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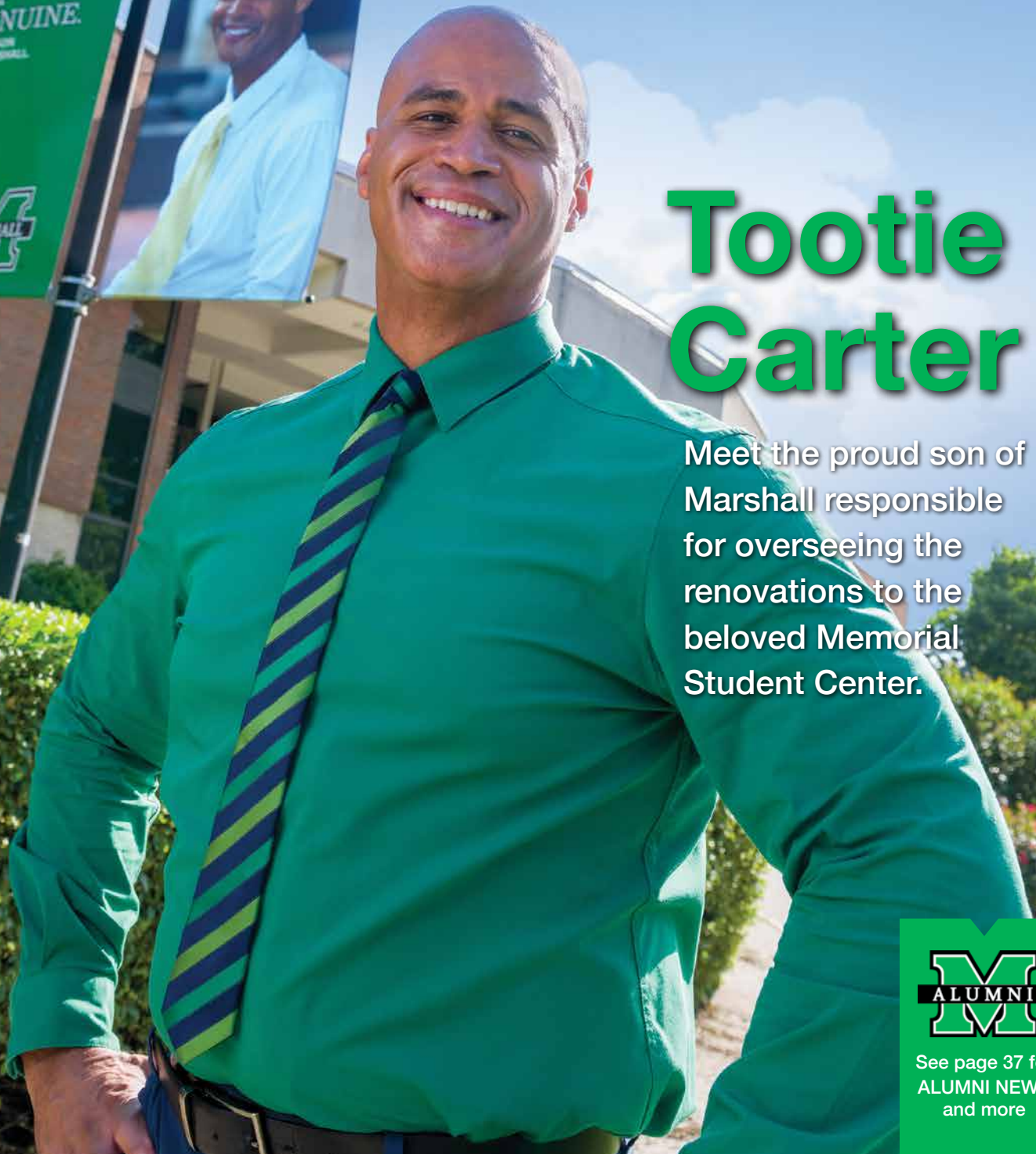
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Marshall



SUMMER 2020

magazine



Tootie Carter

Meet the proud son of Marshall responsible for overseeing the renovations to the beloved Memorial Student Center.



See page 37 for
ALUMNI NEWS
and more



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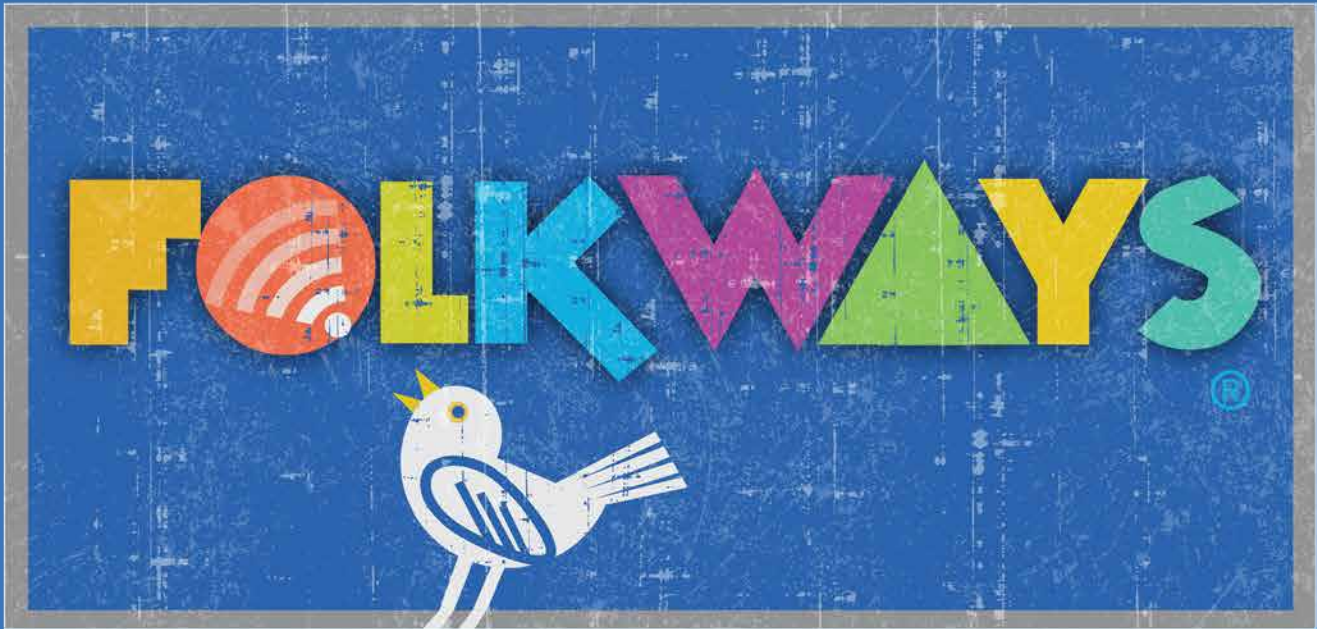
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m a g a z i n e

The official magazine of Marshall University

Summer 2020

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Marshall

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on the cover

One of the most familiar faces on campus, Willam "Tootie" Carter is business manager of the Memorial Student Center. Photo by Rick Lee.

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Catching up with President Gilbert



1. President Gilbert participated in the recognition of donors to all areas of the university, including scholarships. Here he is shown with, from second left, Darby McCloud, a scholarship recipient who spoke at the Marshall University Foundation's ninth annual Donor Recognition Celebration event Oct. 11. With them are from third left, Darby McCloud's brother, Logan McCloud; father, Steven McCloud; and mother, Melissa McCloud.



2. President Gilbert congratulates Dr. Brian Kinghorn, assistant professor in the College of Education and Professional Development, who was named the director of the 2020 National Youth Science Camp Nov. 18. With them is Dr. Andrew Blackwood (right), executive director of the National Youth Science Foundation.



3. President Gilbert signs a memorandum of understanding with Dr. James W. Nemitz, president of the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine (left) Nov. 25. The agreement will allow for collaborative medical education efforts between osteopathic and allopathic programs at each institution.



4. President Gilbert addresses the audience at the traditional memorial services for those lost in the Nov. 14, 1970 plane crash.



5. President Gilbert congratulates the members of Marshall's Health Science Society for receiving the outstanding service award Jan. 25 as part of the Student Affairs Service and Leadership Award Ceremony.



6. President Gilbert presents a donation Dec. 19 from Marshall's senior leadership team to representatives of the Marshall Food Pantry, which is an outreach effort of the dietetics department.

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Barry Burgess has been with Somerville & Company since graduating from Marshall University in 1985. He became a partner in 1995 and managing partner in 2015.





Tootie Carter

Meet the man charged with overseeing the renovation of the Memorial Student Center and learn why his name is synonymous with Marshall University.

By Molly McClennen

Photos by Rick Lee and Rick Haye

Tootie Carter following the grand reopening of the student center in December.



(Left) Tootie Carter stands outside the Memorial Student Center where he manages all daily operations of the building. (Above) Carter oversaw the complete renovation of the student center.

“Whenever you mention Tootie, people smile.”

— Brandi Jacobs-Jones,
MU senior VP for operations and chief of staff

When Tootie Carter graduated from Man High School in 1986, he made the decision to attend Marshall because it was close to his family and friends in Logan County. That decision proved to be serendipitous, not only for Carter, who has never left Marshall since arriving as a freshman 34 years ago, but for the university as well, who gained an employee who has dedicated himself to making sure the Memorial Student Center remains the welcoming “heart of the campus” that is so beloved by students and staff.

“There are a few individuals on campus whose names are synonymous with Marshall University. William ‘Tootie’ Carter is one of those individuals,” said Brandi Jacobs-Jones, Marshall University senior vice president for operations and chief of staff. “Whenever you mention Tootie, people smile. No matter what Tootie is asked to lead or assist with, he does so willingly and competently. He is the epitome of what it means to be a Son of Marshall.”

It is likely no one has a better understanding of the importance of the Memorial Student Center to the Marshall

community than Tootie Carter. Starting when he was a student, he has held numerous positions at Marshall, most of which have been located in the Student Center. While he was a student, Carter worked for the bookstore and for the facilities scheduling department. After graduation, he worked for catering and as a full-time conference assistant. As people moved on to new opportunities through the years, Carter had the opportunity to take on additional responsibilities, becoming the student center’s operations coordinator and business manager. In his present



(Center) More of a transformation than a renovation, the student center has a fresh, modern look, while keeping some of the features that set it apart from other student unions such as the fireplace and the openness of the main lobby. (Right) Carter speaks at the Memorial Student Center reopening celebration that was held on Dec. 5, 2019.

role as director of business operations, Carter manages all daily operations in the student center, the bookstore and dining services. He also oversees facilities scheduling for all events held on campus, including events for the community, like weddings, meetings and banquets. And, most recently, he was responsible for overseeing the renovations to the student center.

As director, Carter supervises a new generation of students who work in the student center. The breadth of his work experience gives him a deep understanding of how valuable the work these students do is to the university.

“I respect what goes into setting up a room for an event. I know what it takes to make this building run,” he said. “I can say I understand because I have been there, doing what they do, from top to bottom.”

When he accepted that first job as a student working in the center, Carter clearly happened upon a career path that was the perfect fit for him.

“After 24 years, I still feel fresh and excited about my job,” said Carter. “When you really enjoy what you do, you lose track of time. I don’t want to go anywhere else. Marshall is my home. I plan to retire from here.”

But, as is the case with many students, it took Carter a while to figure out what he wanted to do. He first explored the possibility of becoming a physical therapist before deciding that was not right for him. He then thought he would follow in the footsteps of the numerous members of his family who are educators before deciding teaching was not the right fit, either. His interest in fitness and teaching were not lost, though; in addition to working at Marshall, Carter is a longtime fitness class instructor at Huntington’s YMCA.

Carter credits Marshall for helping him find his path in life.

“I was one of those students who took a while to graduate,” he said. “Marshall is very good in helping you

find your way, even if you don’t know yet. I tell students, even if you are having a hard time, you will find what you want to do. If your major does not feel right, you should not do it. As a student, you have several chances to get it right. If something does not work, it is okay.”

