

Spring 2000

# Marshall Magazine Spring 2000

Marshall University

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Advantage Valley leader Kit Wellford

# Marshall

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**“I want  
to lead  
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to the  
next  
level.”**

# Dan Angel

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# A New Lease on Life



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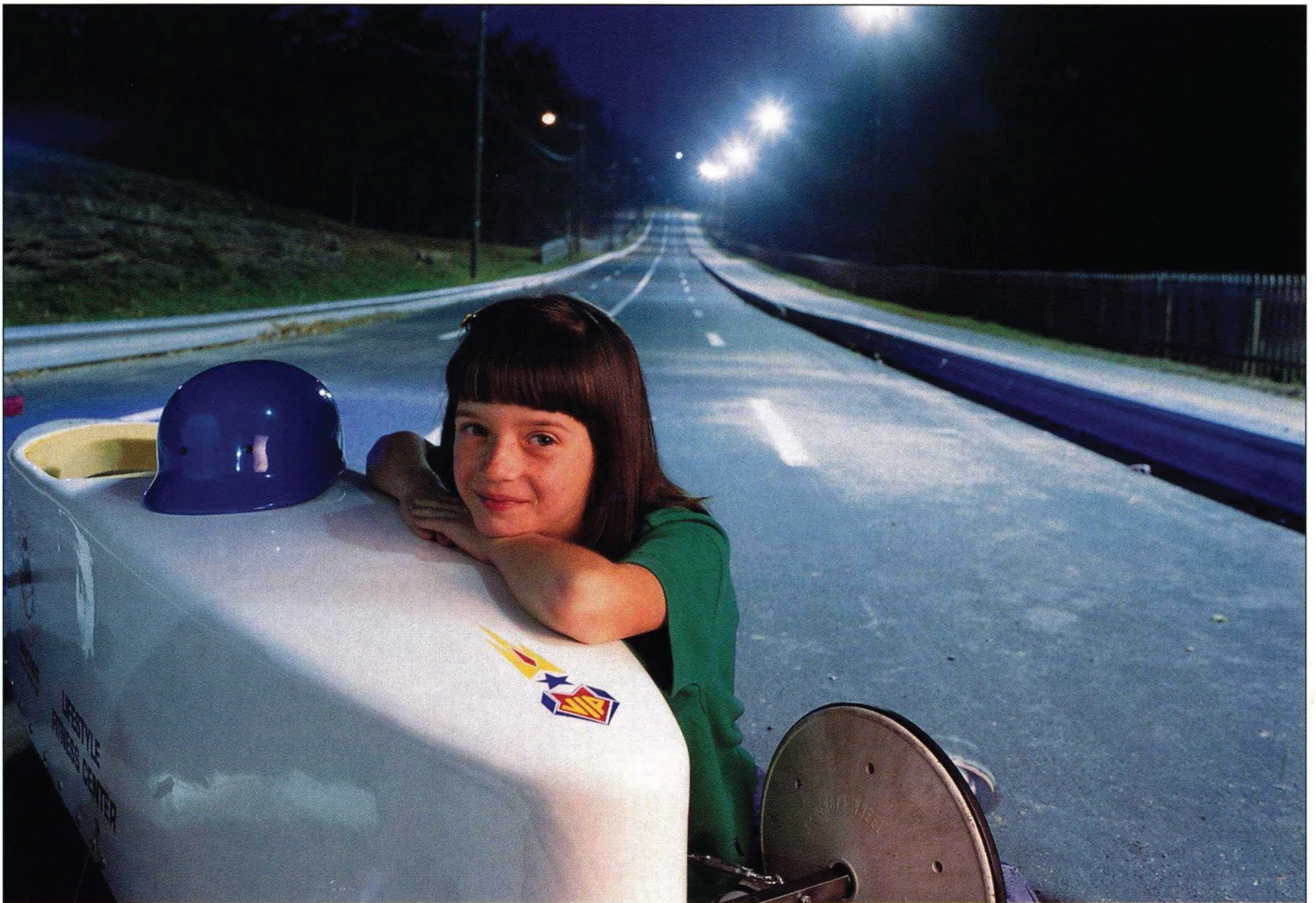


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**SPRING 2000**

**IN EVERY ISSUE**

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*magazine*  
**Advantage**  
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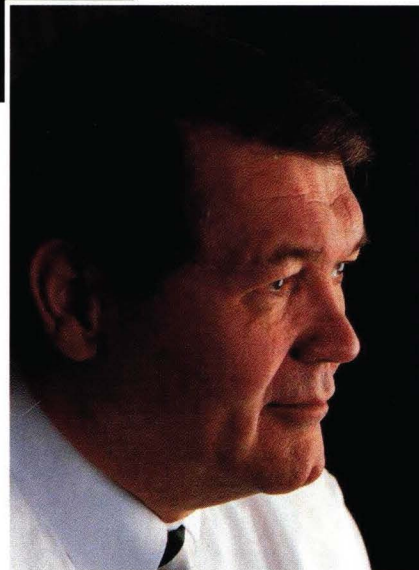
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**On the Cover:** Marshall University President Dan Angel and Executive Office Centers President Kit Wellford. Photography by Rick Lee.

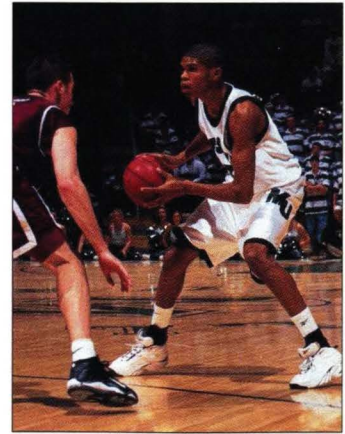


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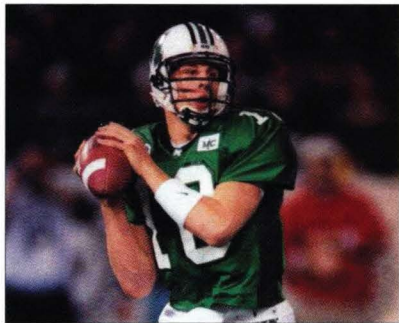
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# marshall university must have four goals in the 21st century

Magazine deadlines being what they are, this is being written in late February and Patricia and I are completing two of the busiest, most exciting months of our lives.

December was highlighted by Thundering Herd victories in the Mid-American Conference championship football game in Huntington and the Motor City Bowl in Detroit (my hometown).

Since January 1, it's been lots of long hours, lots of work, exciting and, yes, exhilarating. That's the way it is when you take on a new challenge.

In January, we were coping with a three percent reduction in state revenues.

In February, the West Virginia Legislature was considering an overhaul of higher education and a comprehensive, major bill had been introduced. And, of course, the new state budget will be the last item on the legislative agenda. Until those matters have been resolved, it's difficult to speculate on the short term.

What about the long term prospects? Coming in, we've established four basic goals for Marshall University:

- Excellence
- National prominence
- Staying on the cutting edge
- Student success

Marshall already has a fine reputation. But excellence is a "moving target" — and we're going to keep our sights set on continuous improvement.

For example, we'll work with the faculty and perhaps do some fine tuning on Marshall's Plan for Quality Undergraduate Education. And we cer-

tainly need to devote time and effort to shaping some specific goals for the first decade of the 21st Century.

Thanks to a great football program, Marshall has achieved prominence in athletics. We need to build on that and gain national renown in academics, technology, student services and a myriad of other areas.

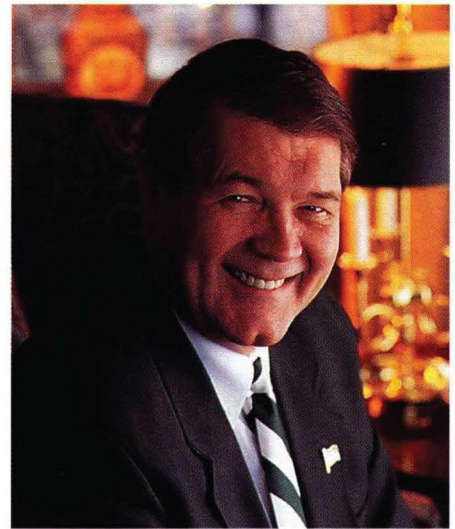
Marshall already is among the national leaders in technology, having made amazing strides during the past decade. In fact, the head of online commerce giant Amazon.com said Marshall University was the big reason that company decided to set up a major operation in Huntington. But technology is changing constantly and rapidly. We have to be prepared to spend time, effort and money to stay on the cutting edge.

That's the key to 21st Century success for all of us — our students and the university itself.

Student success is our bottom line. The Marshall Plan is designed to give our students a competitive edge in their careers and their lives. But again, we're going to have to keep changing with the times and the economy to continue giving our students the opportunities they need for productive careers — and satisfying lives.

Needless to say, we're going to be counting heavily on the support of Marshall's alumni and friends — *your* support — to put this university in the forefront and keep it there.

Patricia and I are looking forward to getting to know you, rolling up our sleeves and working with you to build an even greater Marshall University. □



Dr. Dan Angel

---

**“Patricia and I are looking forward to getting to know you, rolling up our sleeves and working with you to build an even greater Marshall University.”**

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RICK LEE



Jack Houvouras

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**“In addition to his role as university president, Dan Angel will also be a key member of the Advantage Valley board, which helps shape the future of the region between Huntington and Charleston.”**

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## new mu president will lead advantage valley to next level

One of the more important questions regarding the future of the Advantage Valley was answered recently when Marshall University named its 34th president, Dr. Dan Angel.

Angel comes to Huntington by way of Stephen F. Austin University in Nacogdoches, Texas, where his eight years as president were described by peers as “a phenomenal period of growth.” His penchant for outstanding leadership has seen him garner a number of awards including “Public Administrator of the Year,” “Pacesetter of the Year” and “Exemplary Leadership Award,” just to name a few. He is uniquely qualified to lead not only Marshall University into the 21st Century, but the Advantage Valley region as well.

In his first three months in office, Angel has been logging 16-hour days. Much of his time has been spent in Charleston, where his experience as a three-term member of the Michigan Legislature (and a Ph.D. in Communications) has given him the insight needed to influence the outcome of West Virginia’s revamping of higher education. For the sake of Marshall University and the Advantage Valley, he couldn’t have arrived at a more critical time.

In addition to his role as university president, Dan Angel will also be a key member of the Advantage Valley board, which helps shape the future of the region between Huntington and Charleston. He has already expressed his interest in leading the university and the region to the next level. In a candid interview this quarter, Angel sites the role Marshall University must play in stimulating economic growth.

“The university must be a full partner in economic development,” he says. “We have to give people a reason to come here. Amazon.com is a perfect example.”

Angel has already publicly acknowledged his support of the efforts to help unite the burgeoning region between Huntington and Charleston, and his proven leadership bodes well for the future of the Advantage Valley.

Dan Angel is just one of an array of people who help make the Advantage Valley unique. In this issue, we also profile Charleston businesswoman Kit Wellford, whose Executive Office Centers in the NorthGate Business Park is helping local entrepreneurs and Fortune 500 companies get a start in the region. Her important work and commitment to the betterment of the state of West Virginia is inspiring.

We also feature the key members of the West Virginia Legislature that are helping shape the future of higher education in the Advantage Valley. There is an article on a group of talented artists that excelled at the recent West Virginia Juried Exhibition in Charleston. Most of the top winners from throughout the state were either Marshall faculty or Advantage Valley residents. Finally, we chronicle the hard work of members of the Marshall faculty who have been instrumental in bringing millions of scientific research dollars to the region through the federally-funded EPSCoR Program.

These are just some of the people that make the Advantage Valley an ideal place to live and work. And, in the months ahead, you will be reading more about the movers and shakers that are keeping this region on the move. □



# DAN ANGEL

## **A former legislator and accomplished university president stands ready to lead Marshall University into the 21st Century**

Following the departure of J. Wade Gilley last summer to the University of Tennessee, the search committee for Marshall University's newest president was faced with a difficult challenge. After all, Gilley and his eight years of progress would be a hard act to follow. And there were time constraints to consider as well — the school needed a permanent president in office before the West Virginia Legislature convened in January 2000 and began allocating funds for higher education. The committee found the right leader for the job in Stephen F. Austin State University (Texas) President Dan Angel. Angel brings an impressive record of growth and transformation from his experience as the president of three colleges and one university. In fact, his eight years at Stephen F. Austin were described by his peers as "phenomenal." A three-term member of the Michigan Legislature, he also possesses a deep understanding of the political process which is omni-important to his current role. A native of Detroit, Angel earned his B.S. and M.A. degrees in Education at Wayne State University and his Ph.D. in Communications from Purdue University. A prolific writer and editor, he has written three books, edited three others and penned numerous articles. His leadership skills are impressive, garnering him numerous awards including "Public Administrator of the Year" in Austin, Texas, "Pacesetter of the Year" by the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations and "Exemplary Leadership Award" by the American Council on Education. At 6'4", 245 lbs., it is easy to see that he played football as a linebacker in college. He is married to the former Patricia Schuster of Dearborn, Michigan, who he met on the Debate Team in college. Of his wife, Angel says, "I married way above myself." Executive Editor Jack Houvouras sat down with Marshall's 34th president in February, just a month after he had taken office, to hear his views on the future of the university. Despite the fact that he had been logging 16 hour days, Angel appeared relaxed, animated and candid. And yes, he was indeed sporting a green jacket and Marshall tie.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY RICK LEE

**JH:** What were your first impressions of Huntington and Marshall University?

**DA:** When I flew in for the first time last fall, I noticed the changing colors, the hilly landscape and an abundance of trees. Huntington is a beautiful area! It reminds me a little of San Francisco with all the homes up on the hills. The campus looks like a university should. The John Marshall statue in front of the library gives you a special feeling of the heritage that goes with the name. I was very impressed with the campus and the community. People here are friendly and genuine. They show great pride in their university and community.

