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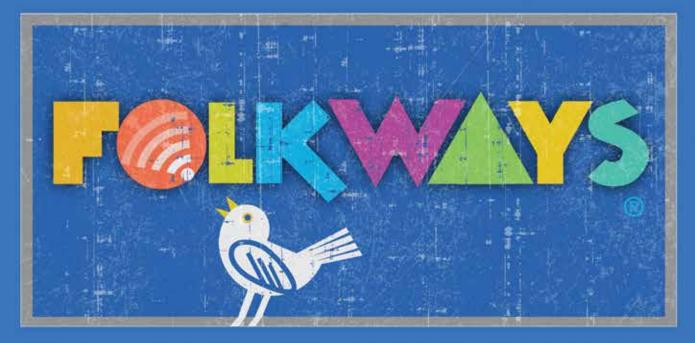


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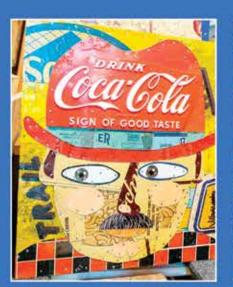
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The official magazine of Marshall University

Autumn 2021

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President Jerome Gilbert

Senior Vice President for Communications and Marketing **Ginny Painter** 

> **Executive Editor** Susan Tams

**Director of Communications** Leah Payne

> Publisher Jack Houvouras

Office Manager Dana Keaton

Art Director Suzanna Stephens

Senior Graphic Designer Katie Sigler

Contributing Photographers Tyler Able, Adam Gue, Marilyn Testerman-Haye, Rick Haye, Rick Lee, Austin O'Connor, Sholten Singer/The Herald-Dispatch,

#### **Contributing Writers**

Megan Archer, James E. Casto, Larry Crum, Molly McClennen, Keith Morehouse, Kimberly Price, Carter Seaton, Lynne Squires

#### Editorial Advisory Board William "Tootie" Carter,

Maurice Cooley, Larry Crum, Jeff O'Malley, Sherri Smith, Sheanna Spence, Susan Tams

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on the cover The Marshall soccer team makes history by capturing the national championship. Photos by Tyler Able, Adam Gue, Austin O'Connor. Photo montage by Tyler Able.

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## Catching up with President Gilbert



**1.** President Gilbert speaks to a member of the media on March 26 at the ceremonial groundbreaking for the facility at Huntington Tri-State Airport that will house the joint program in aviation maintenance technology with Mountwest Community & Technical College.

2. The Landing is a residential community on Marshall's Health Sciences campus for current graduate students; students in Pharmacy, Medicine, Forensic Science, Physical Therapy programs; and students 21 years of age and over. Participating in the official April 6 ribbon cutting for the facility are (from left) Toney Stroud, chair of the Huntington Regional Chamber of Commerce and Marshall Board of Governors member; Marco, Marshall's mascot; Tracey Eggleston, property manager, the Landing; President Gilbert; and Steve Williams, mayor of Huntington.

**3.** Marshall received a \$1.8 million gift from the Encova Insurance Foundation of West Virginia May 14 for a new auditorium in the planned Lewis College of Business facility on Fourth Avenue in Huntington. Pictured from left to right are Dr. Avinandan Mukherjee, then dean of the Lewis College of Business and now interim provost; Thomas J. "TJ" Obrokta, president and CEO of Encova Insurance; Dr. Ron Area, president and CEO of the Marshall University Foundation; President Gilbert; Steve Williams, mayor of Huntington; Toney Stroud, Marshall University Board of Governors; and Dr. Jaime Taylor, former senior vice president and provost of Marshall University.

**4.** President Gilbert and Glenville State College President Dr. Mark A. Manchin pose with each other's copies of the Memorandum of Understanding they signed July 27, making possible a joint Bachelor of Nursing program, in which students will take classes their first year at Glenville, then receive instruction from Marshall faculty members on Glenville's campus.







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# NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

Coach Chris Grassie and the Thundering Herd shock the college soccer world and capture the university's first-ever NCAA Division 1 national title.

By Keith Morehouse



hris Grassie was lurking behind the stands at Marshall's soccer facility on a warm Monday morning in June. His arms were folded, and he was talking with a soccer mom. He had this contented, gratified smile across his face as hundreds of youngsters chased soccer balls all over Hoops Family Field. It was as if he was in his backyard and all the kids in the neighborhood had come over to play ... precisely what a good backyard is meant for.

Less than a month before, Marshall's Jamil Roberts made the kick heard round the soccer world in Cary, North Carolina, as the Thundering Herd beat Indiana 1-0 in overtime for the national championship. ESPN'S Dalen Cuff made the call:

"ROBERTS DOES IT AGAIN! THREE STRAIGHT GAMES AND THIS ONE'S A BIG ONE. HE'S GIVEN THEM THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP. FOR THE

FIRST TIME EVER, THE THUNDERING HERD ARE TOP OF THE HEAP!"

"My instinct was just make sure, you know what I mean," tournament MVP Jamil Roberts said about his game-winning goal off an assist from All-American Vitor Dias. "The only thing going through my mind was don't miss, don't miss because if I score it gets played a million times on THE ONLY THING GOING THROUGH MY MIND WAS DON'T MISS, DON'T MISS. IT MIGHT NOT HAVE BEEN THE PRETTIEST GOAL OF MY CAREER BUT IT'S CERTAINLY MY FAVORITE. IT WILL ALWAYS BE MY FAVORITE.

#### - JAMIL ROBERTS

the internet. If I miss it gets played 2 million times. It might not have been the prettiest goal of my career but



Jamil Roberts scored the winning goal in overtime - a play showcased on ESPN.



Marshall shocked the soccer world when they beat Indiana in the finals.

it's certainly my favorite. It will always be my favorite."

So, as crazy as it sounds, the Marshall men's soccer program hand-delivered an NCAA championship trophy to Huntington, West Virginia. It's Marshall's firstever national championship at the highest level of NCAA competition. The aftershocks are still being felt. "Every kid in the area

got to see us be successful

wearing a Marshall shirt," Grassie said at Marshall's soccer camp, "and so they now think they can do it and I'm sure

> they can. It's created that spark with the young kids. If we can sort of enhance the game and enhance the soccer community in this area, that's an amazing achievement to go along with what we did winning the national championship."

> Coach Grassie tried to tell people his team was good enough to win it all. In fact, he took the opportunity at every news conference to extol the virtues of his team, even if some reporters incredulously wondered, "Does Marshall belong here?"

> As heavyweight champion Muhammad Ali once famously said, "It's not bragging if you can back it up."

Grassie and his men backed it up. During the tournament, his Herd vanquished No. 23-ranked and unbeaten

IF WE CAN SORT OF ENHANCE THE GAME AND ENHANCE THE SOCCER COMMUNITY IN THIS AREA, THAT'S AN AMAZING ACHIEVEMENT TO GO ALONG WITH WHAT WE DID WINNING THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP.

- COACH GRASSIE



#### 2021 MEN'S SOCCER HOME GAME SCHEDULE



UNIVERSITY OF CHARLESTON AUG. 19 at 11:00 AM

COASTAL CAROLINA UNIVERSITY SEPT. 4 at 1:00 PM

WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY SEPT. 17 at 7:00 PM



UNIVERSITY OF AKRON SEPT. 21 at 7:00 PM

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY SEPT. 25 at 7:00 PM



BUTLER UNIVERSITY SEPT. 29 at 7:00 PM

UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA BIRMINGHAM OCT. 16 at 7:00 PM



WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY OCT. 19 at 7:00 PM

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA OCT. 30 at 7:00 PM

To order season tickets, go online to https://herdzone.com/sports/2021/6/23/ tickets-mars-tickets-soccer-season-html.aspx Fordham, No. 1 Clemson, defending national champions Georgetown, No. 16-ranked North Carolina and 8-time national champion Indiana on their way to the title.

This brash, confident coach from Newcastle, England, had brought Marshall's program into national prominence in only four years. He had done the same thing at the Division II level with the University of Charleston, taking the Golden Eagles to two national title games on his way to becoming the winningest coach in school history.

Now with that national championship trophy safely on the bus and heading back to Huntington, Marshall had crashed a pretty exclusive college soccer fraternity, the newest member of the national championship club.

Allison Grassie also believed. There are times when the self-proclaimed "soccer widow" had to take one for the team and stay back and keep the household humming, but there was no way she was missing this magical run. Coach Grassie's wife took four separate round trips to

I DIDN'T CRY UNTIL I GOT BACK TO WORK AND OPENED FACEBOOK AND SAW THE INCREDIBLE OUTPOURING FROM THE COMMUNITY AND THE LOVE. I CRIED ALL DAY AT WORK.

- ALLISON GRASSIE

Cary during the NCAA Tournament. That's nearly 3,000 miles of driving, all while juggling two kids at home and a husband on the road who kept doggedly pursuing this improbable dream.

"He's always been a big-idea guy," Allison Grassie said. "We lived this dream together. From the moment I met him at the University of Michigan, you couldn't do anything but believe in his dream. To have this all happen, it was the best moment ever. That night I didn't get emotional. I didn't cry until I got back to work and opened Facebook and saw the incredible outpouring from the community and the love. I cried all day at work."

Not long after Marshall brought the hardware home, the whispers abounded, "How long before another program comes after Coach Grassie?" But the Marshall University Athletics Department and the Board of Governors made a proactive decision to make it worth his while to stay in Huntington. They announced a new contract for Grassie

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that would keep him around for five more years and pay him \$375,000 a year, a salary which stacks up against the biggest soccer programs in

"The biggest thing for

me in the new contract was getting my staff taken care of so we could all stay together and continue to do this," Grassie said. "They've invested in the program, which is why I'm staying. We want to grow and compete. I've told them, I promised them, that we can compete in the Top 25 every single year."

WHAT MAKES ME THE MOST **PROUD** IS WHAT WE CAN DO FOR **MARSHALL** AND **HUNTINGTON**. I LIVE HERE, MY FAMILY LIVES HERE, AND WE WANT TO MAKE THIS THE **BEST** PLACE WE CAN.

- COACH GRASSIE

With the generous new contract in hand, Grassie understands the commitment the university has made to him

and his program. He has no problem giving right back.

"What makes me the most proud is what we can do for Marshall and Huntington," Grassie said. "I live here, my family lives here, and we want to make this the best place we can. I think everybody has ratcheted up one notch what they think is possible now, and what we can do with the university and the city. It's such an exciting time."

Who doubts that bravado now? Not the media, not the fans, not the soccer world and certainly not the men he inspires every day.