Carter said his father, esteemed longtime Man High School football coach Tootie Carter Sr., instilled in him the work ethic that enabled him to rise from student employee to director. He credits his mother with giving him his positive attitude and sense of humor. He remains close to his family and, just as he did when he was a freshman, appreciates that he lives close enough to make the trip to Logan County easily. Just like his father, who at the age of 77 is still working as a substitute teacher and middle-school football coach, Carter said he plans to continue to stay active and serve his community for many decades to come.

Carter said no accomplishment in his time at Marshall can compare with the pride he feels in the student center renovations.

“I never imagined that I would one day be involved in renovating the Memorial Student Center from start to finish. It is an honor that university leadership trusted me to oversee the project,” he said.

Carter said his job never gets old because Marshall is always changing and growing. He expects those changes to continue and looks forward to continuing to be part of that.

“I see big things for Marshall in the future. I am a small piece of that future, but I am glad to be a part of it. I love doing my share to contribute to Marshall’s growth. This is a very special place.” □

Molly McClennen is a freelance writer who lives in Huntington, West Virginia.





Extreme Makeover

After nearly 50 years, the Memorial Student Center undergoes a major renovation and reopens to rave reviews.

By Molly McClennen

Photos by Rick Lee and Rick Haye

Marshall University's Memorial Student Center stands at the heart of campus, both physically and metaphorically. Opened in 1971 as a memorial to the 75 people who lost their lives in the 1970 plane crash, it stood largely unchanged until the summer of 2019. Then the iconic building underwent a major renovation to update it.

"There are buildings on campus that students identify with their academic major. If you are a history major, you might identify with Harris Hall. But not everyone is a history major. There are only a few spaces on campus that are shared by everyone," said Dr. Jerome Gilbert, president of Marshall University. "The student center is one of those places. It is a place that affects all our students, so it is important that we have a welcoming student center where students feel comfortable. I knew if we could refresh the student center, students would warmly embrace that area and appreciate that facelift."



The newly-renovated John Marshall Dining Room and Huntington Market offer numerous options for students and faculty including Starbucks, Steak and Shake, an expanded Chick-Fil-A and local Italian favorite La Famiglia.

The most striking feature of the renovated student center is the new staircase, with its gleaming metal and glass banisters. The staircase originally connected only the first and second floors. It now extends to the lower level, connecting all three floors of the building and providing easier access to the offices and recreation activities housed on the lower level.

"There are ping pong tables and pool tables on the lower level that some students did not know existed, but now that the staircase leads down, those things are visible to them," said Hannah Brown, a junior elementary education major.

When surveyed for their feedback on the student center, students consistently said they loved the fireplace, which has always been the focal point of the first-floor lobby. The fireplace remains, but was refaced to better match the



Standing on the beautiful new staircase and cutting the ceremonial ribbon to reopen the Memorial Student Center on Dec. 5, 2019, are, from left, Susan Aylward, Follett regional manager; Cheryl King, Sodexo general manager; Stephanie Rogner, student body president; William "Tootie" Carter, director of business operations of the student center; and President Jerome Gilbert.

building's brighter look. New seating was installed to provide a variety of comfortable spots for students to socialize or relax. Outlets throughout the lobby allow students to charge their electronic devices. A study alcove located off the main lobby provides a place for students who want to work in a quieter environment. The cafeteria now opens into the lobby, creating a more unified flow between the two spaces, and offers new dining options like Steak and Shake, an expanded Chick-Fil-A and local favorite La Famiglia, which serves homemade pizzas and salads.

"We wanted the renovated building to create a wow effect, and it truly does," said William "Tootie" Carter, director of business operations for the student center. "Yet, at the same time, we wanted to keep some of the items that set us apart from other student unions such as the fireplace and the openness of the main lobby. It's much more like a transformation than a renovation."



An interactive photograph of the 1970 football team was installed on one wall of the lobby. Visitors can touch the photo to display a biography of each team member.



The student center is an icon on campus that is shared by everyone. New seating and an open layout make it even more user-friendly.

First-year political science and mathematics major Cameron Donohue remembers visiting the student center when he would come to campus for events during high school. He is impressed with how modern the building looks now.

“It feels like it is part of a modern university. Before it felt tight — there was not a lot of room to move around. Now it feels very open and it offers a lot of choices of different kinds of spaces students can use to do homework or relax.”

While the student center has a fresh, modern look, it retains its connection to Marshall’s history. As part of the renovation, an interactive photograph of the 1970 football team was installed on one wall of the lobby. Visitors can touch the photo to display a biography of each team member.

The student center is a gathering spot for all Marshall students, but commuters especially appreciate having an updated, comfortable place where they can spend time between classes.

“We have a lot of commuters who may spend the whole day here,” said Carter. “We want to have nice services for them during the time between their classes, whether it’s a comfortable chair in the lobby or a good meal in the cafeteria or a place to meet their friends. We want the student center to be their home away from home.”

Commuter student Darby McCloud, a junior biology-premed major, says the newly renovated space better fits the needs of students and will make a good impression on visitors when they come to campus.

“It is a better place to study now,” McCloud said. “There are so many more students using it. We host the S.C.O.R.E.S. Academic Festival for high schoolers every year. I can’t wait to see their reactions when they see it.”

Carter emphasized that there were many individual and entities involved in the student center renovation.

“We all worked together to make this happen,” Carter said. “From putting together the proposal, the new layout, selecting a contractor, choosing furnishings, paint colors, wall coverings, the new stairs, lighting and more, a lot of time and effort went into this important project. While all this was going on, the building was never closed. I think the key to our success was keeping the lines of communication open.”

The Memorial Student Center is open to the public, although currently there may be some restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic and social distancing. Gilbert invites members of the community to visit so they can appreciate the renovations, enjoy a meal in the food court and browse in the sprawling bookstore.

“Visiting the Memorial Student Center is a great way for people in the community to get a taste of campus life,” says Gilbert. “The student center is the living room of the campus. I was so pleased we could complete this project for our students.” □

Molly McClennen is a freelance writer who lives in Huntington, West Virginia.

manufacturing technology





RCBI @ 30

For 30 years the Robert C. Byrd Institute has been an invaluable resource for manufacturers, inventors, entrepreneurs, educators and students.

By James E. Casto

Photos by Rick Lee

Born in the humble surroundings of the basement of Old Main in 1990, the Robert C. Byrd Institute has had an impact that extends well beyond the university and beyond the borders of West Virginia. From the entrepreneur with an idea sketched on a napkin to Fortune 500 companies, RCBI assists businesses of all sizes as they develop and launch new products, enter new markets and increase sales so they can thrive and prosper. And it has been doing this for 30 years now.

“That’s 30 years of working with companies to help improve their manufacturing and operational practices,” said Charlotte Weber, RCBI director and CEO since 1996. “Thirty years of introducing new technologies. Thirty years of offering hands-on skills training in manual and computer-controlled machining. Thirty years of advancing innovative economic development in West Virginia.”

Marshall President Jerome A. Gilbert is an enthusiastic supporter of RCBI.

“The development and continued sustainability of RCBI at Marshall University is the result of the efforts of many forward-thinking people, including Director Weber,” said Gilbert. “Marshall and RCBI, working in tandem over the last three decades, have helped launch small businesses, trained thousands of workers and provided a solid base of economic support for opportunities across the state. I’m optimistic the next 30 years will be even brighter.”

RCBI was founded when the federal government funded eight “Factories of the Future” pilot projects across the country designed to help small- and medium-sized manufacturers adopt the latest technology. The late U.S. Sen. Robert C. Byrd, D-W.Va., made sure one of those projects was located at Marshall. All



Charlotte Weber, RCBI director and CEO

the centers have since closed except one – RCBI.

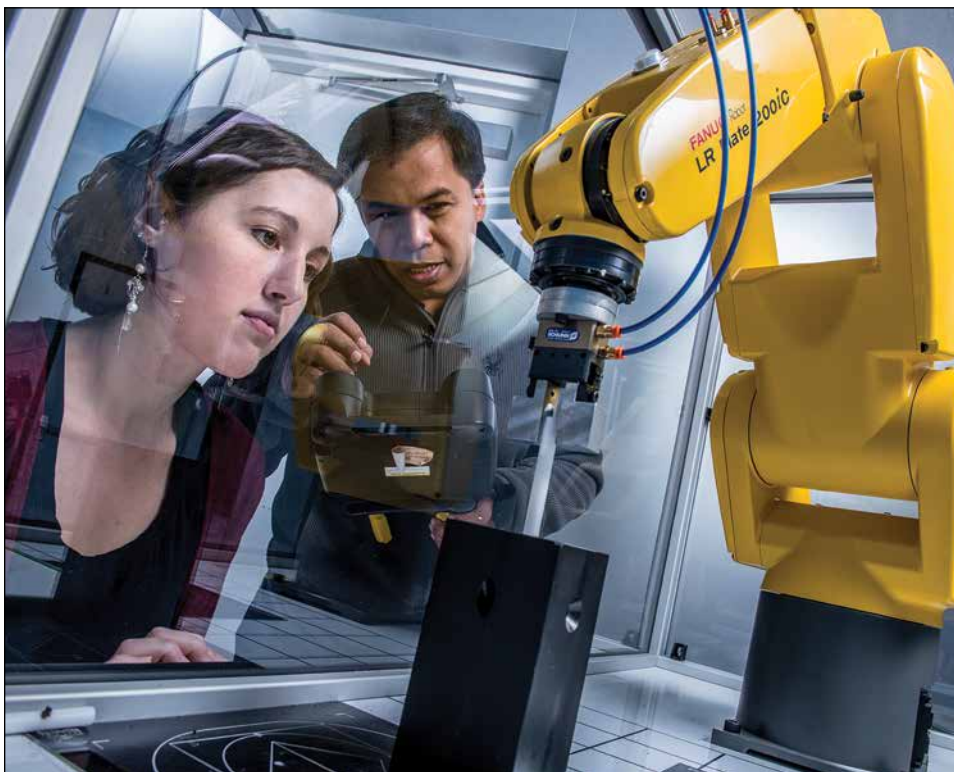
“Part of our ability to outlast the other centers is our willingness to change and adapt,” said Mike Friel, director of communications at RCBI.

“Not only have we survived, we have thrived.”

RCBI quickly outgrew its cramped quarters at Old Main and moved to the former Huntington Trust & Savings Bank building at 1040 4th Ave. in downtown Huntington.

“Today we operate not just the facility here in Huntington, but additional advanced manufacturing centers in South Charleston and in Bridgeport, as well as manufacturing training centers in Williamson and Welch,” Weber said.

RCBI is a multi-faceted technology center that provides diverse services to manufacturers, entrepreneurs, educators and students. It’s perhaps best known for its shared manufacturing facilities that provide access to



RCBI provides clients a wide array of design engineering, reverse engineering, additive manufacturing (more commonly called “3D printing”) and rapid prototyping capabilities.

state-of-the-art equipment and cutting-edge technologies that are available for affordable lease.

Workforce training is a key component of RCBI's operation. Responding to a nationwide shortage of skilled machinists, RCBI in 1998, with the help and guidance of a statewide industry board of advisors, created its nationally recognized Machinist Technology Program, which combines classroom instruction with hands-on training.

The program offers certifications in both manual and computer-numerical-controlled (CNC) machining. Graduates earn individual certifications from the National Institute for Metalworking Skills and have an opportunity to earn a two-year degree from a local community and technical college — either Mountwest in Huntington or Southern in Williamson and Welch.



Students can learn the most advanced welding techniques at RCBI's partner locations, the Cabell County Career and Technical Center and the Spring Valley Career and Technical Center.



For 30 years RCBI has been working with companies and students to help improve their manufacturing and operational skills while introducing them to new technologies.

