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Spring 2019

## Marshall Magazine Spring 2019

Marshall University

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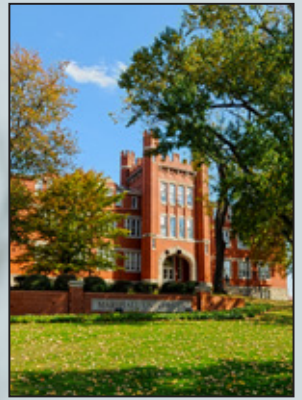
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# The Top 10 Photos of Marshall University

# Marshall



*Magazine*

Brad and Alys Smith's historic gift of \$25 million to the College of Business will transform the program and help elevate the university to a new level of academic excellence.



THE  
GAME  
CHANGERS



See page 39 for ALUMNI NEWS and more

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WELCOME

# Michael Mullins



Mullins is a retired captain of the Medical Service Corps, United States Naval Reserves, where he served for 32 years including Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. He holds a master's degree in healthcare administration from Trinity University, San Antonio, TX, a bachelor's degree in political science from University of Texas at El Paso and is a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives.

Mike and his wife, Melissa, have two adult sons, Nicholas and Austin.

Mountain Health Network, Inc., President/CEO

**M**ichael Mullins, FACHE, has accepted the position of President and Chief Executive Officer for Mountain Health Network, Inc. Effective March 4, Mullins assumed strategic oversight to grow the new regional health system that includes Cabell Huntington Hospital, St. Mary's Medical Center and Pleasant Valley Hospital.

Mullins is arriving from Ascension Healthcare, the largest non-profit health system in the U.S. and the world's largest Catholic health system. He was responsible for 12 hospitals in Kansas and Oklahoma where he focused on leading integration processes, structuring clinical integration, enhancing medical staff relationships, guiding financial success and mentoring executives.

Mullins has more than 30 years of hospital leadership experience. He served as Regional Vice President of Quorum Health, Colorado, and chief executive officer for Community Health Systems and Triad Hospitals. He also has led Gateway Health System, Tennessee, Kosciusko Community Hospital, Indiana, and Unimed Medical Center – St. Joseph's Hospital, North Dakota.



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# Marshall

m a g a z i n e

The official magazine of Marshall University

Spring 2019

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## Marshall

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on the cover

Brad and Alys Smith's donation to the university is truly transformative to the College of Business and the programs offered to students.

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# Autumn with President Gilbert



President Gilbert gives a private word of congratulations to the 2018 Miss Marshall, Jessica Yurkovich, just before her crowning by the 2017 Miss Marshall, Emily Kinner, at halftime of the Homecoming football game Oct. 20. The 2018 Mr. Marshall is James Prentice.



President Gilbert speaks with Chris Beam, president and chief operating officer of Appalachian Power, and other donors at the Marshall University Foundation's donor recognition event Nov. 2.



President Gilbert addresses a group of prospective students and their parents at one of the fall Green and White Days Nov. 12. These events are designed to showcase Marshall's academic offerings.



President Gilbert announces the formation of the Center for Consumer Law and Education, a joint project with West Virginia University, in Huntington Nov. 29.



President Gilbert participates in the ribbon cutting Dec. 6 for the Project Hope facility, which will serve new and expecting mothers with substance use disorder and their children.



President Gilbert (far right) poses with the members of the inaugural John Marshall Leadership Fellows cohort, a group of faculty and staff members who will receive information and participate in training and development activities related to institutional functions, policies and decision-making processes. In the back row on the far left is Dr. Robert Bookwalter, dean of the College of Liberal Arts.





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A woman with curly hair, wearing a blue off-the-shoulder top and a black watch, is seen from the back, looking out over a field of green plants. The background is a soft-focus landscape with green foliage and a light sky.

# THE GAME *Changers*

Brad and Alys Smith's historic gift of \$25 million to the College of Business will transform the program and help elevate the university to a new level of excellence.

By Jack Houvouras



Nov. 8, 2018, was a historic day for Marshall University. That is the date a press release went out announcing that alumnus Brad Smith and his wife, Alys, were donating \$25 million to the Lewis College of Business. Almost immediately phones began ringing around Huntington as people wondered if the figure was a misprint. Social media blew up as people shared the news and posed numerous queries and comments online:

“Didn’t Brad Smith just donate \$10 million to Marshall a few years ago?”

“That makes \$35 million the couple has donated to Marshall!”

In the press release Marshall President Jerome Gilbert heralded the \$25 million donation, one of the largest in the university’s history, as “transformative.”

And Dr. Avinandan Mukherjee, dean of the College of Business, said, “Today will be recognized as a pivotal

moment for the university, as well as for the entire region.”

Back in Silicon Valley, Brad was wrapping up his 11-year tenure as president and CEO of Intuit, the software giant and maker of QuickBooks, TurboTax and Mint. In August he had announced that he would be retiring at the end of 2018 to pursue other interests and spend more time with his family. The news came as quite a shock to the business world considering his young age, just 54, and his phenomenally successful run at Intuit. The company, which employs 9,000 people across the globe, is recognized as one of the world’s best places to work, and Brad is widely considered one of the top executives in America today. In 2017, Fortune ranked him #6 on their list of Top CEOs in the United States, while Forbes named him one of the Top 10 Influential American Business Leaders.

“In a surprise move, one of Silicon Valley’s champion

“Today will be recognized as a pivotal moment for the university, as well as for the entire region.”

— Dr. Avinandan Mukherjee



Brad said his retirement from Intuit will allow him to spend more time with his family. Left to right: Devon, Brad, Alys and Payton.



During his tenure as CEO of software giant Intuit, Brad was considered a rock star by many of the company's 9,000 employees.

CEOs is stepping down,” an article in Fortune reported. “Since he became CEO in January 2008, Intuit stock has risen 588%, obliterating the Nasdaq’s 230% rise and the S&P’s 107%.”

So why was one of the nation’s most accomplished and respected business leaders vacating his highly coveted corner office?

“You take the job knowing that the end date will be inevitable. The goal is to make sure you are a part of choosing the date,” Brad said with a smile. “What’s more, the company was ready, our next leader was ready, and I was ready. I never wanted to be that athlete that had lost a step.”

Another key factor was his wife, Alys, and their two daughters, Payton and Devon. They had supported him throughout his career, in particular his grueling schedule

that often had him traveling around the world with his “always on and always available” work ethic.

“I decided to change my priorities to family and home. And, Alys and I wanted to spend more time with our families in West Virginia and Ohio,” Brad explained.

In addition to deciding the time was right to retire, the Smiths also discussed their mutual desire to give something back, and first on their list was Marshall University.

“Brad and I are passionate about education and economic empowerment in West Virginia, Ohio and Appalachia,” Alys said. “We believe in supporting programs that are strategic, enduring and have a lasting impact on students.”

President Gilbert said that is exactly what their gift will do.

“Education and entrepreneurship are the great equalizers that level the playing field.”

— Brad Smith





**Brad is always sure to make a visit back to Kenova — here, with actress Jennifer Garner and his mom Judie on the porch of the house he grew up in.**

“This is a magnificent gift from Brad and Alys. It will provide a strong foundation for the redesign, reorganization and reenergizing of our College of Business. Their generosity will change the lives of our business students for generations to come.”

Mukherjee said the gift will allow Marshall to rework its business curriculum and build new facilities.

“Brad and I are **passionate** about education and economic **empowerment** in West Virginia, Ohio and Appalachia.”

— *Alys Smith*

“In addition to redesigning our programs through experiential learning and close industry-academic partnerships, we will build new facilities with spaces to nurture collaboration, creativity and entrepreneurship.”

In appreciation for the Smiths’ generosity, the undergraduate and graduate schools in the College of Business will now be named the Brad D. Smith Schools of Business and a new building will be erected and named the Brad D. Smith Center for Business and Innovation. The location of the building will be announced at a later date.


“In this new building intended to promote teamwork and hands-on learning, students will find creative ways to apply problem-solving strategies, which will be invaluable to them in the workforce,” explained Mukherjee. “This generous gift is truly a game changer for our business programs, as we can now aspire to the next level of excellence.”

Dr. Ron Area, senior vice president of development for Marshall and CEO of the Marshall University Foundation, said he hopes the Smiths’ leadership gift inspires others.

“Brad and Alys are caring individuals who fervently champion the success of students. Brad believes Marshall prepared him for the business world, and we are honored this fine couple continues to invest in Marshall students and are excited for this new phase of educational excellence.”



