students Jonathan Brown and Isaiah Childers were the \$100 winners of the Homecoming Committee's contest to name the theme for Homecoming 2006.

Here are some of the exciting Homecoming events. More will be posted as they are finalized on the MUAA web site at www.marshall.edu/alumni/Homecoming2006.

This year Homecoming is graciously sponsored by Sodexo and MBNA.



Monday:

Office Decorations. Employees are asked to decorate their offices to promote the Homecoming theme, "Lights, Camera, We Are...Marshall." Prizes will be awarded at the Coaches Breakfast Friday morning.

Thursday:

The **Naming of the Homecoming Court** will be in the lobby of the Memorial Student Center at noon.

Office Decoration Judging will begin at 1 p.m.

Friday:

Green & White Day. The first official event of Homecoming weekend is Friday's **Coaches' Breakfast**, location to be announced. This live radio broadcast lets those present as well as radio listeners get to know the coaches. The DAWG, 93.7 FM, will start broadcasting at 6 a.m.; the coaches will join us from 8 to 10 a.m.

There will be a **Meet & Greet at Pullman Square** beginning at 6 p.m. The first event will be a reception co-hosted by the MU Alumni Association and the Culinary



Arts Institute right across from Pullman on Third Avenue from 6 to 7:45 p.m. Enjoy the talents of these great chefs, including their infamous chocolate fountain! R.S.V.P.s are required for this event. See form on Page 42.

We will then move over to Pullman Square where you can enjoy a live band and plenty of food while meeting up with friends and talking about the movie. This event will last at least until 11 p.m. Please

join us!

The **Athletic Hall of Fame Class of 2006 Induction Banquet** will be held in the John Marshall Room, Memorial Student Center, at 6:30 p.m. *Note:* A reception for ticket holders will start at 5:30 p.m. The honorees will be the late Boston Red Sox catcher Bill Craig; 1971 Herd football team player Chuck Henry; late men's basketball coach Rick Huckabay; Hall of Fame soccer player Scott Jackson; women's basketball coach Judy Southard; and professional football player Randy Moss. Moss will be unable to attend because of NFL obligations. You can purchase tickets at \$25 per person from the Alumni Association or at the MU Ticket Office, (304) 696-4373 or (800) 843-4373.

Saturday:

Kick off **Parent & Family Weekend** with a reception hosted by Marshall University President Stephen J. Kopp and his wife, Jane. During this informal gathering, you will have an opportunity to mingle with Dr. and Mrs. Kopp along with the deans from each college. You will be inspired as our University Chamber Choir performs. Light hors d'oeuvres and punch will be served. This event is included in the registration fee. Immediately following brunch, you are invited to join the crowd along Fifth Avenue in front of the Memorial Student Center for a great view of the Homecoming Parade.

The **Homecoming Parade**, sponsored by the Student Government Association, begins at noon downtown and ends at Joan C. Edwards Stadium. Join Marco, the Marshall cheerleaders, the Marching Thunder and some special dignitaries as we get ready for the Homecoming football game. Come see the floats and bands and watch Marco's antics, always a hoot! This year's Grand Marshal will be announced soon.

Then join the Alumni Association for **Lunch Under the Tent at Herd Village** at 2 p.m. for a pre-game tailgate party. Mingle with other Herd fans and cheer along with the MU Marching Band and the Thunder Rally as they prepare to march into the Joan C. Edwards Stadium. There will be lots of pizza, compliments of Papa John's, and plenty of cold drinks.

The **Post-Game Party** sponsored by the River Cities Alumni Club will be held 30 minutes after the game ends at the Alumni Association tent in Herd Village. Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$15 at the gate. The price includes food, beverages and live music.

Other Friday and Saturday activities include:

The **Third Annual J-walk** will be on Friday at noon on campus. This is a fundraiser for the W. Page Pitt School of Journalism and Mass Communications. You can walk or sponsor a student to walk for you. You can also bid on silent auction items donated from area businesses. Local radio stations will be doing live remotes and Marco and the MU dance team will entertain the crowd. All walkers get a free t-shirt. For more information on how you can get involved with the J-walk you can contact the J-school at (304) 696-2360.

Members of **Black Alumni Inc.** will gather on Friday for registration and a reception from 6 p.m. until 1 a.m., at a location to be announced.

Saturday's events will include the Annual Business Meeting at the Memorial Student Center from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tailgating begins at Herd Village at 2 p.m. until game time. Football tickets are available by contacting Janis Winkfield at (304) 696-3158. After the game there will be a social gathering at the Four Seasons at 905 Third Avenue. Call David Harris, president, at (304) 696-2597 with questions.