RCBI is also widely known for its advanced welding programs, offered at partner locations, the Cabell County Career and Technical Center and the Spring Valley Career and Technical Center. Students and individuals have the opportunity to learn the most advanced welding techniques as well as earn their AWS certification and an associate degree from Mountwest Community and Technical College.

RCBI provides clients a wide array of design engineering, reverse engineering, additive manufacturing (more commonly called “3D printing”) and rapid prototyping capabilities.

The former bank that now houses RCBI had a vault which, naturally enough, held money. Today, the repurposed vault is home to an array of high-tech equipment that includes 3D printers, laser etchers and engravers, routers, vinyl cutters and more. RCBI's community makerspace

— better known as the “Maker Vault” — regularly welcomes inventive souls who've come up with an idea but may have nothing more than a sketch on a paper napkin.

RCBI's reach is far and wide. Through its customized training programs and Apprenticeship Works initiative, RCBI helps manufacturers across the nation implement training programs and manage apprenticeship programs.

Apprenticeships offer workers an opportunity to learn while they earn, providing them with both a weekly paycheck and essential on-the-job training. Both customized training and apprenticeships benefit employers large and small by providing them with a strong, dependable talent pipeline.

In a pioneering effort, RCBI created a model apprenticeship program for West Virginia employers. Employers that use RCBI's approach

RCBI Advanced Manufacturing Centers



Huntington, West Virginia



South Charleston, West Virginia



Bridgeport, West Virginia

Manufacturing training centers are also located in Williamson and Welch.

are able to establish apprenticeships more quickly and thus address their need for skilled workers faster.

The RCBI initiative so impressed the U.S. Department of Labor that it awarded RCBI a \$4.9 million grant to expand its model to companies nationwide. As a result, RCBI is not only the largest manufacturing apprenticeship sponsor in West Virginia, it also has delivered its Apprenticeship Works initiative to employers in 18 states.

RCBI also assists manufacturers and suppliers with implementation of quality management systems. This service helps ensure they remain effective suppliers and are able to successfully compete for government and private contracts. RCBI also helps clients develop Leadership, Lean and Risk Management skills as well as earn lean canvas manufacturing certifications that immediately help companies identify lead times for new products and assess new markets.

Say a professor has an idea for a new product. Or an entrepreneur wants to test his design for a better fastener. Perhaps an existing business seeks to launch a new product line. These and many other ideas have become reality with RCBI's help. Since 2012 RCBI has awarded nearly \$700,000 in early-stage assistance to 172 West Virginia entrepreneurs and startup companies, helping them design and patent new products, in-source work, cut lead times and create jobs.

RCBI's early-stage funding programs have generated more than \$70 million in state sales and led to the creation of nearly 400 jobs, according to economic impact analyses by Marshall.

West Virginia is home to nearly a dozen auto parts manufacturers that each year spend more than \$200 million purchasing goods and services, yet only a third or so of that total is spent with state suppliers.

In 2019, RCBI partnered with Advantage Valley to host an Automotive Supply Chain Expo, bringing representatives from the state's auto parts industry face to face with suppliers who potentially could provide goods and services faster, more reliably and even cheaper.

The event proved highly successful and was followed by a similar one designed to link small West Virginia businesses with major chemical and polymer manufacturers in the state. That, too, proved a successful event. Now, responding to the challenges presented from the coronavirus, RCBI is hosting virtual supply chain events with major steel companies and others.

Agricultural Innovations, funded by the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation, is an RCBI initiative designed to improve opportunities for the farming and agricultural economy across West Virginia. The initiative involves realizing a vision of supporting and enhancing a vibrant local foods system powered by entrepreneurship, innovation and technology. State farmers and entrepreneurs who have an idea that will improve opportunities for the farming and agricultural sector are invited to seek early-stage assistance from RCBI to help move their ideas from concept to reality.

A 2016 feasibility study commissioned by the Huntington Area Development Council concluded that the Huntington region is well positioned to support, expand and enhance the footprint of its aviation and aerospace industry by connecting local manufacturers to the supply chain as well as enhancing the aviation workforce.

Today, RCBI Aero, funded by a grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration, is working with Marshall and Mountwest to help make that



Since 1990 RCBI has offered hands-on skills training in manual and computer-controlled machining. In that time the organization has advanced innovative economic development in West Virginia and beyond.

happen. Marshall is opening a flight school located at Yeager Airport in Charleston, and Huntington's Tri-State Airport will be home to a state-of-the-art, new Airframe & Powerplant (A&P) program designed to educate students in aircraft maintenance and repair operations. This new program will allow students to earn their FAA certification and earn degrees from both Marshall University and Mountwest Community and Technical College, the first dual degree program in the state of West Virginia.

Looking ahead, Weber sees a bright future for RCBI and its many clients. "We look forward to the next 30 years serving on the front lines of technological sophistication, providing new and powerful tools to help make things we can only now imagine, and bringing them into the lives of people who will use them." □

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

Back to School

From the classroom to the playing field, Marshall officials prepare to safely return students and fans back to campus.

By Keith Morehouse

The Memorial Student Center is the town square at Marshall University, but on an 80-degree June day, there's not a soul on the plaza. The water tumbles from the Memorial Fountain into the reflecting pool but there are no students perched nearby. Even the hedges in front of the student center could use some attention. Since March 13 this has been a campus in hibernation.

This is 2020, the year of the coronavirus.

"This place has been a ghost town," said Tracy Smith, the university's director of environmental health and safety. Not long after in-person classes were cancelled, Smith, along with a task force, went right to work. They were charged with the gargantuan task of determining how to safely bring students back to campus for the fall.

"I've been in environmental health and safety for 27 years and this is by

far the largest environmental public health challenge I've ever had to deal with," Smith said. "The reason is that Marshall is basically a city within a city."

The coronavirus pandemic has forced college administrators to engage in dialogue with experts in health, science, safety, facilities, athletics, housing and food service to try and figure out a way to get students back to school — ideally not in front of a computer, but in front of a professor again.

"If they pay for a face-to-face experience, we want to try to give them a face-to-face experience," said Marshall Provost Dr. Jaime Taylor.

Taylor said students might not recognize their classrooms this fall, but what better place than a college campus for some creative thinking?

"Some faculty are looking at using Blackboard Collaborate (video conferencing for learning)," Taylor



An aerial view of the northwestern corner of Marshall's Huntington campus shows, from left, the John Deaver Drinko Library, Old Main and Smith Hall. The Ohio River is visible in the background.



PHOTO BY RICK LEE

explained. “In one scenario half the students could come to the physical classroom while the other half could connect to the classroom remotely. Technology would allow real-time interaction between these two cohorts of students and with the instructor, and each day the cohorts could switch places. Instructors don’t have to dramatically change how they teach, and the students don’t have to dramatically modify how they learn. Our goal is to reduce the number of students in the classroom at any one time while still providing a near face-to-face experience for those who are not physically in the classroom that day.”

The campus visual also may be vastly different. The experts say the buildings will have entrance-only and exit-only doors. The number of students in common spaces will be restricted. There will be daily wellness checks for students, and they will be required to wear masks and practice social distancing. The semester will begin on time on Aug. 24, but face-to-face instruction on campus will end the Saturday before Thanksgiving. The final week of classes as well as final exam week will be conducted remotely. Ashley Lewis will take that over the alternative. She’s a senior nursing student from Minford, Ohio, and she’s learned plenty after in-person classes were cancelled in March.

“It was very difficult,” Lewis said of finishing the



Memorial Fountain is a popular meeting place though the number of students allowed in campus common areas will be restricted this year.



Xavier Gaines is one of the most versatile athletes in the nation and is capable of playing quarterback, running back and receiver.



Marshall students say they are ready to return to the classroom so they can interact more directly with their professors.

spring semester online. “Professors didn’t use Zoom (video conferencing); they just recorded the lecture and you had to listen to it and study it. It’s much better in the classroom, and honestly it’s not even comparable. I’m so looking forward to going back and enjoying the social interaction and seeing my friends. I’m more motivated.”

Taylor said while online and distance learning are valuable tools, he feels college life is about community.

“Human interaction is incredibly valuable in the learning experience,” Taylor said. “I always talk about it that way. Learning is like playing basketball, and the faculty member is the coach. The coach can demonstrate how to do something all day, but the coach really has to see what the students are doing, and you need that coach watching you and helping you through the learning process.”

That basketball analogy rings true all the way across campus.

In March, Marshall’s basketball teams were one thousand miles away at the Conference USA Basketball Tournament in Frisco Texas. Marshall’s men’s team ended up playing the last game of the tourney at the Ford Center – a win over UTEP on the night of Wednesday, March 11. The Herd’s women’s game with Rice the next day was called as the teams were warming up for the contest.

Unbeknownst to

Marshall guard Jarrod West, the college basketball season was over. Since then he's had plenty of time in his hometown of Clarksburg, West Virginia, to think about next year, and he's hopeful that the games go on.

"I'm kind of getting nervous," the All-Conference USA senior guard said. "I'm not gonna lie. I feel like we have a really good team with a lot of good players coming back. We all know we have to accept these safety conditions, stay positive and listen to the experts and the scientists and have a strong belief that they'll take care of us."

Over at Joan C. Edwards Stadium a Herd football player runs toward the Shewey Building with a face mask on, and this one's not attached to a helmet. This is just part of the "new normal" for players as they come back to campus. Much of Marshall's team returned to voluntary workouts on June 1 to a battery of COVID-19 tests. There were strict rules on where and with whom they could work out, and they were always under the watchful eye of doctors, trainers and coaches.

After testing 112 people before voluntary workouts began, three players and one staffer tested positive for the coronavirus. All were asymptomatic and the cases weren't believed to be related.

"We immediately put them in quarantine, along with those who had direct



One option being considered this fall is to have half the students in the classroom with the other half connecting to class remotely.



Darius Hodge emerged as a breakout pass rusher last season and the coaching staff expects big things from him in the fall.



Marshall officials want student life to return to normal as much as possible, but social distancing rules will be enforced.

contact with them," Athletic Director Mike Hamrick said. "We are so glad our plan included testing as it will enable us as we move forward to know who is positive in order to keep everyone safe. This indicates our plan is working."

Hamrick has the unenviable task of working the numbers game if schools are forced to play sports in front of a limited audience this upcoming season.

"We have several plans to get 'X' amount of people in the stadium based upon what we're told to do," Hamrick said. "There's a scenario where, if you're not a season ticket holder, you don't get to watch Marshall football in the stadium this year."

None of these administrators has a crystal ball. But what's fairly certain is that the classrooms, residence halls and athletic contests might not appear as you remember them.

But when students do come back to the Huntington campus, Marshall University will never look better. □

Keith Morehouse is the sports director at WSAZ NewsChannel 3. He is a two-time Emmy winner and the recipient of the West Virginia Sportscaster of the Year award in 1999, 2007 and 2012. He graduated from Marshall University in 1983 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Broadcast Journalism.

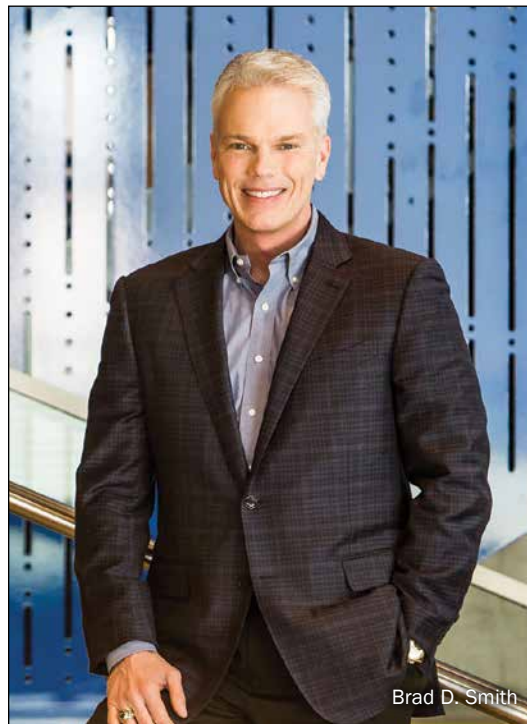
• brad d. smith business incubator



Marshall's Visual Arts Center in downtown Huntington is home to The Brad D. Smith Business Incubator on the ground floor. The School of Art and Design occupies the rest of the building.