**Brad sports a Chad Pennington jersey in a photo with Gene Simmons, the bassist for his favorite band — KISS.**



On Oct. 30, 2015, the Marshall University Foundation Hall was renamed the Brad D. Smith Foundation Hall in a ceremony attended by Smith and his family.



The reason the Smiths are so interested in helping students in Appalachia is because both grew up in the region – Brad hails from Kenova, West Virginia, while Alys is from Akron, Ohio. After graduating from Ceredo-Kenova High School, Brad earned a degree in business and marketing from Marshall in 1986. He would later take night classes to obtain a master’s degree in management from Aquinas College. Alys earned an undergraduate degree in biology from The Ohio State University before going on to receive a law degree from the University of Akron.

The couple first met in 1991 on a blind date of sorts. Brad was in Akron working for 7-Up at the time, while Alys was trial lawyer for a law firm in nearby Cleveland. A work colleague thought they should meet. To impress Alys, Brad purchased two tickets to the Bolshoi Ballet from Russia who were performing in Cleveland. But when the big night arrived, Brad was so immersed in work that he lost track of time and stood her

up. He called her the next day and begged for forgiveness. To his surprise, she gave him a second chance. When they finally did meet, Brad showed up to her apartment with a dozen red roses.

“All I know is that when she opened the door it was love at first sight for me,” Brad confessed. “Her eyes were amazing and she was Hollywood beautiful.”

Things went much smoother after that, and the couple were married in Akron in 1993.

“I teased Brad for years for standing me up on our blind date,” Alys said with a smile. “And I would often remind him that I never did get to see the Bolshoi Ballet. Last year we celebrated our 25th wedding anniversary, and as a surprise Brad

took me to Russia for two weeks where we finally got to see the Bolshoi Ballet.”

Brad continued to climb the corporate ladder working for such companies as Pepsi, ADVO and ADP. Despite impressing the upper brass at each stop along the way,

“He is living proof that nice guys finish first.”

– Intuit Vice President, Cassie Divine

Brad along with Jennifer Garner and Chad Pennington at the 2017 Design for Delight (D4D) Innovation Challenge at Marshall University.



“It is my **aspiration** that Marshall will rank among the **elite** universities in preparing young minds to compete in this **new** future.”

— Brad Smith

one of his bosses was troubled by his West Virginia accent and told him that it might hinder his advancement within the company. He advised Brad to enroll in speech classes to defuse his dialect.

“I went to the classes, but it didn’t work,” Brad said with a grin. “You know, it’s funny. I think it helped me learn an invaluable life lesson — to be authentic to who you are.”

That West Virginia twang didn’t seem to deter his career ascent. In 2003 he joined Intuit and then, just five years later, was named CEO. He was just 43 years old when he was asked to take charge of a global entity with 8,000 employees and annual revenues of \$2.6 billion. During his 11 years at the helm, he remained authentic to his roots. He proudly wore his Marshall class ring to work every day, and could often be spotted donning Thundering Herd apparel around the Intuit campus. One of his favorite shirts reads, “I May Live in California, But I’m in the Thundering Herd Forever.”

“Some people ask me why I’m always promoting Marshall and West Virginia. It’s pretty simple — I am proud of where I’m from,” Brad explained. “As I’ve said many times before, my heart never left West Virginia. My social network profile states, ‘I’m just a boy from a small hometown who spent the first 22 years of his life looking for a way out, and every day since looking for a way back.’”

This is not the first time the Smiths have written a check to Marshall. In 2015 they gave \$10 million to the university to establish a scholarship for first-generation college students from West Virginia and Ohio. And Brad has been intimately involved in a number of Marshall projects over the years, including 2017’s Design for Delight challenge that saw Intuit leaders travel to Huntington

to help Marshall students form business plans. The program culminated in a competition judged by Brad, actress Jennifer Garner and former Marshall and NFL quarterback Chad Pennington.

Before stepping down as Intuit’s CEO at the end of 2018, Brad made a point of visiting most of the company’s divisions around the world to thank them for their years of service. At every stop he was met by throngs of employees who treated his visits as a farewell tour. In the Intuit company culture, Brad Smith is a bit of a rock star. Like most everyone in Silicon Valley, he is extraordinarily bright. But that isn’t what sets him apart. Instead, he possesses a rare set of traits that makes him a leader who is both beloved and respected. He is described by employees as honest, warm, kind, approachable, encouraging and humble. He’s been known to dress up as a Roman soldier or a cowboy if he thinks it will entertain and inspire the troops. It should come as no surprise that in 2017 Fortune ranked Intuit No. 13 on its list of the “Best Companies to Work For” in the United States, and No. 1 in India, Singapore and Canada.

Perhaps Intuit Vice President Cassie Divine summed it up best when she said, “He is living proof that nice guys finish first.”

While Brad may have stepped down as Intuit’s CEO, he will still have a stake in the company as its new executive chairman. He also sits on the board of directors at Nordstrom and SurveyMonkey. Alys will continue to mentor young women as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) and work as a mediator. Their future will be anything but dull. Soon, the couple will celebrate as their daughters reach major milestones.

“Payton will be graduating from Belmont University



**Brad is the middle child of the Smith family with brothers Larry (left) and Brent (right) and their mother Judie.**



College of Law in Nashville, and Devon will be graduating from The Ohio State University in the spring,” Alys said.

As for the future of Marshall University, the couple is confident that their investment will pay substantial dividends.

“I believe God was egalitarian when it came to handing out talent,” Brad said. “But the unfortunate reality is that economies and jobs are not equally distributed. Education and entrepreneurship are the great equalizers that level the playing field. Our investment in Marshall has been in service to these two equalizers.”

“Our ultimate goal is to assist Marshall University’s leadership in transforming the College of Business, bringing us closer to solving the most intractable business and economic challenges in the region,” Alys explained. “Our shared passions are education, entrepreneurship and economic revitalization in Appalachia.”

Looking ahead 25 years, Brad said he is confident that Marshall will continue to evolve and become a university that can truly make a difference in Appalachia.

“Marshall University is as strong as they come. We’ve overcome tremendous adversity, but the strongest steel is forged in the hottest fires,” he asserted. “When you combine a willingness to imagine a better tomorrow with the perseverance and grit to overcome setbacks, you have the recipe for tremendous success. At this moment, Marshall is seizing the opportunity to transform with the reimagination



Whenever Brad gets the chance to meet famous folks like Oprah Winfrey, he always makes sure to have them say hello to his mother Judie back home in Kenova, West Virginia.

of the School of Business. In doing so, it is leaning in to the future skills that the students, the state and the region will need to participate in the new economy. This new economy is global, connected by the cloud with computers in the palms of our hands, powered by big data, artificial intelligence and autonomous technology.

These trends are having a profound impact on the types of industries and jobs we need to be building for today, or we risk being left behind tomorrow. It is my aspiration that Marshall will rank among the elite universities in preparing young minds to compete in this new future.”

As for the future of his home state, Brad is equally optimistic.

“West Virginia is made up of men and women who choose to blaze trails instead of follow paths. While our history and our resilience will forever be rooted in the mountains, our future resides in what is possible in the clouds. Our West Virginia youth are among the best and brightest. With the transformation that Marshall is undertaking, I believe West Virginia’s brightest days lie ahead. After all, the best way

to predict the future is to create it.”

When asked why the couple chose to contribute such a large portion of their estate to Marshall, Brad said it was an easy decision.

“Marshall has been a part of my life since I was a little boy. I was 6 years old at the time of the plane crash. I

“As I’ve said many times before, my heart never left West Virginia.”

— Brad Smith

still remember looking out the window of our home in Kenova and seeing the mountain glowing red. In college, professors like Robert Alexander, Michael Boudreau, Dick Jones and Chong Kim were hugely influential. But maybe the best answer to why Alys and I chose Marshall for this gift can be found in the lyrics of a song by Tim McGraw called 'Humble and Kind':



**The Smiths pose for a selfie with a Marshall crew at the 2019 College Football Playoff National Championship in Santa Clara, California. Left to right: Brad Smith, Alys Smith, Ronald Area, President Jerry Gilbert, Tim Burgess and Annie Mosser.**

*'Don't take for granted the love this life gives you  
When you get where you're goin'  
Don't forget, turn back around  
Help the next one in line*

appeared in *Hemispheres*, the award-winning onboard magazine for United Airlines, *Sierra*, the national magazine of the Sierra Club, *Kingdom*, a golfing luxury lifestyle publication, and more.