"He's the reason we are all here," junior forward Milo Yosef said. "He told us about his plans and we did it all together. Now knowing he's staying five more years is big. From now on, I think there's nowhere to go but up." So for at least the next five years, the Thundering Herd head coach has made it clear the grass isn't always greener somewhere else.  $\Box$ 

**Keith Morehouse** is a freelance writer and sports director at WSAZ NewsChannel 3 in Huntington, West Virginia.

# Near Normal

Great progress has been made combating the COVID-19 pandemic, but university officials are proceeding with caution as campus life returns to normal.

By Kimberly Price

Substitution to Marshall's Huntington campus this fall can expect a more traditional college experience, thanks to the success of widespread COVID-19 vaccinations and safety protocols aimed at boosting Thundering Herd immunity. The university is working diligently to maintain the same culture of health safety while easing restrictions based on the evolving population of those vaccinated and the emerging COVID variants.



"Our plan is to be back to as near normal as we possibly can in the fall," said Tracy Smith, director of environmental health and safety at Marshall University. "Right now, 65.2% of our fall students are vaccinated and we have around 83% of our employees vaccinated. Many of our students have been extremely 65.2% of fall students ARE vaccinated 83.48% of employees ARE vaccinated

resourceful in seeking out vaccine opportunities outside of Marshall prior to the university having the vaccine available for our students."

The university offered several vaccine clinics to new students this summer during orientation, and additional clinics will be offered throughout the fall semester. Vaccinations are Marshall President Jerry Gilbert and Tracy Smith, director of environmental health and safety, have worked together to make the campus as safe as possible. "We are strongly encouraging all students to get vaccinated. That is our best defense and will help us get back to normal."

> - Tracy Smith director of environmental health and safety at Marshall University

also available off campus to students age 18 and older at Marshall Family Medicine, Marshall Pharmacy and the Erma Ora Byrd Clinical Center. Those under age 18 must have parental or guardian consent to receive a vaccine.

"We are strongly encouraging all students to get vaccinated," Smith stated. "That is our best defense and will help us get back to normal. Vaccines and other protocols in place have proven to help keep our campus safe."

Although the number of vaccinated students and staff at the university continues to climb, the campus has not yet reached herd immunity, and COVID remains a threat due to the increased spread of disease variants.

"This is not quite over," Smith noted. "There are some extremely virulent variants making their way across the country and the vaccine provides protection from these variants. We continually monitor the numbers of cases in our community, as well as across the country, and we will keep the campus community informed as we look forward to the fall semester." To help gauge the vaccinated student population, Marshall recently debuted its new COVID vaccine registry. The registry is a public health tool that provides Marshall's COVID-19 Health and

"This is not quite over. There are extremely virulent variants making their way across the country."

#### - Tracy Smith

Safety Task Force with information on the number of students who are vaccinated or plan to be vaccinated, as well as those who choose not to vaccinate or disclose their status to the university.

"We developed the registry through a collaborative effort among

university leadership and the College of Science, along with information technology input from several departments on campus," Smith said. "The vaccine registry is required for all students who are registered for the fall semester. It provides key data to assist in our decision making for protocols, as well as contact tracing if a case were to appear."

In addition to vaccination clinics and monitoring, Marshall is also utilizing its new #thundering herd immunity public awareness campaign and cleaning and disinfection protocols guided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to help combat COVID. The public awareness campaign includes delivering vaccination messages through myMU, Marshall's intranet, and through social media, direct e-mail messages and printed materials.

For the latest COVID-19 communications from Marshall University, visit www.marshall.edu/coronavirus.

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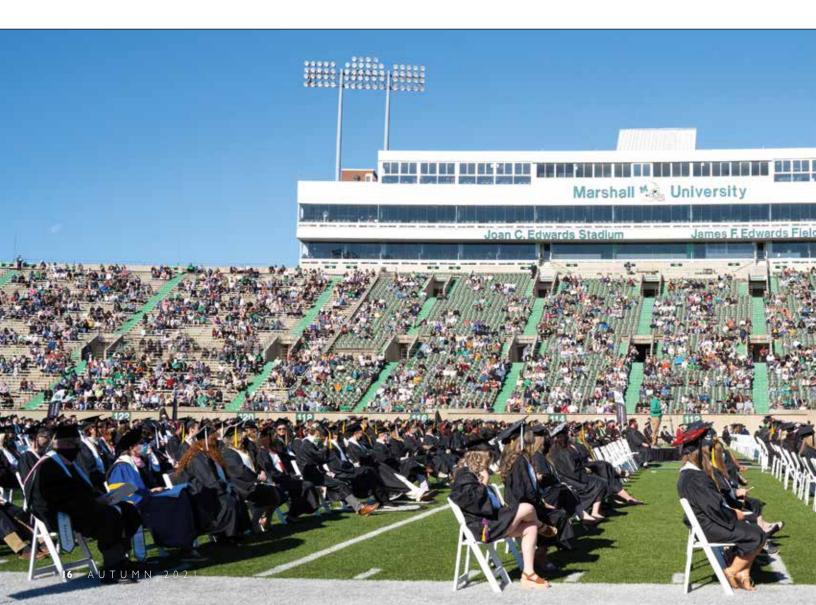
**Kimberly Price** is a freelance writer living in Huntington, West Virginia.

commencement



Pandemic leads university officials to stage first-ever stadium commencement ceremony.

#### By Molly McClennen



arshall University's commencement ceremonies are always special occasions, but the graduation held on May 1, 2021, in the Joan C. Edwards Stadium took on additional meaning for the graduates, their families and the university community. It was the first time Marshall had been able to celebrate graduation with an in-person ceremony since December 2019. And while this year's spring graduation ceremony required some extra planning to comply with COVID-19 safety guidelines, the result was a memorable day to mark the achievements of Marshall's most recent classes of graduates.

"After a year of the pandemic, it

"After a year of the pandemic, it was *absolutely wonderful* to be able to celebrate our graduates at an in-person event. It was a sign that we are *returning to normalcy*."



 Dr. Sonja Cantrell-Johnson Marshall University Registrar

> was absolutely wonderful to be able to celebrate our graduates at an in-person event," said Dr. Sonja Cantrell-Johnson, Marshall University registrar. "We did two virtual ceremonies for the 2020 graduates, but it is not the same as being face to face. The graduates were so excited to be able to participate. It was a sign that we are returning to normalcy."

> Staff of the Registrar's Office, who are responsible for planning graduation, worked closely with the university's Environmental Health

and Safety Office to ensure all participants would be safe. For the first time, Marshall held graduation at the stadium. This allowed for social distancing of the graduates and their families. Holding an outdoor ceremony in a larger venue had other advantages; usually, the university must hold two ceremonies for spring graduation because of limited space. The stadium allowed enough space to not only accommodate all the spring 2021 graduates, but also the spring, summer and winter 2020 graduates who did not have the opportunity to attend an in-person graduation last year. About 1,000 graduates participated in the ceremony.



The May 1, 2021, commencement was held at the football stadium.



President Gilbert congratulates a student with an elbow bump.



The "first-time" event took place at the Joan C. Edwards Stadium.

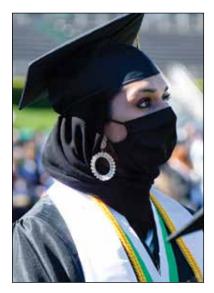


"The stage was *gorgeous* rendering such a prestigious ambience, and with a 360-degree view of all in attendance. It was a *great day*!"

Maurice Cooley vice president of student affairs

"Planning graduation is always a team effort, but this year it really was a campus-wide effort because it was outside and so large. Multiple offices stepped up to help and volunteer their time to help us have a safe, in-person ceremony," said Cantrell-Johnson.

Staff in the ticketing office assisted in seating family groups in "pods" spaced throughout the stadium. Rather than processing in, graduates went straight to their seats. Graduates still had the traditional photo with President Gilbert after receiving their diploma, but elbow bumps replaced handshakes.





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Other traditions continued as well. As it has done since 2001, the Office of Intercultural Affairs held a Donning of the Kente ceremony on April 30th. The Kente ceremony is a West African tradition that celebrates an extraordinary achievement. Because this year's Kente ceremony was held virtually, Kente cloths were mailed to graduates who participated. Those graduates, as well as deans and President Gilbert, proudly wore the Kente cloths with their academic regalia for the graduation ceremony.

Maurice Cooley, vice president of student affairs, says the May 1 commencement was the most exciting he has attended during his 18 years at Marshall.

"I look forward to commencement every year," says Cooley. "The purpose for students coming to the university is to study, learn, grow and graduate. Commencement is always special because it is the formal occasion when those accomplishments are recognized. But because we had been distanced for so long this ceremony took on extra meaning. The stage was gorgeous, rendering such a prestigious ambience, and with a 360-degree view of all in attendance as we celebrated all our grads in regalia and cords. It was a great day!"

The keynote speaker, Lt. Gen. Anthony Crutchfield, a 1982 graduate of Marshall University who retired as a lieutenant general from the U.S. Army after serving as Deputy Commander of the U.S. Pacific Command, and who currently serves as vice president of Army systems at Boeing, shared habits he has maintained that have helped him achieve success in his career and life.

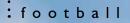
"It was wonderful to have a

Marshall graduate, who went on to become one of the most powerful men in the world, return to campus to share his experience with our graduates," says Cooley.

When contemplating the importance of commencement in the life of the university, as well as a milestone in the lives of individual students, Cooley recounts talking with an incoming freshman who was visiting campus for new student orientation. The student said attending college orientation was the most exciting day of his life.

"I thought to myself, if he thinks that is exciting, he will be even more overjoyed on the day he graduates from Marshall," says Cooley.

**Molly McClennen** is a freelance writer living in Huntington, West Virginia.





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# iversity

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# JUJZS JUZZS

Former Nick Saban understudy Charles Huff is "bringing the juice" to the Herd football program as it enters the 2021 season.

By Keith Morehouse

n the middle of 300-plus football campers on a blazing summer day, Marshall Head Coach Charles Huff has their undivided attention. He oozes confidence and bravado in the post-camp talk. His straw hat might suggest that he hasn't fallen far from the Nick Saban coaching tree, but that's just window dressing on a hot football field. Huff is his own coach now. A lifetime around the game prepared him for this.

"My dad always tells the story that when I was five years old I wanted to be the coach and let everybody else play," Huff said from his spacious office overlooking Edwards Stadium. "The schemes were interesting to me, so it started at a young age."

It was his love of the strategy of football that fueled his dream to go into coaching; however, it was his own career as a player that led him to where he is today. Huff's measurables in coaching include a tireless work ethic, a far-reaching social media presence, and high expectations of his players on and off the field. Huff wants his lessons to go well beyond the yard lines on a football field. Times like these are when his father's advice comes in handy.

"He's really been helpful when it comes to seeing the big picture," Huff said of his father. "He told me to make sure and treat everybody the same way, and to separate your job from your feelings."