Springboard to Success

The Brad D. Smith Business Incubator in downtown Huntington hopes to hatch hundreds of new jobs in the region.



For those who know and love Huntington, it doesn't take a long walk downtown to see that the city has had numerous positive changes in the last 10 years. So, how does that momentum keep building in the next decade and beyond? Marshall University has answered that question with the creation of a business incubator located in the heart of the city. Its goal is to keep entrepreneurial blood flowing through Huntington, the Tri-State region and the entire state of West Virginia.

By Shane Arrington

Photos by Rick Lee and Rick Haye

The Brad D. Smith Business Incubator opened earlier this year, landing its first two clients before the phone system was installed. North American Consulting Services, an international cyber security firm, and Impact Employment, a brand-new startup working to help those coming out of recovery to find employment, set up shop at the incubator as soon as the lights were turned on. While the two businesses appear to have nothing in common on the surface, underneath they are both driven by local entrepreneurs and serve as examples of what individuals from the area can accomplish. What's more, they serve as a beacon to those outside West Virginia looking for business opportunities within the state.

There are many success stories that originated in Huntington and at Marshall, but one of the brightest is that of Brad D. Smith, for whom the incubator is named. A Kenova native and Marshall graduate, Smith is as home-grown as they come. The former CEO of software giant Intuit, Smith has spent the last five years giving back to the community and school that, as he likes to say, built him. The current chairman of Nordstrom said he is proud to have his name attached to the incubator.

"Everything I've been able to do in my life is 100 percent attributable to the people who believed in me," Smith said. "So, when I step back and think of the people of West Virginia, the diverse business opportunities for those who live there and for investors looking to move into

the state, I know anything is possible. We have the talent; we just need the support to help them be successful, and that's what the incubator is trying to do."

Support. It's a concept Smith often talks about, and one highlighted on nearly every business incubator's website. Sometimes it's an empty concept; sometimes it's backed up. Marshall backs it up.

Beyond providing the office space, complete with everything a 21st century startup needs from computers and phones to high-speed internet and video conferencing systems, the incubator provides much more. The connection with Marshall's business school not only offers a steady stream of interns to incubator clients, but also future employees as students graduate. The association also provides access to faculty members and business leaders, as well as assistance with business plans, marketing and more.

Just as important, but perhaps not as obvious, is the support provided by the incubator being housed inside Marshall's Visual Arts Center. Smith, who has made a point of bringing Silicon Valley leaders to West Virginia, continuously highlights the concept of design thinking. One of the core tenants of the concept is creatively approaching a solution. As such, the access to a variety of creative faculty and students just down the hall is a huge benefit to those looking to get their businesses off the ground. Smith looks at Apple Inc. as a great example of how business and art make successful partnerships, and



Successful Marshall graduates Jim Rorrer and Casey Robinson (top left) were recruited by Marshall President Dr. Jerry Gilbert to get the business incubator up and running. The incubator has 13 spaces available for new businesses looking for office space and support from a panel of experts. (Note: This photo was taken before social distancing and mask requirements resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.)



Some of the key players at the business incubator include, from left, James D. Rorrer, Charlotte Weber, Casey J. Robinson, President Jerry Gilbert and Avinandan Mukherjee. The incubator is ready to hit the ground running when COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.

said the combination has been successful in incubators throughout Silicon Valley.

The incubator currently has 13 spaces built and ready to go, with four of those in use between its two clients. The COVID-19 pandemic brought new client intake to a halt, but as things open back up the incubator expects to hit the ground running. As more clients come in, the incubator has the capability to expand to more than double its current space offerings.

Successful Marshall graduates Jim Rorrer and Casey Robinson were recruited by Marshall President Dr. Jerome Gilbert to get the incubator up and running. The duo said the goal of the incubator is to “graduate” its clients after a period of one to two years, and then see them move out into the community. In the next five years they hope to help 100 businesses find their footing.

“It has also been very rewarding to give back to Marshall and the community while, as the same time, enhancing the student experience,” said Robinson, who has 30 years of experience as a certified financial planner and financial advisor. “I am truly optimistic that the incubator, along with Brad Smith’s commitment to the Lewis College of Business, will generate progress for both Marshall and Huntington.”

“I am excited and humbled to be a part of this,”

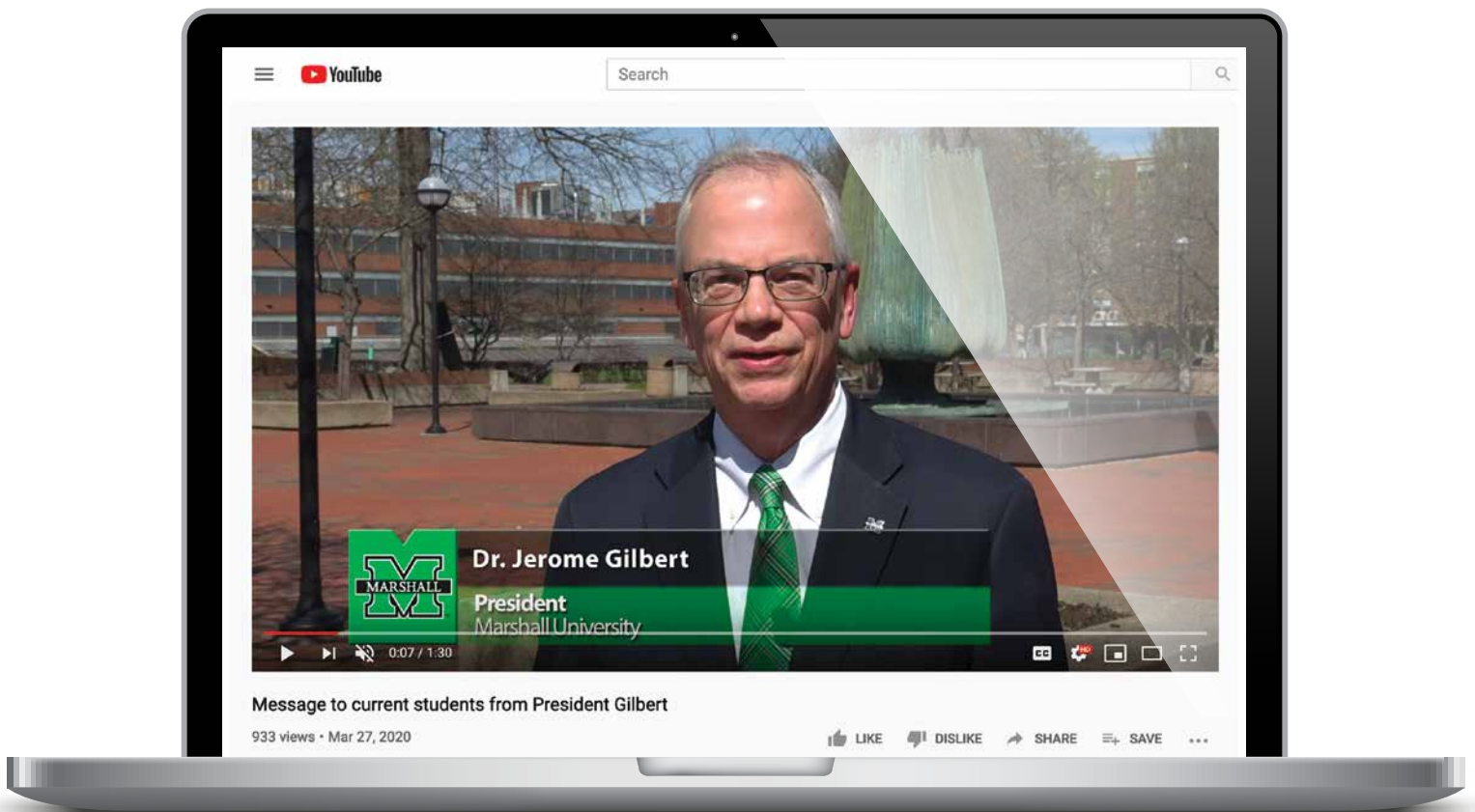
said Rorrer, a former banker, institutional investor and financial adviser. “We are open to everyone, not just West Virginia-grown businesses, but anyone looking to come into the state and grow here. We expect the majority of our clients to be local, but if someone from another part of the country or world wants to work with Marshall’s medical and cyber forensics programs, for example, we are here to help support them. The only limit here is their imagination.”

Imagination is something Marshall and Huntington do not lack. From recognizing the need for a cutting-edge business incubator, to designing a state-of-the-art facility within the Visual Arts Center located just blocks from a leading university, things have been set up for success. Lead by top business leaders with a passion for Marshall, Huntington and the state of West Virginia, the incubator is ready to be a springboard for future entrepreneurs.

Those seeking more information on the incubator, including how to apply for an office within the facility, can find more information at www.marshall.edu/incubator. □

Shane Arrington is a freelance writer living in South Point, Ohio.

The Social Savvy PRESIDENT



President Jerry Gilbert has always been close to students and he hasn't let the COVID-19 pandemic curb that relationship.

By Carter Seaton

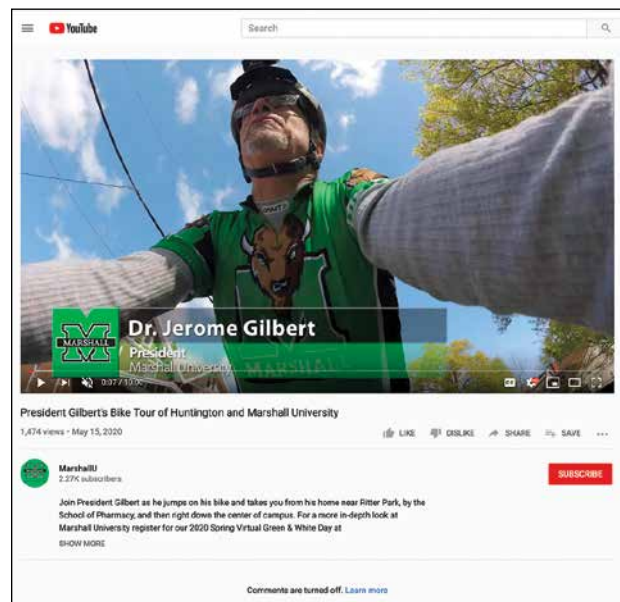
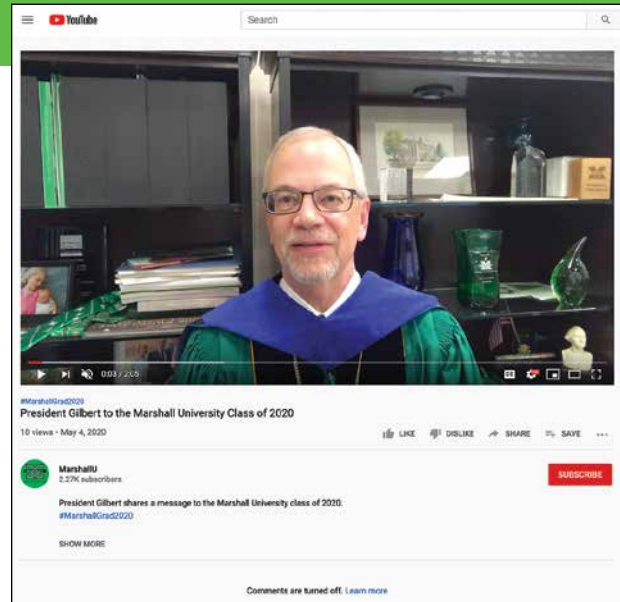
Before the COVID-19 pandemic hit Marshall University's campus, President Jerome (Jerry) Gilbert was deeply involved with his students as well as being a savvy user of social media. An early adapter of computer technology, last year during graduation he and WVU President Gordon Gee engaged in a competition to see who could have the most selfies with their students. No winner was declared, but that's the kind of engagement Gilbert has enjoyed since he became Marshall's president. He said it's one of the things he does to let the students see him as a real person, not just a figurehead. And, that's extremely important to him. Why?