**JH:** How would you describe your first day on the job?

**DA:** You're sitting in your office and meeting an array of people who know more than you do about Marshall University. *[Laughs]* And that's a little intimidating because while you know that you're capable of the new assignment, there's still a major gap between what you know about the university, the history, the major issues, and you know you have a large learning gap to fill as quickly as possible.

**JH:** How hectic have your first 30 days been?

**DA:** I would describe them as torrid. *[Smiles]* There were a lot of things going on. I feel like I've been here much longer than a month. During the first 30 days, we've met virtually all the legislative leaders in Charleston, two of the three con-

education are up for grabs this year. It's a very significant legislative session.

**JH:** Why do you think they are trying to make these changes now?

**DA:** The state economy has experienced growth at about one percent in recent years whereas the national growth is five or six times that amount. When you look at some of the indicators in the state such as personal income, we're ranked number 50 in the country. We just haven't been able to take off and the state leaders are trying to isolate the cause and come up with a solution.

Jobs are available everywhere in the USA, but they're not uniformly available in West Virginia. We need to make economic development happen here. Universities have had three major roles throughout recent history: teaching, research and community service. I strongly believe that universities should now take a fourth major priority as part of their mission — economic development.

One of the ways we can help is in the area of basic literacy. Other areas are technical training and retraining. The Legislature is saying, 'Look, we have a lot of people that don't have the basic skills to do needed jobs. We're not going to have employers coming here until they know that our people are ready to perform the new jobs.'

**“NINETY-FIVE PERCENT OF THE JOBS IN AMERICA INVOLVE SOME KIND OF TECHNOLOGICAL INFORMATION. SO WE’VE GOT TO WORK TOWARD THAT END. THAT’S THE SINGLE LARGEST ISSUE FACING THIS STATE.”**

gressmen and one of the U.S. Senators. I'll be traveling to Washington next week to meet the remainder of that group. We've also met with the editorial boards of three newspapers, the classified staff, faculty and student leadership. So, I feel reasonably well indoctrinated after the first month.

**JH:** The classified staff gave you a unanimous endorsement. What do you attribute that to?

**DA:** Height, weight and alphabetical order. *[Laughs]* Seriously, it was deeply appreciated. It's very unusual when you have more than one candidate to have a unanimous endorsement. Hopefully, it meant that we made contact that day and I let them know that everyone at this university is important. Not just the students, not just the faculty, but every single person.

**JH:** What has been the most pressing issues facing you to date?

**DA:** The state Legislature because they are revamping all of higher education this year. They are talking about the possibility of changing the governance of our Community and Technical College, offering more master's programs around the state, and they are talking about higher selectivity for students. Those issues and the governing and funding of higher

The new information age is here. Ninety-five percent of the jobs in America involve some kind of technological information. So we've got to work toward that end. That's the single largest issue facing this state.

**JH:** You made a point of driving up to Morgantown to see WVU president David Hardesty. Tell us why.

**DA:** West Virginia has a very finite amount of fiscal resources, one of the tightest in the nation. To me, that means you've got to plan wisely at the state level. And universities have a key role. I went to visit President Hardesty to make his acquaintance and to start to build some communication that would ultimately benefit the state of West Virginia. *[Smiles]* Certainly, the football game was discussed. I'd love to see us play.

**JH:** How do you plan to work with President Hardesty?

**DA:** If President Hardesty and I sit down and tell the Legislature, 'This is what we need to do,' think how powerful that would be instead of us arguing on different sides of an issue. WVU and Marshall are the Hertz and Avis of this state and we need to get our automobile fleets traveling in the same direction whenever possible. I was pleased when I went to Morgantown that we got to spend about two and a half

hours together. Later the same month, he came down to visit me in Huntington for another two and a half hour session. So we've had five hours of one-on-one conversation on major issues and that's going to continue through the legislative session and I hope beyond.

**JH:** For years, the rap has been that the Legislature has given far more funding to WVU and Marshall falls a distant second. How do you address that problem with the Legislature?

**“YOU CAN MAKE A STRONG CASE THAT THE FOOTBALL PROGRAM HERE AT MARSHALL HAS GIVEN US NATIONAL VISIBILITY THAT WE WOULD NOT HAVE GOTTEN IN ANY OTHER WAY. THAT VISIBILITY GIVES YOU AN OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT THE ENTIRE UNIVERSITY TO THE NATION.”**

**DA:** WVU has major land grant status bestowed by a federal act of congress. That gives WVU a certain number of programs and services that they provide across the state. What people don't realize about Marshall University is that we also have statewide service and impact. We have our major campus in Huntington, the Graduate College in South Charleston with a statewide mission, a Medical School, four Byrd Institutes and a number of other services provided throughout the state.

So Marshall University has statewide presence and stature. We're just a different kind of institution. We're not on the same mission as WVU, but we have a very strong mission of our own. I'm very excited about how far Marshall has come in the past 10 years, but I'm even more excited about what we're going to do in the next 10 years.

**JH:** You met your wife, Patricia, on the debate team.

**DA:** Yes. *[Smiles]*

**JH:** Did you argue a lot or debate the issues back then?

**DA:** We did meet on the debate team, but we have our best debates now! She's quite a lady. I've known some men who say they married above themselves. I certainly did. She's been a good, strong partner and role model for our children. We'll be celebrating our 35th anniversary next July.

**JH:** Give us an example of something you and your wife have debated?

**DA:** One example would be how we raised our children and what kind of lessons they should learn along the way. There were a lot of family issues. Those are really the most important when you strip everything else away. We're a pretty good match as far as socializing. Patricia is very gregarious. She loves to be with people. I think if she had her choice of being with me for a day or with 100 people, she'd pick the 100 people. *[Laughs]*

**JH:** You are an author having written several books. Explain to our readers the desire to write.

**DA:** My first urge to write was when I did a biography on former Michigan Governor George Romney. I was working

on a dissertation at Purdue University when he became a possibility for President of the United States.

So when I was 25, I wrote my first book...265 pages, hard-bound. Undoubtedly, it's the best thing I ever wrote because I poured myself into it day after day. Even though I've done six books now — three as an author, three as an editor — the best was my first, because when I finished, I felt like I had nailed it.

**JH:** Difficult challenge isn't it?

**DA:** Yes, but you gain command of a topic when you write about it. It forces you to think through and connect all the pieces. Passive thinking is one thing but when you have to speak about and write about it you really have to actively analyze, organize and articulate your thoughts. To see it through to the end is a great feeling. There's kind of a rush you get from completing that kind of task. I'm sure you feel that yourself.

**JH:** You're a former linebacker....

**DA:** I call myself a "resentful linebacker." *[Laughs]* I wanted to be a quarterback but they told me I was too big. That was then. Today, I wouldn't be. Now, at 6'4", 245 pounds, I would be the perfect size.

**JH:** Yes you would. Tell us about your glory days. Were you a good player?

**DA:** I don't think I was an exceptional player. Football was enjoyable but it wasn't the major part of who I was. It wasn't the major reason that I attended college.

The biggest play I remember making was blocking a punt that made a difference in one of the games we won. Whenever you have an impact on the outcome, that's when you're proud of your effort.

**JH:** Speaking of football, it's common knowledge that most all of the faculty at Marshall have a longstanding disdain for athletic endeavors. How do you deal with that as someone who has to balance academics and athletics in a community that is crazy about its sports?

**DA:** I don't think that's true of everyone. I've always thought that when people talk about 'the faculty,' they seem to want to do that in one big group, and say, 'everybody.' I've never found that true of faculty. What you generally find is that some faculty are for something, some faculty are against that same thing and a large number of faculty are in the middle with differing points of view and shades of gray. I see the faculty as many different groups, not as any one gigantic set.

You can make a strong case that the football program here at Marshall has given us national visibility that we would not

have gotten in any other way. That visibility gives you an opportunity to present the entire university to the nation. When we play a game like the Motor City Bowl, we're the only bowl game on television that day. So everybody watching a football game that day is going to see Marshall University. It gives us license to present Marshall across the United States.

Now we can take our academic programs, our leadership in terms of computer technology, our leadership in terms of the John Drinko Library (one of the very best facilities in the country), the 21st Century Marshall Plan curriculum and other points of excellence and share them with America.

**JH:** Speaking of us playing in the Motor City Bowl, last season we were undefeated going into the MAC Championship Game. But, if we would have lost that game, we wouldn't have made it to a bowl game. Do you see Marshall's football program one day jumping to a stronger conference like the Big East or the ACC?

**DA:** I don't know whether the chance will come about for us to do that. I would say Marshall's future looks very bright. If we're in the top 10, why couldn't we go up nine notches at some point? It would be fantastic to win a national championship and I wouldn't put that out of our reach.

**JH:** Marshall must reduce spending by \$2 million as decreed by the Governor. How are you going to do that?

**DA:** Two million is a lot of money to reduce anytime. But Marshall's budget overall is about \$240 million. So we're dealing with a one percent reduction. That makes you feel better about pursuing it.

**“I'VE NEVER WALKED INTO AN INSTITUTION BEFORE WHERE PEOPLE FELT GOOD ABOUT IT OVERALL. PEOPLE HERE SEEM PLEASED WITH WHAT THEY HAVE ACHIEVED, TAKE GREAT PRIDE IN THEIR INSTITUTION AND WANT TO MARCH FORWARD.”**

The third day I was on duty as the new president, I read in the newspaper that we were going to have a budget cut. I was on my way to a radio interview and I turned to Keith Spears (Vice President for Communications), who was riding with me and asked him if he knew anything about it. He said no. The newspaper had written about it before any administrative personnel really knew about it. When you get an executive order like that you simply have to do what you have to do. We did give everybody a chance for input before taking action but eventually froze open positions, delayed technology purchases and reduced some of our summer offerings.

I thought it was ironic that the day we had Amazon.com in Huntington to announce their opening of a facility we were cutting our technology budget.

We can live with this kind of cut for a year, but what we don't want to see is a repeated pattern of that year after year. My fear is that we are in the midst of the best national economy that we've ever had. There's been a national expansion

since 1991. And right now we're cutting the budget. What happens in bad times?

**JH:** We all know that money is the engine that drives everything, including higher education. What do you bring to the table as far as your skills with managing finances?

**DA:** This is my fifth presidency. I've never come to a university before that wasn't in serious financial trouble. *[Laughs]* This is my first time and to make up for that, three days after taking office I had to cut the budget by two million.

Marshall University attracted me because it was on the move and had done excellent things in the past decade. So the emphasis is where do we go from here. And that's exciting. I've never walked into an institution before where people felt good about it overall. People here seem pleased with what they have achieved, take great pride in their institution and want to march forward.

That's why I'm here at Marshall University. Money is a piece of that. We're going to have to raise a large amount of private dollars. I don't think Marshall can be where it needs to be without raising millions of dollars to ensure academic quality. The best way to be a good financial manager is to understand your money. Know how much you have and set your priorities. It's a focus issue.

But you can't come to a university as president and simply say 'Here's what we're going to do' and expect everybody to salute. Academic institutions have a process that must happen. You have to give people a chance to participate and be involved. And not just faculty and staff, but students and the community.

This spring, we're planning a very inexpensive inaugural event where I'll have an opportunity to share my impressions of the university and to set up a process where the faculty, staff, students and community will have a chance to build our plans for the future. Hopefully, by January 2001, we'll have a 10 year action plan calling for vision, vitality and verifiable results.

**JH:** At Stephen F. Austin University your tenure was described as "a phenomenal period of growth." The same has been said of your predecessor at Marshall University. How will you take Marshall to the next level?

**DA:** A president needs to match very closely what the institution needs at that specific point in time. When that happens you have a chance to own the opportunity. How can Marshall University move to the next level? Four ways: excellence, prominence, staying on the cutting edge and student success.

**JH:** Marshall has seen tremendous growth in the last

# MARSHALL WELCOM



Mrs. Pat Angel and family pet Sawl

**T**here's a saying that behind every great man is an even greater woman. This describes the team of Marshall's new President and First Lady, Dr. and Mrs. Dan Angel. A native of Michigan, Patricia Anne Schuster Angel met Dan Angel while they were both attending Wayne State University. Her first impression of the man who has been tapped to lead Marshall into the 21st Century — "Mr. Joe College." Mrs. Angel described their first meeting:

"I met him on a bus trip at about six o'clock in the morning. We were going to a debate and I really did think he was Mr. Joe College — a tall, good-looking, fraternity guy." It wasn't until later that they became interested in one another.

The Angel's marriage of nearly 35 years is proof that first impressions are usually lasting ones. They take great pride in the accomplishments of their two children, Scott, age 26, who recently completed his MBA at Stephen F. Austin University, and Shelby, age 21, who is completing a degree in International Business at San Diego State University and plans to attend law school. As one of six siblings and the only one of her family to receive a college education, Mrs. Angel has instilled the desire to learn in her children.

Besides being a full-time wife and mother, Pat Angel enjoys a variety of interests. She is an avid reader, stating "the whole world comes to a pause when I read." In addition to books, movies are another favorite pastime of the Angel household. She and her husband also share a passion for playing a variety of card games with friends. She laughed when she described their favorite card game. "Dan is deadly at hearts. He doesn't have a kind bone in his body."

Mrs. Angel also enjoys sporting activities such as bowling and rollerblading. Yes, rollerblading. She admits, "I'm not good unless it is a flat surface or there is someone at the other end to stop me. Stephen F. Austin University has a parking lot that is relatively flat and new so I would go there and blade."