"You can get a sense of who he is and what he stands for from his posts on social media," sophomore linebacker Eli Neal said emphatically. "Everything you see on social media — that's him for real. He brings energy to his job every single day. He's bringing change to Huntington and his energy is contagious."

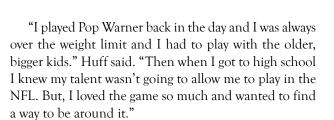
"Coach Huff is absolutely amazing. I love the guy," ju-



#13 Nazeeh Johnson



#24 Eli Neal



Huff realized he wanted to be on the sidelines long after he hung up his cleats. Besides, coaching was the family business anyway — his father, Charles, was a women's basketball coach at Delaware State University. So, he began to build a resume that would stand out when athletic directors and search committees went looking for head football coaches. He's brought 17 years of coaching experience to Marshall from schools such as Maryland, Vanderbilt, Penn State, Mississippi State and, most recently, perennial powerhouse Alabama.



#8 Grant Wells

THEHE

#11 Xavier Gaines

nior linebacker Koby Cumberlander added. "He's a good leader. He brings his own energy, his own juice. That's the most important thing. He has definitely changed the culture around here."

"I've been to the doctorate school of coaching under Nick Saban," Huff says of the coach who's won seven national championships at Alabama. "I've had a lot of experiences along the way. In order for the players to trust you, respect you, buy into what you are trying to do, you have to holistically dive in."

Huff arrived in Huntington with a reputation as a recruiting whiz. The website 247 Sports named him the National Recruiter of the Year for the 2021 season for his work in bringing top-notch prospects to Alabama.

Some of the preseason prognosticators have picked Marshall to win the East Division of Conference USA, and with 15 starters returning from last year's 7-3 team there is optimism in the program.

Quarterback Grant Wells, and receivers Corey Gammage and Talik Keaton, have caught Huff's eye this summer. There's also a big, experienced offensive line to plow the way ahead.

On defense there are plenty of battle-tested veterans like linebackers Cumberlander and Neal, defensive lineman Jamare Edwards, and defensive backs Steven Gilmore, Brandon Drayton and Nazeeh Johnson.

After another long day back at "Camp Huff," the coach has gathered all the young players on the field to impart some final words of wisdom.

"The one thing about Marshall you must remember is that it's a very special place," Huff asserts. "This university has a rich heritage of strength, determination





#32 Koby Cumberlander

#99 Jamare Edwards

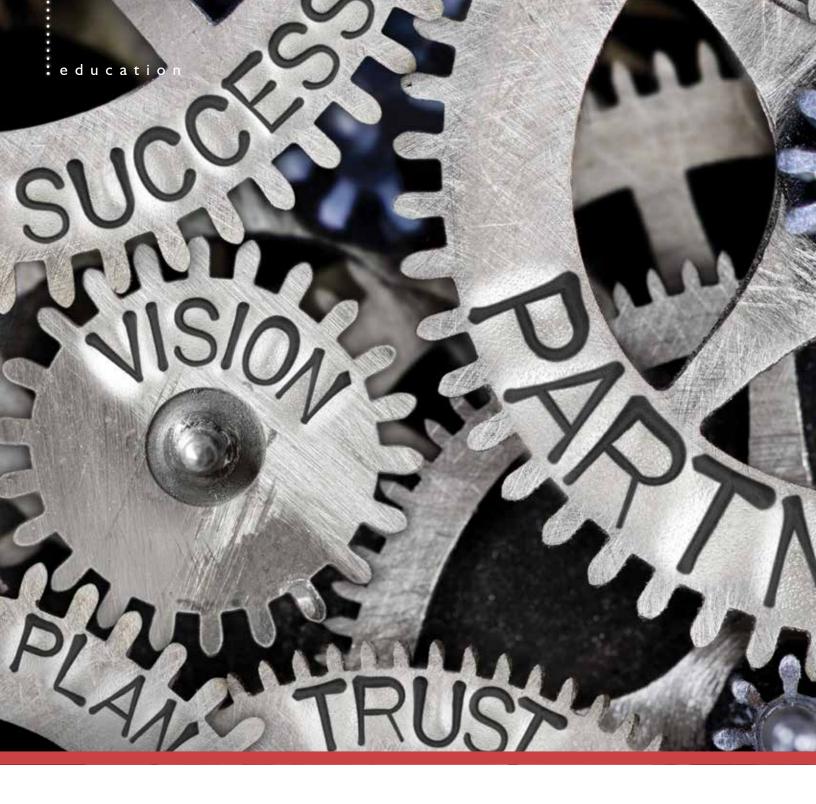
and resiliency. The football program rose from the ashes of a plane crash that took the lives of nearly the entire team, and went on to win two Division I-AA national championships, produce two Heisman Trophy finalists and send dozens of players to the NFL. What they have accomplished here is remarkable."

Charles Huff clearly understands the football program and his role in its future. And it helps that the man tapped to lead the Thundering Herd on Saturdays is used to wearing different hats as he handles sales, public relations, recruiting and, of course, coaching. His straw hat is getting plenty of wear already.

**Keith Morehouse** is a freelance writer and sports director at WSAZ NewsChannel 3 in Huntington, West Virginia.

### 2021 MARSHALL UNIVERSITY THUNDERING HERD FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Sat. Sept. 4	AT Navy Midshipmen	<b>3:30 p.m.</b> CBSSN
Sat. Sept. 11	VS NC Central Eagles	<b>6:30 p.m.</b> ESPN+
Sat. Sept. 18	VS East Carolina Pirates	<b>6:00 p.m.</b> Facebook
Thu. Sept. 23	AT Appalachian State Mountaineers	<b>7:30 p.m.</b> ESPN
Sat. Oct. 2	AT Middle Tennessee Blue Raiders	7:00 p.m. Stadium
Sat. Oct. 9	VS Old Dominion Monarchs	<b>2:00 p.m.</b> Facebook
Fri. Oct. 15	AT North Texas Mean Green	<b>7:00 p.m.</b> CBSSN
Sat. Oct. 30	VS FIU Panthers	<b>3:30 p.m.</b> Stadium
Sat. Nov. 6	AT Florida Atantic Owls	<b>6:00 p.m.</b> Facebook
Sat. Nov. 13	VS UAB Blazers	<b>3:30 p.m.</b> CBSSN
Sat. Nov. 20	AT Charlotte 49ers	<b>3:30 p.m.</b> Stadium
Sat. Nov. 27	VS WKU Hilltoppers	<b>3:30 p.m.</b> CBSSN
Sat. Dec. 4	C-USA Championship Site, City TBA	Time TBA CBSSN



Marshall continues to grow its institutional partnerships and is poised to become known as one of the most collaborative universities in the country.

By Megan Archer



# POWER of PARTNERSHIP

arshall University President Jerry Gilbert defines partnership as a true relationship that results in mutual benefits. And at Marshall University, the power of partnership is alive and well.

"Being a partner is smart for a university because it creates an enhanced environment for you to work in, and it brings other opportunities you wouldn't otherwise have," Gilbert explained. "I think in a state like West Virginia, there are lots of needs and lots of opportunities to help. If we try to compete and not cooperate, we will dilute our efforts, and we will not be as successful."

From emerging partnerships with

universities across the world to existing ones within the region that continue to evolve, Marshall is poised to become known as one of the most collaborative universities in the country. These partnerships focus on economic and community development, as well as cooperative academic programs.

In January of 2018, Marshall led the way in creating the Alliance for the Economic Development of Southern West Virginia. The alliance is a collaboration of 10 public two-year and four-year institutions to promote job growth and community and economic development. The alliance has worked with the state of

West Virginia to link our institutions with many different opportunities and has sponsored an annual conference: Small Communities, Big Solutions. More information can be found at https://www.marshall.edu/aedswv/.

"I think our biggest and most recent partnership to enhance academic offerings for students can be seen in the joint aviation maintenance technology (AMT) degree offered with Mountwest Community and Technical College in Huntington," Gilbert said.

Gilbert said he hopes the AMT degree program, the first of its kind in West Virginia, will serve as a model to other institutions in the state. Another recent partnership worth touting involves an agreement with Glenville State College (GSC), which provides up to 15 students a fast-track pathway to a pharmacy career. GSC students admitted to this program can complete a bachelor's degree and a Doctor of



Dr. Gayle Brazeau, dean of Marshall University's School of Pharmacy.

Pharmacy in seven versus eight years, which saves time and decreases student loan debt. A second agreement with the college makes it easier for GSC students to earn a Master of Science in Accountancy (MSA) degree.

In addition, Marshall is partnering with Glenville to bring Marshall's nursing program to the Glenville State College campus in jointly offering the courses and clinical experiences to lead to a nursing degree. This is expected to begin in the fall of 2022.

"Marshall's School of Pharmacy has established agreements with 16 academic partners and is interested in developing more," said Dr. Gayle

University (WVU) on the

Virgin Hyperloop project

in Grant and Tucker coun-

ties, which will give the

universities' science and en-

gineering students the op-

portunity to assist with the

development of the next in-

novation in transportation.

be conducting analyses of

the concrete structures that

"Our students could

Brazeau, dean of the school. "We are already working to expand partnerships with the Kentucky Community and Technical College System, which includes 16 schools, and Mountwest Community and Technical College."

Marshall has also partnered with West Virginia

#### "If we try to compete and not cooperate, we will dilute our efforts, and we will not be as successful."

— Marshall President Jerome Gilbert

will be built as part of the Hyperloop installation," Gilbert said. "They will be testing the strength of the concrete that is poured to ensure the structure is sound. Both Marshall and WVU have unique areas of expertise to contribute."

Partnering with WVU isn't a first for Marshall, and that partnership will continue to grow with App Harvest, a statewide project introduced by Intuit Executive Chairman and Marshall alumnus Brad Smith. Together, they will help build a more sustainable, homegrown food supply.

"App Harvest is a large company out of Kentucky that has indoor hydroponic farms, and they are looking to expand into West Virginia," Gilbert said. "We are very excited to be a part of that. We have a new specialty agriculture program in the College of Science that will launch this fall, and we believe these students could benefit from this particular partnership."



In 2017 President Jerome Gilbert signed a partnership agreement with BridgeValley Community and Technical College at the school's South Charleston campus.

Collaborations with universities outside of the country are also becoming more likely as the university's leadership team continues to cultivate its relationship with institutions such as Handong Global University in South Korea and the Nagoya Technical Institute in Japan.

"We're very interested in growing our international partnerships, but when COVID started and travel became restricted, we had to pause on building those relationships," Gilbert said. "We hope to partner with them on programs such as engineering, information technology and global studies."

Closer to home, Marshall has a new partnership with the school system in Washington, D.C., which creates a pipeline for 12 students to attend Marshall this fall. Looking to the future, the university also plans to partner with West Virginia State University (WVSU) for a joint center in the area of industrial cyber security.