*Always stay humble and kind."*

And then Brad said, simply, "That's how we were raised." □

**Jack Houvouras** is the publisher of *Marshall Magazine*. He is also the publisher and editor of the *Huntington Quarterly*. A 1988 graduate of Marshall University's School of Journalism, he is a freelance writer in his spare time. His articles have

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# Like Riding a Bike

An arrangement with the Sustainability Program provides Marshall students some new wheels.





President Gilbert, bicycling aficionado, poses on a bike on the Huntington campus. The program provides 30 bikes at three locations across campus. More information can be found at [www.gotchabike.com/marshall](http://www.gotchabike.com/marshall).

## By Kayla Queen Dyer

Most Huntingtonians are likely familiar with the title “Unhealthiest City in America” that brought national attention and celebrity chef Jamie Oliver to the city in 2010. However, the coordinator for Marshall University’s Sustainability Department, Amy Parsons-White, said the statistics from the new Rolling Thunder Bike Share program tell a different story. The Rolling Thunder launched in October of 2018 with 30 bikes stationed



at hubs throughout Marshall's Huntington campus, and after just one month, the program recorded that riders had burned 163,000 calories. Parsons-White said the program has been a huge success, and students enjoy its ease and accessibility.

"This shows that we want to be fit and healthy; we just need the opportunity," Parsons-White said. "The program is making us healthier, more active and, overall, more sustainable."

Maggie Clark, a graduate student from Kentucky studying communication studies at Marshall, said she fell in love with the program and often prefers it to taking a car.

"I love being able to reserve a bike and pick it up," Clark said. Even though she has a car on campus, Clark chooses to ride a bike when possible to avoid searching for parking. She said some students drive from one end of campus to the other and search for parking spots several times a day.

"This is a great way to prevent that," Clark said. "And I think it's super fun and a great way to save energy and get exercise."

After much research, the Sustainability Department settled on the company Gotcha to provide the bikes and hubs, which typically are used with citywide programs. Marshall's program is one of its smallest. Parsons-White said the company was a little leery of providing such a small bike share; however, any reservations about the success of the program were quickly squashed when Gotcha received the statistics from the

program's first month. She said even Gotcha admitted the numbers were shocking, and it was obvious that exercise was not the program's only highlight. In addition to the impressive number of calories burned, the program tracked 815 accounts, 2,998 trips and 3,593 pounds of carbon reduced in the first month.

Parsons-White said another reason the program has been so successful is because it is an improvement from the previous bike program, which required students to pick up and return the bikes at the Marshall Recreation Center. Now, students can return the bikes to any of the approved hubs and receive two free hours of ride time per day. Not only is the bike share convenient for students to navigate around campus for classes, but it also provides easy transportation to places around Huntington.

While the program has been wonderful for providing students with easy transportation, Parsons-White said one of the best parts about this program is that it has eased students' worries about finding something to eat.

"A lot of our students live in food insecurity," Parsons-White said. "It's great that they can get out to Pullman Square and places like that, but we are looking beyond that. We don't live in a part of town that has many grocery stores. If students don't have a car or a way to get to a grocery store quickly, this allows them to hop on a bike and pedal over to Kroger."

While Clark hasn't experienced any issues with the program, Parsons-White said Huntington's

lack of bike lanes can be an issue for some riders.

"Unless you're educated about an issue, you don't know what to do," Parsons-White said. "So we're working with the city and students to inform them about the proper protocol for riding a bike in town."

Parsons-White said she has big plans for the Sustainability Department. On top of the Rolling Thunder program, she said the department has received funding to start the first commercial composting facility in the city. The department will use the composted matter on the student gardens and campus grounds, as well as sell it to the public. Parsons-White said this will help decrease additions to landfills and provide green employment for the city. As the Sustainability Department looks forward to bigger goals, she said the bike share program is only the beginning to a healthier, greener community.

"As Marshall University, we need to be the beacon for our community and step up to offer resources," she said. "We need to be the change that we want to see in our community." □

---

**Kayla Queen Dyer** is a teacher and writer living in Huntington. She has published works in the *James Dickey Review*, *Proximity Magazine*, *So to Speak* (George Mason University) and the anthology *Voices on Unity: Coming Together, Falling Apart* (Mountain State Press). She has received first-place awards for her work in creative nonfiction.

Marshall student Paige Leonard takes advantage of the bike program on a chilly day in February.





# TOP 10 of

The Chad Pennington Athletic Hall of Fame was dedicated in November 2014. At night, it showcases a great view of Marshall memorabilia.



Photo by Rick Hayer.



Photo by Rick Hayer.

The Memorial Fountain, one of the most iconic landmarks on the Huntington campus, is enshrouded in fog.



# PHOTOS

# Marshall

Photography by Rick Haye and David E. Fattaleh



Photo by Rick Haye.

In a new Marshall Family tradition, the incoming freshman class poses for a photo surrounding the John Marshall statue.





REPUBLICAN LEADER  
MEMBER OF THE CONSTITUTION  
DIGNIFIED HUSBAND AND FATHER

Sunrise casts a silhouette of the statue of John Marshall, for whom the university is named.





Photo by Rick Hays.

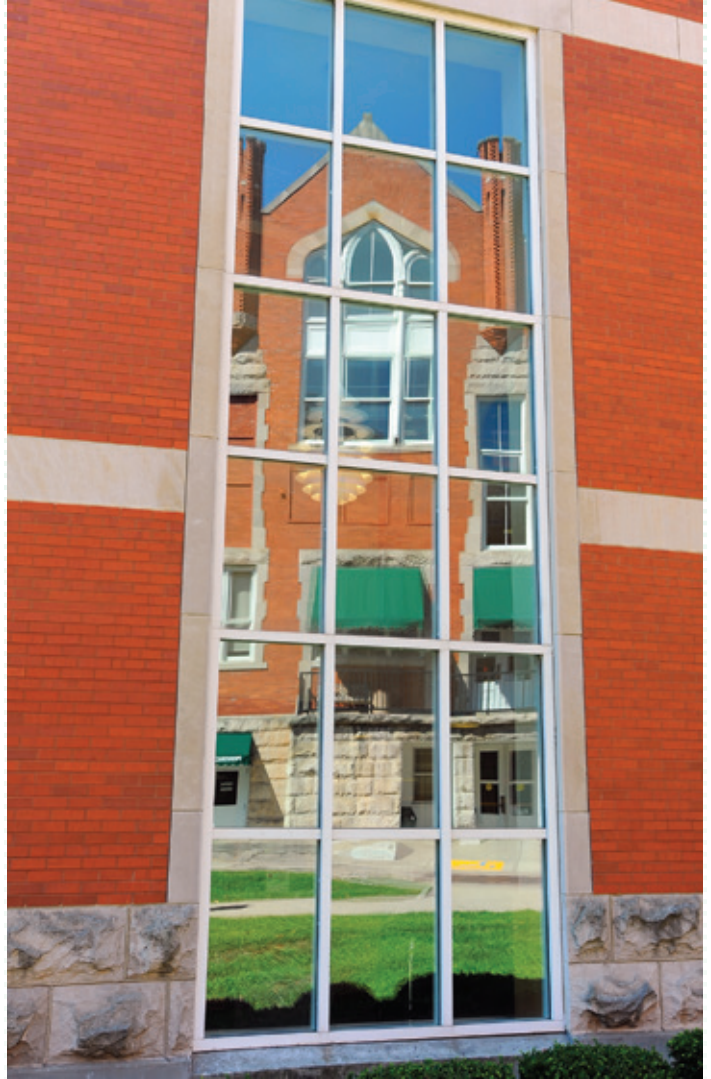


Photo by Rick Hays.

The Huntington campus comes alive with color every spring.

Old Main appears in the reflection of a window at the Drinko Library.

Autumn leaves fall to the lawn in front of Marshall University's most iconic building — Old Main.



Photo by Rick Hays.





The unique architecture of the Robert C. Byrd Biotechnology Science Center on Third Avenue makes this photo among the best.



The sun sets over the Joan C. Edwards Stadium on Marshall University's Huntington campus.





Photo by Rick Hayes

**Historic Old Main covered in snow showcases that there are four distinct seasons in Huntington, West Virginia.**



# A SPARK of New Life

Marshall student Brennan Amaral donates bone marrow to help save a life.

By Carter Taylor Seaton

Imagine walking across campus and hearing someone yell, “Hey, want to sign up to donate your bone marrow?” It was a volunteer at a DKMS registration drive in the Memorial Student Center. Would you stop to ask, “How?” Last year, Marshall sophomore Brennan Amaral did. And after learning about the program, he said yes.