The **Eleventh Annual Marshall Alumni 5K Run/Walk**, sponsored by the MU Recreational Sports Office, will be held Saturday at 8:30 a.m. Registration is \$15 through October 27th (non-refundable); \$20 on
(continued on page 43)

a message from

Sharon Porter

*MUAA National
President
Class of 1975*

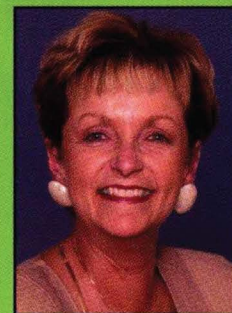


Photo credit: Rick Hays

I hope you have had a wonderful summer of good health, travel and fun and are ready for fall to kick up our Marshall activities.

Homecoming will be here before you know it, so mark your calendars now for October 26 through 28. We have planned a full weekend for you so get your green and white out and come home to MU.

The Alumni Association will start by judging the office decorations on campus Thursday. Friday morning is our Coaches' Breakfast from 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. at the Alumni Center. Come and meet all our coaches and have a continental breakfast along with a live radio show with the DAWG. Meet and greet lots of Herd faithful that morning and get excited about all our sports teams. We recognize and award the prizes for office decorations, too.

Then Friday night we'll partner with the Culinary School from the Community & Technical College and visit their new facility on Third Avenue across from Pullman Square. We will then move on over to Pullman for fun and music until 11 p.m., at least!

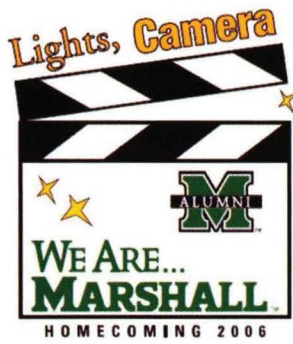
Saturday starts with the 5K Run, the biggest in West Virginia. Our wonderful parade kicks off at noon from the Civic Center. Mike Hines is shooting to have 300 units this year in the parade, from bands and floats to the Shriner's. So come early and find yourself a good spot to watch the parade.

Then it's Herd Village and tailgating time. The Alumni Association will have a large tent and will feed our wonderful Marching Thunder Band and get them in the shade after their long parade march. We will have pizza, compliments of Papa John's, and lots of cold drinks.

Then we'll win our game and move on to the River Cities Club after-the-game party under our big tent in tent city. So – don't fight the after-game traffic. Come on over to the party and reconnect with old friends.

I think you can see we'll have another great homecoming at MU so make your plans now and I'll see you there.

Sharon Porter
MUAA President



Please join us for
Lights, Camera, We Are...Marshall
Homecoming 2006
October 27 & 28

Name _____ MU Class Year _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Daytime Telephone () _____ Evening Telephone () _____

Your Guest _____ MU Class Year _____

	No. of Tickets	Price Per Person	Amount
Friday, Oct. 27	Coaches' Breakfast • Erickson Alumni Center • 8 a.m. - 10 a.m. • Sponsored by the DAWG, 93.7 FM		
	Meet & Greet at Pullman Square • Starts at 6 p.m. • Reception on Third Avenue from 6 to 7:45 p.m. • R.S.V.P.s are required for this event. Enjoy a live band and food afterwards at Pullman Square until 11 p.m.		
	Athletic Hall of Fame Class of 2006 Induction Banquet • John Marshall Room, Memorial Student Center • 6:30 p.m. • Reception for ticket holders will start at 5:30 p.m.		
Saturday, Oct. 28	Lunch under the tent at Herd Village • 2 p.m.		
	Post Game Party • Sponsored by River Cities Alumni Club • 30 minutes after the game ends at the Alumni Association tent in Herd Village • Price includes food, beverages and live music		

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

Please make checks payable and mail this form to:

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Note: Credit card orders must exceed \$10.

Sponsored by



Thundering Herd vs. Memphis • 4:30 p.m. kickoff • Marshall Stadium
Call (800) THE HERD for game tickets

Homecoming 2006

(continued from page 41)

Race Day. Call Sharon Stanton at 696-2943 or e-mail stanton@marshall.edu for more information.

Men's Basketball Open Practice Meet & Greet Players and Coaches will be on Saturday from 1 to 3 p.m. at Cam Henderson Center.

Meet the Tutors & 25 Years of H.E.L.P. Tailgate Celebration, Saturday from 12:30 p.m. until 2 p.m. at Wilbur E. Myers Hall, 520 18th Street. There will be an Open House where you can meet your student's tutor. Then join us at 2:30 p.m. at Herd Village for a Tailgate Party for alumni, parents and students before the football game.

Sigma Sigma Sigma Sorority is hosting a **We Are Sigmas Alumnae Breakfast** on Saturday at 9 a.m. at the Sigma House, 1639 Sixth Avenue. There will be a silent auction, shirts for purchase, and free food and drinks. We hope to see all Sigma alumnae there! For more information, please contact Tracie Peterson at (304) 634-7452.