"If you heard about the pipeline cyberattack, then you know how important the area of cyber security is and continues to be," Gilbert said. "Our students will work together to protect industrial infrastructure and detect hackers with smart technology and software. We have a very strong cyber security program here at Marshall and an emerging one at WVSU, so it made sense to partner with them for this virtual center."

Building and forging new relationships is the name of the game, and it's what makes the Marshall community and the state of West Virginia thrive, according to Gilbert.

"I think with a state like West Virginia, it's more



Marshall continues to cultivate relationships with institutions such as Handong Global University in South Korea and Nagoya Technical Institute in Japan.



Marshall President Jerome Gilbert and Glenville State College President Mark Manchin signed an agreement to provide students a fast track path to a pharmacy career.

advantageous to create a win-win where we find ways to work together and utilize our strengths — to come up with better solutions rather than doing it individually. That's why we've created these partnerships. They help us identify ways to enhance the educational experiences for our students. During my time here, I have tried to create the image of Marshall as a facilitator for success for our students and for West Virginia. We want to be known as a good collaborator, and that's why we partner to create jobs and improve conditions in the state. That's something I've tried to foster as part of the attitude at Marshall."

**Megan Archer** is a freelance writer living in Huntington, West Virginia.

# Honoring HAL GREER

New statue to be unveiled at Homecoming honors a basketball legend and trailblazer.

By James E. Casto

Photo by Rick Lee

Marshall commissioned Huntington native Frederick Hightower Sr. to create the statue of Thundering Herd basketball star Hal Greer. The nearly 8-foot tall sculpture will be unveiled on Oct. 9 in front of the Cam Henderson Center as part of this year's Homecoming festivities. his year's Homecoming celebration, set for the week of Oct. 4-9, will include the unveiling of a new statue memorializing Marshall basketball great Hal Greer Saturday, Oct. 9.

The statue, created by Huntington native Frederick Hightower Sr., was scheduled to be unveiled at last year's Homecoming but the COVID-19 pandemic prevented that because the foundry which cast the sculpture to make the statue had been negatively affected.

Brandi Jacobs-Jones, senior vice president of operations at Marshall, said that after discussing the situation with Greer's family, it was decided to postpone the unveiling of the statue until this year's Homecoming festivities.

The slightly larger-than-life bronze statute stands 7 1/2 feet tall. It depicts Greer, clad in his No. 16 Marshall jersey, shooting one of his trademark onehanded jump shots. It's to be located at the west end of Cam Henderson Center, home court for Thundering Herd basketball since 1981.

The idea of honoring the legendary Greer with a statue developed following his death in 2018. "It's absolutely fitting that Marshall honor not only one of the finest student-athletes ever to play here, but also our first Black

#### Hal Greer Statue Unveiling & Dedication

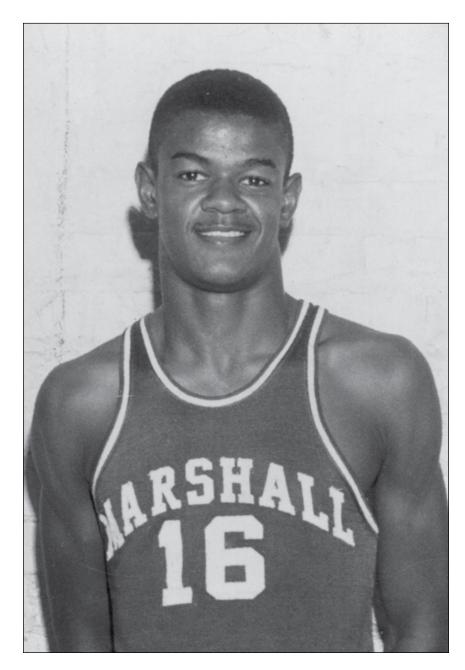
during the Homecoming Week celebration

Saturday, Oct. 9 10:00 a.m. at the Cam Henderson Center 66 I'm just really
honored because
he was more than a
basketball player.
He was a trailblazer
for civil rights.<sup>29</sup>

– Frederick Hightower

scholarship student-athlete," said President Jerry Gilbert.

Born in 1936, Greer grew up in Huntington and was a star player at the city's all-Black Douglass High School. He broke the color barrier for Black college athletes in West Virginia in 1954, when he was awarded a basketball scholarship at Marshall, where he averaged 19.4 points per game in his three varsity seasons. Picked by the Syracuse Nationals in the 1958 National Basketball Association (NBA)







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501 Fifth Avenue | Huntington, WV 25701 | 304.525.0301 WWW.s-co.com 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.

draft, he remained with the same franchise throughout his career, moving with the Nationals when they became the Philadelphia 76ers in 1963.

At Gilbert's request, a committee was formed to foster the statue idea to reality. According to Don Van Horn, the retired dean of the College of Arts and Media who was a member of the committee, proposals by a number of artists were considered but ultimately Hightower was the committee's unanimous choice.

"We made sure the Greer family agreed with that decision and they're thrilled with the finished statue," Van Horn said.

Both an artist and a minister, Hightower said he was "humbled" by being chosen to sculpt the Greer statue.

"My dad grew up in the Fairfield area and went to Douglass, so Hal Greer is a local hero in the area," he said. "I'm just really honored because he was more than a basketball player. He was a trailblazer for civil rights. If it wasn't for him, I don't think that we would have the Michael Jordans and the LeBron Jameses. He was the one that first opened the door, so I believe this memorial is a tribute to the things he and others did during that period."

Hightower has sculpted other significant pieces, including a lifesized sculpture of West Virginia State University graduate and famed NASA mathematician Katherine Johnson, which was erected at WVSU in 2018.

Much like that piece for a figure who has meant so much on a state, national and world level, Hightower said he hopes his latest piece is one that sheds light not only on the importance of Greer himself, but the university and community also. "We want people to know that Marshall is more than just another school, that truly great athletes have come from here," he said. "It's an honor to perpetuate the legacy of this university, and I think this statue will be a hallmark for Huntington itself."

Both Marshall and the 76ers have retired Greer's jersey. When he retired in 1973, Greer, a member of the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame, had appeared in more games (1,122) than any other player in NBA history.

At the 2001 All-Star Game, he was named as one of the NBA's 50 Greatest Players of All-Time.

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

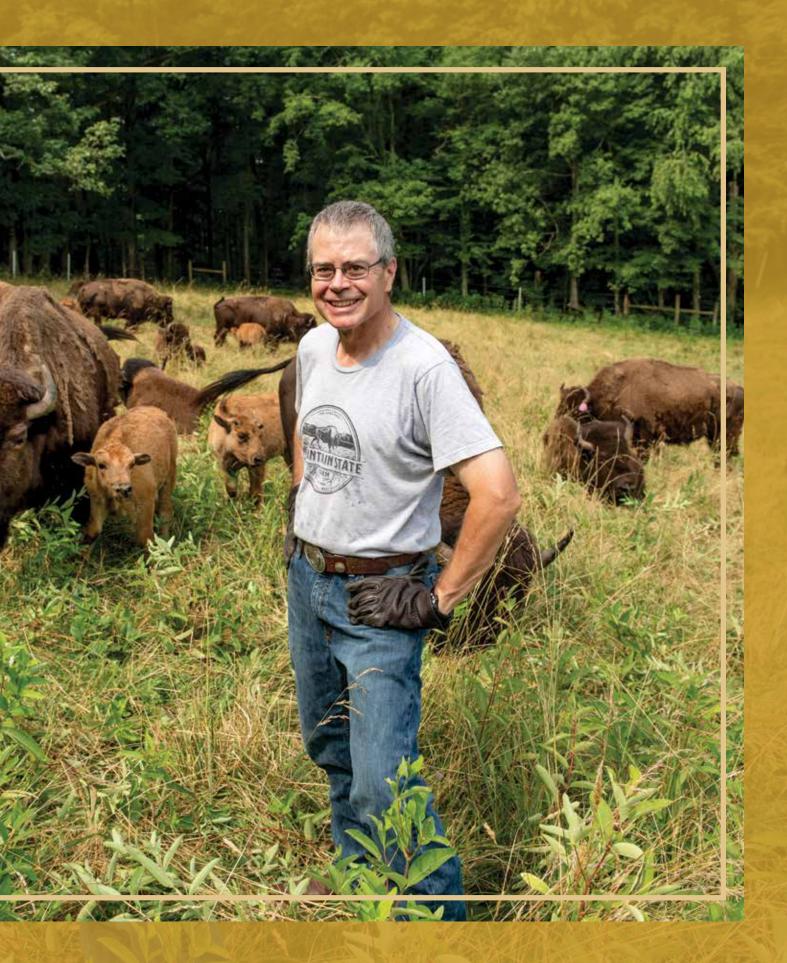
# TENDING to the HERD

Meet Doug Given, a physician and farmer raising bison in rural West Virginia.

By Carter Seaton

ou may not be surprised to learn that a Son of Marshall raises bison, but you might be when you learn he's also an ER doctor. William Douglas Given, M.D., a native of Braxton County, West Virginia, is a fourth-generation farmer as well as a physician.





They say every man is a debtor to his profession and **I'm a debtor to Marshall**. The med school wanted us to succeed, be good doctors and practice family medicine in rural West Virginia. I'm where I am today because of Marshall and the education I received there."

practice program at United Hospital Center in Clarksburg. While there, but still pining for home, he began moonlighting at Braxton Memorial Hospital in 1984. Two years later, he and Brosius set up their own family medicine practice in Gassaway.

Meanwhile, his father was raising beef cattle on the old family farm. But, after an accident at age 88 left him unable to work, he moved in with Given and his family in Gassaway and rented out the farm.

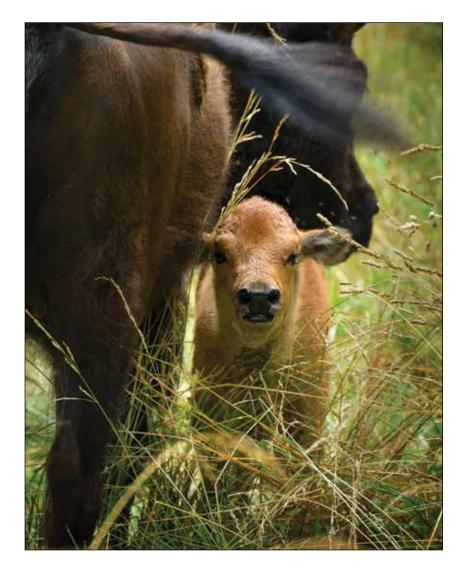
"I was getting depressed because I kept seeing this beautiful farm

Mountain State Farm, where he and his family now tend a growing "herd" of bison, has been owned by family members since the 1800s. But it wasn't Given's original intent to turn to farming.