DKMS (German for “Deutsche Knochen Mark Spenderdatei” or “German Bone Marrow Donor File”) is a nonprofit organization founded in Germany by a doctor who had lost his wife to leukemia, one of several blood cancers. It now has donors all over the globe, including over 1 million in the United States. Adam Guthrie, who had become a student ambassador for DKMS after a bone marrow drive at his high school for a female friend, is the Marshall chapter’s organizer. He brought the program to Marshall when he enrolled in 2016. His friend came to Marshall as well, and the first drive Adam organized was specifically for her. Meanwhile, Brennan had heard of her plight; so when the volunteer called out to him, he decided to help. Thus began an improbable journey for the Martinsburg, West Virginia, native.

Every three minutes someone is diagnosed with a blood cancer, which includes lymphoma and myeloma, as well as leukemia. But, since only 1 percent of those who register ever match a recipient, he knew signing up was a long shot. He submitted three swabs of his saliva, which Adam sent off for testing, and waited.

When Brennan’s donor card arrived at his home address, his mother was incredulous. She asked why he would do such a thing. Brennan told her he put himself in the shoes of a person who was that sick, hoping someone would do that for him. He said, “If I can help, I can deal with the little bit of pain associated with the procedure.”

In reality, he didn’t think he would match at all. But he

actually matched two people. Because there isn’t a center in Huntington for bone marrow transplants, Brennan and his mother, who had quickly come on board with the idea, traveled to MedStar Georgetown University Hospital and its Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center near Washington, D.C., in June 2018 for extensive blood tests. DKMS paid all their expenses. They returned in July when Brennan was tested once again prior to the actual procedure. Before each round of testing, Brennan was asked if he was still sure he wanted to donate. Each time, he said yes.

For the two-hour procedure, he was anesthetized and resting facedown while bone marrow was drawn from his spine. Afterward, he admitted, he was tired and sore. But he said he was humbled by the experience as well. It took several weeks for him to regain his strength because he had donated the maximum amount of bone marrow allowed. Nevertheless, he said, “it was worth it.”

Just about the time he fully recovered, he got another call from DKMS asking if he would do it again. The person to whom he had donated the bone marrow, a 53-year-old woman, needed a blood/stem cell booster. The call came on Thursday and she needed his stem cells on Monday.

On Sept. 9, 2018, DKMS flew Brennan and his mother to Georgetown for a second outpatient procedure. He was hooked to an apheresis machine that filtered his blood to extract his stem cells. For five to eight hours he didn’t move while the machine removed blood from his right arm, filtered it and periodically returned it through a needle in his left arm. Although that’s a long time, Brennan said it wasn’t bad.

“My mom was there with me the whole time. We watched movies; we talked; and they had the television on for us.”



Adam Guthrie (left) brought the DKMS program to Marshall in 2016 and because of donors like Brennan Amaral (right) the group continues to make a difference in the fight against blood cancer.

After about a week and a half he was back at Marshall. During that time, he couldn't lift things or do strenuous activity.

Right now, Brennan knows little about the person to whom he donated, but that may change this year. DKMS allows donor and recipient to meet, if they both want to, after a year. Brennan hopes to meet his genetic twin as soon as he is able.

Adam has witnessed such a reunion of donor and recipient and described it "super emotional." He said he feels good knowing he is helping to facilitate these matches. Among the 1,200 people who have registered at Marshall's drives in the past two and a half years, there have been six matches, a remarkable average. Adam only knows this because donors have told him. It's against DKMS policy for organizers or volunteers to know about matches unless the donor makes contact.

"I like to tell people, 'If you match, reach out to me.' Knowing that people have matched is cool. When you register 500 people, that's a lot of potential lives saved," Adam said.

He is planning another registration push, which he calls

"swab drives," in the spring. The group has a Facebook page, DKMS Marshall University, which features information about the program and upcoming drives. Usually, a drive is from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on a Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. You also can register online at [www.dkms.org/en](http://www.dkms.org/en). And of course, Adam is always looking for volunteers to help with the drives both on and off campus.

"I've given presentations at different schools and local organizations to try and get people interested," he said.

That's what drew him to become the only student ambassador in the state, a situation he hopes to change. He'd like to see others do the same, he said.

As for Brennan, he's thrilled that his participation not only saved a life, but also has had a positive ripple effect. A few of his friends who were going to take their names off the registry have changed their minds, and people who work with his mother have now registered because she shared Brennan's story on Facebook. "I definitely would do it again," he said. "One hundred percent." □

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**Carter Taylor Seaton** is a freelance writer living in Huntington.



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# Skating Through LIFE

A pair of Marshall alums have landed a dream job skating professionally on a luxury cruise ship.

*I*t's a tale as old as time: Boy meets girl. Boy and girl fall in love. Boy spins girl around by girl's ankle as girl's head comes treacherously close to a sheet of ice, in a move known officially as the bounce spin, unofficially as the headbanger.

Professional pair skaters Alexis and J.D. Rappold's love story is as unconventional as their career path, but the Huntington natives and Marshall grads can't imagine life any other way. As they wrap up a figure skating contract with the Royal Caribbean cruise ship *Liberty of the Seas*, they reflect on the whirlwind that led them to a successful career on the ice.

"Looking back, it's kind of crazy how everything fell into place," said Alexis (Donahoe) Rappold. Both Alexis

**By Katherine Pyles**

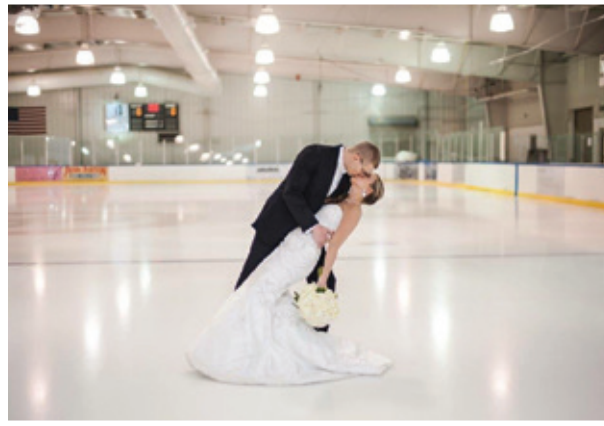






The ice dancing duo both are Marshall alumni, J.D. in 2012 and Alexis in 2015.





**The couple married on the ice at the South Charleston Memorial Ice Arena on New Year's Eve 2014.**

and J.D. began skating at a young age — Alexis was 5, and J.D. was 6. But while Alexis pursued figure skating, J.D. was an avid hockey player. In 2010, J.D., a former hockey player for the University of Maryland-Baltimore County, had just received an offer to try out for the Wheeling Nailers, a minor league team. He was home from college for the summer when his mom, Heidi Sowards, who happened to be Alexis's figure skating coach, suggested the two try skating together. Surprisingly, it wasn't a matchmaking ploy.

"I don't think she had any ulterior motives," J.D. laughed. "She just really wanted me to try pair skating."

J.D., who had tried figure skating briefly as a child, hated the feel of figure skates at first. When he and Alexis would meet up to practice, he'd wear his hockey skates. Still, the duo recognized quickly that they had the potential to succeed in pair skating.

"We were actually pretty good right away," J.D. said. "We knew that if we put time into it, it could work."

After they skated together that summer, J.D. turned down the Nailers' offer and transferred from UMBC to Marshall as he and Alexis took the plunge into pair skating. They practiced six days a week at the South Charleston Ice Arena and trained in Columbus with professional pair skater and U.S. national champion Lee Harris, all while Alexis completed her senior year of high school and J.D. studied at Marshall.

"It took me a while to look like a figure skater," J.D. recalled. "Posture and flexibility are a big deal in figure skating. And in hockey, you have to have strength, so you lose a lot of that flexibility. Plus, in pair skating, it just takes time to mesh with each other."

After about a year, though, J.D. and Alexis realized that their chemistry on the ice existed off the ice, too.

"Everyone around us could see that there was something

between us, apparently," Alexis remembered. "Our friends and our moms saw it before either of us did."

The pair began dating during a hectic year of qualifying competitions for the 2012 U.S. Figure Skating Championship. If their story is beginning to sound familiar, it's likely thanks to the 1992 romantic comedy *The Cutting Edge*, where a figure skater and hockey player team up professionally, and eventually romantically, to win the Olympic gold medal.

"We heard that a lot from the other competitors — 'Oh, look, here comes *The Cutting Edge*,'" J.D. laughed.