While enjoying life's pleasures, Pat Angel takes life seriously. Like the current national First Lady, she is not a "tea and cookies" collegiate First Lady. Pat holds a B.A. in Education from Wayne State University and an M.A. in Education, Speech and Media from Michigan State University. Although the Angels have moved several times because of Dan's career, Pat has managed to find several niches along the way. She has been Registrar of Deeds in Marshall, Michigan, and would have considered running for the post when her term expired had Dan not also been running for legislative office at the time. When they were living in El Centro, Ca., Pat worked as a television newscaster. She describes that position as a fluke.

"They wanted Dan to do some political commentary, because of his background with politics. Dan told them no, and knowing my interest in it, said 'Why don't you get my wife?' I immediately got into it, spent lots of hours with little pay, but it was exciting. There were no such things as teleprompters. You just set up your interviews and did them." When time permitted, she taught communications, public speaking and oral

decade. Huntington has not. What can the university do to help the region grow?

**DA:** The university needs to be a full partner in economic development. We have to give people a reason to come here. Amazon.com is a perfect example. Marshall University has really progressed in high technology. Through the efforts of the City of Huntington, the Huntington Area Development Council and others, Amazon.com recognized that and documented it by coming to Huntington. If we do these kinds of things, we will be able to attract the industries that we need.

**JH:** Historically, there has been a tension between Huntington and Charleston....

**DA:** I can't believe that. [Laughs]

**JH:** What can Marshall do to reduce that tension?

**DA:** We have a major opportunity working with our South Charleston campus. That gives us statewide impact through graduate education. It also gives us a presence in Charleston that we have not had before. That campus will grow and be very productive. We also have a great opportunity with our Community and Technical College. Ideally, I would like to see Marshall handle the entire Advantage Valley. The reason for that is we can't get what I call economic scale by doing 11 small community colleges in various places. Why not one Advantage Valley Community College which would serve under the Marshall umbrella?

**JH:** Speaking of Advantage Valley, what can that organization do to strengthen its presence and visibility in the region?

**DA:** I'm going to a meeting on that today. My understand-

# ES NEW FIRST LADY

by elizabeth appell sheets

interpretation, discussion and interpersonal relations at both the community college and university level. She brought a varied life experience to her role as First Lady at Stephen F. Austin.

Pat Angel is justifiably proud of her role as First Lady at Stephen F. Austin. While she described her role as "being in the background," she was instrumental in bringing about several changes for that university. Along with her husband, Pat was instrumental in the establishment of SFA 101, a course designed for freshmen. She notes, "It didn't exist until we got there."

It is readily apparent that Pat Angel's focus as First Lady is that of the students. The Noble Program at the university is another program that has been "touched by an Angel." Along with her husband, Pat helped coordinate this scholarship program involving not only the college community but also the whole Nacogdoches community. The premise behind the Noble Program is to recognize graduating high school seniors who took more than the necessary courses. She worked with the Nacogdoches Chamber of Commerce to recognize these students and convinced the local newspaper to donate \$10,000 in scholarships for students attending SFA. She described the event "as an extravaganza, complete with dinner and entertainment. We live in a rural area, and 80 percent of our kids have some kind of scholarship or loan. So, the money is important to them."

Pat Angel was also instrumental in bringing television screens to the school's coliseum, thus enabling parents to see their children up close as they graduated. In addition, Angel looked at the big screens as a way to market the university. "If you had a video, you could feature departments, sports and the university's accomplishments."

Stephen F. Austin's loss is Marshall's gain. While she has only been here for a short time, Pat Angel already has been thinking of some things she would like to see implemented at Marshall. Her enthusiasm is apparent. "Because I'm an educator to begin with, I just get so excited and wrapped up about the possibilities of things that can be done to change young lives and to enhance the university." When recently complimented by a former First Lady at Stephen F. Austin for not falling into the familiar and traditional role of a social hostess, she replied, "That is just my nature. Some call it

meddlesome because I'll say such things as, 'Have you done this or have you done that?' If something didn't work ten years ago, that doesn't mean it won't work today. You look at the avenue of change as an adventure, instead of as a trial."

With an additionally strong interest in community activities, Mrs. Angel is a sustaining member of the Junior League and a former member of the Jaycees, Newcomers and other organizations. She acknowledges being "interested in just about everything, which is always a problem. There's no limitation to my interests, unfortunately."

She noted that Marshall doesn't have a student foundation and she feels creating one is important "because it works on school spirit for those who are here now, helping them to become alumni that have such a good feeling about the university that they will give in time and monies. Our student foundation tries to come up with ways to make students participate in the university while they are students and after they graduate."

An inevitable part of being a First Lady is serving as hostess to groups and organizations. Pat Angel does not shun this role but welcomes it. She thoroughly enjoys inviting various groups and organizations to the President's house. "We have had every student organization, every spirit group, cheerleaders, band, whatever, as well as just about every community group in our home at one time or another." Part of her reason for inviting people is to say "thank you" for their hard work or a job well done. Last year, Mrs. Angel invited 1,000 guests to the President's house at Stephen F. Austin, a trend she will likely continue at Marshall.

The Angels are genuinely pleased with the enthusiasm they sense in Huntington and the Marshall community. As Pat noted, Marshall has a "sincere interest in its programs, in its people, in its students and in its town." She states that "Dan had to be convinced that he could contribute something to this school. Otherwise, there is no meaning. You don't change just to change. We had to be a match with Marshall."

With the experience and energy that Dan and Pat Angel bring, there is no question that these two individuals are a perfect match for both Marshall and Huntington. There are definitely two new Angels in "Herd Heaven." □

**Elizabeth Appell Sheets** is a contributing writer for the *Marshall* and *Advantage Valley* magazines.

ing is that they have spent the first year preparing. I understand there are a lot of people who want to continue and goals will be needed to do so. There has to be a game plan. You have to have support, impact and a perceived future.

**JH:** You spent eight years at Stephen F. Austin University. Do you think you'll retire at Marshall University?

**DA:** When I first came here, a member of the search committee asked me, 'What will this institution look like in the year 2010?' I said, 'I don't know what it will look like, but I'll be here describing it.'

**JH:** What are some of your immediate plans for the future?

**DA:** Number one, to get through the legislative session. Hopefully better off, but at least unscathed. Second, to work toward what our students need. Third, to actively become

involved in fundraising. Fourth, to seek federal earmarked dollars.

**JH:** What about your long-term wish list for Marshall University?

**DA:** My crystal ball calls for a university of national prominence. People sometimes refer to Marshall as a state/regional university. I see us on a much bigger scale than that — a university of national repute.

**JH:** What would you like your legacy to be when you step down as president of Marshall University?

**DA:** I'd like history to record: "He took Marshall University to the next level." □

**Jack Houvouras** is the editor of the *Huntington Quarterly*, *Marshall* and *Advantage Valley* magazines.



profile

# BUILDING ON THE

# F

Kit Wellford and her

# FUTURE

Executive Office Centers are attracting corporations to the Advantage Valley

by matthew cooke

A friend calls her the lady who built the building that looks like a Stealth Bomber. And looking at The Forbes Center in Charleston's NorthGate Business Park, it's clear that Huntington native Katherine "Kit" Wellford has a unique vision. The Forbes Center's tall masonry columns and colonial-style brick laid in intricate herringbone designs reflect a style not often found in an office building. Inside, Audubon paintings of wild turkeys and Red Headed Woodpeckers hang on walls trimmed with darkly stained cherry woodwork. Behind those walls Category Five electrical wiring connects a high-speed local area network and a sophisticated telecommunications system. Wellford has seen to all the details.

Charleston businesswoman Kit Wellford, president of the Executive Office Centers, stands in front of her building in the NorthGate Business Park.



(Above) Kit Wellford oversees The Forbes Center at the NorthGate Business Park in Charleston. The 34,000 square foot complex houses 60 offices that can be rented by Fortune 500 companies or budding entrepreneurs.

Wellford built the 34,000-square-foot Forbes Center to house Executive Office Centers, a business that accommodates professionals who need an office but don't want the troubles of ownership. The idea, she says, "is that someone can arrive in town, set up and go to work. You can be in business instantly."

Executive Office Centers offers 60 10 x 15 offices that can be rented by Fortune 500 companies or a budding entrepreneur. Customers receive personalized phone service, voice mail and a prestigious business address. They may also use conference rooms equipped with audiovisual equipment, or use the professional support staff that provides desktop publishing, database management or any administrative need.

The business operates like the hotel industry. Clients contract with Executive Office Centers for a period of time and services. Those services may include a physical office space or simply someone to forward calls and collect the daily mail. Executive Office Centers then bills the customer for the services used.

As part of NorthGate Business Park, The Forbes Center looks more like a traditional academic building than an office facility that offers the latest technology. Located off Greenbrier Street between Yeager Airport and the State Capitol, NorthGate requires that 40 percent of the land occupied by a building be landscaped to reflect the natural surroundings. A new project must pass an architectural review committee and sign committee. Plans and materials also must be approved. All this effort creates a pleasant work environment conveniently located minutes from Charleston's central business district.

Wellford's business may be new to the region, but it's a 40-year-old concept. As large corporations began to downsize,

the need for office buildings and corporate leases decreased. Corporations no longer needed support staffs. What originally started as telephone answering services grew into the Executive Suite Association, an international business based in Columbus, Ohio.

After two years of research and analysis, Wellford knew there was a demand for her idea. All the existing buildings at NorthGate Business Park were full, but people kept asking for office space. After touring other executive office suites Wellford decided to build her own. With architects Paul Tennant and Aric Margolis she planned what would become The Forbes Center. The business, however, almost never got started.

"Getting started was the biggest challenge. All the banks but one turned me down. They just didn't understand the concept. I had to convince people that they weren't taking a risk, but were taking advantage of a great opportunity."

Wellford was right. Even before the business opened, she received calls from corporations such as 3Com and Cisco Systems who were eager to open offices in West Virginia. Since opening on November 1, the business has grown steadily. But Executive Office Centers is more than just Wellford's personal business endeavor, it's an economic development tool that will attract more businesses to the state and help more corporations get a start in West Virginia. In the future, Wellford hopes to open more Executive Office Centers throughout the state.

Growing up in the southern hills of Huntington as the oldest of four children, Wellford was always the overachiever. She left her hometown to attend an all-girls high school, Madiera, on the outskirts of Washington, D. C. She then went to Duke University where she majored in Economics

and Public Policy. In the summers, she would return to Huntington and enroll at Marshall where she was one of few women taking the statistics and economics classes required of business majors. After graduating from Duke, she was admitted to the Stanford School of Business where she earned her MBA. She then went to work for the Penn Central Corporation in New York City, but something was amiss.

"It was a really rough time in New York. Many businesses were downsizing. There were sick and mentally ill people in the streets, and the gang wars were happening. It was not a good time to be in New York."

After Penn Central downsized, Wellford returned to West Virginia. She planned to take a year off before returning to the East Coast. But she received a phone call from a member of former Governor Arch Moore's office who was looking for someone to help attract big business to the state. It was while working in the Governor's Office of Community and Industrial Development that she realized she could make a difference in West Virginia. She met her future husband, developer John Wellford, sold her apartment in New York City and knew that she had come home to stay. The couple are the proud parents of two children, Harrison, 10, who Wellford describes as the artist of the family, and Landon, 8, who currently is interested in karate.

***"I love West Virginia and I want to see it develop. It has incredible potential. I see Executive Office Centers as a contribution to the state's success. I came back to our state and now I have made a commitment to it."***

"Now I want to be buried here," Wellford says, "I always knew I could come home. No matter where I lived, Washington, D. C., New York, Chicago, I always had a West Virginia driver's license. I had the tools to go anywhere in the world, but I wanted to stay here."

Although she built her latest business from the ground up, Wellford says she's not an entrepreneur. Instead, she prefers consulting and public service work. From her first job as a research assistant with the Environmental Protection Agency to the building of the Forbes Center, she's focused her work on public service. Although she no longer works for the Governor's office, she still contributes to the state's economic development.

"I love West Virginia and I want to see it develop. It has incredible potential. I see Executive Office Centers as a contribution to the state's success. I came back to our state and now I have made a commitment to it," Wellford says.

She wants to see others come back as well. She hopes to see our young people return and says we need to create opportunities for those people who want to come home.

A member of the Advantage Valley Board and the West Virginia Chamber of Commerce, Wellford hopes to help create those opportunities. She's impressed by the advances in technology that Marshall has made and hopes that the private sector in the region begins to adopt new technology as well. Optimistic about the future of West Virginia, she believes that our region perfectly fits a technology-based economy.

"We need to look for businesses that can take advantage of the landscape and capitalize on the fact that we are sitting in the middle of the mid-Atlantic. The whole technological economy is moving toward what Advantage Valley has to offer — quality of life, living where you want, safe neighborhoods, recreation."

Hard work and a common vision will bring those new businesses to the region. Advantage Valley, says Wellford, "must continue to work toward being one economic unit, and we need to work toward running it that way. We need to work through the political issues and find a way for Huntington and Charleston to rise together. We can combine the talents of both cities, as well as Marshall and WVU, and pull the whole state up." Wellford is encouraged that new Marshall President Dan Angel plans to build on the Advantage Valley concept. Although it was J. Wade Gilley's idea, the board is now ready to take the idea further.

Courage and drive make Wellford unique. She knows how to land an airplane and dock a 50-foot sailboat. While others might not be willing to face the challenges of being a woman starting a new business in West Virginia, Wellford enjoys the opportunity.

"I just look at the challenges I face as the difficulties of doing business. We're breaking new ground, but it's a challenge I'll take. I'm not a pioneer, but I do hope it will be easier for women coming after me."