Following high school, he went to Potomac State College for two years, then transferred to West Virginia University. He was an early draft pick in 1979 for the third class of the nascent Marshall University medical school. At that time, the school was located in the old C&O Hospital on Sixth Avenue. He and his classmate and later medical practice partner, Dave Brosius, lived in the brick building next door. Given recalls the many nights they spent in the anatomy lab until two or three in the morning. "When we finished, we'd go across the street and have a beer at Boney's," he says with a chuckle. "Because the class was so small, everybody knew each other and we tried to help each other. It was so special."

Following his residency at Marshall, he could see that going back to Braxton County wasn't an option, so he joined a family

— William Douglas Given, M.D.



being run down," Given recalls. "I started thinking that I needed to do something about it."

So, after 16 years in Gassaway, the Givens moved back to the farm. Knowing how hard the cattle business is, Given turned to raising bison.

"Bison are a value animal," he explains. "Not a lot of people raise them and their meat sells for a reasonable sum. We thought maybe we wouldn't lose our shirt too badly on it."

First, however, they had to rebuild much of the farm, including re-plumbing ponds, clearing brush, building four miles of fences and fertilizing the fields. At the end of June 2020 they bought their first bison – all bulls – from a breeder in Midnight, Texas. After they did well, they added more. Next came 11 cows, all pregnant, and 18 heifers. Now, a year later, the cows are calving and the herd has grown to 51 head. To hear Given talk about the bison, it's clear he's fallen in love with them.

"They're big animals and they have a very big personality," he says with a smile.

Some have names, but so far none are called Marco. He's selling them for the meat, however, with his son operating a slaughterhouse on the side. They also pasture-raise chickens and pigs.

Although Given never thought he'd be a farmer, Mountain State Farm is a family-run business. Given, his wife, Mary, and son Dan -a CPA who graduated from Marshall - do all the work.

Their other two children – both Marshall alumni – have non-farm related professions. Older daughter Mary Beth Whitford is a teacher living in Pennsylvania with her husband, Justin, and their child.



Younger daughter Laura, who also graduated from the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine at Marshall, practices family medicine in Hamlin, West Virginia.

Because Given's parents were also educators who sent their son to Marshall and because the university has been so important to the Given family, Doug and Mary recently established a scholarship in memory of his parents - William Henry and Marjorie Given. The Given Family Foundation, created as a part of the "Adopt a Medical Student" scholarship program, primarily provides support for a firstyear medical student with Braxton county ties. Second preference goes to a student from either Calhoun. Clay, Lewis, Gilmer, Nicholas or Webster counties in West Virginia. "They say every man is a debtor to his profession and I'm a debtor to Marshall," Given says. "The people down there were great. The med school wanted us to succeed, be good doctors and practice family medicine in rural West Virginia. I'm where I am today because of Marshall and the education I received there." □

**Carter Seaton** is a freelance writer and author living in Huntington, West Virginia. She has received the 2014 Literary Merit Award from the West Virginia Library Association, the Marshall University College of Liberal Arts Distinguished Alumni Award in 2015, the Governor's Award for Lifetime Achievement in the Arts in 2016, and the Ella Dickey Literary Award in 2018.

Jennifer Plymale, associate dean for admissions at the School of Medicine; Dr. Scott Davis, chair of the School of Physical Therapy; Brittany Thompson, recruitment coordinator with the School of Pharmacy.



An innovative program allows motivated students the chance to gain early acceptance into the schools of medicine, pharmacy and physical therapy.

By Lynne Squires

ooking to secure a spot in a graduate program while still in high school or college? Marshall can do just that for motivated, career-path-driven students seeking pharmacy, physical therapy and medical degrees.

Garnering placement in any of these programs can be nerve-wracking, nail-biting and costly for both the student and the parent. Performing well on ACT/SATs, waiting for acceptance letters and paying for PCAT, MCAT or CASPer exams are only a few of the stressors associated with beginning a career in a student's chosen field. But Marshall has a smooth pathway on the otherwise bumpy road of college program acceptance.

Marshall belongs to an ever-growing group of universities across the United States with Early Assurance programs. Open to both in-state and out-of-state residents, applications to the programs are for high-performing students currently enrolled at the university who are committed to entering the competitive fields of physical therapy, pharmacy or medicine. Each of these disciplines has its specific requirements for admittance.

Of the 240 schools nationwide with a Doctor of Physical Therapy (D.P.T.) degree program, only 24 offer an Early Assurance program, and Marshall is proud to be among that number. Qualifying students who will be freshmen in the fall of 2022 are encouraged to explore the Early Assurance admission criteria and apply before the November 1, 2021 deadline.

Aside from the guaranteed seat in the D.P.T. class, there are other benefits from being chosen for Early Assurance. Networking, mentoring and other opportunities serve to enrich the student's educational experience. Each student meets with advisors, engages with the PT club and participates in events with faculty.

"For students with a pretty good idea of what they want, the program gives them a seat and a secure pathway," says Dr. Scott Davis, chair of the School of Physical Therapy. "From the school's perspective, we offer a quality education and an opportunity to keep graduates in the state. It's a win-win-win."

As of 2020, there were 155 medical schools and 37 Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine schools in the United States. Marshall University's Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine is the only medical school in West Virginia offering the Early Assurance program. Marshall students, "For students with a **pretty good idea** of what they want, the program gives them a seat and a **secure pathway**. We offer a **quality education** and an opportunity to keep graduates in the state. It's a win-win-win."

— Dr. Scott Davis, chair of the School of Physical Therapy

# The B.S./M.D. Program

For highly motivated West Virginia high school students, the Marshall University B.S./M.D. program allows students to complete the requirements for both the Bachelor of Science and Doctor of Medicine program in an accelerated seven-year program with:

- No MCAT required
- Guaranteed acceptance into medical school upon successful completion of the program requirements
- Full tuition waiver for the medical school portion of the program

The deadline for acceptance into the 2022 program is December 1, 2021. For a complete list of the requirements for acceptance and more, visit

https://jcesom.marshall.edu/students/bsmd-program

or contact Jennifer Plymale at plymale@marshall.edu.

both in-state and out-of-state, desiring to enter the program should apply at the end of their second year at Marshall.

The M.D. Early Assurance program offers selected Marshall students the opportunity to bypass the MCAT admissions test, and to have a confirmed seat in the medical school class if they meet certain grade and course guidelines as set out in the program policies. The program requires students to take additional advanced-level science courses and offers mentoring and enrichment activities during the undergraduate portion of the program, in an effort to better prepare these exceptional students for the rigors of medical school.

Jennifer Plymale, the associate dean for admissions for the medical school, says that the M.D. Early Assurance program offers both in- and out-of-state Marshall students the chance to enhance

their pre-med experience and increase their chances for success in medical school.

Students interested in seeking a degree as a Doctor of

Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) can apply to the Pharmacy Early Assurance Scholars program in their senior year of high school. The Early Assurance program at the Marshall

> University School of Pharmacy was one of the first programs implemented at a school of pharmacy. Students may apply any time before July 1, 2022, for the fall 2022 class. Those accepted into the program are not required to take the PCAT test.

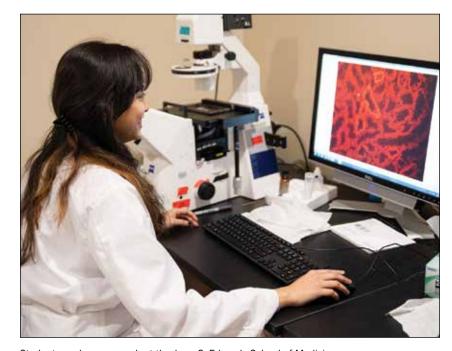
> Pre-Pharmacy students can expect to attend monthly meetings with a faculty mentor and meet with the pre-professional academic advisor in the College of Science. Other opportunities include invitations to the ongoing speaker series, Pre-Pharmacy Club membership and community outreach events.

> Brittany Davis Thompson, the recruitment coordinator with the Marshall School of Pharmacy, states, "I'm excited to see students back on campus this fall in person."

Students study the human body at the School of Physical Therapy.

Students work on research at the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine.





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Students wanting to enter the School of Pharmacy will benefit from the Early Assurance program.

Thompson's role as a mentor to the Early Assurance students is to guide them through everything from understanding the program admission requirements to answers to questions about campus life.

"Our Early Assurance program students are made to feel part of the Marshall University School of Pharmacy 'Pharmily,'" Thompson says.

Each of the three programs has specific requirements. For information about eligibility and application requirements, visit www.marshall.edu/ early-assurance.

Lynne Squires is an author and freelance writer living in Scott Depot, West Virginia.



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# A MESSAGE FROM MIKALA SHREMSHOCK

MUAA National President



Greetings Fellow Alumni!

It has been an exciting summer! The Huntington campus is reopening, along with many of our favorite local businesses and venues. I hope that you are able to stay safe and get out to support your local community and enjoy all that we took for granted before the quarantine.

Summer often feels like both the shortest and longest season. Throughout the rest of the year, our tables clutter with seed catalogs and cruise pamphlets. We spend hours planning adventures, vacations, family visits and home projects. How could we possibly cram all of that into a few brief warm months? But the planning is also a way to make the joy and relaxation of summer extend well outside the season.

I hope that during your planning, you are able to schedule a trip to Huntington. I encourage you to come for Homecoming in October, but also visit for a weekend festival, shopping in the vibrant downtown and an evening stroll along the riverfront.

In July, the Alumni Board of Directors gathered to welcome the new electees to the board. They join the other members to plan safe and welcoming alumni activities for Homecoming, Alumni Weekend and other events throughout the year. We are very happy to be planning in-person events again, while still providing virtual options for those who cannot join us in person.

If you cannot make it to Huntington, consider joining your local alumni chapter. These groups have found creative ways to re-connect alumni to Marshall, stay informed and give back to the university. If there is not a chapter in your area, consider starting one!

We continue to be hopeful most activities will be at normal attendance during the upcoming fall months. Stay up to date on all the happenings on campus and with the Alumni Association on our website, HerdAlum.com, or on social media at @MarshallUAlumni.

Thank you for your continued support of Marshall University. Feel free to reach out at any time with comments or questions via social media, by email or a phone call. Go Herd!

Mikala Shremshock President, Marshall University Alumni Association

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# **Allen Meadows**

# AND A YOUNG THUNDERING HERD

By Larry Crum

he year was 1970. November 14, 1970, to be exact. A scrawny young man by the name of Allen Meadows – scrawny in football terms, mind you,

said. "But he asked if he could send my films to Rick Tolley, the coach at Marshall. A week before the crash, Rick Tolley contacted me about playing for the Herd."

especially among hulking defensive linemen of whom he counted himself a member – was visiting Morgantown, West Virginia, on a recruiting trip, hoping to land a spot on the team of his beloved Mountaineers playing football for West Virginia University.