The pair competed at the U.S. Figure Skating Championships in 2012 and 2013, concluding their competitive career as the No. 10 pairs team in the U.S. In 2013, they left competitive skating to allow Alexis to finish her degree at Marshall.

"Finishing our degrees was really important to both of us," said J.D., who graduated in 2012 with a degree in exercise physiology and a minor in biomechanics. While at Marshall he was president of his fraternity, Sigma Alpha Epsilon, and started the university's hockey club. He also served on the president's council, Student Activities Programming Board and Interfraternity Council.

Alexis graduated with honors in 2015. She majored in accounting and was active in Beta Alpha Psi, an honors fraternity for accounting and finance. Her sophomore year, she was invited by Dixon Hughes Goodman to participate in its leadership academy and internship program, and the firm eventually offered her a full-time position. She accepted and continues to work part time for the firm between performances on the cruise ship.

"We were given incredible opportunities at Marshall," Alexis said. "Just having that opportunity to connect with an accounting firm so early on was huge. At the business school, it was never just about exams. It was about making us well-rounded professionals. I had a lot of one-on-one support from my professors, and that was very helpful."

Across campus in the School of Kinesiology, J.D. had a similar experience.

"At Marshall there's a lot of focus on you as an individual," he said. "Alexis and I were still competing when I was at Marshall, and my counselors were great about teaching me how to balance everything I had going on. The classes were smaller, which gave us that one-on-one time with professors."

While Alexis finished her degree, J.D. worked as a personal trainer and exercise physiologist in Charleston. Although they were unable to devote much time to skating, their love for the ice — and dream of skating professionally — remained. When the couple began planning their wedding, only one location was the perfect fit.

“I was like, ‘Hey, why don’t we get married on the ice,’” J.D. recalled. “I was actually kidding. I was expecting Alexis to say, ‘Yeah, right, I don’t think so.’ But she was like, ‘Hmm, that could actually work.’”

Alexis had foam mats placed on the ice at the Charleston ice rink for the ceremony and reception.

“A lot of brides use Pinterest to plan their weddings, but there wasn’t much out there for me,” she said.

When it came time for the first dance, an enormous backdrop was moved aside, revealing an uncovered part of the rink, while Alexis changed into an all-white skating dress handmade by her mom. The couple performed their “first skate,” then changed back into their wedding attire for the rest of the reception.

“The wedding brought skating back into our lives,” J.D. said.

Soon, the couple began performing in shows at Canaan Valley Resort and the Greenbrier, resuming their training in their spare time. In 2017, they were offered a contract to tour Europe with Holiday on Ice, an opportunity they couldn’t pass up. Last June, they participated in a Columbus show called Skate It Forward, a fundraiser for the Ronald McDonald House, alongside some of the country’s best skaters including Gracie Gold, Karen

Chen, Mariah Bell, Ross Miner and pairs team Deanna Stellato and Nathan Bartholomay.

Afterward, they embarked on the Liberty of the Seas, where for the past eight months the couple has dazzled cruise passengers with tricks like the bounce spin, head spin and throw double salchow.

“We love doing things that surprise, things that take the breath away from the audience,” Alexis said. J.D. clarified: “Things that freak people out.”

This spring, the pair will return to Huntington for two and a half weeks before their next Royal Caribbean contract, this time on the Harmony of the Seas, the second-largest cruise ship in the world. Their plans when they arrive home are to hug their dogs, Siberian Huskies Maya and Keetna, and get their fill of Huntington’s best hot dogs.

And although they’ll skate professionally as long as they’re able to, they said returning to the Huntington area someday would be a dream come true.

“Marshall is family, and Huntington is home,” J.D. said. “It’s always great to come back.” □

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**Katherine Pyles** is a freelance writer and editor living in Huntington.

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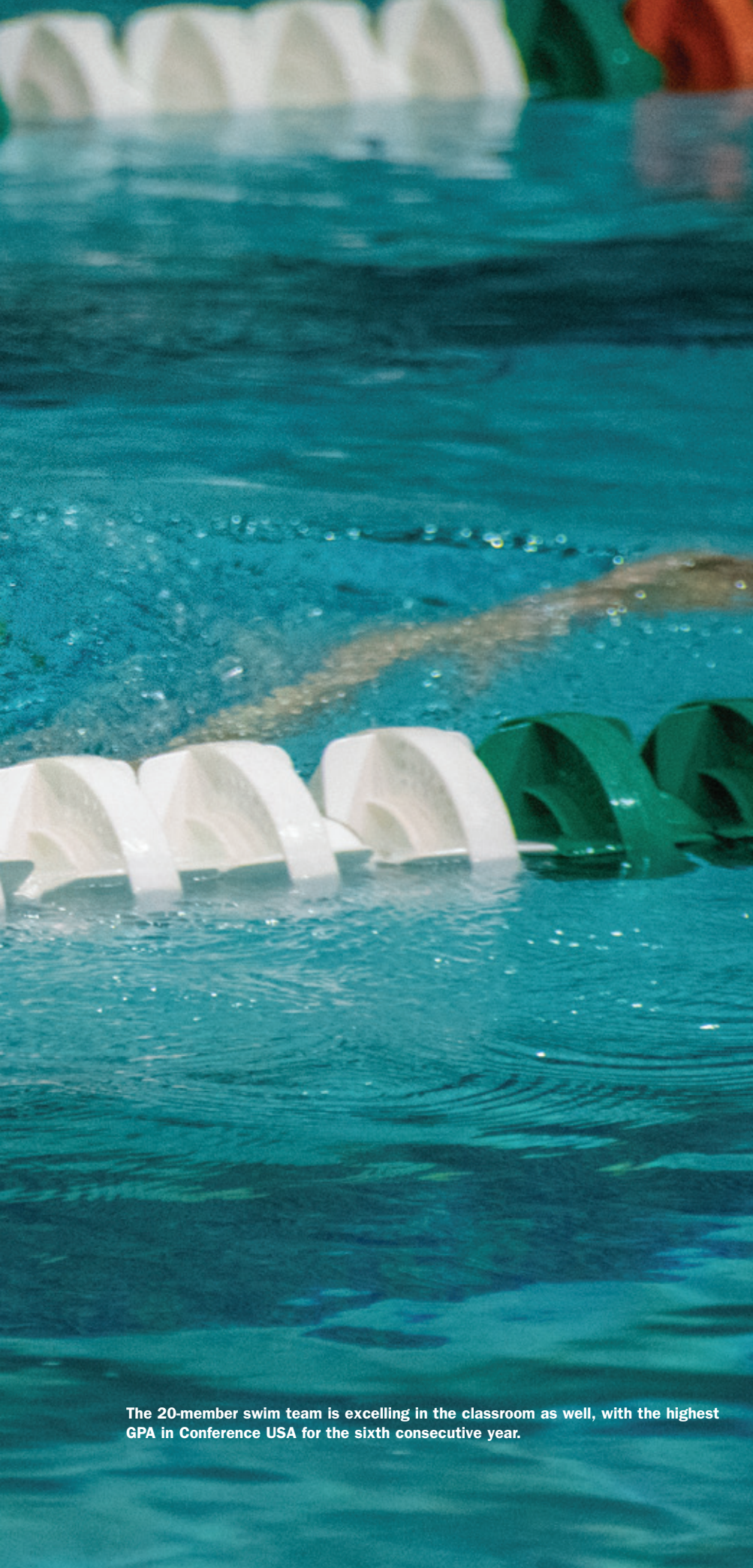


# Swimming Lessons

Coaches Ian Walsh and Megan Siford want the Thundering Herd swimming and diving program to produce winners both in and out of the water.

By Keith Morehouse  
Photos by Rick Lee





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On the coldest day of the winter of 2019, with temperatures nearing single digits, Marshall University called off afternoon classes on campus. That word made nary a ripple in the Frederick A. Fitch Natatorium. The Herd's swimming and diving teams' cool-down period was a little more brisk than normal, but practice goes on. This team rarely stops thinking about the pool – or school – no matter how frigid it is outside.

That success out of the water was exemplified in January when the swim team was accorded All-American status. Marshall's program was honored by the College Swimming Coaches Association of America as a Scholar All-American Team. It's not the first time the swim program has earned that distinction. The baseline to attain recognition is a 3.0 GPA. Marshall far exceeded that mark with a 3.53. For the sixth year in a row, the Thundering Herd swim program held the highest GPA in Conference USA.

"All of us make it one of our personal goals to have a high GPA," said junior Catherine Bendziewicz. "We hold each other accountable. Like I often say about the pool, it's easy to do the same thing when you have everyone around you doing it."