While looking from a second floor window inside the Forbes Center, Wellford is relaxed and pleased with her work. Below her, snow covers Ramseur Park, a common area outside the Forbes Center named for her late mother-in-law. She's eager to see the young ash trees planted there bud this spring, and hopes that it will be a gathering place for the community. Sipping tea from a hand-thrown clay cup, she says, "There's a lot of change out there, and it's coming to us. It's exciting." With Kit Wellford around, the future does seem exciting. □

**Matthew Cooke** is a freelance writer and part-time English instructor at Marshall University. He lives in Charleston.

# JOHN DEAVER DRINKO

*Meet the brilliant and outspoken attorney who many consider Marshall University's most accomplished alumnus*

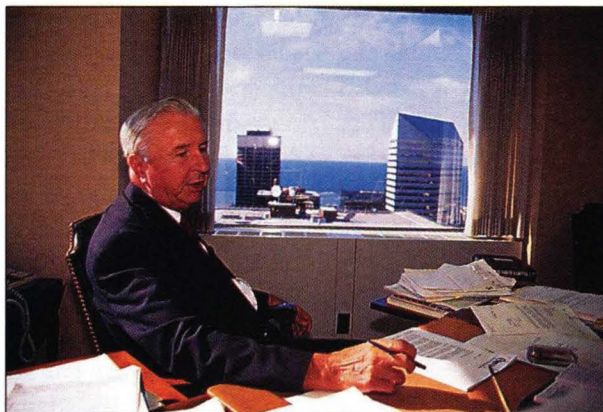
The story of John Deaver Drinko is one that, most likely, you have never heard. It is a story of one of Marshall University's most accomplished alumni and his rise to the top of his profession.

He comes from a distinguished lineage of attorneys in a historic law practice — men such as Newton D. Baker (1871-1937), who Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes called “the outstanding lawyer of his generation,” and Drinko’s mentor, Joseph C. Hostetler (1886-1958), both giants in their day. When you enter the prestigious law offices of Baker & Hostetler in downtown Cleveland, Ohio, three portraits hang on the wall: Newton Baker’s, Joseph Hostetler’s and John Drinko’s. No others. Just these. He is a man who, upon his ascent to power at Baker & Hostetler in the 1960s and 1970s, nearly singlehandedly took a practice with 64 attorneys in one office and built it into the nation’s

16th largest law firm, now with more than 500 attorneys in nine cities across the United States. Their clients have included, among numerous others, CBS Television, Major League Baseball, Time Warner Inc., Scripps Howard and Elvis Presley Enterprises Inc.

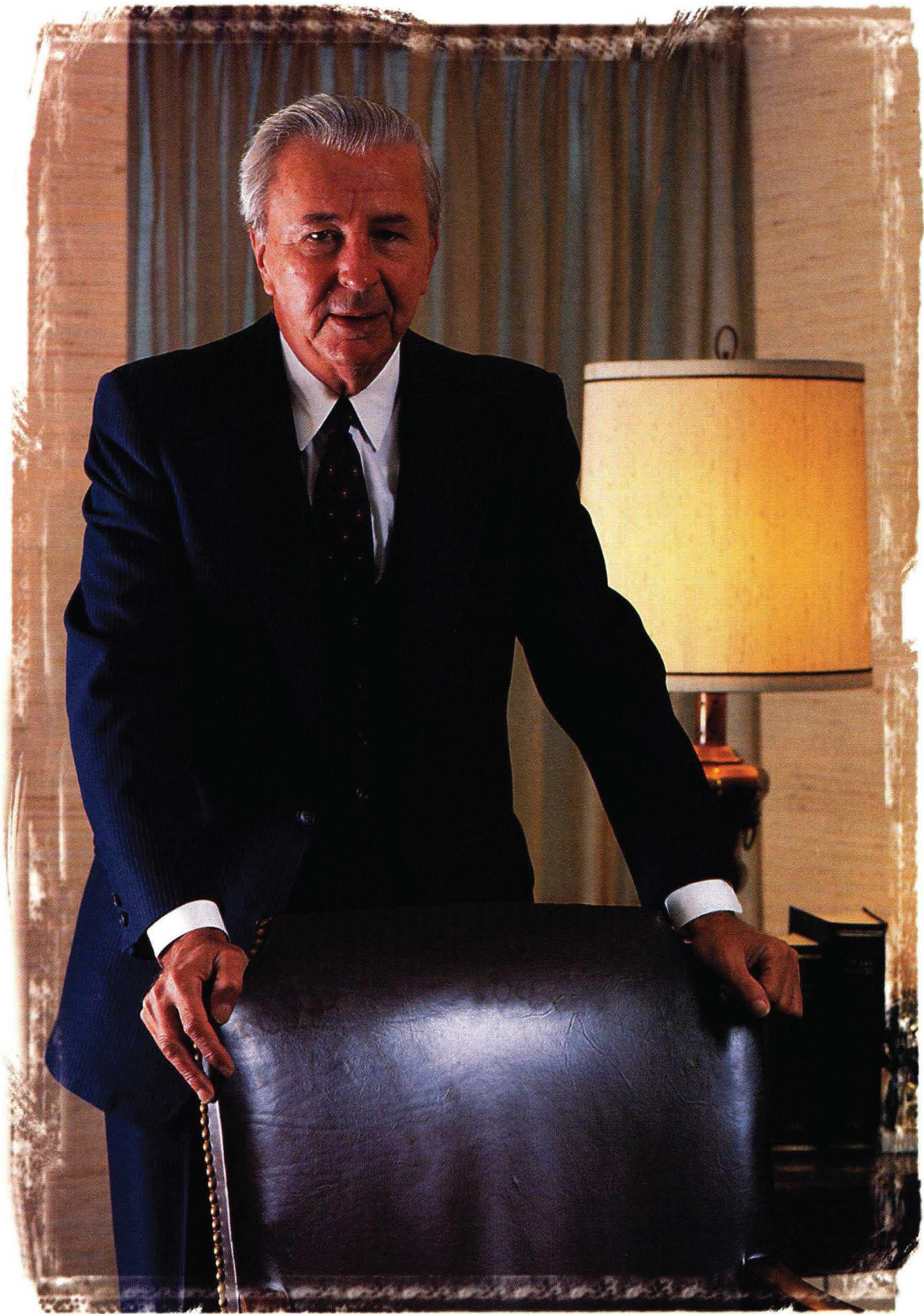
But Drinko is more than a brilliant attorney. He is a farmer, family man, philanthropist, world traveler, entrepreneur and student of life. But perhaps most importantly to John Drinko, he is a graduate of Marshall College and a native West Virginian.

He has come a long way from his humble beginnings in St. Marys, W.Va., where two meetings were held to discuss the possibility of changing his Hungarian name at an early age. Apparently, the folks in St. Marys thought the young man might have a better chance of making it in the world with a less ethnic-sounding name such as Jones. But young Drinko would have none of it. Today an



Under Drinko's direction, his law firm in Cleveland, Ohio grew to become the nation's 16th largest.

*by jack houvouras*



accomplished multimillionaire, Drinko continues to take pride in his name, his alma mater and his past. When asked to fund the first academic chair at Marshall University in 1981, Drinko reached for his wallet and wrote a check for a cool \$1 million. But it isn't his money or power that most impresses. Instead, it is a number of distinctive characteristics that answer the puzzling question: Just who is John Drinko?

He was born and raised in St. Marys, W.Va., a community of 2,500 people, during the Great Depression. Rumor has it that by the age of five, he already was reading Latin and Shakespeare. A self-proclaimed born speed reader, he professes to have read *Gone With The Wind* for the first time in one afternoon. And although these claims may not seem plausible, if you ask anyone who knows Drinko, they will tell you that there's no reason to doubt his word. According to his peers, he is a genius. "His mind has such depth and perception," notes Paul White, a partner at Baker & Hostetler. "He has an intellectual capacity that cannot be measured."

His father walked out on him and his mother when he was just a boy — a subject Drinko refuses to discuss. This made financial matters even worse for the two and it cast the

youngster into the role of man of the house very early in life. Despite the fact that there was poverty everywhere, young

Drinko always found a way to hustle a buck. He sold anything he could get his hands on, including blackberries, peaches, shirts, socks and his favorite, real silk hosiery.

"The most wonderful part of your life is when you don't have a damn thing," he recalled. "What do you have to lose?"

In school, he was advanced to higher classes because of his gifted abilities. "I was a precocious little S.O.B.," Drinko recalls. Legend confirms that indeed he was. When his mother remarried a man who Drinko deemed unsuitable, the teenager bailed him out of trouble on a number of occasions before ultimately kicking him out of the house.

In high school, he excelled not only in the classroom but on the playing field as well. He was regarded as an excellent football and basketball player. Still making money to help support his mother and half sister Frances, he hustled pool, fought bare-fisted for money at carnivals and wrestled bears. As Drinko contends, "I never lost."

When it came time to graduate from high school, Drinko learned that the majority of his class was unable to afford class rings. And with that, he formed a committee and set out to raise enough money to purchase the rings by selling hot dogs and popcorn. "Nobody in my class is going to graduate from high school without a class ring," he asserted. And not a single one did.

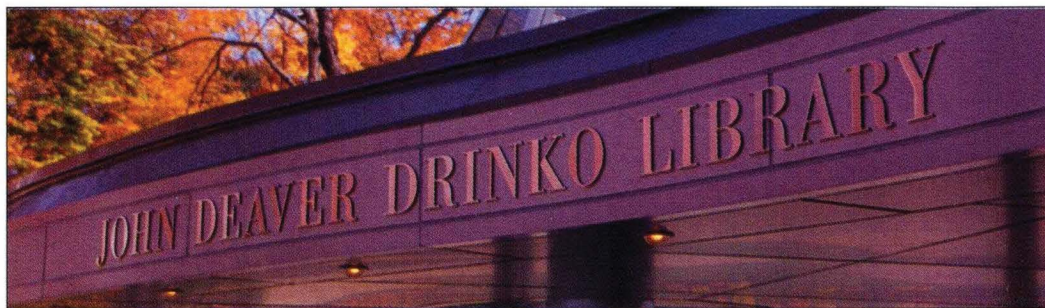
Upon graduation from high school, Drinko left home and arrived on campus at then Marshall College wearing a burlap shirt that his mother had made. He immediately went to work at a local A&P grocery store and continued what would be a lifelong responsibility of sending money home to his mother and Frances.

In his spare time, Drinko continued to hustle money and, when he could, attended dances at the old Vanity Fair in downtown Huntington. In those days, the whites danced upstairs on the balcony while the blacks danced downstairs. Rumor has it that Drinko was one of the first in town to break the racial barrier when he went downstairs and asked a young black girl to dance.

"I never was concerned with the color of someone's skin," says Drinko. "I was pretty good on my feet and I wanted to go a round with the best dancer in town. As it turned out, the best dancer at the time was black. Obviously that wasn't going to stop me."

In the classroom, Drinko grew to become friends with his professors. Most likely, there was mutual respect. "Looking back," says Drinko, "I had some of the greatest teachers in the

world." Drinko graduated from Marshall in 1941 with honors and was offered scholarships to such schools as Harvard and



Yale but opted to stay in the area. He was still concerned about his mother and half-sister.

"I knew how to make money in this part of the country and I had an obligation to provide for my family."

Drinko enrolled at Ohio State Law School, and because of his speed-reading ability, breezed through his homework. That left his evenings open. He joined a poker club and quickly learned the art of gambling. It was, in his own words, one of the better lessons in life.

"I don't gamble," Drinko insists. "I only put my money on sure things." Those familiar with his business dealings agree. They describe his judgment in money matters as phenomenal and innovative.

At Ohio State, he went on to finish at the top of his class and upon graduation, accepted a fellowship at the law school at the University of Texas at Austin. Early into the fellowship, the school sent the greenhorn Drinko on an errand to see the ornery millionaire Jesse Jones who owned nearly all of Houston. Jones greeted Drinko with a barrage of insults and profanity obviously intended to test the young man's character. After Drinko had heard enough, he told Jones to "go to hell," and stormed out of the office. By the time he made it back to school, Jones had already called ahead and instructed a faculty member to "Hire that kid!"

However, Drinko chose to return to Ohio so he could look after his family. Joseph Hostetler of Baker & Hostetler notoriety in Cleveland hired Drinko in 1945 and took an immediate liking to the young man. And although he had to compete with what he called the “Harvard and Yale fancy boys from the country clubs,” Drinko rose to the top of the firm. He concentrated his talents on corporate and business law, including financing, mergers and acquisitions, planning and sales. Hostetler soon came to revere Drinko as his most trusted colleague and, in time, groomed the West Virginia native and Marshall College graduate as his successor.

As John Drinko arrived at work early one morning in 1945, a young lady who also worked in the office building noticed him walking through the lobby. Her name was Libby Gibson. “When I saw this young man, I felt kind of funny,” she recalled. “I already had a boyfriend in the service, and I thought to myself, ‘You shouldn’t be feeling this way.’”

Libby worked for the Pennsylvania Railroad Company as a bookkeeper, and one of the perks at the company was receiving free tickets to various social events throughout the city. As fate would have it, her roommate worked in Drinko’s office and Libby often found herself at Baker & Hostetler handing out some of the extra tickets she was unable to use. One afternoon, Drinko asked to meet the young lady who was giving away all the tickets.

“When I first met him I didn’t like his attitude,” recalls Libby. “He was too self-assured and aloof. He also mentioned that he didn’t believe lawyers should date the secretaries that worked in the building, even though he knew I wasn’t a secretary.” However, Libby’s roommate later arranged a date between the two and a platonic friendship was born. The two often went out but a romantic spark was never ignited. Early on, Drinko informed Libby that he had no intentions of getting serious as he had a mother and half-sister to care for. In time, however, things would change.