Meadows was a high school senior that year, wrapping up a bountiful athletic career playing football and basketball for the black and gold Skyhawks of Scott

High School, the pride of Boone County.

A few months prior to that recruiting visit, amongst the chaos of recruitment season with schools bombarding the energetic young man from southern West Virginia with information about their programs, the dean of boys at his high school approached Meadows and asked him about Marshall University. He didn't think too much about the conversation.

"He approached me and asked if I had given any thought to playing at Marshall. I was from southern West Virginia and a huge WVU fan at the time," Meadows



Meadows, back row, second from left, played defensive tackle for the Young Thundering Herd.

On the night of Saturday, November 14, 1970, Meadows was out with friends, having just spent the day exploring his opportunities with the Mountaineer program. As he and his friends celebrated, news began to spread in Morgantown of a tragic accident involving the Marshall University football team. The dorm he was in fell silent.

Moments later, Meadows would join the rest of the world

in learning that the plane carrying the entire Thundering Herd football team, coaches, staff, fans, and community members, crashed returning from a football contest against East Carolina University, killing all 75 people aboard.

Meadows remembers vividly the moment he heard news of the accident. And he still recalls to this day his conversation with Coach Tolley just days prior.

"On the night of the plane crash, I was in Morgantown on a recruiting trip. My heart was set on playing for the Mountaineers," Meadows said. "Not long after, I chose Marshall over WVU and never looked back. I was recruited to play defensive tackle – all 185 pounds of me – and began my journey soon after with the Young Thundering Herd, the greatest rebuilding of a football program in history."

Amid the backdrop of the Southern Airways Flight 932 tragedy, Meadows stepped foot on the Marshall University campus for the first time as a freshman in the fall of 1971. While his focus in those early days in Huntington was on playing football, it didn't take long for the then 18-year-old to learn that this would not be any ordinary season on the gridiron.

"It was the kind of hurt that the new freshmen could not wrap their minds and

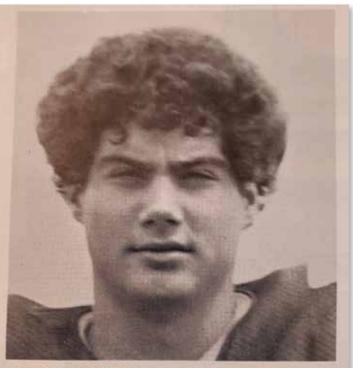
hearts around," Meadows recalled. "I remember the trip to Spring Hill Cemetery and the words from Coach (Jack) Lengyel. The whole campus and town was raw from such a tremendous loss. My sophomore teammates became the true upperclassmen and led us that year.

"It was so difficult for us freshmen who had to grow up real fast. Coaches were assigned to the dorms to keep young players from going home. But we endured and I am so thankful for those players and coaches that kept us going."

Under the guidance of Lengyel, Assistant Coach William "Red" Dawson, Mickey Jackson, and others, the Marshall University football program went to work piecing together a program made up of a handful of players that were not aboard the flight, walk-ons, athletes from other sports and, eventually, first-year players.

That year, the NCAA granted a waiver to Marshall to allow freshmen to compete so they could field a complete team. The Young Thundering Herd was born and Meadows got a chance to play right away.

"Not only did we have the tragedy overshadowing the



program, but we were small and inexperienced, playing against teams that overpowered us," Meadows said. "The team consisted of a few recruits, walk-ons, some basketball players, and soccer players, and wrestlers. Some had never played a down of football. We went up against teams that were bigger, faster, and stronger than us.

"I believe the memory of those players, coaches, community leaders that were lost in the crash, and the Huntington community, kept us motivated to keep the program alive no matter what."

But good intentions and motivation will only get you so far.

The Young Thundering Herd

were largely pushed around and outmatched that first season, being outscored 295-57 in 10 games that year.

"I played defensive tackle all four years in an Oklahoma 50 defense," Meadows recalled. "When I began my freshman year, I weighed 185 pounds and was up against guys across the line that were 270 to 290 pounds. By my senior year I weighed 276 pounds."

While the tragedy largely overshadowed that 1971 season, there were some bright moments that year that showed the heart and determination of the squad. In September, Marshall famously defeated Xavier15-13 at Fairfield Stadium in Huntington for the program's first win following the accident. One month later, the Herd collected another win, a 12-10 Homecoming victory over Bowling Green.

"Of course, the Xavier game stood out to me because it was our first significant win," Meadows said. "But the number one game that sticks out in my mind was Bowling Green in late October. They came down for Homecoming that year. We were 1-5 and they were 5-1. In 1971, there weren't that many bowl games and they were being considered for one of them.

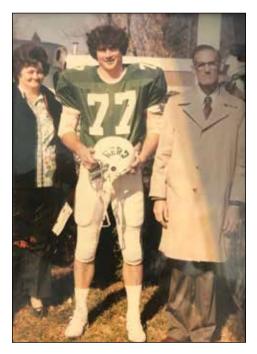
"It was a hot day for that late in the season. They were dressed for a cold game and could not handle the heat or the turf. They had Paul Miles, who was one of the leading rushers in the country with over 100 yards per game, but we held him to 92 yards that day. We won that game 12-10."

Over four seasons, the Young Thundering Herd would collect nine wins against 33 losses, but the impact the team had, not only on Huntington and the university, but the entirety of college football, would last a lifetime.

Meadows was one of seven four-year lettermen in 1974, playing all four years at defensive tackle. He was named the most

outstanding lineman on the team in 1973 and was named team captain of the 1974 team, alongside Jesse Smith. That '74 team would also be the last for Lengyel as head coach of the Herd.

"The upperclassmen that did not make the trip and members of the freshmen team were great mentors. Nate Ruffin, Danny Canada, Jack Crabtree, Rick Meckstroth, Mark Miller, and others, they were great leaders," Meadows said. "None of us knew at that time the anguish they were all going through trying to play football and remembering all of the teammates they had lost. Reggie



Meadows lived in southern West Virginia with his parents when he was recruited to play for Marshall.

were great encouragers. We were all in the same boat and spurred each other on so we could compete on the playing field with other teams."

The Thundering Herd would continue to pile up losing seasons until 1984, when a 6-5 squad became the first Marshall team with a winning record since 1964. Four years later, the team earned its first conference title as co-champions of the Southern Conference in 1988. Another four years later, Marshall University won the Division I-AA National Championship en route to becoming one of the winningest college football programs in the country.

And it was all made possible by a mishmash of young players ssible situation

thrown into an impossible situation.

"The bond between my fellow players and the leadership of the few upperclassmen that were left was special. And the community, especially the boosters, took us under their wings," Meadows said. "I remember the professors and administrators who struggled with the memory of so much loss. Not only were they reeling from the tragedy on campus, but they were dealing with the riots of the early 1970s. Sometimes the football players would have to run from study hall in the library with coats over our heads to avoid the tear gas. It was a sign of the times. All

Oliver had lost several close friends from his high school in the crash and then went on to quarterback our team.

"The community love for the Marshall program is like no other. I have such a special bond with the coaches. Jack Lengyel, Andy Namath, Red Dawson and Mickey Jackson remain close to my heart. My freshman teammates Roger Hillis, Eric Gessler, Jesse Smith, John Shrimp, Bob Bronger and others



Meadows was consulted by McG, the director, of *We Are Marshall* so the story would gain an authentic perspective. Here, he attends the movie's premiere at the Keith-Albee Theatre in December of 2006.

of it helped to make our bond even closer."

Meadows graduated from Marshall University in the spring of 1974 with a B.B.A. in Business Management. He married his high school sweetheart, now Jeanie Garrett Meadows, while attending the school and went on to a successful sales career. But the story of the Young Thundering Herd largely remained a conversation of local lore.

Local, that is, until

the story reached out beyond the borders of Huntington and the Tri-State area when Warner Brothers released We Are Marshall, starring Matthew McConaughey as Lengyel and Matthew Fox as Dawson in 2006. While McConaughey and Fox took on the brunt of the storytelling, many of the other stars of the film stepped



Allen and his wife, Jeanie, have been married 48 years.

in as representative members of the Marshall family in the movie.

"Keith Morehouse's role was representative of families who lost parents. The steel mill plant manager represented the townspeople who did not want the program to go on and the parents who lost a child on the plane. The cheerleader represented girls who had lost boyfriends and husbands on the team," Meadows said. "But all in all, the story that was told followed closely to real-time events."

The movie was filmed largely in Huntington and its director, McG, contacted many of the members of the team, including Meadows, to gather their perspective and stay as close to the true story as possible.

"I met several of the actors and I worked closely with McG, co-producer Mary Viola and producer Basil Iwanyk. The most interaction I had was with writer Jamie Linden. He asked me so many questions and sometimes they would rewrite some of the script as they were filming," Meadows said. "Coach Lengyel stayed in touch with me throughout the filming as well. He lived in Arizona at the time and wanted to make sure they got everything right. He would sometimes call two or three times a day."

While much of the city of Huntington was abuzz with excitement surrounding the movie, it was the quiet moments during filming that stood out most to Meadows.

"Coach Lengyel indeed took us up to Spring Hill Cemetery prior to that game and said those words to us. Nate Ruffin took the main lead for our team. The community stayed hours after the Xavier game. I mailed my varsity jacket and helmet to them so they could pattern them correctly for the movie. All of those moments were true," Meadows said. "When they were filming the scene at Spring Hill Cemetery, they asked about using our church building for the caterers, wardrobe, and staging since it was so close. While they were there, McG grabbed me and let me sit in the directors' chair as they filmed.

"When it came time for the premiere, the players and families of those who died in the crash met at Pullman Square

and we were able to view the movie prior to the premiere. The families were in one theatre and the 1971 team was in the other. There was an eerie silence when the movie finished and the writers and directors came in to see what we thought. I think we were all stunned by the reality of the movie. It made us realize what an impact we had on the Marshall University football program."

Today, Meadows is still happily married to his wife, Jeanie, having just celebrated 48 years together. They have two sons, Eric and Todd, and two grandsons, Cooper and Zach. Meadows is since retired as a sales manager with Altria. He remains active in the Huntington community, serving as ministry leader for the University Christian Fellowship, as well as in the Marshall community as a charter board member of the M Club and an active member of the Marshall University Alumni Association Board of Directors.

This fall, the Young Thundering Herd will celebrate the 50th anniversary of that 1971 season. Meadows and members of the team will gather for a special weekend with several activities planned for members of the team.

"While we have lost many of our teammates in the 15 years since the movie, we expect around 40 players with their families," Meadows said. "It is one of the proudest achievements to be linked to this program. As I look back through my life, it has given me so much satisfaction to know we played for the 75 to keep the program alive.

"Being involved in the rebuilding of the football program taught me that anything is possible. Marshall helped me develop into who I am today, and I have taken that with me everywhere I have gone. I am proud to be a son of Marshall University."