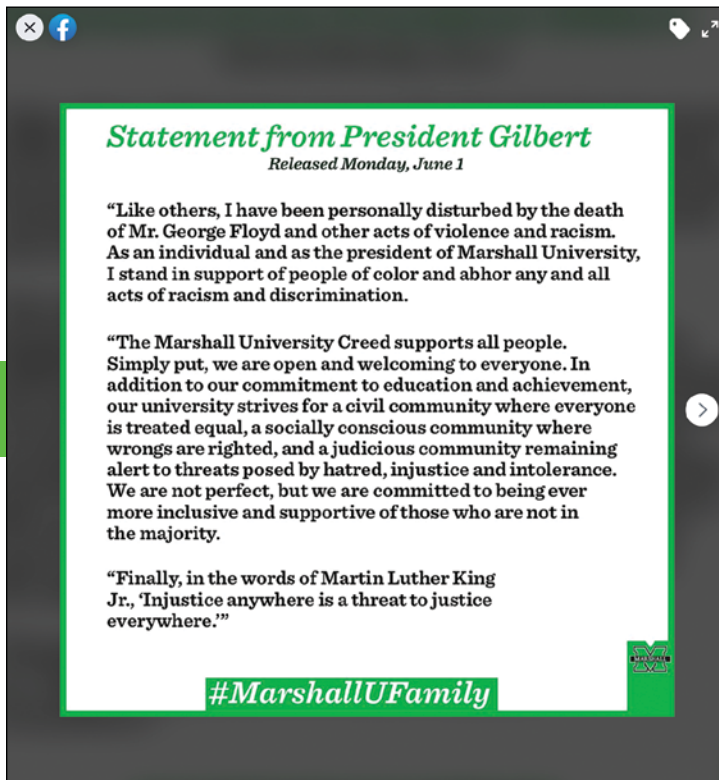
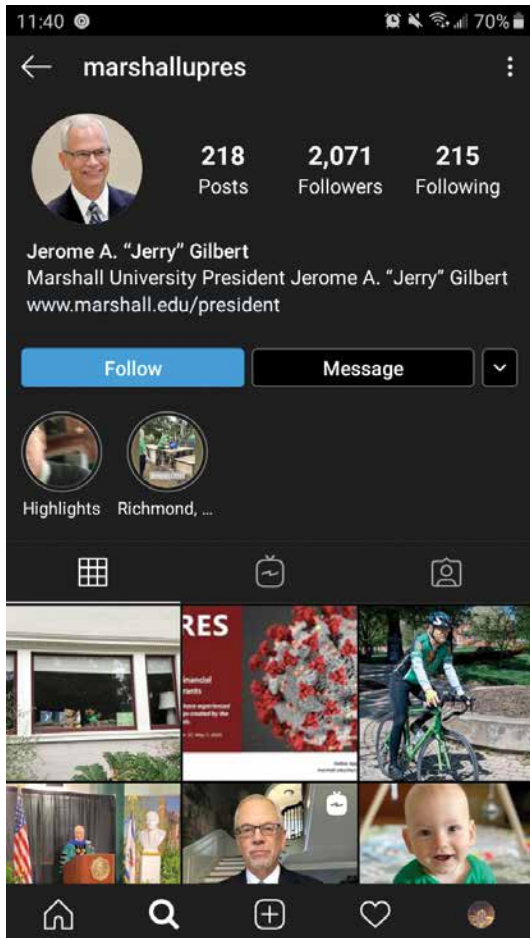
"I love the students. I tell them that if they see me walking across campus to come up to me and say 'hello' and take a selfie," he explained.

Gilbert eats in the student center on a regular basis, and it's not at all unusual for students to wave at him or chat with him as they pass by. For the last two years he has attended every freshman introduction class where he talked to and shook hands with every student. And he didn't just say hello. He asked where they were from and what interested them.

Gilbert and the Yeager Scholars have a book club and meet regularly. He also meets with student government representatives on a biweekly basis. As if that weren't enough, he makes the President's Home available for student groups to use and has even written articles for *The Parthenon*, the university's student newspaper. Clearly, he wants the students to see him as a real, engaged person.

Sadly, the coronavirus pandemic ended his selfies and all those in-person meetings, at least for the time being. But, it didn't stop his engagement with them. Gilbert simply took to technology. He was already active on Twitter and Instagram, so he simply stepped up his game. After he began working from home following the administration's







March 11 announcement that classes would be suspended, he began to record messages to the students.

“I’d started working from home, so I did a little video in what I call the John Marshall Room, which is the living room, and walked over to the dining room where I’d set up my little command station,” Gilbert said. “I just said, ‘Here I am at the President’s house and I’m still working and just wanted to say hello.’ I wanted them to know I was thinking about them.”

He said it was sort of folksy and homespun, but it hit just the right note to let the students know he was in the same boat as they were. That began a series of videos, some funny, some more somber and melancholy. He sang *Till We Meet Again* and he read the Marshall alma mater while channeling Mr. Rogers. (While he didn’t tell the students, he was once mistaken for Mr. Rogers on an Atlanta subway.) His video messages remind students not to be discouraged during the pandemic.

Gilbert even did a campus tour on his bike – he wanted to be seen as physically active, not just some old guy who strolls across campus. Using a GoPro on his helmet and one on the handlebars, he rode through the entire Huntington campus pointing out buildings and landmarks. That particular video also found a new audience with alumni. Many have written to say how much they’ve enjoyed seeing the changes on campus. It may not be a one-off video tour either.

“We’re thinking about doing one to the Marshall

Memorial at Spring Hill Cemetery. It would be a documentary of sorts,” Gilbert said.

While Gilbert is tech savvy, he said at best he is an amateur videographer.

“On my videos I used my phone to play background music, which meant I couldn’t use it to record the video. So, I used my wife’s phone for that task. It was sort of a bootleg operation.”

Gilbert plans to do at least one more video during this summer just to say hello and to tell students he looks forward to seeing them in the fall. He also plans a virtual “welcome back” video and another for orientation.

“I think people watched the videos and found them to be a bit funny,” Gilbert said. “Maybe they made people smile and say, ‘Let’s watch that crazy president and see what he’s going to say this time.’”

And if that makes him a real person who cares about his students, then he’s accomplished his goal. □

Carter Seaton is the author of two novels and the nonfiction book *Hippie Homesteaders*. She received the 2014 Literary Merit Award from the West Virginia Library Association, the Marshall University College of Liberal Arts Distinguished Alumni Award in 2015 and the Governor’s Award for Lifetime Achievement in the Arts in 2016. Her biography of Ken Hechler, *The Rebel in the Red Jeep*, was published in 2017.



From left, Dr. Robert Bookwalter, dean of the College of Liberal Arts; Brandi Jacobs-Jones, senior vice president for operations/chief of staff; and Dr. Karen McComas, executive director of the Center for Teaching and Learning, are co-directors of The John Marshall Leadership Fellows Program.



The John Marshall Leadership Fellows Program

An innovative new program is fostering leadership on campus and inspiring faculty and staff to better themselves and the university.

By Michael Friel

Photos by Rick Lee, Rick Hays and Ben Powell

Marshall University has produced its share of leaders, some quite notable. Think of Brad Smith, the executive chairman of the board and former president and CEO of software giant Intuit. Or Verna Gibson, the first female CEO of a Fortune 500 company. And there's Mike D'Antoni, two-time NBA Coach of the Year – to name a few.

Through a program launched in 2019, Marshall is grooming a new class of leaders – faculty and staff at every level and across all disciplines. The goal of the John Marshall Leadership Fellows Program is to recognize leadership potential

throughout the ranks and inspire participants to achieve their potential while working together for the betterment of the university.

The program is the brainchild of President Jerome Gilbert. Both he and Dr. Jaime Taylor, senior vice president for academic affairs/provost, witnessed the effectiveness of similar programs at other universities.

“Such learning opportunities provide a way for individuals to get a better sense of how the university operates,” Gilbert said. “The idea is that if people understand the university better, they're in a better position to be supportive of its initiatives and to become future leaders



Marshall President Jerome Gilbert

as they see how things are managed within the institution.”

Taylor added that the program also is about building bridges while fostering mutual understanding and respect for other departments and individuals.

“Sometimes there is a separation between faculty and staff,” Taylor explained. “There’s also separation between different departments. One of the things this program does is bring people from different parts of campus together. Once you start to meet these people and learn what they do on a daily basis, it really creates camaraderie.”

Each year approximately 20 fellows are chosen from the ranks of full-time faculty and staff. Individuals apply or are nominated by their peers. The first cohort was selected in 2019, the second earlier this year.

Dr. Robert Bookwalter, dean of the College of Liberal Arts; Dr. Karen McComas, executive director of the Center for Teaching and Learning; and Brandi Jacobs-Jones, senior vice president for operations/ chief of staff; are co-directors of the program, which is based on principles Bookwalter has taught in leadership seminars over some 30 years.

“At the core, leadership is rooted in communication, collaboration and relationships,” Bookwalter said. “Leadership requires us to have relationships with others that allow them to be willingly influenced. Leadership requires that we create a culture of collaborating for the good of the group more so than working toward personal gain. Effective communication is the mechanism by which we build good leader-member relations and a collaborative culture.”

Bookwalter explained that the John Marshall leadership initiative involves three components:

- **Learning about leadership theory and research.** Through seminars, lectures and panel discussions, fellows learn about leadership from scholars and practitioners in the field, including expert faculty and staff at the university.
- **Drawing on leadership experience and insights of members.** Participants meet regularly as a group to share experiences, broaden their understanding of other areas of the university and build networking relationships.
- **Developing initiatives to improve the university.** Cohorts draft proposals for institutional improvement by tackling challenges using the Design Thinking model popularized by Smith at Intuit. In year one the challenge focused on gender equality; in year two, inclusion for all.



The 2019 John Marshall Leadership Fellows Program cohort, from left: (front row) **Shaorong Zang**, College of Business; **Leah Payne**, University Communications; **Kelli Prejean**, College of Liberal Arts; **Shawn Chinn**, Housing and Residence Life; **Terri Moran**, School of Pharmacy; **Lacie Bittinger**, College of Business; **Zach Garrett**, College of Health Professions; **Kristen Lilvis**, College of Liberal Arts; **Brittany Riley**, School of Pharmacy; (back row) Program Co-director Robert Bookwalter; **Eric Wallace**, Physical Plant; **Adam Dalton**, College of Arts and Media; **Timothy Melvin**, Academic Affairs; **Holly Dunmore**, School of Medicine; **Kimberly McFall**, College of Education and Professional Development; **Jessica Lowman**, Institutional Research; **Rayshawn Eastman**, Student Affairs; **Sabrina Thomas**, Libraries; **Sandy York**, College of Arts and Media; MU President Jerome Gilbert; (not pictured) **Habiba Chirchir**, College of Science.

The first cohort recommended — and the university created — an ombudsperson position, an individual charged with addressing questions and concerns personnel have about university policies and procedures and serving as coordinator of civic engagement.

Leah Payne, director of communications, was a member of the inaugural fellows class. Payne spent the first part of her work life supporting the professional aspirations of her then-spouse rather than focusing on her own career. That was followed by a decade opting out of the workforce to care for family and serve as a community volunteer before resuming a career in her 40s.

“Consequently, I’ve jumped at every opportunity since then to learn more, experience more and become more,” Payne said. “The leadership course was very helpful to me at a critical time in my career path.”

To provide guidance, inspiration and advice, fellows select individual

mentors. Payne chose Dr. Monica Brooks, associate vice president for online learning/dean of University Libraries.