Bendziewicz has been at home in the water since she was three

The 20-member swim team is excelling in the classroom as well, with the highest GPA in Conference USA for the sixth consecutive year.



For the sixth year in a row, the Thundering Herd swim program held the highest GPA in Conference USA.

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years old, learning to swim with her older brothers at home in South Carolina. She's won 10 individual races this year in freestyle, breaststroke and individual medley events. Her swim career is playing out as she envisioned because she learned fairly early that a lifetime devotion to the pool could lead to something special.

"I think I was in the eighth grade and my coach sat me down and he said, 'Catherine, you have to decide right now; you're good enough that if you devote your time to this you can swim in college.'"

Ian Walsh took notice of her talent. He was an assistant at Marshall from 2013 to 2016 and recruited Bendziewicz to Huntington. He left the Herd to take an assistant's job at Cal-Berkeley for a year and a half. Then the head coaching position came open at Marshall, and he dived right back into familiar waters.

"Our seniors now were freshmen



**Junior diver Madison Young has earned the title of Conference USA diver of the week three times this season.**



when I was here,” Walsh said. “My first year as an assistant we were dead last in Conference USA. My last year, we were 17 points out of second place.”

There were personal reasons to come back to Marshall, too. Walsh met Sarah Davenport at Marshall when she was in grad school. They married and have a 7-month-old daughter, Ella, and wanted her to be closer to grandparents, aunts and uncles in the Huntington area. She’s a little young to hit the pool, but that’s likely just a matter of time.

“Mommy-and-me classes haven’t quite started yet,” said Walsh with a grin.

As the head coach, he requires an exacting regimen of his swimmers.

It’s a demanding sport where time-management skills and laser-focused dedication are necessities, whether swimming for a personal best or studying for your next test. There’s very little down time.

“I kind of put the road map together, but they walk it, they live it,” said Walsh. “My goal is they walk out being more confident young women, and whatever life throws at them, they have the ability to handle it just like they do here on a daily basis.”

At the deep end of the pool, Megan Siford is settling in as the new diving coach. She’s originally from Toledo, Ohio, so these temperatures don’t faze her. She came to Marshall from Tiffin University

in Ohio. She described her job change as “definitely the first big jump of my career.”

Siford dived competitively at Youngstown State University and knows the drill of perfecting the craft. The degree of difficulty in this sport dictates that repetition is key.

“It can be frustrating at times, but once the light bulb clicks it’s like A-HA!” said Siford. “It’s just repetition after repetition and practicing and trying to get those corrections made.”

Madison Young has spent much of her athletic career airborne. Her first love was gymnastics, and then she changed course to diving when she was a sophomore in high school in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. Hers is



Coach Walsh’s journey to Marshall was actually a homecoming — he served as the program’s assistant coach from 2013 to 2016.



“My goal is they walk out being more confident young women, and whatever life throws at them, they have the ability to handle it just like they do here on a daily basis.”

— Ian Walsh

a sport that defies gravity and challenges the limits of athleticism. Anyone who’s ever tiptoed out to the end of the board to try a new dive knows that it takes a great deal of courage to take the leap. For a seasoned Division I diver, it becomes part of the process.

“I think it’s fun; you kind of get adrenaline from it,” Young said of trying a difficult dive. “You practice it a lot of different ways before you try it in competition, so most of the time it’s not that scary. Repetition is the best way to get comfortable.”

Comfortable enough that Young was named Conference USA diver of the week three times this year. It becomes obvious the more you talk to the swimmers and divers that they haven’t spent thousands of hours in the pool just to make it to the podium. They don’t lead the league in GPA just for the plaques and ribbons that denote such accomplishments. That recognition is noteworthy. But this is all aimed at a deeper dive — one that

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results in success after they come out of the competitive pool. It brings to mind that commercial about NCAA student-athletes: “There are over 360,000 NCAA student-athletes, and just about all of us will be going pro in something other than sports.”

“Whether you’re a swimmer or a football player or a volleyball player, your sport is done eventually,” said Walsh. “Even if you go pro, even if you’re like a Missy Franklin (five-time Olympic Gold Medalist swimmer), swimming is done and diving is done at some point. We want them to be able to walk away and have a great experience and a degree.”

Swimming lessons, well learned. □

**Keith Morehouse** is the sports director for WSAZ NewsChannel 3 in Huntington. A 1983 graduate of the Marshall University School of Journalism, he is a regular contributor to *Marshall Magazine*.






**Head Coach Ian Walsh (left) and Diving Coach Megan Siford both came to Marshall in 2018 and dived right into swim season.**

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YOUR ALUMNI CONNECTION

## A MESSAGE FROM MAX LEDERER

*MUAA National President*



Marshall Alumni:

The Alumni Awards Banquet is set for Saturday, April 13. This event is a fantastic opportunity to reunite with your Marshall University family while sharing the great experiences you had while at Marshall with your own family.

The Awards Banquet is the Alumni Association's opportunity to recognize the amazing contributions and achievements of our fellow alumni. The awardees have achieved amazing things and given back to the school and other communities in ways that humble me. Details about the event and information about past recipients can be viewed at [herdalum.com](http://herdalum.com) under the Events tab.

The awards include recognition of an alumnus who has made outstanding national achievements in his or her particular field of endeavor. An alumnus will also be recognized for success in their particular field of endeavor and personal contribution to his or her community. Further, recognition will be made for loyal and unselfish service to Marshall. There is also recognition for Young Alumni, outstanding faculty of Marshall, student-athletes, the top alumni chapters and much more.

Past recognition has been given to Red Dawson, who was an assistant football coach for the Young Thundering Herd football team; Marilyn Johnson, the CEO of the International Women's Forum; and Homer Preece, the MU Mid-Ohio Valley Center director. These are just a few of many outstanding Marshall alumni to receive the award in the past couple of years. All their stories are inspiring and moving. The Alumni Banquet is an uplifting and first-class event, arranged and presented by the Office of Alumni Relations. It's enjoyable, whether you know an awardee or not.

I urge all alumni to not only attend the Awards Banquet if they can, but to be recruiters and ambassadors for Marshall throughout the year. Pay forward the help you received. This is a responsibility and an opportunity. Become an active alumni member and stay connected. We need you to let everyone know what a special place this is. Let people know what WE ARE MARSHALL means to you. Professionally and in your community, we need you to represent Marshall.

Thank you for your continued support of Marshall University through the Alumni Association. The Alumni Association Board of Directors hopes that each time you visit [www.herdalum.com](http://www.herdalum.com), the Facebook page or one of the campuses or centers, you learn something new about the university, your classmates, the faculty and staff. I encourage each of you to contact the board and provide your suggestions. We are here to serve you. Thank you for your continued support of the university.

Max Lederer

President, Marshall University Alumni Association

## ALUMNI RELATIONS STAFF

**MATT HAYES**, Executive Director

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**ROB ELLIS**, Associate Director



## Marshall University Mid-Ohio Valley Alumni Chapter recognized for level of giving

**T**he Marshall University Mid-Ohio Valley Alumni Chapter is one of 20 new members that were welcomed into the Marshall University Foundation Inc.'s President's Circle Society this fall.

Recognizing individuals and organizations that have a lifetime giving ranging from \$100,000 to \$250,000, the President's Circle is one of six lifetime giving societies that the Foundation recognizes.

"The Mid-Ohio Valley Chapter is always looking for opportunities to help students attending Marshall from Wood County and the surrounding area. Their dedication to raising funds for student scholarships is just one example of why this chapter stands out and is frequently recognized by the Marshall University

Alumni Association as Chapter of the Year," said Matt Hayes, executive director of alumni relations.

"We are very proud of our chapter," said Laurie Marin, chapter president. "Our chapter laid dormant for many years, but we have built our numbers and strive to be the face of Marshall in our community. We have worked to provide as many scholarship dollars as we can each year, and this past May we endowed our first scholarship. This is particularly exciting for us because our first endowment has reached and exceeded the level it needed to be invested, meaning we can help local students into perpetuity."

"Annually, we recognize many individuals for their lifetime giving achievements, but the fact that the



Mid-Ohio Valley Chapter has reached this level of giving is truly a testament to their passion for the university,” said Dr. Ron Area, chief executive officer. “We are excited to welcome them as members in this society and hope other alumni chapters notice their dedication and follow the example they have set.”

With scholarships supporting incoming freshmen, students in the College of Arts and Media and a first-year student at the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine, the recently completed endowment will support juniors or seniors of any major. The chapter also purchased one new band uniform during the Marching Thunder’s 2015 campaign.