The Step Show, sponsored by the National Panhellenic Council, will be held on Saturday. Details TBA. Call Tim Wilburn at 696-2283 with questions.

The 1950s classes of **Pi Kappa Alpha** fraternity are having a reunion October 27-28. Headquarters is the

R.S.V.P.

for Culinary Arts Institute Reception

Yes, I plan to attend the reception sponsored by the Culinary Arts Institute and the MU Alumni Association on Friday, October 27.

Name _____

Maiden Name, if applicable _____

Class Year _____

E-mail _____

Phone Number _____

Number Attending _____

You may also R.S.V.P. by calling (304) 696-2901 or by e-mailing the above information to alumni@marshall.edu.

Holiday Inn Hotel, 800 Third Avenue. There will be a dinner/dance on Friday at the Palms Room, 314 Ninth Street, and an informal party after the Homecoming game on Saturday. Reservation forms will be mailed to alumni. For more information call Fred and Betty Smith, (304) 529-2112, or e-mail to Smith25705@aol.com.

Herd Village



This year marks the eighth anniversary of Herd Village, a place for university and corporate groups to meet and entertain clients, friends and co-workers before Marshall home football games. This tented tailgate area is located at the Lefty Rollins Track Field. An added attraction is the Thunder Rally—a brief band concert conducted by the Marching Thunder under the direction of band director Steve Barnett.

Proceeds from Herd Village go to The Nancy Pelphrey Herd Village Scholarship, with one award going to a Marshall cheerleader and one to a Marching Band member. More than \$68,000 has been raised for scholarships since the award's inception.

If you or your group are interested in renting a tent during one or more football games, please call the Alumni Relations Office at (304) 696-3134 or (800) MUALUMX.

It's that time again!

MUAA on the Road

Mid-Atlantic Crab Fest, June 17

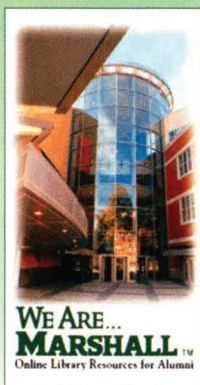


1.) Bill and Phyllis Eaton generously contributed to the H.E.L.P. Program in honor of Phyllis' late father, Moxie W. Wright. **2.)** Joe Head, president of the Washington, D.C. Area Club; MU President Dr. Stephen J. Kopp; Marshall alumni Peter Catucci and Larry Choates. **3.)** More than 300 Marshall alumni and friends attended the Crab Fest at the farm of Bill and Phyllis Eaton in Centreville, Md. This event was a way to market Marshall and its programs.

MU Alumni have access to expanded Online Library articles

Through the joint efforts of the MU Alumni Association, Marshall University Libraries and EBSCOhost Inc., active alumni may search *Academic Search Alumni Edition* and *Business Source Alumni Edition* from anywhere in the world. These databases are designed for the research needs of post-college professionals, who often need the same kind of information on their jobs as they did when taking college classes.

Nearly every area of business is covered by *Business Source*, with more than 1,350 full-text magazines and journals, from scholarly to trade publications to top management journals, along with economic and industry



reports by country, and company profiles. *Academic Search* provides the full text of articles from more than 2,200 publications, and indexing for more than 8,000 publications, in almost every subject area.

The database may be accessed by going to www.marshall.edu/library/alumni.asp.

A user ID and password will be sent by the MU Alumni Association to its members. Because of the costs involved, only *active* members of the Association will have access to these special databases. For more information, visit the Web site above or contact the MUAA at (304) 696-3134 or (800) MU-ALUMX.

Silver Celebration Homecoming 2006

"Silver Celebration" is the theme for the 20th Annual Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine Homecoming September 8-9. This year the SOM will celebrate a major historic milestone, the Class of 1981's 25th Reunion. Also joining us will be the Classes of 1986 (20-year reunion), 1991 (15-year reunion), 1996 (10-year reunion) and 2001 (5-year reunion).

On Friday, September 8, there will be:

Continuing Medical Education sessions; a complimentary reunion class luncheon; a special celebratory dinner for the Class of 1981 at Guyan Country Club at 6 p.m.; and a 9 – midnight Silver Reunion Celebration for all homecoming participants at the Radisson Hotel, Grand Theater (cash bar, hors d'oeuvres and live music by the Oakwood Road Beer Band.)

On Saturday, September 9, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. there will be tours of the MU Medical Center, the Robert C. Byrd Biotechnology Science Center and the Edwards Comprehensive Cancer Center. Following will be a tailgate party at Herd Village at Lefty Rollins Field from 2 - 4 p.m. prior to the MU vs. Hofstra Game.

For more information, please call Linda S. Holmes, Director of Development and Alumni Affairs, Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine, (304) 691-1711 or toll-free (877) 691-1600, Ext. 1711.