“I chose Monica for just one reason — her calm, determined demeanor,” Payne said. “I did not know her very well but always admired her ability to assess a situation and deliver results in a measured response.”

“Monica helped me realize that tough conversations and conflicts are all part of growth, both for self and the institution. And that in some situations, there may be no good solutions, but there are always ways to better the scenario.”

The program has been educational not just for participants but also for facilitators and university officials.

“The program affirms how important it is to have representation from all facets of an organization,” said Jacobs-Jones. “Rarely are faculty and staff given the chance to discuss opportunities and challenges in the same setting. This has been one of



Marshall University Provost Jaime Taylor

the greatest takeaways. This program helps to provide a broader perspective of what makes Marshall University run and how each role contributes to the goal of educating students.”

McComas agreed.

“I see the overall importance of bringing people together to build knowledge and skills,” she said. “What we teach is quite often the least important thing that happens in professional development; what participants learn is more important. That learning comes from interactions with others who have different experiences, bases of knowledge and skill sets. Through this work, I am reminded to talk less and learn more. There is so much to be learned from others.” □



The 2020 John Marshall Leadership Fellows Program cohort, from left: (front row) **Suzanne Strait**, College of Science; **Lisa Martin**, Student Conduct; **Candace Layne**, Counseling; **Karen Doss**, School of Pharmacy; **Mary Chapman**, Human Resources; **Eugenia Webb-Damron**, College of Education and Professional Development; **Glen Midkiff**, College of Business; **Susan Lanham**, College of Business; **LeKesha Taylor**, Housing and Residence Life; (back row) **Becky Lusher**, Facilities and Planning; **Joseph Justice**, Physical Plant; **Justin Hawthorne**, Purchasing; **John Colclough**, College of Arts and Media; **Jill Underhill**, College of Liberal Arts; **Omar Attarabeen**, School of Pharmacy; **Arslan Iqbal**, School of Medicine; **Christopher McComas**, University Communications; (not pictured) **Amy White**, Sustainability; **Debra Young**, Social Work.

Michael Friel is director of communications at the Robert C. Byrd Institute.

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Nationwide® is proud to partner with the Marshall Alumni Association.

Your active membership and loyal involvement in the Marshall University Alumni Association demonstrates how passionate you are about your alma mater, fellow alumni and the success of all MU students. Proud Marshall Alumni share a generous spirit of philanthropy which supports the advancement of Marshall University as a premier institution of higher learning and community enrichment. Nationwide, as an organization, embraces the same values and mindset when it comes to forming dynamic and effective affinity partnerships resulting in optimal levels of active community involvement. The MUAA and Nationwide Insurance partnership is making significant strides toward our mutual goals and generating excitement among each of our constituencies.

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YOUR ALUMNI CONNECTION

A MESSAGE FROM MAX LEDERER

MUAA National President



Marshall Alumni:

It is safe to say that the ending to the Marshall University spring semester was the strangest in history. The pandemic changed how education was delivered and received. The amazing speed and effectiveness by which university leadership, faculty and staff adjusted to the new environment to keep everyone safe was only superseded by the students' ability to be flexible and adjust to an online-only university experience. Virtual classrooms, virtual study groups, virtual projects, and virtual performances took place in ways that no one anticipated.

The coronavirus graduating class of 2020 did not have the traditional experience that other graduates have had. Internships were terminated early or did not occur. Job fairs did not occur. The chance to say farewell to classmates and professors had to occur virtually. Initial graduation occurred virtually. The new coronavirus alumni class needs the support of other alumni in ways that have not occurred before.

And respond they did. Alumni immediately provided fiscal support to students through emergency donations. Through this, alumni were available to help graduates get a fresh start, to open doors and to make introductions. The generosity of the alumni base of Marshall is amazing even in times when their own financial health is at risk, and I thank them for this.

Now for the hard part: I am coming to the end of my three-year term as the president of the Marshall University Alumni Association. During the past three years I have been continuously impressed and humbled by the giving of time, advice and wealth by alumni to support the students and faculty of the university. This continued connection to the Marshall family defines We Are Marshall and what makes the university an educational treasure to the nation. The alumni of Marshall will continue to ensure that Marshall Rises!

I want to thank all the officers and board members of the Alumni Association, who have supported my efforts and volunteered to give back to the school. It has been rewarding to be part of a great team. The Alumni staff (Matt, Larry, Kasey and Rob – thank you!) and Foundation leadership have been first rate and are why the opportunities exist for faculty and students to continue to grow. Thank you to President Gilbert and the many faculty who have supported alumni activities and for your leadership in making Marshall the best decision ever for so many.

I leave the board in excellent hands. The new officers and board are led by incoming president Mikala Shremshock. Mikala has been on the board for six years and has been a vice president for the last two years. Her dedication to supporting the alumni and the university is matched by no one. She has tremendous energy and great ideas. With Mikala's leadership, alumni will continue to rise with Marshall. The upcoming year will be a challenge for the university as it adjusts to the aftereffects of the pandemic and the resulting strains on operations. Mikala, the alumni board and Marshall alumni will step forward and be leaders of the great future of Marshall University. Be an active alumnus and be part of the university as Marshall Rises!

I am proud to be a son of Marshall!

Max Lederer
President, Marshall University Alumni Association

ALUMNI RELATIONS STAFF

MATT HAYES, Executive Director

LARRY CRUM, Associate Director

KASEY STEVENS, Assistant Director



Journey to the Past

Every journey begins with a single step. With each step the modern world slowly melts away and you are transported to another time. You become more aware of the world around you. The dampness and chill in the air. The sound of a babbling creek as it trickles over rocks and tiny waterfalls alongside a rocky path carved through the forest. Birds sing and trees sway to the songs of the breeze.

Overhead, high above the treetops and rocky cliffs, lies an enormous stone arch resting more than 200 feet in the air. The rocks forming this magnificent structure are more than 500 million years old. The ancient site, sacred to the local Monacan Indian tribe, is called Mohomony, or “Bridge of God.” Accompanying the giant stone archway is a tale of survival and belief. The story of Natural Bridge has been passed down for generations.

Just beyond the bridge you happen upon a village carved out of the woodlands. Massive huts and shelters woven in cattails dot the landscape, surrounded by a wooden palisade. The distinct smell of campfire fills the air as men and women in traditional Native American garments walk the leaf-covered forest floor. Furs hang from shelter openings and crops are growing in a small garden. A school-aged child can be seen learning to weave a rope, while a family of four begins preparations for a feast.

This is life in the Monacan Living History Exhibit at Natural Bridge State Park in Virginia, an outdoor museum dedicated to preserving the way of life of the Monacan Indian people. Over 20 years of research and thousands of hours of labor have gone into this authentically reproduced exhibit using regional archaeology, ethno history, primitive technology and oral traditions passed down from the Monacan people. It is estimated that more than 100,000 visitors pass through the village each year from April to November.

And behind this labor of love is Victoria Ferguson. Ferguson is a tribal member of the Monacan people

and helped create the village with her husband in 1999. Last year, the exhibit celebrated its 20th season welcoming guests to the park.

“After spending two years volunteering at the native site at Virginia’s Explore Park, our tribe was contacted by Natural Bridge who wanted to talk about developing an interpretive program there. My husband and I presented the proposal in July of 1999 and it was accepted. Building began in November of that year and the site opened in April of 2000,” said Ferguson, who began that first year as a volunteer in the village before eventually taking over as manager of the exhibit in 2014. “I am responsible for the authentically reproduced structures such as wigwams, long houses and palisade. Under my direction, we plant heirloom crops in the same manner I was taught as a child. I share knowledge about the many wild plants we use and sometimes share stories documented in my family.

“We interact with more the 100,000 visitors each year. The most important thing that we do is preserving aboriginal knowledge for our people and fighting to protect the lands of our ancestors from destruction. You can’t put a price tag on that. The program has allowed young Monacans to participate in a part of the culture and heritage because they are our future.”

The exhibit helps bridge the gap between cultures and generations by bringing to light the ways of the Monacan people. From interactive presentations on shelter construction, mat and rope weaving, tool-making, gardening, harvesting, preparing meals and making pots, bowls and baskets, guests are transported over 300 years into the past to experience life in a typical Monacan settlement. Each day employees dress in native garb and teach families, schoolchildren and visitors the way of the Monacan Indian Nation, a federally recognized tribe based today in Amherst County, whose ancestors lived in Virginia up to 10,000 years ago. The exhibit is a partnership among the Monacan Indian Nation, Virginia Conservation Legacy Fund and Virginia State Parks.

VICTORIA FERGUSON IS DEDICATED TO KEEPING HER HERITAGE ALIVE.

By Larry Crum



This stone arch is an ancient site and is sacred to the local Monacan Indian tribe. It is called Mohomony or “Bridge of God.”

And the village is a short walk from Natural Bridge, which holds a special place in Monacan culture.

“My husband and I answered the call to be a part of this project by developing a proposal and sticking with it. It is a job that requires passion and a lot of research and documentation. We have walked this road together for 20 years,” Ferguson said. “Over the years we have had many people who have worked at the site and we have had some wonderful volunteers. I know many people have heard the saying, ‘it takes a village.’ In this particular instance, it takes a lot of

people to get the work done. Like cutting 38,000 cattails to cover a wigwam – you do not do this by yourself. It takes people with passion.”

And passion is something that flows in abundance from Ferguson.

Growing up in Beckley, West Virginia, Ferguson felt from an early age that she was not like the other kids in her school. As a child, Ferguson dealt with segregation and felt distanced from her classmates. And because of that, throughout much of her life Ferguson was among the first in her family to achieve certain milestones in her schools and in her community.

“Segregation and integration seems like it was so long ago, but it happened in my lifetime,” Ferguson said. “When I first started school they were still segregated in my community. Once schools were integrated, it did not mean equal access to all programs. Many people of color were passed over for positions as cheerleaders, majorettes and so on. I was used to being the first person of color to serve in various roles.

“In the state of Virginia, where my parents are from and my tribe is located, the government passed laws to prevent Virginia Indians from legally claiming their identity. My family lived culturally as natives in the way we survived. I always considered myself as native and any accomplishment I made I felt would be positive for us all.”

One of those accomplishments of which Ferguson is most proud is being the first in her family to attend and graduate from college when she earned a degree from Marshall University in 1980. During her time in Huntington, she also celebrated another first as one of the first American Indians to serve as a majorette with the Marching Thunder.

“I was the first in my family to have the opportunity to go to college and I had absolutely no idea what I was getting myself into,” Ferguson said with a laugh. “The one thing I did know is I had the opportunity to spend four years – and only four years – to complete my degree as there was no money available after that. So I rode the Greyhound bus back and forth with many other high school classmates who also went to Marshall.

“The thing I learned (at Marshall) is how important a can-do attitude is. I learned how important it was to push forward, no matter what. I was so happy to be a

part of the majorette squad. There is a certain feeling you get when you stand at the end of the football field and twirl to your fight song.”

After graduation, Ferguson held several jobs in the region before finding a home in Roanoke, Virginia. Once back in Virginia, she was able to get more involved with her local tribe and historical preservation.

“I realized I was one of the few people in my tribe, of my age group, who had been able to go to college,” Ferguson said. “My volunteer work at a local historical native site became my passion. I started to look for written documentation to support the oral traditions taught in my family. There, I realized the importance of protecting and preserving the culture.”

And it is that dedication to preserving her culture that drives her today.

While much of the history of Native Americans in this country has been edited or told through differing viewpoints, Ferguson is determined to keep alive the story of her ancestors by teaching future generations about the Monacan people directly from the source.

“No one should take away a person’s right to tell their own story,” Ferguson said. “For us as native people, to be able to tell our history the way we want is so important. I don’t understand why so many people think they can take ownership of our history.