Since 2009, the Mid-Ohio Valley Chapter has provided scholarships to 72 Mid-Ohio Valley freshman students for a total of \$73,500 in tuition support. The chapter also has a \$17,000 endowed scholarship for upperclassmen, provided \$16,000 to the Vision Campaign, provided \$47,800 for Big Green Scholarship support and provided \$11,900 toward other programs at Marshall University, for a total of \$166,200 in student support. The Mid-Ohio Valley Chapter is made up of members from Wood, Pleasants, Tyler, Ritchie and Wirt counties in West Virginia and Washington County, Ohio. Students from these counties are eligible to apply for the chapter’s scholarships. □

## Mark Your Calendar!

# ALUMNI AWARDS BANQUET

## Saturday, April 13

Join the Marshall University Alumni Association on Saturday, April 13, for the 82nd annual Alumni Awards Banquet. Celebrate with your fellow alumni as we recognize the best and brightest that Marshall University has to offer with a dinner, music, presentations and much more in the Don Morris Room on the second floor of the Memorial Student Center. Tickets are \$75 per person, \$140

per couple and \$500 for a table sponsorship. For more information and to receive your tickets today, visit [www.herdalum.com](http://www.herdalum.com) or call 304-696-3134.



# 2018 HOMECOMING

Marco took center stage during Homecoming 2018 as Marshall University celebrated its beloved mascot Wild West style during “Home on the Range” week Oct. 15-20, presented by Ohio Valley Bank.

Marshall welcomed Grand Marshals Jim and Bobbie Farley back to campus to oversee the activities, from the parade and bonfire to the annual Picnic

on the Plaza to the Homecoming Stampede 5K and Alumni Tailgate, all leading up to a 31-7 Thundering Herd victory over the defending Conference USA champions, the Florida Atlantic University Owls.

Check out our collection of photos (on this and the next three pages) from an amazing week of school spirit, as Marshall celebrated Marco!















## AWARD-WINNING TEACHER

### Amy Parent

**Y**ou can't do it. They are four words no person wants to hear, let alone a young, impressionable student who is simply trying to find their place in this crazy world. They are words that can do lasting damage. They are words that can change the course of a person's life.

And they are four words that Amy Parent vows will never come out of her mouth.

Parent is a second-grade teacher at St. Joseph Catholic School in Huntington and has taught throughout the state and even in North Carolina during her two decades as an award-winning educator. But how she got here was not easy. In fact, it almost never happened at all.

For Parent, "you can't do it" is something she heard quite a bit growing up. Struggling as a student and diagnosed with a learning disability in high school, Parent's course seemed to be set before she could even get her feet on the ground — and she was not a fan of the direction laid out in front of her.

She hated school. She didn't know what she wanted to do in life. She knew she wanted to help others, but she simply didn't know how.

But once she got to Marshall University, something changed.

As a college student, Parent found her way to Marshall's



**Amy Parent teaches second grade at St. Joseph Catholic School in Huntington, West Virginia.**

Higher Education for Learning Problems (H.E.L.P.) Center, designed to provide academic assistance and support to a wide variety of learners. There, she connected with a few good people and, through their support, found her calling in changing her major from pre-pharmacy to education. Then, something just clicked.

"To be very honest, I hated school most of the time. I was diagnosed with a learning disability when I was in high school, and I really struggled and was told most of the time to just 'try harder,'" Parent said. "I did not know how to do that until I was paired up with a wonderful tutor at the MU H.E.L.P. program. She inspired me,

helped me and pushed me beyond what I ever thought I could do. I wanted to be that someone for others. I want to be that person for my students."

With a newfound purpose, Parent thrived in her studies to become a teacher and vowed, through it all, to never let her students feel the way she did when she was younger.

"An advisor once told me that I should never and could never be a teacher. That day I decided to be the best teacher I could be for my students," Parent said. "I want my students to feel like I did when I was working with my tutor and succeeding, not like I felt when I was in school as a child and struggling."

Fast forward to 24 years later as an educator, and that



“NO MATTER HOW HARD IT SEEMS ... find the people who will support you. Get the help you need to succeed and never look back. SURROUND YOURSELF WITH LOVING, SUPPORTING PEOPLE.”

hard work and dedication have paid off in a major way. For her work and commitment to her students at St. Joseph Catholic School, Parent was named West Virginia’s first-ever winner of the National University System’s Sanford Teacher Award in December. The award, which is given to teachers who demonstrate enthusiasm for teaching, show warmth toward all students, create a positive learning environment and recognize student strengths, came with a \$10,000 prize and validation as an educator who is truly making a difference in the lives of children.

“I feel so blessed, honored and humbled to win this award. I am excited to be a part of this group of wonderful teachers who give so much of themselves every day for their students,” Parent said. “Teaching truly is my passion, and I strive to help each and every child. I love my job, and I love working with others to help children. I got such a strong foundation from the professors, tutors and fellow students at MU, and I want to spread the word about what Marshall can do for others.”

It is a story of redemption and turning a negative in life into a positive.

Today Parent uses the tools she received at Marshall



**A special assembly was held at St. Joseph Catholic School in honor of Amy Parent when she won the National University System’s Sanford Teacher Award.**

to help and inspire not only her students, but also the next generation of teachers who come through her classroom.

“Teaching is hard work, but it is the most rewarding job. When I work with student teachers from Marshall in my classroom, I make a point to share the good with the bad,” Parent said. “It is such an important job. I want everyone to think of that one teacher they look back on and remember from when they were younger with love. You can be that teacher; you can make a difference in the life of a child.”

So what advice would she give to others in a similar situation as what she faced all those years ago as a teenager lost in a world of “can’t”?

“I would tell them to never give up,” Parent said. “No matter how hard it seems, what struggles you have gone through, what diagnosis you have, find the people who will support you. Get the help you need to succeed and never look back. Surround yourself with loving, supporting people like I had in my family, friends and tutor. As my kids say with me every morning in our class pledge: choose to do the best in all you do today and every day.” □

# Marshall has given you so much. Now is the time to give back.

Support Marshall University with a gift and discover the many benefits of becoming an active member of **YOUR** Alumni Association!

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- Be in the know with all things happening at Marshall University through your subscription to Marshall Magazine, monthly newsletters and special social media opportunities!
- Knowledge that your money is contributing to the continued growth of Marshall University!

## A financial gift in the amount of your choice activates your membership.

For more information, contact the Marshall University Alumni Association at (304) 696-3134 or [alumni@marshall.edu](mailto:alumni@marshall.edu)



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Alumni Association

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# Marshall University Alumni Association Board of Directors Nomination Form

The Alumni Association is now accepting nominations for 10 of its 30 elected positions on the Board of Directors. The term of office is three years beginning July 1, 2019.

### Qualifications:

- Must be an active member of the Alumni Association through an annual gift to the Marshall University Foundation Inc.
- Be energetic and enthusiastic in support of the university and concerned with its growth and potential.
- Be available to attend three on-campus board meetings during the year, and be willing to assist in his/her home area in promoting Marshall and the Alumni Association.
- Nominations must be received by April 1, 2019, to the Office of Alumni Relations
- Attach nominee's curriculum vitae/résumé.

Please complete this biographical form in conjunction with your nominee in order to provide the nominating committee with the necessary information to assist them in the selection process.

Nominator's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Reasons for Nomination \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Nominee's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Class \_\_\_\_\_ Degree(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Employer \_\_\_\_\_ Position \_\_\_\_\_

Business Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Years served on Board (*list dates if previously served*) \_\_\_\_\_

We are very interested in how the nominee serves his or her community, and any professional awards received. Include civic groups the nominee belongs to, volunteerism and community service projects in which the nominee has been involved, honors and awards he or she has received, and professional organizations in which the nominee is a member (please list all pertinent information to assist the nomination committee, including dates and offices held).

Only a maximum of five items would be listed on the ballot. Please list in order of preference.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

Self-nominations will be accepted. The MUAA Nomination and Election Committee will screen the nominations and select no fewer than 10 or more than 20 for the ballot to run for the 10 director's positions. You can return your nomination by e-mailing it as an Adobe PDF document to [alumni@marshall.edu](mailto:alumni@marshall.edu), faxing it to (304) 696-2299 or mailing it to:  
MUAA Board Nominations, Erickson Alumni Center, One John Marshall Dr., Huntington, WV 25755-6200

**For more information, call the Alumni Association at 304-696-2901.**

## 1970s

**Geoffrey Hall** (B.A. '75) teaches sociology at Northampton Community College and serves as a volunteer with the local jail, working with newly released inmates, in Easton, Pennsylvania.