# this and that



# **Update Your Contact Information Today!**

Want to keep in touch with the latest news and events at Marshall University? Then update your contact information today! The Marshall University Alumni Association is calling on all alumni to join us and update your information today so that we can better serve you and keep you informed of the latest news, happenings, offerings and much, much more from your alma mater! Updating your information is simple — visit **www.herdalum.com** and click on the update contact information button at the bottom of the page and you are all set! For more information or questions, email us at alumni@marshall.edu.

# **Marshall University Alumni License Plates**

Show your Marshall pride at home and on the highway with a MARSHALL UNIVERSITY ALUMNI VANITY LICENSE PLATE! Plates are currently available for purchase in Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia, with an Ohio plate coming soon! To purchase a plate, visit **www.herdalum.com** and download the form for your state today. Don't see a plate for your state? Contact the Office of Alumni Relations by e-mail at **alumni@marshall.edu** or by phone at **304-696-2901** and we will research starting a program in your area.



# homecoming



# Homecoming is "Back and better than ever!"

The past year and a half has been a difficult time for many. Lockdowns, restrictions and virtual gatherings became the norm and many in the Marshall community have been left feeling isolated and alone after months away from the warm glow of our campus home.

After a year apart due to the pandemic, Marshall University is excited to welcome alumni, students and friends back to campus for a celebration like no other. Marshall is proudly proclaiming that Homecoming is "Back and better than ever" in 2021 with a celebration befitting a proud institution such as ours. Join Marshall University and the Marshall University Alumni Association for Homecoming the week of Oct. 4-9 culminating with the Homecoming game against Old Dominion University on Saturday, Oct. 9, at 2:00 p.m.

The game will be preceded by major activities in person and online throughout the week, including the annual Homecoming Parade and Bonfire on Thursday, Oct. 7, Picnic on the Plaza on Friday, Oct. 8, and a full day of activities on Saturday, Oct. 9, including the Homecoming Stampede 5K, Marshall University Alumni and Family Tailgate and much more!

#### MONDAY, OCT. 4

Office Decoration

WHEN: All Week WHERE: Marshall University Campus

INFO: Campus offices are asked to decorate using the Homecoming theme. The offices are judged on Thursday of Homecoming Week and prizes awarded at the Friday, Oct.
8, Picnic on the Plaza. Prizes are awarded in multiple categories for large and small offices. Registration at HerdAlum.com.

#### Unity Walk / Homecoming Court Announcement

WHEN: Late Afternoon

WHERE: Walk from Memorial Fountain to Marshall Rec Field

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

#### **Virtual Activities**

WHEN: Monday – Tuesday – Wednesday

- WHERE: Marshall University Alumni Association Website / Social Media
- INFO: Join your Alumni Association for games, special interviews and new episodes of the Exploring Marshall video series during the early part of Homecoming week. Watch HerdAlum.com or visit us on social media @MarshallUAlumni for information.

#### **TUESDAY, OCT. 5**

#### Intercultural Center Grand Opening / Ribbon Cutting

- WHEN: 4:30 p.m.
- WHERE: Marshall University Huntington Campus
- INFO: Join the Marshall University community for the official grand opening of the all-new Intercultural Center on campus.

#### THURSDAY, OCT. 7

- Homecoming Parade
  - WHEN: 6:30 p.m.
- WHERE: Downtown Huntington
- INFO: Floats, marching bands and
- everything you love about pa-
- rades fill the Thursday night air!
- And if you can't make it, join us @
- MarshallUAlumni and @MarshallU for
- a broadcast of the parade!

#### Pep Rally and Bonfire

- WHEN: 7:30 p.m.
- WHERE: Harless Field
- INFO: A new tradition! Alumni and students enjoy a bonfire with plenty of
- entertainment and activities featur-
- ing university coaches, cheerleaders and team members, the Marshall
- University Marching Thunder, float
- awards and much more!

#### FRIDAY, OCT. 8 Picnic on the Plaza

WHEN: 11:30 a.m.

- WHERE: Memorial Student Center Plaza
- INFO: Marshall's largest and most exciting on-campus Homecoming
- party! The Marshall University Alumni
- Association will throw a party with
- free food, drinks, music, games, plus
- special appearances by the Marching
- Thunder, cheerleaders, coaches, players and more! Lots of fun for stu-
- dents, faculty and alumni!
- Fairfield Community Block Party
- WHEN: 5:30 p.m. -7:30 p.m. WHERE: Parking Lot of Stephen J.
- Kopp Hall/School of Pharmacy INFO: To celebrate the life and legacy
- of one of the Fairfield neighbor-
- hood's own, Marshall and NBA great Hal Greer. Enjoy food, friends,
- live music and more. RSVP to waiters1@marshall.edu.
- waiters i @marshall.edu.

#### For a complete schedule of events visit HerdAlum.com/Homecoming21

- SATURDAY, OCT. 9
- Homecoming Stampede 5K
   WHEN: 9 a.m.
  - WHERE: Meet at John Marshall Statue INFO: Students, faculty, alumni and
  - Marshall University supporters are invited to come together for a fun run
  - around campus featuring a brand new route weaving throughout cam-
  - pus with multiple age groups and prizes.

#### Hal Greer Statue Dedication WHEN: 10 a.m.

- WHERE: Cam Henderson Center
- INFO: Join the Marshall family for the
- dedication of the Hal Greer Statue on campus.

## Marshall Family and Alumni Tailgate WHEN: 11:30 a.m.

- WHERE: Joan C. Edwards Stadium East Lot (Beside Chris Cline Indoor Athletic Facility)
- INFO: ALL are invited to this wonderful tailgating experience in a brand-
- new location! Enjoy great food,
- hang with friends, play tailgating
- games and enjoy performances by the Marching Thunder, Marshall
- University Cheerleaders and greet-
- ings from special guests. Don't miss
- the famous Marshall Family and
- Alumni Tailgate prior to the game!
- Tickets and information are available at HerdAlum.com.

#### Homecoming Game vs. ODU WHEN: 2:00 p.m.

- WHERE: Joan C. Edwards Stadium
- INFO: Marshall battles the Old Dominion
- University Monarchs in the annual Homecoming Game!

#### Step Show and Comedian

- WHEN: 8:00 p.m.
- WHERE: Keith-Albee Performing Arts Center
- INFO: The Marshall University Black
- Alumni Association will once again
  - host the Step Show and other performances following the Homecoming
  - dame.

# **CLASS NOTES**

## **1970s**

**Bill Clevenger** (B.S. '75) retired as executive director of the Decatur, Illinois, Park District. He also had served as director of parks, recreation and public grounds in the city of Charleston, West Virginia.

# **1980**s

**Alisa Lively** (B.A. '82, M.A. '94) is dean of students and director of campus life at West Virginia Wesleyan College in Buckhannon, West Virginia.

**Mike McCoy** (B.A. '89) has been named to the West Virginia Schools Athletic Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

**Ron Metcalf** (B.B.A. '86) was appointed to the Keyser, West Virginia, board of education to fill a vacancy.

**Sheila Schultz** (B.B.A. '89) is a part-time county counselor in Miami County, Kansas, and has served as a municipal judge in several cities in that area.

**Ted Sheppe** (B.B.A. '83, M.B.A. '86) has been named president of central Florida for the ServisFirst Bank in Orlando, Florida.

# **1990**s

**Kenneth Ballard** (B.A. '97), who is a family court judge in Kanawha County, West Virginia, has been given a temporary appointment to the Kanawha Circuit Court to fill a vacancy.

**Melissa Bledsoe** (B.A. '96, M.A. '03) was named as the Teacher of the Year in Mason County, West Virginia, in 2020. She teaches mathematics in Point Pleasant.

**Carl Capellas** (B.A. '97, M.A. '99) is the national director of soccer for AstroTurf, headquartered in Dalton, Georgia.

Joe Chirico (B.A. '94) is the new head football coach at George Rogers Clark High School in Winchester, Kentucky. In 2020, his team from Paintsville, Kentucky, won the Kentucky Class A state championship.

**Dan Gross** (B.A. '99) has been appointed executive director of citywide events coordination and management in New York City.

**Rob Jeffreys** (B.A. '92, M.S. '94) is the director of the Illinois Department of Corrections.

**Jennifer Spade** (B.A. '96, M.A. '2006) is a teacher of visual arts in Ashland, Kentucky.

# 2000s

**Dr. Bridget Baker Duda** (B.A. '00) completed her Doctor of Education degree in the spring of 2020. She is employed by the University of Delaware as a field instructor, supervising 4+1 elementary special education teacher candidates in public elementary schools.

**Jeremy Farley** (B.A. '05) is president of the Logan County Board of Education.

**Christy Franklin** (M.S. '05) is director of St. Mary's Regional Neuroscience and Joint Replacement Centers.

Jason Frye (B.A. '00) writes travel guides and is based Wilmington, North Carolina. His most recent is *Moon Blue Ridge Parkway Road Trip*, which was published earlier this year.

**Larry Moore** (B.A. '04, M.A. '18) has been appointed a representative of Ward 4 in the Charleston, West Virginia, city council.

**Missy Clagg Morrison** (A.A.S '00) received the Rhododendron Award for contributing to the betterment of the Huntington community. She has also received the Cabell Huntington Hospital Women's Philanthropy Society's 2015 Focus Award, the 2015 Herald-Dispatch Citizen Award and the Marshall University Alumni Association's 2015 Community Achievement Award.

**Mike Spears** (B.F.A. '01, M.A. '04) was the winner of the Grayson Gallery and Art Center's Board Choice Award in January. He teaches art at Boyd County High School.

Lt. Col. Andi Tallman (B.A. '02), who serves in the U.S. Army, is the executive officer for Maj. Gen. Dennis LeMaster, commander of the Health Readiness Center of Excellence at Joint Base San Antonio, Texas. Most recently, she was commander of the 2nd Medical Recruiting Battalion in Alabama.

# 2010s

**Shayna Gore** (B.S. '18) is a graduate assistant coach at Indiana University.

**Maj. Eric Flanagan** (M.A. '19), an officer in the Marine Corps, was featured in an article about enlisted personnel who became officers in an article of Military Families magazine.

**Grae Greer** (B.F.A. '18) directs the Oak Island Theatre at Owensboro Community and Technical College in Owensboro, Kentucky.

**Donna Hage** (Ed.D. '16) is currently serving as assistant school superintendent in Harrison County Schools, a position she has held since July 2006.

**Aaron Payne** (B.A.J. '16) is digital news editor at WOUB-FM radio in Athens, Ohio.

**Rev. Joey Stevens** (R.B.A. '12) is pastor of North Mount Zion Church in Continental, Ohio.

**Mark Truby** (R.B.A. '12) is chief communications officer at Ford Motor Company.

# **IN MEMORIAM**

#### Dr. Paul Whear



Dr. Paul Whear (highlighted) bows to the audience after the performance of "The Chief Justice" at the Kennedy Center in 1976.