Nominate Your MUAA Board Members for 2007-2008

The Alumni Association is now accepting nominations for ten positions on the MUAA Board of Directors. The term of office is three years beginning July 1, 2007.

Qualifications are that a candidate:

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

Nominations must be received in the Office of Alumni Relations by January 15, 2007.

Nominee's Full Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Reason for Nomination _____

Nominator's Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

The MUAA Nomination and Election Committee will screen the nominations and select 10 for the ballot to run for the 5 directors' positions.

Self nominations will be accepted.



When Marco is not cheering for the Herd, he is busy looking up old friends in the Online Community.

More than 20,000 Marshall alumni receive news of the university every month via the Alumni Association's online community! Please register today and stay connected with Marshall University.

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- @Marshall, a monthly e-mail newsletter to keep you up to date.
- A searchable listing of all participating alumni.
- Access to Class Notes.
- An easy way to update your record with MU.



To join, go to www.marshall.edu/alumni/community.asp. It is easy, painless and free!



2006 Alumni Awards Form



The Awards Committee makes its decision based on nominations received by January 15, 2007.

Nominations are accepted for each of the following categories.

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

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

Distinguished Service Awards – Given to individuals who have consistently demonstrated extraordinary commitment and dedication to Marshall. This award is *NOT* limited to Marshall alumni.

MUAA Board Member of the Year – Must be successful in promoting the association's vision statement among students, alumni and friends; promote the association's core values; and work to move the association to the next level by bringing in new ideas.

The Young Alumni Award – Presented to an alum who is 35 years old or younger; an active member of the Alumni Association; shows outstanding achievement in their field of endeavor; has a personal commitment to their community; and demonstrates service to the Marshall University and its students.

If you would like to submit the name of an individual you believe is qualified as a nominee for one of the awards, please complete this form and get it to us by January 15, 2007. The Awards Committee will review the qualifications of nominees and select the recipients.

SEND TO:

Awards Nominations
Marshall University Alumni Association
One John Marshall Drive
Huntington, WV 25755

I hereby nominate the following person for this award _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Business/Occupation _____ E-mail _____

Your name _____

Your address _____

Your phone _____ Your e-mail _____

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

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

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



Please share your news with us by filling out the form included with your magazine. 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.alumniconnections.com/marshall/.

Arrivals

To **Kimberly Jackson Johnson** (BS'97) and **Stephen Brooks Johnson** (BS'98) of Hohenfels, Germany, a daughter, Abigail C., on March 16, 2006.

Marriages

Tracy Edmonds (BA'91) and Frederick Stephan Michael Herz of Milton on June 5, 2006.

Keira Swope-Durham (AS'04) and James Keith Cook of Ona on Oct. 10, 2005 at Sol Cabanas, Cozumel, Mexico.

In Memoriam

The Marshall University Alumni Association extends sincere sympathy to the families of the following alumni and friends.

Elizabeth Francis Agee (BA'33) of Farmville, Va., on April 18, 2006, at age 93.

Dr. William E. Copeland, M.D. (BA'45) of Upper Arlington, Ohio, at age 85.

Robert L. Duffield (BA'56) of Marietta, Ga., on May 5, 2006.

Alma Eastwood McConnell (BA) of Carmel, Calif., on June 18, 2006, at age 101.

She served as assistant to the head of the Fine Arts Department at one time. In 2004 she was honored by Marshall with a solo exhibit of her artwork, having been a professor of art at San Diego State University for 10 years.

Virginia N. Parrish of Huntington on April 15, 2006, at age 89. She was a retired professor of French in the Department of Modern Languages.

Dan Pettry (BS'80, MS'83) of Lexington, Ky., on June 17, 2006, at age 47.

Aida Margarita Martinez Warren (MA'71) of Juticalpa, Honduras, Central America, in May 2006 at age 75. She was the widow of Dr. John Rush Warren, former dean of Marshall's Graduate School.

Suzanne Walton Welker (MA'77) of Mount Dora, Fla., on April 19, 2006, at age 59.

Suzanne Greenlee White (att. '52-'56) of Winter Park, Fla., on April 11, 2006, at age 71.

Marlene Rhodes Yehnert (BA'53, MA'54) of Medina, Ohio, on June 11, 2006, at age 73.

part of the DeSoto Heritage Festival. The festival is designed to educate the Manatee County, Fla., community about the historical significance of de Soto's landing on the shore of the Manatee River in 1539. Sprenger is a retired orthopaedic surgeon.

Rupert Carroll Pratt (BA'57, MA'59) of Scotia, N.Y., has published *Touching the Ancient One*, a book that celebrates life and friendship and is about survivors of an Air Force C-47 that crashed in South Central Alaska in 1954.

Lola Roush Miller (BA'59, MA'68) of Huntington recently had a book published called *Central City*, about the area now known as West Huntington. She retired as branch manager of the West Huntington Public Library in 2004.