“A question I ask when I am giving a presentation is, ‘can you imagine the National Museum of African American History and Culture being developed without any input from African Americans?’ We allow people to do this to Native Americans. Having programs like the one at Natural Bridge allows us as Monacan people to tell our own history in a way we want it presented.

“We tell it from the heart. The knowledge we keep and share is important.”

Today, Ferguson uses the lessons learned at an early age and the stories shared by her family as a focal point for her work.

One of those earliest memories was when her father introduced her to planting corn, now a part of the daily stories she shares with young people at the exhibit.

“After the rows were laid out, my father took a stick and walked down the rows placing holes in the ground at the depth and space needed for the corn seeds. My first job as a 5-year-old was to place a cup of water in



COURTESY/ RECREATION NEWS

Each day Victoria and other employees dress in native garb and teach families, schoolchildren and visitors the way of the Monacan Indian Nation, a federally recognized tribe based today in Amherst County, Virginia, whose ancestors lived up to 10,000 years ago. The exhibit is a partnership among the Monacan Indian Nation, Virginia Conservation Legacy Fund and Virginia State Parks.

each hole. A sibling then came behind me and dropped three seeds in the hole and another covered them up,” Ferguson said. “It was then I learned the importance of water. I learned a lot about plants, how to sew, how to cook, how to preserve food. My parents both knew plants and their usage.

“The important part today is for my sons to learn the history and pass it on. I have seen other young people at the exhibit learn and retain the information as well. That is important for our future. As a people, we spent years fighting with the government for our

“For the past 25 years of my life, I have tried to **bridge the information** from our native perspective to the general population. Today, I still put myself on the **front line of fights for indigenous people**, for protection of **the land and what lies beneath** and for the **injustices** done to **people of color and poor people** in general.”

—Victoria Ferguson

right to self-identify as natives. We were fortunate as our governors in the state of Virginia supported us and finally the federal government recognized the Virginia tribes. You have no idea how good it feels to be able to say to people, ‘we are still here.’”

Away from the exhibit, Ferguson continues to explore more about her culture and share that knowledge with others around the world. She has been a featured speaker at numerous conferences on the subject, as well as working with universities in presenting class work, serving on archaeological digs to help repatriate human tribal remains and has even participated in multiple documentaries for PBS.

She has also written numerous papers, a children’s book titled *Dark Moon to Rising Sun* and is currently working with another Marshall graduate on a play about the Monacan people.

And Ferguson does all of this alongside her husband and two sons who accompany her for much of the experience and even participate when they can, dancing in powwows and creating their own authentic artifacts in the Monacan tradition.

“For the past 25 years of my life, I have tried to bridge the information from our native perspective to the general population. I have

fought for equal rights for people of color since the first time I asked if I was a person of color who could be a cheerleader back in grade school,” Ferguson said. “Today, I still put myself on the front line of fights for indigenous people, for protection of the land and what lies beneath and for the injustices done to people of color and poor people in general.”

And through it all, Ferguson carries with her that she is a proud daughter of Marshall and loves to share that story alongside her daily fight to preserve her culture and teach others the way of her ancestors.

“There is a lot to love about what I do, from growing seeds handed down for hundreds of years, to showing people how to make rope. But for me, to be able to dig from Mother Earth and turn that soil into pottery using the same process my ancestors used, that is something special,” Ferguson said. “My work is known and recognized by many people in universities in Virginia and, where I go, I carry the fact that I am a graduate of Marshall University with me. I am very proud of that fact and have included the Marshall symbol in the bead work of my dance regalia. I have told my family that I want that regalia to go to Marshall at my death.” □

COURTESY/ROANOKE TIMES



Victoria is responsible for the authentically reproduced structures in the Monacan Living History Exhibit at Natural Bridge State Park in Virginia. These include wigwams, long houses and palisade.

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New Career Platform Debuts!

Marshall University has partnered with Handshake – a modern career development platform – to replace its JobTrax system and serve as a one-stop shop for serving your career goals and aspirations.

Handshake offers new features, enabling you to:

- Access personalized job recommendations based on your degree and interests
- Register for career related events
- Manage interviews with top companies
- Schedule appointments with career coaches

Access to the Handshake program was made available to students and alumni on June 1. For more information, visit the Office of Career Education website at www.marshall.edu/career-education. □



Changes to HerdAlum.com



Beginning July 1, a new look has come to your alumni website! The changes also bring improved functionality and new ways to explore exclusive discounts and offers available to Marshall alumni. A prominent news section on the site features the latest updates from the university and articles on

what your fellow classmates are up to now. Check out the alumni chapters in your area on our chapter map and see what events are coming up with our chapters and at the university. Be on the lookout for an e-mail soon from alumni@marshall.edu with your login information for the website. □

MARSHALL UNIVERSITY ALUMNI CHAPTERS

arranged by state

For more information on how you can get involved visit HerdAlum.com and click the Chapters tab.

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Phoenix

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Sacramento
San Diego
San Francisco

COLORADO
Denver
Colorado Springs

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Washington DC

FLORIDA
Fort Myers
Jacksonville
Naples
Palm Beach
Space Coast
Tampa Bay
The Villages

GEORGIA
Atlanta

ILLINOIS
Springfield
Chicago

INDIANA
Indianapolis
South Bend

KANSAS
Topeka
Wichita

KENTUCKY
Lexington
Covington
Newport

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MASSACHUSETTS
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MICHIGAN
Detroit
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Gulfport

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Kansas City
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Chapter of the Year

MID-OHIO VALLEY CHAPTER

Tucked along the Ohio River in northwestern West Virginia is Parkersburg, which is home to one of the most active Marshall University alumni chapters and the 2019-2020 Chapter of the Year awardee, the Mid-Ohio Valley Chapter.

In 2019, the group raised more than \$40,000, moving their chapter's overall giving to more than \$200,000. The chapter awarded nine student scholarships in 2019.

Having roots in the 1980s, the Mid-Ohio Valley Chapter was revitalized in 2009 by 1987 alumna Laurie Sandy-Martin and her brother, 1979 alumnus Jeff Sandy.

Sandy-Martin has been leading the chapter ever since, though she attributes the chapter's successes to the leadership team and the involved chapter members.

"The chapter has an amazing group of members who work very well together," Martin said. "It is unbelievable what you can accomplish when you have so many members willing to donate their time and efforts, which has been a key to our success."

One of the greatest successes of the Mid-Ohio Valley Chapter is their commitment to supporting student scholarships. Since 2009, the chapter has raised over \$206,200, including \$85,900 in student scholarships, supporting 81 students in surrounding counties.

"It's a wonderful feeling to be able to help the students, to invite them to be part of the Marshall Family, and welcome them and their parents," Martin said.

Their annual, signature event is the Scholarship Fundraiser Dinner at Grand Pointe Conference Center in Vienna, which attracts around 200 members of the Marshall Family each year. This year's dinner is going virtual, and is planned for mid-July. The goal is to raise \$15,000.

The Mid-Ohio Valley Chapter gained twenty named



The Mid-Ohio Valley Marshall University Alumni Chapter is the 2019-2020 Chapter of the Year.

members in 2019 and membership spans generations – with the current youngest member at 21 to the more mature members in their 70s.

Ben Sandy is a 2007 alumnus and a chapter member, after moving home to Parkersburg in 2013. Sandy is the immediate past president of the Marshall University Alumni Association national board and currently co-chairs the chapters committee of the board.

Sandy's advice for a chapter just getting started includes considering where a chapter is located.

"Understanding what works where you are is very important. Being in West Virginia, there are way more alumni per capita here than in many other cities outside the state border. What works for us may not work for another chapter, and there have been lots of chapters who do really interesting and successful events that may not be successful here. You have to know the local alumni and decide what you want to accomplish," Sandy said. □

83RD Alumni Awards Banquet

Saturday, April 10, 2021



Distinguished Alumnus
Brad Smith



Distinguished Service to Marshall University
Alys Smith



Outstanding Community Achievement
William Joseph Kehoe
Cathy Burns



Distinguished Young Alumnus
Jeff McKay

With many questions surrounding travel, large gatherings and the measured reopening of the Huntington campus, the Marshall University Alumni Association (MUAA) has decided to postpone the 83rd Alumni Awards Banquet to the spring of 2021. The rescheduled event will now take place on Saturday, April 10, 2021.

While this decision was not an easy one, the MUAA feels this is in the best interest of all involved and will provide the best opportunity to recover and be in the best position to present this prestigious event honoring alumni, students and friends of Marshall University. These outstanding individuals represent everything that is great about Marshall University and we look forward to recognizing their many achievements next year.

Details about reservations, times and venue will be announced soon. Please contact the Office of Alumni Relations with any questions at www.herdalum.com or by calling 304-696-3134.



1970s

Nancy Campbell (B.A. '79) is a partner at the Campbell, Lipski, & Dochney firm in Philadelphia. She supports pre-law students at Marshall through the Nancy E. Campbell Scholarship.

Dr. Kathryn Gutzwiller (B.A. '70) is a professor of classics at the University of Cincinnati. She is the College of Liberal Arts Alumni Award of Distinction recipient for 2020. She is a renowned scholar in Greek poetry and ancient literary theory.

Randi D. Ward (B.A. '71) founder of the English Institute, a center in Cairo, Egypt, has recently been selected as Educator of the Decade by the International Association of Top Professionals (IAOTP). She began her career as a remedial reading and language arts teacher and was one of the first gifted / talented teachers in West Virginia. After retiring from the Gwinnett County Public Schools in Metro Atlanta, Georgia, she went on to work as an ESL educator in Cairo, Egypt, teaching English to Egyptian university students, university graduates and professionals seeking to become fluent in English.



Randi D. Ward

1980s

Andrea Billups (B.A. '83) was appointed news director of West Virginia Public Broadcasting. Billups' work has been published in *Time*, *US News*, *Reader's Digest*, *Money*, the *Washington Post*, *The Washington Times* and many other publications. She is a former staff correspondent for *PEOPLE* magazine and is a current contributor to the magazine and its digital counterpart, *PEOPLE.com*. She was a 2018 inductee into the Marshall University Journalism Hall of Fame.



Andrea Billups

Ruth Ann Hendrickson (M.A. '82) is associate vice president and director of the Office of Research at the Ohio State University.

1990s

Shayna Chapman (B.B.A. '97) received the Sage Circle of Excellence Award for "2019 Social Influencer." Sage is an organization that provides technology that helps businesses of all sizes manage everything from money to people — whether they're a start-up, scale-up or enterprise, through the Sage Business Cloud.

2000s

Sandra Frame (B.A. '08, M.A. '09) recently became director of the annual fund at Alderson-Broaddus University.

Kasey Pelphrey Stewart (B.A. '04) has been selected as a *RISMedia 2020 Real Estate Newsmaker* — joining a dynamic group of key influencers making headlines as a result of their newsworthy contributions to the real estate industry and their efforts to positively affect the consumers and communities they serve. Stewart is the director of member development at the National Association of Realtors, America's largest trade association, representing more than 1.4 million members involved in all aspects of the residential and commercial real estate industries. She is a 1994 graduate of Huntington High School and the daughter of Huntington residents Eric and Nancy Pelphrey.



Kasey Pelphrey Stewart

2010s

Phillip Bailey (B.A. '13) has been

named Putnam County's Favorite High School Teacher in a Farmers Bank contest. While Bailey lives in Putnam County, he actually works at Cabell Midland High School, where he teaches show choir and guitar to students in grades 9 through twelve.



Phillip Bailey

Kelly Griffith (M.A. '19) has been named education director for West Virginia Public Broadcasting.