Current and former faculty members and students from Marshall's School of Music mourn the loss of Professor Emeritus Dr. Paul W. Whear, a renowned composer and professor of music theory and composition, who passed away in March at the age of 95.

He retired from Marshall about 30 years ago, having directed the University Orchestra and being the founding conductor of the Huntington Symphony Orchestra.

"He was a terrific teacher and a great conductor," said colleague Dr. Don Williams, also a professor emeritus at Marshall. "His music is in the Library of Congress. At one time, he was an active composer and his work was known worldwide."

Dr. Wendell Dobbs, interim dean of the College of Arts and Media, performed under Whear in the Huntington Chamber Orchestra, the predecessor of the Huntington Symphony Orchestra. "We performed many, many times at the Huntington Museum of Art (then Huntington Galleries) to very appreciative audiences," Dobbs said. "In 1999, Paul composed his Celtic Concerto for solo flute and orchestra. I premiered this work with the Huntington Symphony Orchestra. It's a wonderful work. Paul knew I was a great lover of Irish traditional music, so I was thrilled to get to perform as the soloist."

Whear is survived by two grown children, Cynthia Whear, who has worked as an occupational therapist in Baltimore, and Dr. Allen Whear, a performing cellist and music professor who has split time between the United States and Canada.

As a composer, Whear won several prizes and distinctions, including a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts and the ASCAP Award. His compositions have been performed by the London Symphony Orchestra, the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Cleveland Philharmonic, the U.S. Navy Band and many others. He was also a National Patron of Delta Omicron International Music Fratemity.

His work, "The Chief Justice," was performed by Marshall's Department of Music at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in 1976 as part of the U.S. bicentennial observance.

#### Dr. Joseph Duffey

Dr. Joseph Duffey passed away early this year at the age of 88. Duffey is among the most accomplished College of Liberal Arts alums, earning four degrees, heading two federal agencies, leading two universities, and serving in the administrations of two U.S. presidents. He was a native of Huntington, West



Dr. Joseph Duffey (left) with actor Paul Newman.

Virginia and the son of a coal miner who lost his mother at the age of 13. He was the first member of his family to attend school past the fourth grade. He earned a B.A. in history at Marshall in 1954, completed a bachelor of divinity at Andover Theological School (now Yale Divinity School), a master's of Sacred Theology from Yale in 1963, and a Ph.D. from Hartford Seminary in 1969. In 1963 he returned to Marshall to deliver the commencement address.

Duffey taught at Hartford Seminary from 1960 to 1970, serving as assistant professor, associate professor and acting dean for a period. He helped to organize Freedom Rides in the South and developed a commitment to ending the war in Vietnam. That commitment led him to lead Eugene McCarthy's presidential campaign in Connecticut in 1968. By 1970, he decided to run for Senate in Connecticut as an anti-Vietnam War candidate. His campaign attracted a number of high-profile supporters, including Tony and John Podesta, Michael Medved, Larry Kudlow and Bill and Hilary Clinton. Adding star power, publicity, and fundraising clout were actor Paul Newman, and authors Alexander Caldwell, William Styron and Thornton Wilder. Duffey won the Democratic primary, but lost the general election due to a third party candidate splitting the vote on the Democratic side.

Duffey went on to work on George McGovern's campaign in 1972 and headed Jimmy Carter's Washington campaign office in 1976. Carter appointed him as assistant secretary for educational and cultural affairs, and later named him chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities. In 1979 he joined the Council on Foreign Relations, of which he was a member for over 40 years.

After five years at NEH, he became chancellor of the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, and later president of the University of Massachusetts statewide system. In 1991 he left UMass to become president of American University in Washington, D.C. In 1993, President Bill Clinton named Duffey head of the US Information Agency, an agency promoting US policies overseas. Duffey headed that agency for six years.

After his death, former President Clinton wrote, "There were so many of us who were drawn to his deep commitment to peace, economic fairness, and civil rights ... he helped redefine the role of public diplomacy in a rapidly changing world with his natural ability to bridge divides and bring people together."

# **IN MEMORIAM**

**Doris Harper Allen** died March 4. She was honored by James Madison University by the naming of the Harper Allen-Lee Hall, which she shared with Robert Walker Lee, another former employee of JMU. Allen worked as cook to the president and wrote two self-published books that talked about her experiences as a girl in Harrisonburg, Virginia, and her involvement in the Civil Rights Movement.

**Dr. Robert N. Bicke**l, professor emeritus of advanced educational studies in the College of Education and Professional Development, died June 27. He was a member of the Marshall faculty from 1987 to 2010, and taught courses that included education research and writing, statistical methods, sociology of American schools and history of education in the United States. He held B.A. and M.A. degrees in sociology from Penn State University and his Ph.D. in educational foundations and policy studies from Florida State University. Before coming to Marshall, he served in several research capacities in Pennsylvania and Florida.

**Dr. Dallas Brozik**, professor emeritus of finance, who served on the Marshall faculty for 33 years, died Saturday, May 15. Brozik earned his B.A. in mathematics and physics from Coe College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa; his M.B.A. from Lewis University in Illinois; and his Ph.D. from the University of South Carolina. He graduated from the United States Navy's Naval Nuclear Power School and served as a division officer aboard the USS James K. Polk. He is surived by his wife, Doris, of 47 years.

Joanne Drescher Caudill, who was a music faculty member in piano at Marshall, died April 4. Following graduation from Indiana University with a degree in music education and a Master of Music in piano performance, she traveled briefly as a pianist before settling into the academic life as a professor of piano at Oklahoma Baptist University and then Marshall University. She was active in the Presbyterian Church throughout her life and continued serving as a performing pianist and chamber musician. Retiring to Arizona with her husband, Kyle, in 1980, she remained active in musical activities both as a teacher and as a performer in various organizations. Among her professional organizations were Sigma Alpha lota International Music Fraternity, Music Teachers National Association, and Music Educators National Conference. Her time in Arizona capped a successful career in teaching and performing what she loved.

**Rev. Sue C. Dejournett**, (B.A. '59, M.A. '78) died Dec. 23. A resident of the Macon, Georgia, area, she graduated magna cum laude as an undergraduate.

Millard Allen Fleming (B.A. '63) died Feb. 12. One of the fastest of the early 1960s Thundering Herd players, he ran as a sprinter for Marshall's track team. The Leslie, West Virginia, native started every game as a sophomore in 1960, leading the team in rushing and kick returns. He received first team All-Mid-Conference accolades as a halfback in 1961 as he finished second on the Marshall team in rushing and again led the team in kick and punt returns. After completing his Marshall career, Fleming played two seasons for the Ottawa Rough Riders in the Canadian Football League, where he was one of the CFL's top kickoff returners, from 1963-1964 played in the NFL and four years for the Charleston (West Virginia) Rockets of the Continental Football League, helping the team to a 15-0 record, the 1965 league championship and earning first team All-League honors as a cornerback and making the All-Star team in 1967. Fleming was inducted into the Marshall Athletic Hall of Fame in 1997.

Dr. Protip Ghosh, who retired from the geology department in 2004, died Feb. 4. He was 83. Ghosh obtained his B.S. and M.S. degrees in geology from Patna University, India, in 1958 and 1960, respectively. As a Fulbright Scholar, he earned his Ph.D. in geochemistry/ geochronology from Rice University, Texas, in 1972. After teaching at Fairleigh Dickinson University and Bates College, he joined Marshall University in 1980, where he taught until his retirement in 2004. During his 22 years of service at Marshall, he developed and taught mineralogy, petrology, geochemistry, introductory geology and an integrated science class titled "Freshwaters." He led many geology field trips to the southern Appalachians and supervised numerous capstones on topics ranging from the petrology and geochemistry of ultramafic rocks, geochemistry of meteorites, to chemistry of stream water in West Virginia coal fields.

Donald Ray Peters (B.A. '60) died Jan. 10.

**Dr. Harry Sowards** (B.A. '55, M.A. '61) died March 31. He was on the faculty of the then-College of Education from 1966 until his retirement in 2000.

#### PLEASE SHARE YOUR NEWS WITH US

#### Send details to

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.** 

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ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ACTI



### A MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE OF ALUMNI RELATIONS

# WHEW, WHAT A YEAR ALREADY!

#### Greetings, Fellow Alumni and Friends of Marshall University:

Where do we start with this one?

Since we last shared an update from the Office of Alumni Relations, a lot has changed in the world — and at the university. On the lighter side, things have begun to calm down and return to normal from a social perspective. The Huntington campus has opened back up and students are again roaming the halls of Old Main, lounging on the MSC Plaza on warm afternoons and making the trek from dorm halls to classrooms. Oh, and Marshall University became a national power in collegiate soccer! Who saw that one coming? (I mean, outside of the coaching staff, diehard fans, incredible players and Marshall University community, who else saw that one coming!?)

Perhaps the best place to start with this update is on the soccer pitch. While we are a few months removed from Marshall's 1-0 victory over Indiana to claim the 2020 men's soccer national championship, it can't be said enough what that win has meant to Marshall and the community. There are billboards proudly proclaiming our championship status throughout West Virginia. The team has become the talk of the soccer world. Oh, and Head Coach Chris Grassie – who signed an extension to stay with the Herd back in May – says that the 2021 team may be even better than last year. Raise your hand if you are ready for an encore!

Speaking of Coach Grassie, he and new head football coach Charles Huff have proven incredible ambassadors for the university over the summer months. They have been more than generous with their time, appearing on just about any form of media that can squeeze them in. They even took the time to speak with your MU Alumni Association Board of Directors on a couple of occasions over the past few months, along with other special guests. It truly has been a while since the Marshall family has been this excited about the prospects of just how high this university can fly.

And speaking of flying – pun fully intended – the Bill Noe Flight School officially got off the ground in August with the ribbon-cutting ceremony and will welcome its first batch of students this fall. It is just another example of the wonderful things happening at Marshall thanks to the support of alumni and friends of the university. People just like you.

Lastly, as you may have seen in the previous pages, Homecoming is "Back and better than ever" in 2021! After a year apart, we hope you will consider returning to campus the week of Oct. 4-9 and join us on game day; online for a few early-week virtual activities and new episodes of the Exploring Marshall video series; at the parade (online or in person); or at any of the numerous events and activities planned for the week.

It is truly going to be a Homecoming unlike any other as we showcase the best of Marshall University leading up to the Herd taking on Old Dominion University on Saturday, Oct. 9, at 2 p.m.

It is an exciting time to be a part of the #MarshallUFamily and we are excited to share even more news and updates in the coming weeks and months.

Until next time, Godspeed and GO HERD!

Best Regards, Larry, Kasey and Matt



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