1960s



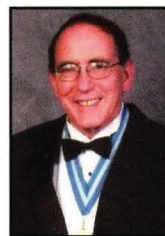
Dr. Janice Locey Bagby (BA'63, MA'69) of Morgantown retired in 2005 after 35 years of teaching in the public schools of West Virginia, Ohio and Maryland. She also taught at Taiwan Normal University and Tamkang College in Taipei, Taiwan; at Nankai University in Tianjin, China; and Penn State University, Western Pennsylvania campus.



George F. Dunigan II (BA'69), director of government relations for the Ohio Osteopathic Association

(OOA) and Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine (OU-COM) in Athens, received the OOA Meritorious Service Award at the organization's 108th Annual Convention in June 2006. As the OOA's lobbyist in the mid-1970s he was instrumental in securing passage of legislation that created OU-COM. The Meritorious Service Award is given to an individual who is not an osteopathic physician in recognition of outstanding accomplishments in scientific, philanthropic, or other fields of public service.

1970s



Dr. Lonnie G. Thompson (BS'70), a glaciologist and senior research scientist with the Byrd Polar Research Center at The Ohio State University, has been elected to the American Philosophical Society, the oldest learned society in the United States. The Society was founded in 1743 by Benjamin Franklin for the purpose of "promoting useful knowledge." Thompson was elected in April to the Mathematical and Physical Sciences class. Thompson and his wife, Dr. Ellen Mosley-Thompson, were MUAA Distinguished Alumni in 2003.



Dr. Nancy Arnett (BA'71) of Indialantic, Fla., who has taught at Brevard Community College for 30 years, helped launch the READ(r)

CLASS NOTES

1950s



Thomas Robert Sprenger (BS'53) of Bradenton, Fla., served as Hernando de Soto for one year as

& LEARN campaign modeled after the American Library Association's National Celebrity READ(r) campaign. The initiative dovetails with Gov. Jeb Bush's "Just Read, Florida" campaign. Arnett was asked to pose with a favorite book, so she chose one that helped her select her dog, a Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, and train her puppies. The picture was digitalized to represent her winning at a major dog show. The poster was a big hit and was displayed on all four of the college's campuses. It was then selected as one of the community college posters to hang in the hallways of the legislature in the state's capital in Tallahassee.

Dan Shoemaker (BA'73, MA'78) has been promoted to vice president of collegiate development for ESPN and ESPN Regional in Charlotte, N.C. Shoemaker was introduced to broadcasting as commentator for Thundering Herd football in the mid-1970s. He later helped launch Creative Productions, which was acquired by ESPN and Disney. He was most recently general manager of ESPN Regional in Huntington.



Cathy Ann Midkiff Lewis (BA'78) has joined the line-up at WTAR 850 AM in Norfolk, Va. to host "The

Cathy Lewis Show" weekdays from 7 to 9 a.m. She also hosts "Hear/Say with Cathy Lewis," a lunchtime public affairs program on WHRV 89.5 FM public radio. Lewis is consistently included in Hampton Roads' "best of" lists. *PortFolio Weekly* named her one of the "Women We Love" and one

of the "100 Best People, Places and Things in Hampton Roads" by *PortFolio Weekly*. *Hampton Roads Magazine* selected her as one of their "50 Very Important People." She begins her fifth year as executive director of the CIVIC Leadership Institute, the region's only senior-level leadership organization bringing together leaders from both sides of the Hampton Roads harbor.

Linda Burch Jacobs (BA'79) of Fairfield, Ohio, is administrative secretary for the University of Cincinnati, Raymond Walters College, in Blue Ash.

1980s

Stephen "Steve" Ashworth (BBS'85) retired from USPS HQ Marketing & Sales in January 2006 after 36 years and now owns a CruiseOne cruise agency in High Point, N.C.

Kerry Collias Colman (BA'87) has accepted a position at Harris Pharmaceutical as director of business development. Harris Pharmaceutical, located in Ft. Myers, Fla., is a start-up generic pharmaceutical manufacturer specializing in dermatology-focused products. Kerry was employed at IVAX Pharmaceutical as marketing director of manufactured products.



Lynne Logan (BA'88) published her first novel, *The Crime Chronicles of Decker Zane-Book One:*

Through the Eyes of Sarah Sarvas, in November 2005. She has been interviewed on

Ohio News Network, WDLB Wisconsin and CBS Radio Pittsburgh. Logan recently traveled to New York City to meet with producers of several major news and entertainment programs, some of whom expressed interest in having Logan discuss her book and her documentary entitled *The Afterlife Chatroom*. She has received several honors, including Fifth Place out of 18,000 entries in the 74th Annual *Writer's Digest Writing Competition* for her screenplay, *Saving Halli Weaver*. She just completed the sequel to her novel, called *The Demise of William Raymond*.