Nicole Odom (M.S. '19), an alumna of the Marshall Forensic Science Program and forensic scientist in the Digital and Multimedia Evidence Section of the Virginia Department of Forensic Science, was awarded the Digital and Multimedia Sciences Section Outstanding Research Award at the 72nd Annual American Academy

of Forensic Sciences (AAFS) meeting in Anaheim, California, Feb. 19. Her research, titled "Go-Go Gadget Smartwatch! An Investigation of Wearable Devices and their Forensic Value" was conducted as part of her student internship at the Virginia Department of Forensic Sciences in summer 2018. This was selected as the winner among more than 40 oral presentations presented at the February 2019 AAFS Meeting in Baltimore, Maryland. This research was conducted in partnership with the Digital Forensics Laboratory at Marshall University. Faculty members Josh Brunty (B.A. '05, M.S. '09) and Catherine Rushton (B.A. '05, M.S. '09), along with Jesse Lindmar (VA DFS section supervisor) and John Hirt served as mentors in this research



Nicole Odom with Josh Brunty

project and were also recognized in the research award.

Keisha Saunders (M.S.N. '12) received the Trendsetter Award at the Annual Trailblazer Awards Gala sponsored by the Herbert Henderson Office of Minority Affairs. Keisha has been working for a federally qualified health clinic in Northfork, West Virginia, for the past six years providing care to the underserved population. She currently resides in McDowell County.



Keisha Saunders

Evan Zuverink (M.A. '12) has been named Vice President and Community Reinvestment Act Officer at First Commonwealth Bank in Pittsburgh. □



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.

Marshall Alumnae Win Titles at Mrs. West Virginia America Competition



PHOTOGRAPHY BY GRETCHEN PINGLEY PHOTOGRAPHY

From left: Kristen Wilson, winner of Miss West Virginia for America; Katrina Kappen, winner of Mrs. West Virginia America; and Summer Hill, winner of Mrs. West Virginia America World.

Katrina Kappen (M.S. '14) was crowned Mrs. West Virginia America Feb. 29 at the Charleston Coliseum and Convention Center. Formerly Mrs. Putnam County, she spent her year raising awareness for Alzheimer's disease and its impact on affected individuals and their loved ones. As Mrs. West Virginia America, she says she plans to continue her work in hopes of changing the way people think, act and talk about dementia. Through her advocacy and friendships with the Alzheimer's Association and the Dementia Friendly Coalition community, she said she aspires to help make West Virginia dementia friendly. Kappen is currently a medical speech-language pathologist for Lifetree Therapy Company. She is a native of Fayette County, and a military wife residing in Putnam County with her husband, Troy, and their Yorkie, Sarge. Kappen will advance to the Mrs. America competition in Las Vegas, Nevada, in October.

In addition, **Summer Hill** (D.P.T. '20) was crowned Mrs. West Virginia America World at the same event. Originally from Man, West Virginia, Hill said she chose to do the Mrs. West Virginia America pageant because, through some struggles she faced in life, she finally felt strong and was ready to make a difference. As Mrs. West Virginia America World, Hill said she is ready to educate and advocate for mental health and against sexual abuse, as well as to help empower women to strive to be the best version of themselves no matter the circumstances. Hill graduated with her Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) degree in May 2020, and plans to specialize in orthopedics while working at an outpatient clinic. She will compete for the title of Mrs. America World in Las Vegas, Nevada, in October. □

in memoriam

JOHN KYLE KINZER JR. (B.B.A. '62), 80, of Huntington, passed away March 25, 2020, at his residence. He was born Oct. 24, 1939, in Beckley, West Virginia, the son of the late John Kyle Kinzer Sr. and Laura Virginia Munsell Kinzer. He was a graduate of Woodrow Wilson High School, Marshall University and West Virginia University. He retired from Arch Coal Inc. (Ashland Coal) after a long career spanning five decades. After a year at West Virginia University, he found his scholastic home at Marshall University, beginning a relationship with the institution and the Huntington community that would last his lifetime. At Marshall, he also met his wife, Betty Sue, and their love story began. He credited Marshall with a great deal of his success and returned that debt tenfold. He spent his life in the service of others. He was committed to St. John's Episcopal Church, Hospice of Huntington, Cammack Children's Center and Marshall University. He was an ardent supporter of Marshall football and basketball and spent years giving service through the Alumni Association, Society of Yeager Scholars and the Marshall University Foundation. One of his proudest accomplishments was coming out of retirement to serve as the interim CEO of the Marshall University Foundation. He adored his children and grandchildren, who affectionately knew him as "Pooba." He loved spending time at his second home, Deep Creek Lake, in Maryland. He lived life to the fullest, and those who had the pleasure of knowing him appreciated his quick wit, integrity, passion, generosity, faith and determination. He affected many whom he encountered, through all facets of his life. He was a confidant, mentor and friend. His was no ordinary life; it was a life well lived and well loved. He will be deeply missed. Memorial contributions may be made to Cammack Children's Center or Marshall University Foundation, in honor of John to support the endowments for both the Society of Yeager Scholars and the Kinzer Family Scholarship.

DAVID A. KIRK (B.A. '58) Major, USAF, died Feb. 14, 2020. Born in Huntington, West Virginia, on June 11, 1936, he had been a resident of Clearwater, Florida, for 19 years. He was married to Mary Ann Thompson of Charleston, West Virginia, and had two children, Robert Lee Kirk of Clearwater and Lisa Kirk Goldstrom (Chuck) of Ridgeley, West Virginia, and one grandson, Zackary Kirk of Clearwater, who survive. He graduated from Marshall University in 1958, where he was on the Mid-American Championship basketball team and president of the student body. He received his Master of Divinity degree from Duke University in 1961 and his Doctor of Ministry from Vanderbilt University. He served United Methodist churches in West Virginia, North Carolina and Florida. He

was founder of The House of the Carpenter in Wheeling, West Virginia, a community service agency of the United Methodist Church. He became a chaplain in the United States Air Force in 1969 and was stationed at Cannon Air Force Base in Clovis, New Mexico, Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, Alabama, and RAF Lakenheath, England. He received the Chief of Chaplains Terence P. Finnegan award for his work with single airmen. During the Vietnam War years, he served the airmen at Ubon, Thailand, where he received the Bronze Star for meritorious service. After leaving the Air Force, David became CEO of ChildServ, a United Methodist Family Service Organization in Chicago, Illinois. In 2000, he retired as President/CEO of the Children's Home and Aid Society of Illinois in Chicago and moved to Clearwater, where he served as CEO of Family Service Center and most recently as chaplain at Suncoast Hospice.

DR. SALLIE HAMER PLYMALE (B.A. '61, M.A. '68) was born on June 5, 1928, in Kenova, West Virginia, to John Thomas Hamer and Georgia Body Hamer. She died April 20, 2020, surrounded by her family. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Shearl "Chud" Plymale; a sister, Gloria A. Hamer; and a brother, John M. Hamer II. She spent her early school years in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and later moved to West Virginia where she graduated from Welch High School. She received her bachelor's and master's degrees from Marshall and went on to earn her Ed.D. in 1977 from West Virginia University. She was an educator in Wayne County Schools, specifically at Ferndale and Ceredo Elementary. She also taught at the Marshall Lab School and in the College of Education at Marshall University for 23 years. She was the first certified special education teacher in the State of West Virginia. The family requests gifts of remembrance to Marshall University School of Medicine for the Wayne County Scholarship or the June Harless Center for Rural Education at Marshall University in care of the Marshall University Foundation.

JOAN ST. GERMAIN, professor of theatre at Marshall, died May 18, 2020. A native of Rhode Island, she came to Marshall University in 1998 having received her B.A. in Theatre Arts from Marquette University and her M.F.A. in Costuming from The Ohio University at Columbus. During her tenure at Marshall, she taught courses in costuming and make-up and designed costumes for well over 100 productions. She also served several terms in



the Faculty Senate, taught Yeager Seminars and UNI 101 courses, and assisted with the Office of Assessment and Quality Initiatives. Among her many honors were the 2002-03 Pickens-Queen Teacher Award and two New Hampshire Theatre Awards for costuming, as well as being a finalist for the 2014 Reynolds Teaching Award. Besides her work for Marshall University School of Theatre, she shared her talents with Greenbrier Valley Theatre; Black Hills Playhouse in Custer, South Dakota; Trifecta Productions and the Papermill Theatre in New Hampshire. Joan was dedicated and very proud of her students and their achievements. As one colleague said, "She was brilliant, kind, compassionate, supportive and hilarious. Her theater make-up and costuming skills were amazing. Whether you were a theater major or completely new to theater, she had a way of bringing out its magic." She leaves her mother, Pat, and sisters Jane, Maggie, Laura, and Pat to cherish her memory.

DR. RALPH J. TURNER (B.A. '67, M.A.J. '69), professor of journalism and mass communications at Marshall, who taught at Marshall for more than 30 years, died March 9, 2020. He mentored thousands of students throughout his career. He was graduated from Huntington Vinson High School in 1957 and earned bachelor's and master's degrees in journalism from Marshall and a Ph.D. in journalism and mass communications from Ohio University. He also studied graphic design at the Rochester (N.Y.) Institute of Technology. He worked as a reporter at *The Herald-Dispatch* and the *Charleston Gazette* and editor of *The Wayne County News*, and also did writing, editing and design work for Marshall and numerous newspapers and companies. He taught at Ohio University and Florida A&M University, in addition to Marshall. Turner is survived by his wife, Barbara, whom he met while playing in the marching band at Marshall. (She played clarinet and he played trumpet.) Other survivors include the couple's four children, Tamera (Gary Procop), Christopher (Erica), Amy (Jarvis Lang) and Matthew (Roxy); nine grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. Turner and his colleague and lifelong friend, Dr. George Arnold, were widely recognized as among Marshall's top professors, including in the Spring 2007 issue of *Marshall Magazine*. Turner took incredible pride in the success of his students and followed them throughout their careers. He will be fondly remembered for his classroom antics and love of bad puns and pranks. Friends may donate to the Arnold-Turner Journalism Scholarship Fund at the Marshall University Foundation. □





A MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE OF ALUMNI RELATIONS

A NEW NORMAL

Greetings, Fellow Alumni and Friends of Marshall University:

In a world where nothing is guaranteed, anything is possible.

Over the past few months, we have all been challenged in ways that we never thought possible. When we turned our calendars to the year 2020, what seemed for many of us another routine year in our routine lives has proven to be anything but.

The simple things in life that many of us took for granted – going to work, seeing friends and family, traveling – were shaken to the core as we were forced to hit pause on our daily lives. But from that pause, we have been inspired by so many wonderful stories.

Stories of hope. Stories of helping. Stories of healing.

And then there are those who haven't had the luxury of taking a step back. To those men and women in our health care industry, those working on the frontlines battling this virus, we say thank you. To those in our service industry, to our emergency service providers, and to those who have continued making the world a better place during this pandemic – thank you!

We are especially proud of the students of Marshall University. The resiliency shown by our Sons and Daughters of Marshall, who had to shift gears to an all-virtual learning environment in the midst of the final weeks of classes, have shown the true spirit of what it means to be a member of the Herd!

Some of us have thrived. Some of us have struggled. Either is okay.

There has been nothing easy about the past few months. But with every challenge, our Marshall Family has risen to the meet that challenge head on. And the tests of the past few months have truly shown the best that Marshall has to offer.

We have heard so many stories of neighbor helping neighbor. Long chats with old friends and colleagues. Virtual meetings that might never have happened leading to new and exciting breakthroughs. These stories have touched and inspired all of us.

In a way, the past few months have allowed many of us to slow down and reconnect with what is most important in our lives.

While “normal” may still be a long way away, we can take great pride in the little triumphs we have enjoyed along the way.

For those of us in the Office of Alumni Relations, we too have had to hit pause and take a step back. We have had to postpone important and exciting events. We have halted our travel. We spent more than three months away from our colleagues and our beautiful building. But the work never stopped. Our office has embraced the changes and truly hasn't missed a beat in keeping our alumni informed and connected during this crisis.

While we all are slowly getting back to work and adjusting to this new normal, take pride in the fact that all of us at Marshall are working hard on your behalf and we look forward to seeing you all back on campus very soon!

Until next time, Godspeed and GO HERD!

Best Regards,
Larry, Kasey and Matt





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