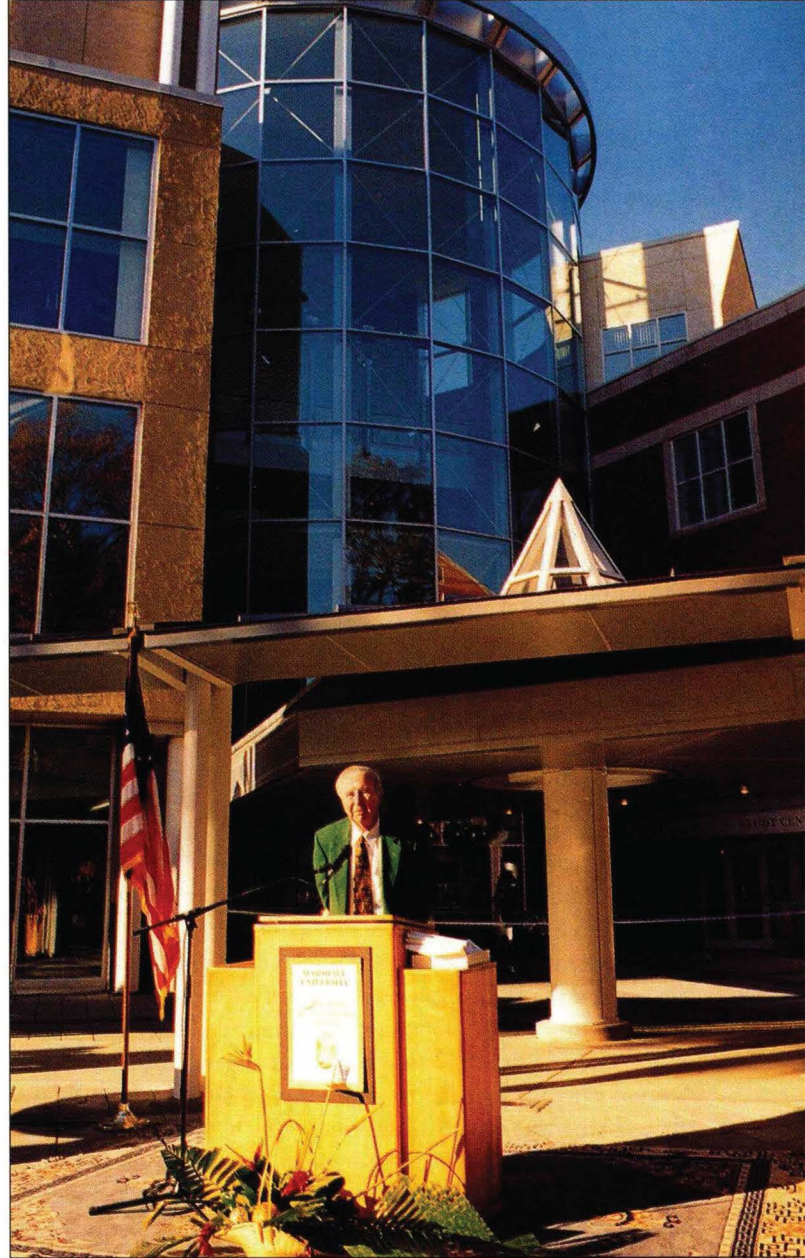
“Little by little,” Libby remembers, “the web kept tightening and it wasn’t long before we were both caught.”

“I married way above myself,” Drinko recalled years later. Libby Gibson was from a fine family in Pennsylvania — a far cry from Drinko’s humble West Virginia roots.

In the years that followed his marriage, Drinko pressed on in his work as a young attorney at Baker & Hostetler. His seven-day work week, according to his wife, began at 7 a.m. and ended at midnight. He took breaks only in the evenings to have dinner in town with his new bride. But once they had their first child, Libby convinced him to take Sundays off.

In addition to his law practice, Drinko founded the Cleveland Institute of Electronics in his spare time. What began as a small mail-order school would later grow into a profitable venture that would ultimately add to his fortune.

In 1968, the management committee at Baker & Hostetler appointed John Drinko chairman of a sub-committee to study how to strengthen the management and internal procedures of the firm. His recommendations were quickly adopted and, in 1969, he was elected to the management committee where he quickly became the dominant force. He was then elected



(Above) The John Deaver Drinko Library, one of the nation’s finest, is named after one of the university’s most generous benefactors.

managing partner of the firm and soon thereafter, seized an opportunity that would set in motion a period of unprecedented growth in the firm’s history.

In the early 1970s, Drinko completed the first merger of a local law firm. It would be the beginning of his visionary plan to make Baker & Hostetler one of the first national law firms. Today, because of Drinko’s foresight, Baker & Hostetler has offices in Columbus, Washington, Denver, Los Angeles, Long Beach, Houston and Orlando. The firm has grown from 64 attorneys in the Cleveland office to 500 attorneys and 1,000 support staff in nine cities.

Perhaps a great determinant of Drinko’s success, combined with his obvious intellectual capacity, is his innate curiosity. Whether it is business, politics, science or the arts, Drinko is determined to learn as much about a given subject as he can. By 6:30 a.m. each day, he has read every major newspaper in America and by nightfall, he has finished yet another book.

“He is a practicing scholar,” noted Dr. Ned Boehm, former vice president for institutional advancement at MU. “I’ve



met people who were brilliant in certain arenas, but John is brilliant in all of them.”

By now, John and Libby had four children, two boys and two girls, and while they were all still relatively young, he made the decision that the family would undertake a project to see the United States. And, over the course of a five year period, during his vacation time, they did just that. The ever-meticulous Drinko broke the country down into sections, and when he had vacation time, the family set out on a new adventure. Whether by railroad or the family station wagon, they blanketed the country and, in subsequent years, made the same journey through Europe.

With those missions completed, Drinko awoke one Sunday morning to find an ad in the newspaper for a 31-foot camper. He told Libby, “Let’s go look at it after church.” By the end of the week, he had purchased the monster vehicle, had it prepped, and was on his way to Alaska with the family in tow.

Deep into the arctic wilderness, the camper broke down at a gas station. It would take hours to fix. The gas station owner, who was married to an Eskimo woman, took an immediate liking to Drinko in the hours that passed. The two discussed their respective adventures in life and, before the day was done, the man was trying to talk Drinko into leaving his family for a few days to embark upon a trek across a frozen river in a part of North America few white men had ever seen. But Drinko obviously declined. Months later, he received a telegram at his office from the man in Alaska.

“The river is frozen. *Stop*. Now is the perfect time to go. *Stop*.”

Drinko telegraphed back.

“Can’t. *Stop*. Still married to white woman. *Stop*.”

On November 14, 1970, the plane carrying the Marshall University football team crashed upon its descent into Huntington’s Tri-State Airport. All 75 players, coaches and fans were killed. When Drinko heard the news, he chartered the first plane out of Cleveland and left for Huntington. He immediately volunteered his time and began fund-raising efforts on behalf of the university. He used his contacts to secure nearly \$130,000 in contributions and before he returned to Cleveland, had penned a personal check to the university for an undisclosed amount that one university official said was “at least” in the five figure range. It is said that anonymous checks were also mailed to the university on a regular basis for several months following the disaster. Officials believe they were from Drinko.

“What is remarkable about John is that his generosity is

beyond belief,” noted Boehm in a 1992 article in the *Huntington Quarterly* magazine. “He is compassionate and he truly cares. What is important to John, in my opinion, is his belief in God, his wife, his family, his career, his community and his past. He has a fierce, intense loyalty to his past and has never forgotten any one person along the way.

“When John was just a boy, his mother taught him that it was important to say thank you and express the proper gratitude to those who have helped you in life. And I think that sums up his life. John has spent his entire life saying thank you. What drives him to give is not a desire for recognition, but, instead, to do what his mother taught him.”

Yet another example of Drinko’s abilities and dedication to others involved close personal friend and client, Edward J. Mellen. Mellen’s wife was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis and

suffered with the disease for 35 years before she passed away. Before Mellen himself died years later, he appointed Drinko executor of his large estate and asked him to use the money to help fight the crippling disease.

Drinko in turn set out to find the best doctor in the world to head up the newly formed Mellen Center at the Cleveland Clinic. He found in Dr. John P. Conomy a man who had devoted most of his life to the study of MS and asked him to head the center.

“If it weren’t for John Drinko, this place wouldn’t be here,” Conomy said in 1992. “There are 64 centers like this around the world, and this is the best.”

More than 250,000 people in the United States are afflicted with the neurological disease. Drinko determined medical treatment isn’t enough.

“More needs to be done for these people including treating their emotional struggles to cope with the disease, helping them come to terms with their loss of independence, providing financial assistance and expanding the frontiers of rehabilitation and research,” Drinko said.

“If it weren’t for the John Drinkos of the world, we couldn’t take care of these people,” Conomy asserted.

Drinko’s concern for his close friend and colleague, Jim Chapman, was demonstrated when Chapman was diagnosed with cancer.

“John had the best doctors he could find calling on me,” recalled Chapman. “He had them checking up on me everyday. That’s just the kind of man he is.”

When Drinko learned that a young man from West Virginia was admitted to the Cleveland Clinic for treatment last year, he walked over to the medical records library, pulled



Says Drinko of wife Libby: “When I married her, I married way above myself.”

the patient's file, and wrote on the outside: "Take special care of this young man." It was simply signed, "Drinko."

The early recognition Drinko received in the Huntington community stemmed primarily from The Drinko Chair at Marshall, which he and his wife Libby established in the 1980s with a \$1 million gift. It was Dr. Bernard Queen at the Marshall University Foundation who came across Drinko's name while doing some research of graduates who had made it big. Queen's goal was to establish a series of academic chairs at Marshall and he chose Drinko as his first target.

"I called Mr. Drinko and told him that I would like to meet with him," Queen recalls. "He said, 'Come on up.'"

Queen and his wife were treated by the Drinkos to a first-class weekend at their farm in Coshocton, Ohio, where he raises prize-winning Charolais cattle. Queen didn't bring up the subject of money all weekend. However, on Sunday morning, Drinko decided he wanted to drive into town to pick up a newspaper and asked Queen to come along.

"We were driving along the rural countryside when John turned to me and said, 'Queen, what do you want?'"

"I told him that I needed someone to take the lead and establish a chair at Marshall. He, in turn, said, 'How much will you need?' I looked up at him and said, 'Just for openers, we're going to need \$250,000.'"

"He didn't say a word," Queen recalls, "and drove on for about five minutes. Then, he turned to me and said, 'I don't see any reason why we can't do that. Libby and I will take care of it.'"

The additional \$750,000 soon followed in lump contributions. At the time, it was the single largest private contribution in the history of the university. Drinko understood that the chair needed to be properly funded, and to this day he continues to take an active role in the selection and operation of the chair named in his honor. As Queen points out, Drinko was the pioneering force that started the academic chairs at Marshall University.

"John Drinko is the kind of man who, when he sees a need, is there," says Queen. "The Marshall plane crash tragedy is a perfect example. He's the kindest, most unique and I guess the most brilliant man I've ever met."

If ever there was an advocate for the power of education, it would have to be John Drinko. He is not only a living example of that fact. In addition to his chair at Marshall University, Drinko has contributed millions to colleges and universities throughout the nation, earning him honorary degrees from Ohio State, John Carroll University, Capital University, Cleveland State University, David N. Myers College, University of New Hampshire, Baldwin-Wallace College, Ursuline College, Notre Dame College of Ohio and the University of Rio Grande. He established the Founder's Trust at Baker & Hostetler, a program that has provided \$320,000 in gifts to 24 law schools around the country.

As a result of his incredible generosity, Ohio State renamed its law school building in his honor and Marshall University named its state-of-the-art library after him as well. His other contributions (too numerous to mention) only

scratch the surface of Drinko's commitment to higher education in America.

"He truly believes that you can better the world through education," notes wife Libby. "He truly does."

When Drinko proposed to Libby Gibson in the late 1940s, he said to her, "I don't know if I'll ever amount to anything. I don't know if I'll be rich or poor. But I can promise you one thing, there will never be a dull moment."

Today, with their four children grown, the two have traveled the world visiting nearly every continent on the globe. "Sometimes," says Libby, "I pray for a dull moment."



Some years ago, Drinko made the trip back to St. Marys to see his home and tend to his family's graves. Even today, he still feels that responsibility to his family, especially to his now-deceased mother, and pays a local man to maintain the family cemetery plots.

While in St. Marys that day, Drinko made his way to the street corner to say hello to some of the locals. In St. Marys, the men who sit around the corner are considered the town sages, a Who's Who Committee of sorts, and Drinko made a point of stopping by to let them look him over.

"So, Deaver," one of the old-timers said while chewing on a wad of tobacco, "are ya doin' well?" Drinko went on to tell them that he was an attorney in Cleveland.

"Ya in any big clubs up there?" one of the men asked. Drinko replied that he had just been accepted into the prestigious Union Club.

"What's the matter, Deaver?" another man griped. "Can't you afford the Elks?"

John Drinko is a man undeniably linked to his past and keenly aware of the future. Perhaps his greatest gift to Marshall University is not the money he has generously contributed over the years, but instead, his undying loyalty to his roots. When a prominent Ohio politician recently joked that the only good thing to come out of West Virginia was an empty bus, Drinko phoned the politician and informed him that he was terminating all future funding to the man's political party. And to this day, Drinko's contributions, considered to have been quite substantial, have been withheld.

In 1983, Dr. Bernard Queen nominated Drinko to receive an honorary doctorate at Marshall University. Then-President Bob Hayes and the university committee readily agreed. Queen later asked the John and Libby to dinner in Huntington at a local restaurant and, after the meal, handed him a letter indicating that he had been selected to receive the award. As he looked over the letter, a tear ran down his face.


The story of John Deaver Drinko is one that, most likely, you will never forget. His rise to the top is a testament not only to the man, but to his heritage as well. For perhaps there is no better example of what this state and Marshall University can produce than the fiercely proud attorney from St. Marys, West Virginia. □

**Jack Houvouras** is editor of the *Huntington Quarterly*, *Marshall* and *Advantage Valley* magazines.



*state legislators say...*

**We Are  
Marshall!**



(Back Row) Del. Rusty Webb, Del. Chuck Romine, Del. Arley Johnson, Del. Mike Hall, Del. Susan Hubbard and Del. Bill Anderson. (Middle Row) Del. Jerry Kelley, Del. Mark Hunt and Del. Karen Facemyer. (Front Row) Sen. Earl Ray Tomblin, Sen. Marie Redd and Sen. Truman Chafin.