Jon Landis Wall (MA'89) of Casselberry, Fla., is an American history instructor at Gotha Middle School in Orlando, Fla.

1990s

Dr. Jim Owston (MA'91) was a co-presenter at the 2006 WebCT Impact Conference in Chicago in July. He and six other certified WebCT trainers from across the United States conducted the seminar, "Developing the Developers: Experiences from a WebCT Certified Trainers Community." Owston is senior academic officer for instructional technology at Mountain State University in Beckley.

Tracy Edmonds-Herz (BA'91) of Milton is the features director for Ogden Media's *Graffiti* and the research editor for *Elements of Living* magazine in New York City. She is also a contributor to *360*, a magazine produced by American Express Custom Solutions.

Dr. Jim Cook (BA'92, MA'94) of Fenton, Mo., has joined the McKendree



College faculty as an assistant professor of psychology and director of the master's program in professional

counseling. Prior to joining McKendree, Cook was an assistant professor of counseling at Lindenwood University, St. Charles, Mo., where he taught graduate counseling courses, advised students and supervised culminating projects. He was previously employed at Saint Louis University where he used his expertise in group work to create protocols for both cognitive behavioral and health promotion interventions.

John S. Governor (RBA'92) of Nashville, Tenn., is with the Tennessee State University Day Care Insurance Services Inc., doing marketing and sales for Tennessee and Virginia.

Thomas Lilly (BA'93) is a full time chaplain with the McFarland Institute in New Orleans, La. This nonprofit organization provides pastoral care throughout the metropolitan New Orleans community to hospitals, nursing homes and the criminal justice system. Lilly's assignment is chaplain for ICU at East Jefferson General Hospital. In June he was ordained by the United Church of Christ.

Warren Lee Graham II (RBA'93, MBA'04) is finance manager for The Marshall University Foundation Inc. He was formerly with the Huntington Area Postal Federal Credit Union as controller/chief financial officer.

Dr. Gerald Gargus (BA'93, MS'95) of Torrance, Calif.,

was awarded a doctorate of education in urban school leadership from the University of Southern California in May 2006. He is currently assistant principal of Johnson Middle School in Westminster, Calif.

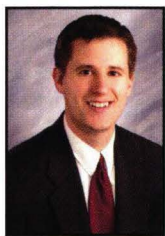
Michael William Porter (BA'94) of Huntington received a master of divinity degree from Union Theological Seminary and Presbyterian School of Christian Education in May 2006 in Richmond, Va. His home church is First Presbyterian Church in Huntington.

Misty Saul Kelley (BA'94) of Ruther Glen, Va., completed her master's degree with a specialization in special education at the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, Va., with a 3.92 GPA. She was named on the *Who's Who's List in American Colleges and Universities*. Kelley is a teacher at Berkeley Elementary School in Partlow, Va.

Susan Caldwell (BA'94) of Versailles, Ky., has published a novel, *Betty Rea*, based on the life of her grandmother, who was a part of the movement for female equality in the early 19th century.

Matthew P. Kingery (BA'97) is an associate with the Corporate Department in the Charleston office of

Dinsmore & Shohl, a full-service law firm with more than 280 attorneys who counsel clients on a local, regional, national and international basis.



John Armstrong (BA'97) has completed Universal Agent training at TeleTech Inc. in Tucson, Ariz., allowing him to assist customers in shipping and tracking their UPS packages and letters.

Kevin Harless (BA'99) opened Cornerstone Realty Group, LLC in Panama City, Fla. In a little over one year, Cornerstone has already sold more than \$30 million in residential real estate.

Janet Spicer Bennett (MS-FNP'99) works for the Indian Health Service on the Navajo Nation at Fort Defiance Hospital in Arizona.

Roger Lee Patrick (MS'99) of Columbus, Ohio, was promoted to the rank of 2nd Lieutenant in the Ohio Military Reserve, where he serves in the Inspector General Section at Reserve Headquarters.

2000s

Shannon Bentham (BA'01) is foundation manager for the Children's Heart Foundation in Las Vegas where she will oversee and implement the foundation's goal of assisting Nevada families whose children are diagnosed with heart conditions.

Shawn Michael Kelley (BA'02) was selected as an instructor for Virginia's Commonwealth Governor's School for the 2006-2007 academic year. This honor is given to teachers who exhibit excellence and innovation in teaching. Faculties for the Academic-Year Governor's Schools are selected based on advanced degrees, professional experience, and training and/or experience with gifted high school students. Kelley is a teacher at Vinson High School in Stafford, Va.

Jennifer M. Keller (BA'02) of Wheelersburg, Ohio, graduated from Ohio Northern Pettit College of Law at Ohio Northern University. She received the degree of juris doctor.