## 1980s

**Todd Campbell** (B.B.A. '86) is the new president and chief executive officer of St. Mary's Medical Center. His appointment was effective Jan. 1. Campbell has served as senior vice president and chief operating officer since 2007 and previously was vice president of finance and chief financial officer.

**Dr. Sandi Kiser-Griffith** (B.A. '89, M.A. '92, Psy.D. '08) is the executive director of Diversified Assessment and Therapy Services, a multi-unit services agency with offices in Kenova, Huntington, Teays Valley and Lewisburg, West Virginia. Kiser-Griffith's expertise is in assessment and early intervention strategies for children with autism.

## 1990s

**Sen. Dr. Mike Maroney** (M.D. '94) has been named chairman of the West Virginia Senate Health and Human



Resources Committee. Maroney, who was elected in 2016, has also served as the vice chairman of that committee. He also is the chairman of the Economic Development Committee and a member of the Banking and Insurance, Finance, Government Organization, Interstate Cooperation, Pensions and Transportation and Infrastructure committees.

**Christopher McDowell** (B.A. '91) recently established the Christopher R. McDowell ROTC Scholarship at Marshall University. McDowell attended Marshall on the G.I. Bill, served as second lieutenant and earned his law degree prior to serving on active duty in Korea, Germany and Ft. Riley, Kansas.

**Amy Parent** (B.A. '94, M.A. '96) was named a Top Inspiring Teacher in West Virginia and honored with

## Representing Marshall at Carnegie Hall



So, just what IS at the corner of West 57th and Isaac Stern Place in New York City? Carnegie Hall.

On June 22, 2018, a number of musicians with ties to Marshall made an appearance at New York's Carnegie Hall as part of the Charleston Chamber Orchestra during the Viennese Masters Orchestra Invitational Festival. The CCO, which was one of three groups selected for this festival, is headquartered at West Virginia State University and

is under the direction of Marshall graduate Dr. Scott Woodard. CCO has been in existence since 2015 and is composed of WVSU faculty and students and other community musicians.

The Carnegie Hall performance was the culmination of a four-day stay in New York City. CCO members also visited the 9/11 memorial, took a boat tour of the harbor, and walked through Central Park. The group also performed at the Riverside Church Theatre.



\$10,000 from the National University System-Sanford Teacher Award. One recipient is chosen to represent each state and the District of Columbia. Parent is currently a second-grade teacher at St. Joseph Catholic School and lives in Huntington with her husband, Doug.

**Lisa Tignor** (B.A. '90) has produced a second film, *Finding Big Pink*, which is currently on the festival circuit and has won an award for Best Documentary.

**Dr. Sara Dixon Vuic**, Ph.D., (B.A. '99) is the Lance Corporal Benjamin W. Schmidt Professor of War, Conflict, and Society at Texas Christian University. Her newest book, *The Girls Next Door: Bringing the Home Front to the Front Lines*, came out in January. It examines the stories of women serving in the Vietnam War.

## 2000s

**Dr. Monica Brooks** (Ed.S. '04, Ed.D. '07) received the 2018 Dora Ruth Parks Award for long and outstanding service to libraries and librarianship. She currently serves as the associate vice president for online learning and libraries at Marshall.



**Dr. Taine Duncan** (B.A. '05) has been named co-editor of the journal *Philosophy in the Contemporary World*. Duncan serves as associate professor of philosophy and religion and director of the gender studies program at the University of Central Arkansas.

**Dr. Angela Fry Keaton** (M.A. '01) earned the National Living Faculty Award at Tusculum University for her commitment to students, engaging teaching and civic advancement. She is a longtime faculty member in the history department at that institution.

**Dr. Craig Kimball** (M.S. '00) completed his two-year term as president of the West Virginia Pharmacists Association and was awarded the National Community Pharmacists Leadership Award for 2016-2018 for service provided to the association. Kimball currently serves as the director of experiential learning for the Marshall School of Pharmacy and as an assistant professor of pharmacy practice. He resides in Rome Township in Lawrence County, Ohio, with his wife, Angel, and two children, Case and Sienna.



**Rhonda Wood** (B.A. '06, M.A. '12) has been elected to the position of vice president of membership for the West Virginia Science Teachers Association. A native of Huntington, Wood is in her 12th year teaching in Cabell County, where she currently serves as the science educator at the Cabell County Alternative School.

**Jared Wyrick** (B.A. '09) has been named president of the West Virginia Automobile and Truck Dealer Association. Wyrick served on the staff of the West Virginia Senate for many years, most recently as director of rule-making.

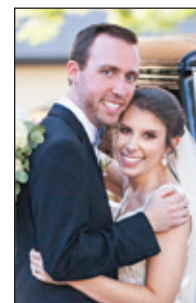
## 2010s

**Matthew Boggs** (B.B.A. '14) was named to the Young Guns Class of 2019 by *West Virginia Executive* magazine.

Boggs, a native of Ashland, Kentucky, works for Alkermes Inc. and lives in Huntington with his wife, Megan.



**Amy Cattrell** (B.B.A. '11) and **A.J. Webb** (B.A. '12) celebrated their wedding on Oct. 20, 2018, in Naples, Florida. A.J., a senior associate at Frost Brown Todd Attorneys and Amy, a marketing coordinator for the architecture firm SHP, currently reside in Cincinnati, Ohio.



**A.J. Harris** (B.A. '18) has begun a position with Second Nature Family Therapy as a field counselor. Second Nature provides wilderness therapy to adolescents and teenagers in central Utah.

**Dr. Valerie Free Jones** (Ed.D. '17) has been recognized by Ohio Christian University as Faculty Member of the Year for 2017-18. She currently serves as chair of OCU's Department of Teacher Education.



Please share your news with us by sending it to the Marshall University Alumni Association One John Marshall Drive Huntington, WV 25755.

*Preference will be given to active alumni; other news will be printed as space allows and should be received within six months of the event.*

For more Class Notes, go to [www.herdalum.com](http://www.herdalum.com).



## A MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE OF ALUMNI RELATIONS

### REFLECTING ON THE PAST, LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Greetings, Fellow Alumni and Friends of Marshall University:

As we turn the page on another year, it is a perfect time to reflect on where we have been while also looking toward the future and all that it holds.

We look back on a year that was filled with growth and promise for Marshall University. We look back on gifts – big and small – that are making a daily difference in the lives of current and future students. And we look back on another year of student successes, both students who began their Marshall journeys and those who stepped out into the world as brand-new Herd alums.

But we also look toward the future. A future that holds the promise of a brand-new facility to house our award-winning College of Business. A future that includes new programs and facilities for the university. And a future that will define our institution for years to come. Suffice it to say, a lot is happening, and we will have more news in the weeks and months ahead.

In the meantime, we celebrate the milestones and achievements of the people who make all of this possible. For hidden in the midst of all of the hustle and bustle of daily life and the news pouring from social media feeds, televisions and smart devices are the stories that don't always make headline news.

Stories of students at Marshall University leading the charge in the quest to win the battle against opioid addiction, obesity and cancer. Stories of campus organizations coming together to help with natural disaster recovery. Stories of athletic and academic successes and other stories of hope and perseverance.

But while it may all sound like rainbows and butterflies, it is not. Far from it, actually. For we need your help and continued support to forge ahead and set the path toward prominence, the likes of which this university has not seen before.

Whether that support is financial, physical or a combination of the two, we are calling on all Herd alums to step up in 2019 and be heard. Attend an event. Support a student. Engage online. Be an ambassador. Join an alumni chapter. Whatever it is, stand up, be recognized, make a difference and be #MarshallUProud.

The Office of Alumni Relations vows to make 2019 our best year ever, and we have several ways with which we hope to achieve that goal. For starters, we want to tell more stories. Your stories. We want to hear from you and what you are doing in the world. Whether you are a titan of industry or raising a family. Whether you are coming to the end of your career or the journey is just beginning. We want to hear from you often. Whether you have an idea for a great story or simply want to drop us a quick note to say hello, you can do it all at [alumni@marshall.edu](mailto:alumni@marshall.edu).

For now, we leave you with the promise that with the new year comes a new direction and a new commitment to making your experience as alumni the best possible with fun events, perks and other incentives. And we leave you with the knowledge that big things are coming to Marshall University.

Until next time, Godspeed and GO HERD!

Best Regards,  
Rob, Matt and Larry





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