**H**e first fully appreciated the increased clout of Marshall University in the West Virginia Legislature during a recent flight to Europe with a group of legislative leaders from several other southern states, State Senate President Earl Ray Tomblin of Chapmanville explained in a recent interview at his State Capitol office in Charleston.

“Everyone on the plane wanted to talk about their state’s football team,” said Tomblin, a 1975 MBA graduate of Marshall and current president of the Southern Legislative Leadership Conference. “And in past years, I would have been talking about West Virginia University. But this time I couldn’t wait to talk about Marshall University. And they all knew about Marshall already.”

While its athletic accomplishments have helped, Tomblin believes there has been a more widespread surge of support for what was once called “the *other* university” by many lawmakers. He is now one of nearly three dozen Marshall alumni currently serving in the state Legislature that provide a growing pocket of influence in a political body once dominated by graduates of West Virginia University.

*by tom miller*

"I see it on the campaign trail as well," said Delegate Karen Facemeyer of Ripley, a member of the House of Delegates since 1992 and a 1980 graduate of Marshall with an M.A. in Special Education. "Many times, people come up to me and say the Legislature has always given everything to WVU but now they want us to give more to Marshall."

Back when U. S. District Court Judge Robert C. (Chuck) Chambers (Class of '74) was Speaker of the House of Delegates and Tomblin was in his first two-year term as Senate President, MU had a lock on the two top positions in the Legislature for the first time.

In the 34-member Senate, Marshall can now claim several lawmakers as alumni including Majority Leader H. Truman Chafin, a Williamson lawyer; Judiciary Committee Chairman William Wooton of Beckley; Banking and Insurance Committee Chairman Walt Helmick of Marlinton; Pensions Committee Chairman Robert Plymale of Ceredo; Military Committee Chairman Roman W. Prezioso Jr. of Fairmont; and Marie Redd of Huntington.

In the House of Delegates, Facemeyer is one of 24 Marshall alumni. The list includes Majority Whip Scott Varner of Moundsville and House Education Chairman Jerry Mezzatesta of Romney. Others are Everette W. (Bill) Anderson, Jr. of Williamstown; Jerry Kelley of Red House; William M. (Mike) Hall of Hurricane; Mike Damron of Wayne; Harry K. White of Gilbert; Sammy Dalton and Tracy Dempsey, both of Harts; William B. Laird IV of Fayetteville; Mark Hunt, Margaret (Peggy) Miller and Sharon Spencer, all of Charleston; Charles Rusty Webb of Cross Lanes; Bill Proudfoot of Elkins; Lisa Smith of Scott Depot; Don Perdue of Prichard; C. E. (Chuck) Romine of Milton and Arley

Johnson, Margarett Leach, Susan Hubbard, Evan Jenkins and Jody Smirl, all of Huntington. Jenkins not only attended Marshall as an undergraduate but later taught business law there. He said Marshall's influence in the Legislature soared during Chambers' 10-year stint as Speaker.

"Since his departure, a new group of legislators has been moving into positions of influence to help in the future," said Jenkins. "And Marshall has been fortunate to have leadership from the campus with political savvy such as Charlotte Weber (director of the Robert C. Byrd Institute) and Bill Burdette (director of Human Resources) who can communicate and build bridges with legislators."

Jenkins said he sees a "sense of success in academics, athletics and administration and as legislators, we enjoy the fruits of Marshall's success." Chafin, who has been in the Legislature for 17 years and was a MU student from 1963 to 1967, said he thinks the increasing prominence of Marshall is so obvious that "more and more people are saying that Marshall is becoming *the* university in West Virginia.

"When I first came to the state Senate, everything was oriented toward WVU because many of the members, particularly in the leadership, had either graduated from WVU or had children enrolled there," he recalled in a recent interview. "But now if you look at what Marshall has done and look at how they have grown, you can understand why they have a greater presence here."

Chafin believes the school's struggle to "rise from the ashes" of the 1970 plane crash that claimed most of the football team "is probably what put Marshall on the map in the Legislature as well as throughout the nation.

"There's no question that the Senate leadership is very proud of Marshall,"

Chafin said. "I think President (Wade) Gilley and his people handled the Legislature very well. The quest for dollars in higher education is more competitive than ever and I think most people here have an entirely different view of Marshall University now."

Back in 1967, when she first served in the Legislature, Smirl found WVU's dominance overwhelming.

"They had their own board of governors who met directly with the finance committees in the House and Senate," she recalled. "And Marshall was still part of the state board of education along with the colleges. So our first battle was to establish the Board of Regents that handled the budgets for all state colleges and universities."

In 1989, the Board of Regents was replaced by two separate higher education boards — the University System Board of Trustees for Marshall and WVU and the College System Board of Directors for all the colleges.

"I've been delighted to see people who once wouldn't give Marshall the time of day now supporting us," said Smirl. "And Marshall has a lot more support in the entire Kanawha Valley. I attribute much of that to the football team's success." Marshall's meteoric rise in prominence as a major football power is an undeniable ingredient in the school's increased visibility in the Legislature, according to Hall, a Hurricane resident who received his degree in 1970 and was first elected to the Legislature in 1994.

"I'm taking delight in the current ranking of Marshall's football team but I'm not going to gloat," he said. "I do wish WVU and Marshall played each other every year but I'm not sure the Legislature should step in and force that to happen."

Hall said he is pleased because he has heard nothing negative from any of his colleagues about the way Marshall

brings its message to the legislative halls. He also gives credit to Huntington's legislative contingent for that success.

Leach, an alumna who got a nursing degree at Huntington's St. Mary's School of Nursing, has a backyard party for Marshall fans from all over the state prior to the first football game of the season. The number of legislators from other parts of the state attending that party each year is increasing.

She sits on the important House Finance Committee along with Jenkins and points to special appropriations of \$1 million each the last two years for the Marshall School of Medicine as

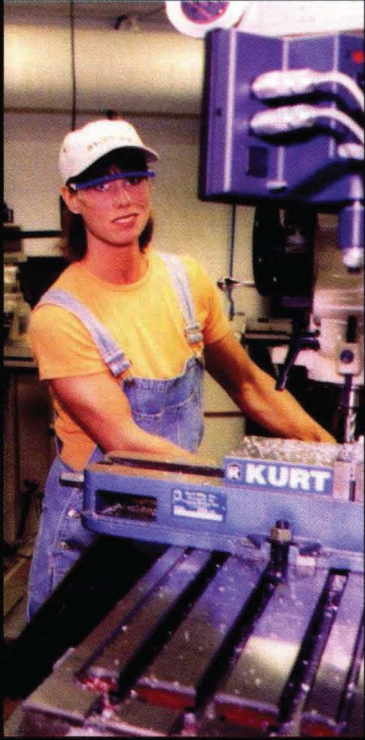
"The quest for dollars in higher education is more competitive than ever and I think most people here have an entirely different view of Marshall University now."

— **Sen. Truman Chafin**  
**D-Mingo County**

tangible proof of Marshall's increasing clout in Charleston.

"I'm not so sure that the number of MU alumni has increased in the last few years as I am that the members with Marshall ties have become more vocal," said Leach. "We're proud of Marshall, the Yeager Scholars program, the football team. Chuck Chambers is gone but he created a good feeling with the legislative leadership about Marshall."

Leach said she was invited to a meeting with Chancellor Charles Manning of the University System of West Virginia recently to discuss attributes she'd like to see in a new president



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at Marshall. She agrees with Tomblin that the person chosen will be critical to the school's future influence in the Legislature.

"I think Dr. Gilley was the most effective lobbyist we've ever had," she said. "He worked well with the leadership. He never once bad-mouthed us even when he didn't get what he wanted. He never demanded anything and asked politely if we could help. It's very crucial that we have that kind of support in the future."

Tomblin said the choice for a new president at Marshall was very important. "Dr. Gilley had a lot of respect here," he said.

Still, Tomblin is the first to admit that WVU still "carries a big stick" in the Legislature because of its size.

"But I think Marshall has some new programs such as the Kanawha Valley campus that expands its visibility in the Legislature," he added.

In recent years, that visibility has been most obvious during the final week of the session with a mid-week Marshall Day sponsored by the school and its alumni. The day concludes with the annual presentation in the Cultural Center Theatre of the "Third House," a satirical roast of state government presented by the Capitol press corps with the proceeds — \$13,000 this year — donated to Marshall's W. Page Pitt School of Journalism and Mass Communications.

"This has become a great event for Marshall," said Smirl. "We encourage everyone to wear green jackets, the football team is introduced to both houses and has lunch with the Governor, and the Marshall staff does a good public relations job with a gift for each member. It makes a lasting impression on legislators and staff as well." □

**Tom Miller** is a freelance writer and public TV commentator in Huntington.

# MU *Artists* SHINE

Marshall University artists garner top honors at the West Virginia Juried Exhibition

*W*hen Susan Poffenbarger mulled over entries for the 1999 West Virginia Juried Exhibition, she came up with two: a landscape of an area outside Lexington, Va. that makes

the mountains look velvety and full of shadows; and a vineyard she had painted after a trip to the Provence region of France.

Poffenbarger did not mind the idea of parting with the first one, called "Blue Ridge and Cedars." But she already had given the second one, "Provencal Vineyard," to her husband, who did not want to lose the painting.

Things worked out well. Poffenbarger, who attended Marshall University just to study with legendary art teacher June Kilgore, ended up hitting the jackpot.

"Blue Ridge and Cedars" took the top

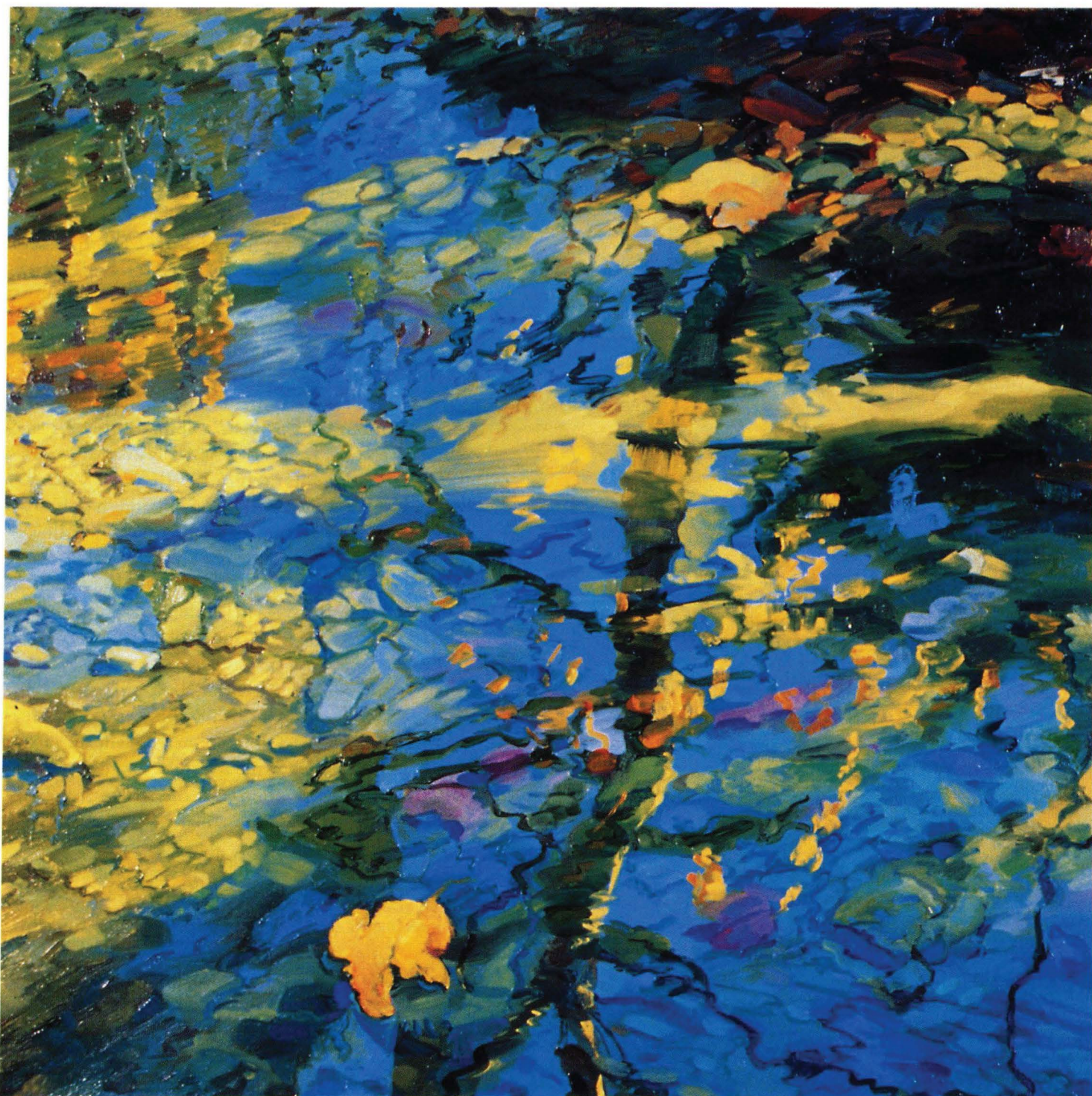
prize at the West Virginia Juried Exhibition, winning not only one of three Governor's Awards, worth \$5,000, but also the distinction of the D. Gene Jordan Memorial Award, given to only one piece. "That's outstanding work," said Gary Pettigrew of Ohio University, one of the two jurors who judged the show.