Ryan Q. Ashworth (BA'03) of Bidwell, Ohio, graduated with distinction from Ohio Northern Pettit College of Law at Ohio Northern University. He received the degree of juris doctor.

Heather Farthing Bell (BSN'04), a registered nurse at Cabell Huntington Hospital, has started Nurse Anesthesia School as a graduate program through Mountain State University.

Nicole Diane Young (BA'05) accepted a position as reporter for *The Capital* newspaper in Annapolis, Md. Nicole was formerly business reporter for *The Herald-Dispatch* in Huntington.

And...

Dr. Mahlon C. Brown will be 80 years young on December 26, 2006. His family would love to receive greetings from former students, faculty members and friends to present to him at his family gathering. The address is 132 Lancaster Dr., Apt. 711, Irvington, VA 22489.

Four Marshall alumni graduated from the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine in May 2006.



Dr. John Michael Tabit, DO (BS'01) of Fayetteville graduated with honors and is interning at St.

Vincent Mercy Medical Center in Toledo, Ohio, specializing in Orthopedic Surgery.



Christopher R. O'Neal, DO (BS'99) is interning at the Ohio Valley Medical Center in internal and emergency medicine.



Joshua Mark Lohri, DO (BS'01) will intern at Charleston (W.Va.) Area Medical Center. He received the West

Virginia Osteopathic Society Scholarship; Outstanding Student in Biochemistry, a merit based tuition waiver; and the Academic Achievement Award.



Corinne Layne Stuart, DO will intern at Charleston (W.Va.) Area Medical Center and serve a residency in

Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at Mercy Hospital in Pittsburgh, Pa.



Bruce “Steve” Neale

BA’72, MA’76

Few people have the opportunity to enjoy two great careers in a lifetime, but Steve Neal of Titusville, Fla., has achieved this through his love of history and storytelling.

When Steve came to Marshall as a freshman, he had no idea about a major. A friend talked him into enrolling in Introduction to Education, even though Steve had no interest in becoming a teacher. “I loved this class,” Steve said. “The course included working with underprivileged kids at the Boy’s Club and observing teachers at Beverly Hills Junior High School. I had such an enjoyable time I decided teaching was what I wanted to do.”

Steve’s first job after graduation was at Barboursville Junior High School. “Going back to the school I attended and working with the teachers who taught me was quite an experience,” Steve said. “I saw them as humans instead of teachers and got to know them as colleagues.”

After 15 years teaching at several Cabell County junior high schools, he decided to make the move to high school. He joined the history faculty at Milton High School. When Barboursville and Milton high schools were consolidated, he became a part of the Social Studies Department of Cabell Midland High School.

“In 2004, I turned 55 and was able to retire from the Cabell County School System,” he said. “We knew exactly what we wanted to do. We were already in love with the Titusville, Fla., area because we had visited my grandmother there many times over the years. We sold our house and made the move.”

Steve’s wife, Letha, found a position as a registered nurse and Steve played house husband. That didn’t last long. “As much as I enjoyed doing house work and cooking, I missed teaching – not the paperwork, just the teaching.”

Steve applied for a position as a communicator at the Kennedy Space Center. His résumé, which included lifelong friend and former MU president Robert Hayes as a reference, greatly impressed the staff. Steve was asked to “audition” by giving a presentation about the

space shuttle. He arrived at the audition only to find out he was making the presentation standing under the shuttle at the hangar. “This is the neatest classroom I’ve had in my entire life!” Steve told them. He later learned it was that remark and that enthusiasm that sealed the job for him.

Thus began Steve’s second career. His duties include the Dome Show, launch status briefings before liftoffs, PowerPoint presentations at the Kennedy Visitors Center and bus tours to the Vehicle Assembly Building, which includes the launch pads. He also has conducted tours at the International Space Station Processing Building. One of his favorite stints is introducing astronauts at the Astronaut Encounters and luncheons, and conducting Q&A sessions between the astronauts and the audience.

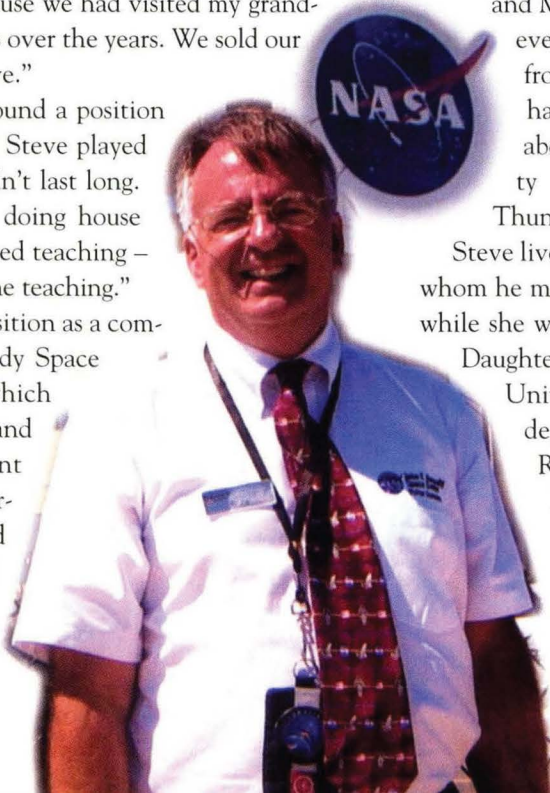
“I never dreamed my classroom would include a 54-seat bus, a space shuttle, and rubbing elbows with astronauts, all right on the cutting edge of technology,” Steve said. “I walk the same hallways the great astronauts have walked.”