"Orchids," an oil by Marshall University Professor Susan Petryszak, won an Award of Excellence at the West Virginia Juried Exhibition.



By Mary Wade Burnside



"Potomac North-South Branch," an oil by Marshall University Professor Stanley Sporny, took a Governor's Award at the West Virginia Juried Exhibition.





"Meaning What It Means," a mixed painting by Caryl Toth of Winfield, earned a Merit Award at the West Virginia Juried Exhibition.

"Provençal Vineyard" also met with the best possible fate. The West Virginia Juried Exhibition, the biannual show presented during odd years at the Cultural Center in Charleston, awards \$33,000 to 18 works. In addition to the three Governor's Awards, artists can win one of seven Awards of Excellence, worth \$2,000.

The Division of Culture and History then owns those 10 pieces. But artists also can win one of eight Merit Awards of \$500. They also get the artwork back, either to keep or to sell.

That's exactly what happened to "Provençal Vineyard." For someone who already had a Governor's Award and the D. Gene Memorial Award under her belt in the same show, no outcome could have surpassed that one.

Poffenbarger had been alerted of the Governor's Award

prior to the Nov. 6 Juried Exhibition ceremony. But she only learned of the second award that evening. "That was just very touching," she said. "It was just kind of emotional."

Marshall University also hit the jackpot that evening. Joining Poffenbarger in the Governor's Award ring were representatives of the art department, past and present. Stanley Sporny, a current professor of visual arts, won for an oil on linen painting called "Potomac North-South Branch."

The win represented Sporny's first big one in the Juried Exhibition. Previously, he just had gotten Merit Awards. "I'd always been a bridesmaid and never a bride," he quipped. "I'm glad they stuck that extra zero on there." And then of course, there was Kilgore, who taught at Marshall from the late 1950s to 1989. She won with "Zen Garden: Good Morning, My Garden," another in her series of abstract paintings inspired by Zen gardens.

Two years before, at the 1997 West Virginia Juried Exhibition, Kilgore had been in Poffenbarger's place, taking, as a fellow artist had put it to her that evening, "the whole enchilada." She won both a Governor's Award and the D. Gene Memorial Award.

Then, in 1999, she won the Governor's Award all over again.

In fact, artists associated with Marshall did especially well in 1999. Seven of the 18 cash awards went to either former students or professors, including the top three awards.

Plus, an additional six Marshall artists got into the show, for a total of 13. West Virginia University-associated artists only accounted for eight of the 86 pieces in the show, compared to 19 for Marshallites.

That figure becomes even more impressive, as Sporny points out, when one considers that officials at The Cultural Center relocated the exhibit to a smaller space — the former first-floor gift shop — and then cut the show in half. The 1997 exhibit featured about 160 works, nearly twice as many as this year's show.

Marshall's good showing was met with a lot of enthusiasm. "There was quite a bit of hoo-ha about it," Sporny said.

Some of the credit, Sporny believes, goes to Marshall's art department. More than a decade ago, Sporny initiated a student juried exhibition, complete with an actual juror who decides which entries make the cut and which do not. (His latest crusade has been an art building where all teachers and students can consolidate from 12 locations and be under one roof.

The 13th student show just came down in February. Sporny believes the juried exhibition helps to teach students not only about the practicalities of framing work, but also the emotional wherewithal required for the process of acceptance and rejection.

“They got practice with our program here at Marshall and understood about acceptance and rejection,” he said. “They weren’t scared to do it, because this year, we have a very strong student juried exhibit show.”

Sinisa Lenac, a senior sculpture major from Croatia, probably serves as the best example of Sporny’s assertion. Lenac not only won several prizes at Marshall’s student show, including Best of Show, but his mixed media work, “Subway II,” got into the 1999 West Virginia Juried Exhibition.

“Everybody encourages us to do something like that,” said Lenac, who noted that he saw the 1997 West Virginia Juried Exhibition soon after moving to the United States. “That was one of the first shows I saw here.”

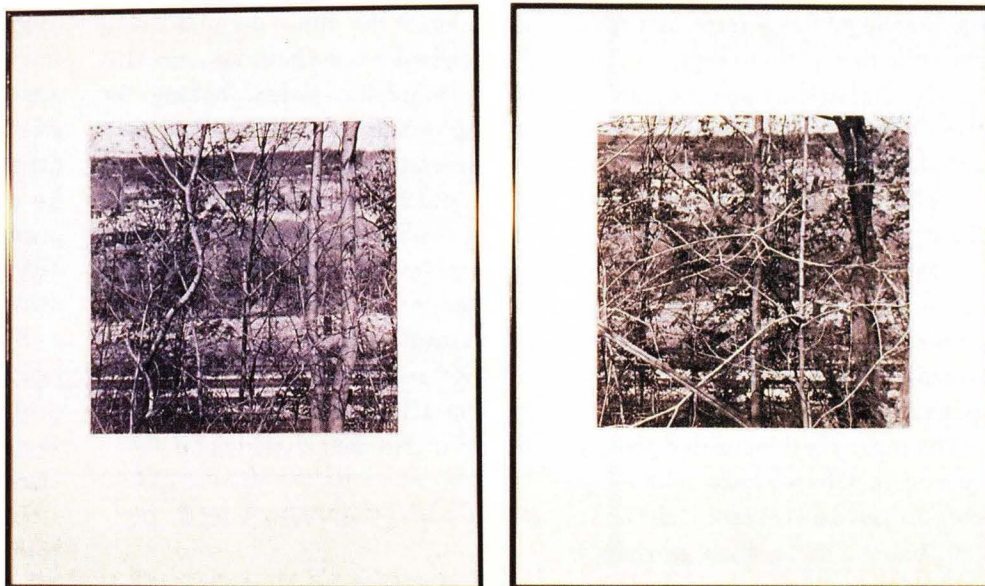
If Lenac is the art department’s star pupil, then Allen Toney is the rebel. Two of Toney’s classic-with-a-twist paintings made the Juried Show. Toney, who makes his pieces

“Zen Garden: Good Morning, My Garden,” an acrylic painting by June Kilgore of Huntington, received a Governor’s Award for \$5000.



using either Photoshop or a painting program on a computer, left Marshall just before graduating.

“By then I was getting a lot of shows nationally and inter-



“Landscape: Russell, Kentucky,” photographs by Marshall University Professor Robert Rowe, received an Award of Excellence at the West Virginia Juried Exhibition.

nationally, and it went to my head in a way,” he admitted.

In February, the Huntington resident had just returned from the Cayman Islands, where he gave a lecture. Even without his degree, he has been able to make money on the lecture circuit.

“It’s like the work kind of speaks for itself,” Toney said.

Both of Toney’s Juried Show works, “Neo Paranoid Opera” and “Blind Navigator’s Proxy,” represent his typical works, looking sort of old, but not quite.

“The references look very classical, but bizarre,” Toney said.

He does all the work himself on a computer. “I didn’t have a scanner until recently,” he said.

Working on a computer has been controversial for Toney. Many people do not yet understand the technique. Plus, Toney must download his work onto a CD and send it to a company called Nash Editions, run by musician Graham Nash, in order to get them printed. That begs the question — how many prints exist of one painting, and how does a potential buyer know that?

“The computer is readily accepted as a tool in the graphic design work, but in the fine art world, they’re leery of computers,” Toney said. “They don’t fully understand how these things are done and how they are made. Even though it is a bit easier than in the early ’90s.”

Toney limits himself to 25 copies of each work, fewer copies, he notes, than lithographers generally make of their work, which usually number 50 to 100. “In theory, it’s more precious and more valuable.”

A \$2,500 grant from the National Endowment of the Arts, distributed by the state Division of Culture and History, also will help him with his detractors. Toney plans to buy a special large format ink jet printer that takes canvas. He then plans to apply oil paint over what he has drawn on the computer, in order to give his works a more painterly look and feel.

So why stick to the computer at all? "The computer has a huge amount of bells and whistles," Toney said. "If I make a mistake on an oil painting, it may take a day or so to dry before I can paint over it. With a computer, it's instantaneous.

"The other big thing is that you can save work at different stages in development. So you can go back and branch off of that and make whole new paintings from the base painting, which may end up giving birth to nine or 10 paintings. That seems to have allowed me to grow as an artist and work out ideas more quickly than I ever could using traditional media."

Like Lenac, Kathleen Kneafsey, a Marshall master's graduate, credits her alma mater with helping her learn to enter exhibits.

Kneafsey, who taught art as an adjunct faculty member before she started on her master of fine arts degree at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, got into the show with a whimsical yet functional piece, "Fencing Teapots with Nubbies," two working teapots that appear to be in the middle of an "En garde!" moment.

"Stan Sporny and his wife, Laure Williamson, do a great deal to help students get into shows," Kneafsey said. "Also, my professor, Earline Allen, who still teaches ceramics at Marshall, was very encouraging when it came to entering shows while I was there."

Kneafsey got into the show the first time she entered with a piece that came about a bit by accident. She had become accustomed to making vessels with legs that looked like roots. But she could not stand the teapots up until

after they had been fired in a kiln and got stronger. So for the entire process, she looked at the teapots upside down or on their sides.

"I didn't stand them up until I took them out of the kiln," she said. "And that's when I saw them take on this anthropomorphic quality, looking like animals or humans and the whole fencing thing with the arms in the air. I saw them and I thought, 'That's kind of funny. Those guys look like they're fencing.'"

Kilgore, who chaired the Marshall art department for several years before her 1989 retirement, always remembers pushing students toward learning about the realities of their chosen field.

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"We always felt  
strongly that a good  
education was the best  
foundation an artist  
could have with art  
training. So we  
educated them strongly  
in the humanities."

— June Kilgore

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"You have to meet the needs of the market," she said. "There's no point educating people in something they can't earn a living in. We always felt strongly that a good education was the best foundation an artist could have with art training. So we educated them strongly in the humanities."

During her reign, she invited an art dealer from Cincinnati, one who had worked in New York City, to teach students how to approach galleries. And she watched as they entered art exhibits.

"They started showing their work at the Huntington Museum of Art in

"Exhibition 180," and then "Exhibition 280," as it grew; and in the Allied Artists and the Juried Exhibition when that began."

To this day, Kilgore gets letters from former Marshall art students who practice their craft all over the country and sometimes all over the world. Her most recent letter came from a former student who sent her a nice brochure of his upcoming show in Chicago. "I get phone calls and letters," she said. "We're real proud. Our students are doing well."

Kilgore can monitor some of her former students more easily. They still live in the area and enter the same shows she does. Caryl Toth and Drema Duncan Watts, who have works in the 1999 West Virginia Juried Exhibition, both owe a great deal of their style to Kilgore.

"I went to Marshall because of her," said Watts, who attended West Virginia State College before going to Marshall for a Master of Arts degree.

Both Watts and Toth sing Kilgore's praises as a teacher.

"She just has a special way to let artists relate to their artwork on a personal level," Watts said. "She wanted you to continue to keep your mind and eyes open and express yourself. I think that's the most important thing about her — she took what you wanted to express and helped you find your way to explore and create and make it as good as you could make it."

Said Toth: "She was always willing to let us explore our own directions, as well as teaching us. She was always encouraging us to push a little harder, to go a little further all the time."

Both Toth and Watts' works in the Juried Exhibition reflect Kilgore's abstract influence. Toth, like Kilgore, paints pure abstract pieces, such as "Meaning What It Means," which won a \$500 Merit Award in the Juried Show.

Watts' works can be distinguished through different touches. Both pieces in the show, "Arcing Connections" and

"Seek," feature words in them, and the latter painting also contains windows cut out from a magazine inserted into the otherwise abstract work.

"I've always worked with ideas of architecture and aspects of it, like windows and doors and doorways. That sort of thing," Watts said. "There's some mystery involved — 'What's behind the window or through the door?' It's going beyond the picture."

Kilgore herself paints energy and movement and color. Her painting may not represent an actual Zen garden so much as how one makes her feel. "It's a place that belongs to me," she said. "All this is mental. I don't have a Zen garden, although I go see Zen gardens or Japanese gardens.

"It's a feeling, a kind of a sense of a mental state. 'Good Morning, My Garden' has an area that is dark in the center that represents a changing light, and it's very light in tonality. It has a peaceful sense about it."

Susan Petryszak, who won an Award of Excellence for a diptych called "Orchids," actually went to college for the first time as a biology major. After teaching biology and having children, she finally gave in to her artistic side and took art classes at Marshall University. Now she teaches there, although she has taken the current semester off.

Petryszak's life as a scientist comes through in her paintings. She bought crawfish to draw, but they eat her goldfish, another painting subject.

"We have this whole biological cycle happening here," she said. "Soon my studio is going to become a zoo."

"Orchids" represent Petryszak's trend toward smaller pieces, diptychs and triptychs, and a dark background that makes her subject stand out.

"Sometimes they blow me away," she said. "The orchids are one of those. I looked at it and I told a friend of mine, 'This is an award winner. This is fabulous.' I wish I said that more often."

Another piece by Petryszak also got into the show, this time a triptych

called "Asylum" with similar qualities to the orchids.

Two other faculty members in the show include Robert Rowe — another Award of Excellence winner, and Mary Grassell.

Rowe, who teaches photography, won with a diptych called "Landscape: Russell, Kentucky." But the scene does not look like a typical landscape.

"The kind of picture I'm trying to make is one that is more a field of pattern rather than an object existing in a landscape. So it's not so much a specific point of interest, but a field or pattern that I'm trying to create."

Grassell's triptych, made by carving a block of poplar wood and making a print, resulted in "Artemis Watches," a study in mythology and constellations and ocean.

One of the interesting things about Grassell's piece is that she used several different colors. She would carve the block a bit, dip it in, say, blue paint, press that on the canvas, then cut away some more and make a different pattern, apply a different color, and so on.