Working for the Kennedy Space Center, Steve has had the opportunity to watch the workers mating the shuttle to the external tank and rocket boosters. His work has taken him to the top of the launch pad to the hatch of the shuttle Discovery. This is the most rewarding teaching experience – teaching right where history is made!

Steve has not forgotten his connection to Huntington and Marshall. “I look at *The Herald-Dispatch* online every day,” he said. “And I look forward to news from Marshall. My colleagues here at NASA had never heard of Marshall, but now they hear about it all the time. I never miss an opportunity to say, “Let me tell you the story of the Thundering Herd!”

Steve lives in Titusville with his wife of 33 years, Letha, whom he met on the front steps of Old Main at Marshall while she was a student at St. Mary’s School of Nursing.

Daughter Cara was graduated from Morehead State University and is currently finishing her master’s degree in nursing. Cara and her husband, Rodney, live in Titusville. The Neales’ son, Ryan, a 2002 Marshall graduate, is in the Navy, stationed in Norfolk, Va. Ryan and his wife, LeAnn, reside in Hurricane. The Neales also have two long-haired dachshunds that are very much a part of their lives.



Memories of a Marshall Game

Marshall Memories

by Sid Stephenson, BS 1983, MS 1997

The recent *We Are Marshall* movie filming brought back memories to this 45-year-old Marshall alumnus—memories of this man nearly 35 years ago, as a 10-year-old boy, attending his first Marshall football game. There weren't many opportunities for a young boy on the slightly good side of poverty from the hollows of Wayne County to have extra money to go to a Marshall football game.

I was just "lucky" enough to have an uncle who worked in the Maintenance Department at Marshall. By rising at the break of dawn, along with my cousin, I earned the right to be at my first Marshall game ever against a team I had never heard of before, Xavier University. We received free admission by agreeing to help clean the stadium of trash left over from the previous night's Huntington High Pony Express game.

As a bonus, we were allowed to keep the money we found mingled with the trash, apparently dropped from the pockets of those wealthy people from Huntington we heard so much about. I remember I just couldn't understand how someone could just drop money and not stoop to pick it up, but I was forever grateful for the soda pop, candy and popcorn it allowed me to purchase at the concession stand later that day. Spending that money was a true luxury for us.

I remember my uncle explaining to the person in charge at Fairfield Stadium that day, "These boys have worked hard all day helping to clean the stadium. Would you mind if they stayed to watch the game?" How could he possibly say no? I remember the Gino's Pizza guy overhearing the conversation and offering my cousin and me a whole pizza, and a soda apiece, for our efforts. I remember seeing a buffalo for the first time, first inside a cage on a trailer, and later trying to graze for grass on a plastic

grass field. I remember the thrill of being allowed to run the length of the field long before the game started and running throughout the stands during the game, because we didn't have assigned seats. I remember thinking how big the stadium was and that I had never seen this many people in one place. I remember how loud the noise was in that large stadium as I placed my hands over my ears, just because a naked bootleg pass on the very last play of the game earned Marshall the win that day. Little did I know that it was not merely a win – but a victory for the ages for Marshall – my future alma mater!

It's hard for a 10-year-old boy to fathom the magnitude of this, his very first Marshall game. For all he knew, people always cried when Marshall won a game. For all he knew, people always stayed in the stands well after the game had been won, returning their eyes to the heavens constantly. For all he knew, Marshall fans were crazy and always ran onto the field, risking injury by jumping onto the field from the wall at the foot of the stands. For all he knew, everyone in the big city of Huntington knew each other because they all seemed to be greeting and hugging one another, all the while flashing a smile in the middle of a cry that sometimes seemed sad, but more often seemed joyous.

Thirty-five years, two Marshall degrees, and many, many more football games later, it's much easier to understand because yes, Marshall fans are crazy. Crazy cheering their team while filled with the memories of those lost to an indescribable tragedy. Crazy because they chose to ignore that tragedy and continued, despite the pleas of many to quit. Crazy because they truly believe that in the midst of that tragedy greatness will rise from the ashes.

But most of all, crazy because, "We Are...Marshall!"

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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