"It took me a long time to do it, and the conception is quite complicated," she said. "The resonating idea is an evening scene. I'm fascinated by the night sky and the blue gradation of it. I tried to capture that color and also to add a little bit of mystery to the print by adding the constellations."

Grassell really did not have an interest in mythology.

"Quite frankly, what got me started was a student who was interested in taking photographs of the sky to show these wonderful time exposures," she said. "That's really what prompted me to do the sky figures."

That makes teaching kind of circular — not only do the students learn, but so do the instructors.

"Sometimes students have interests and inspirations you can learn from," she said. "I think you do learn from students as well as vice versa." □

**MaryWade Burnside** is a staff writer for *The Charleston Gazette*.

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# EPSCoR

**Scientific research efforts at Marshall University are bringing national**

**W**ith all the attention captured by the Thundering Herd football team during the last decade, most fans and alumni would be surprised to learn that there has been equally amazing growth in nationally competitive research at Marshall University during the 1990s. Most of this growth is directly

or indirectly attributed to EPSCoR — an Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research.

In 1978, Congress recognized that the vast majority of research funding went to only a handful of states. Based on the realization that all researchers in America were not con-

**by john gillispie**

Federal grants through the innovative EPSCoR program will help fund Phase II of the Marshall University Bio-Medical Research Center.



# COOR

## attention to Huntington as well as a new addition to the campus skyline

financed to a small number of geographic areas, federal legislators established the EPSCoR Program, making grants available in West Virginia and four other states. Sen. Jay Rockefeller, D-W.Va., was a key player in this legislation and continues to be a strong supporter of the innovative program.

One of the goals of the EPSCoR Program is to help smaller research universities such as Marshall and West Virginia University compete with the big boys for federal grants. EPSCoR grants are awarded based on scientific merit and state relevancy. EPSCoR states are required to match federal

the EPSCoR Program at Marshall University, Deutsch turned the reigns over to Dr. Howard Aulick, associate dean of the School of Medicine, and Dr. Thomas Storch, dean of the College of Science.

“The University’s response to the EPSCoR Program has been based on a well-developed plan from the start,” Aulick noted. “We have been working with three goals in mind. First, to build cell and molecular biology research capacity in the biomedical sciences at the School of Medicine. Second, increase complementary research capabilities in the basic sciences in the College of Science. Third, bring these technologies and expertise together through the construction of a new high tech building on Marshall’s main campus. Phase one has been completed. Phase two is well underway. Phase three is on the drawing board.”

The plan is to bring the biomedical scientists (located at the VA Hospital in Wayne County) to Marshall’s downtown campus and link them to the College of Science through a new \$30 million high-tech building located on Third Avenue. In fact, the new structure would be connected to the College of Science facility by way of a skywalk over Third Avenue. “Bringing the School of Medicine scientists to the downtown campus and tying them to the College

of Science faculty is crucial in many ways,” says Dr. Aulick. “The key to continued growth of university research and science education is greater collaboration between our two science faculties. The complexities and interdependencies of

science today demand that we cut across traditional departmental barriers and work together. Basic scientists (chemists, biologists, physicists, mathematicians) bring us amazing analytical and computational skills that we can use to better understand disease processes. Undergraduate students are exposed to more options and better prepared to make important career choices. This type of interaction can’t exist when we are separated, eight miles away from the main campus.”

EPSCoR has helped Aulick and the university reach their third goal. The College of Science recently purchased some cutting edge research equipment including mass spectrometry, nuclear magnetic resonance and electron microscopy just to



(Top) A view of the new science building looking west down Third Avenue. (Bottom) A northwest view of the Bio-Medical Research Building. Much of the EPSCoR research will take place in this ultra-modern, 120,000 square foot facility.

name a few. Marshall scientists can determine how a tiny protein folds upon itself so that its 3-D structure fits into a keyhole to open a door in the cell wall. By changing this structure, scientists hope to make more effective drugs. They

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watch molecules move from one part of a cell to another to contract blood vessels and cause high blood pressure.

Others are using the confocal microscope to study tiny sense organs in cockroach legs. Why? The information is being used by engineers at Case Western University to build sophisticated robots that "know" where their legs are. Having this position sense, the robot can traverse the complex lunar surface without tripping or stepping into a deep crevasse.

Yet another benefit of the EPSCoR Program is inspiring students to further

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"Marshall has great expertise in bio-medical, forensic and environmental applications of biotechnology. The new, high-tech building will bring these scientists together and accelerate discoveries."

— **Dr. Howard Aulick**

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their education. This kind of research captivates many undergraduate students and draws them into projects that lead to master's and doctoral degrees at Marshall.

"Science is research," Price explains. "It is the creation of knowledge. That is what we do. We create knowledge. It's ever advancing. For students that have an interest, this is what we want them to experience at Marshall."

Thanks to EPSCoR, many MU undergraduates are using state-of-the-art instrumentation to study biopolymers such as DNA and proteins needed in gene-mapping research.

"This is the heart of much of the analytical work at the interface of biology and chemistry right now," Price

said. "What we're hoping to do is in the long haul, both at the undergraduate and master's level, is produce highly educated students in this kind of science." This training includes a summer research fellowship program for undergraduates. This year the program is taking in students from other regional schools who don't have access to the instrumentation now available at MU.

"EPSCoR's real effect is to elevate the level of appreciation for the role that science plays in our lives, our economic development and our future," Deutsch said.

The research being done at Marshall is so important to the economic development of Huntington and surrounding area that Mayor Jean Dean pointed it out during her recent State of the City speech.

"Biotechnology is a \$97 billion industry that has its roots in research universities," says Aulick. "West Virginia's investments in biotechnology are minimal, but with the instrumentation and expertise provided by EPSCoR, we at Marshall hope to change that." Marshall's Forensic Laboratory is a tremendous new biotechnology facility with the potential to grow into a thriving enterprise. Two professors in the School of Medicine are involved in creating a biotech business based on advanced DNA technologies. A third has discovered a compound he believes causes high blood pressure. If he is right, the next step is to develop drugs that block or inactivate this hypertensive agent.

"Marshall has great expertise in bio-medical, forensic and environmental applications of biotechnology," Aulick said. "The new, high-tech building will bring these scientists together and accelerate discoveries. As important, this new landmark will make a strong statement that MU and Huntington have made an investment in a biotechnology future." □

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**John Gillispie** is public relations coordinator for the Huntington Museum of Art.



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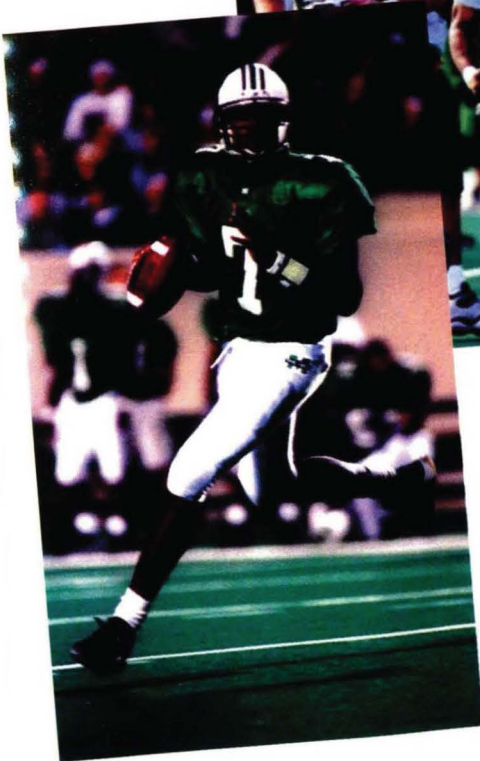
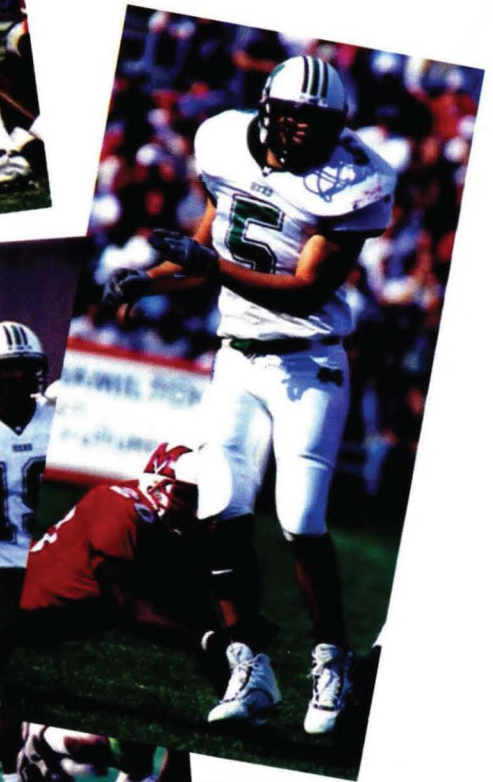
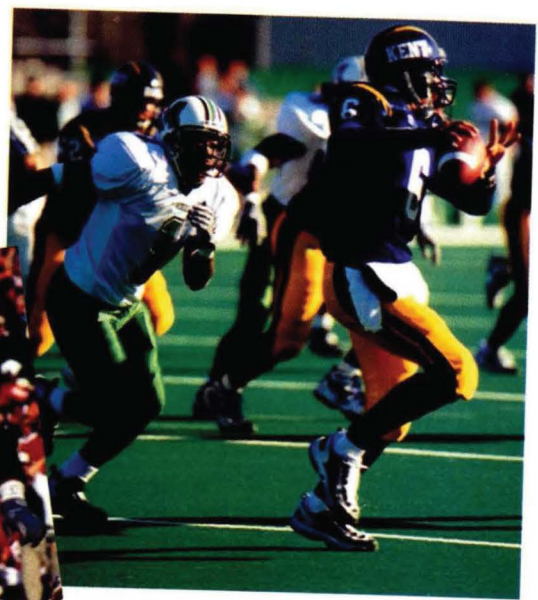
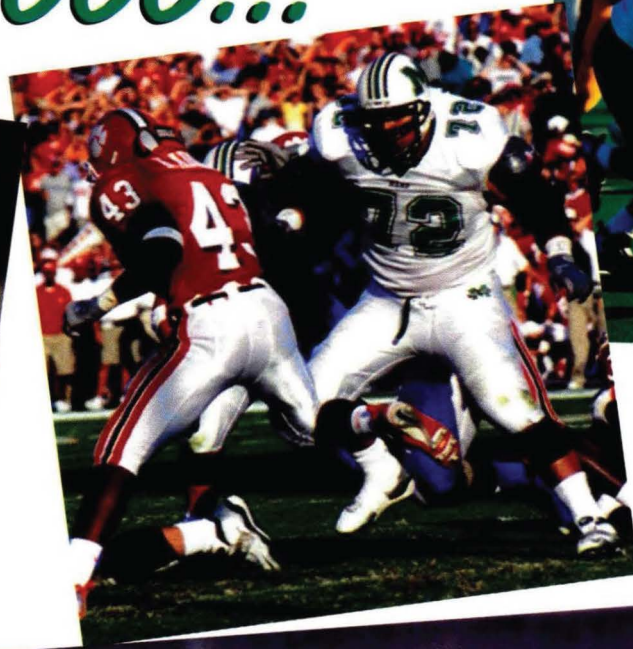
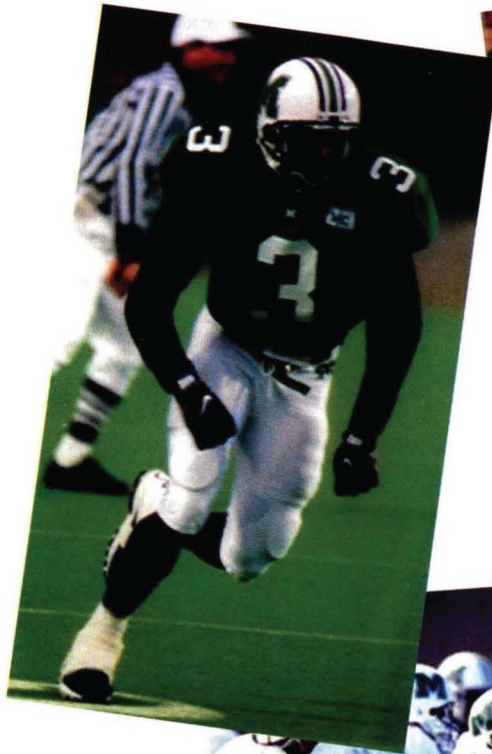
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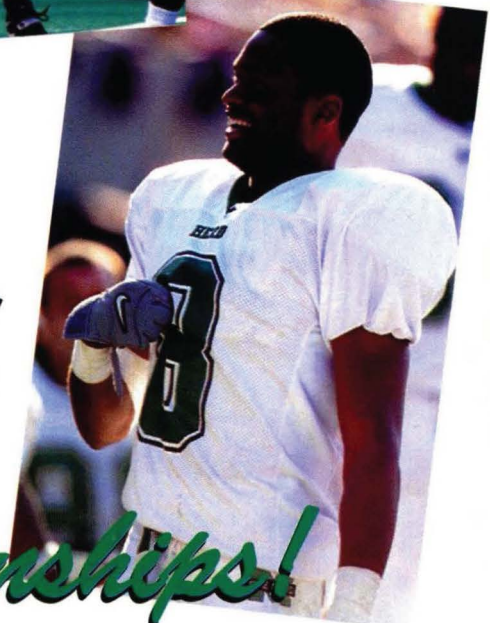


Jeff Bezos, *Time* magazine's "Person of the Year" and founder of the world's largest online retailer, Amazon.com, informs an overflow crowd of students and business leaders that he will be locating his company's East Coast customer service center in Huntington. With the help of Marshall University, the Advantage Valley region now stands ready to meet the challenges of a new economy.

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