

Marshall University

Marshall Digital Scholar

Marshall Magazine

Marshall Publications

Spring 2022

Marshall Magazine Spring 2022

Marshall University

Follow this and additional works at: https://mds.marshall.edu/marshall_magazine

Thundering Herd joins Sun Belt Conference

Marshall

Spring 2022

Magazine



Paying It Forward

Former Fortune 500 CEO Brad D. Smith returns home to lead his alma mater as its 38th president.



See page 43 for
ALUMNI NEWS
and more



Marshall University-Educated, Community-Focused Medical Leadership

As a leader in the staffing and management of hospital emergency departments and hospitalist departments across our region, OVP HEALTH knows what it takes to provide the kind of compassionate, high-quality, patient-centered medical care that patients in communities across Appalachia expect.

That's because OVP HEALTH's physicians and other advanced practice medical providers are led by a team of physician medical directors who have called this area "home" for nearly their entire lives. And all four of them either received their medical training, their undergraduate education, or BOTH, from Marshall University.

Why is that important? Because delivering great care also requires an understanding of, a sensitivity to, and a respect for the unique cultures of the communities where that care is being delivered. And that's especially important when looking at a key indicator of great care — great communication.

Patients in hospitals across our region trust OVP HEALTH because we're not only high-quality medical providers, but also because we are from their communities. We know them. They are our neighbors.

And because...WE ARE MARSHALL!



ROBERT A. HESS, MD
PRESIDENT, CO-FOUNDER,
CORPORATE MEDICAL DIRECTOR



JONATHAN HESS, MD
RECOVERY CENTER MEDICAL
DIRECTOR & ER PHYSICIAN



THOMAS RITTINGER, MD
DIRECTOR OF HOSPITAL
MEDICINE & HOSPITALIST



STEPHEN C. SHY II, DO
VICE PRESIDENT & DIRECTOR
OF ER SERVICES



ovphealth.com

If your hospital is looking for a smart solution to its E.R. and hospitalist staffing and operational challenges, please call Nick Alexander, President, Acute Care, at 304.962.2111, or email him at nalexander@ovp.healthcare.



Jackson Kelly celebrates 200 years of serving our clients in 2022!

We are grateful for the privilege of helping clients pursue opportunities throughout the state and around the nation since 1822. We've grown from a single office in Charleston, West Virginia to 10 offices in 6 states, just as a tiny seed grows into the mighty oak.

The one thing that hasn't changed throughout our history is our focus on serving our clients. Our attorneys deliver thoughtful advice and cost-effective solutions in virtually all aspects of law – from litigation and commercial finance to tax matters, employee benefits, and real estate.

Whether you need to branch out into new endeavors, require resources for expansion and growth, or need to address the root of a problem, our top-tier legal talent is available, ready to bring the results you seek to fruition.

CELEBRATING
JACKSON
200 YEARS **KELLY** PLLC
1822-2022

Responsible Attorney: Ellen Cappellanti, Managing Member
500 Lee Street East, Suite 1600 | Charleston, WV 25301-3202
304.340.1000 | ecappellanti@jacksonkelly.com

PROJECT HOPE AND THE HEALTH PLAN : **HERE FOR HUNTINGTON**



The Health Plan is honored to assist Project Hope in supporting women and their children as they work toward recovery and build safe family relationships. The Health Plan's \$25,000 gift made in 2021 will help Project Hope provide housing, life skills training and mental health services to women looking to better their lives for themselves and their families.



Find out more about The Health Plan's community support by visiting healthplan.org



Plan On It.

THE HEALTH PLAN GAVE A TOTAL OF \$400,000 TO WEST VIRGINIA NON-PROFITS IN 2021.

Marshall

The official magazine of Marshall University

m a g a z i n e

Spring 2022

Contents

- 6 COVER STORY :** Former Fortune 500 CEO Brad D. Smith returns home to lead his alma mater as its 38th president.
- 14 SPORTS :** A new day is dawning in Marshall athletics as the university prepares to join the Sun Belt Conference in 2023 ... or sooner.
- 18 FLIGHT SCHOOL :** State and university leaders gather for the official opening of the Bill Noe Flight School.
- 22 OUTREACH :** TEDx MarshallU was started in 2019 by university students and is still going strong.
- 26 FAREWELL :** The Marshall community recognizes former President Jerome Gilbert for his inspirational leadership.
- 30 ALUM :** Meet the artist and former Marshall student who gained fame by painting 100 women in 100 days.
- 34 LITERATURE :** Professor Stefan Schöberlein's role in the discovery of new writings by Walt Whitman has the literary world abuzz.
- 38 MEMORIAL :** Both Marshall and Huntington lost a sports icon in November when former Coach Jack Cook passed away.



26



everGreen

YOUR ALUMNI CONNECTION

- 43 LETTER FROM MIKALA SHREMSHOCK,**
MUAA PRESIDENT
- 44 SPOTLIGHT — EMMA CHAPMAN**
- 47 CHAPTER ALUMNI REPORT**
- 48 HOMECOMING 2021**
- 50 HAL GREER STATUE DEDICATION**
- 51 EXPLORING MARSHALL**
- 52 CLASS NOTES**
- 54 IN MEMORIAM**
- 55 ALUMNI AWARDS BANQUET**
- 56 LETTER FROM MUAA**

Marshall

President
Brad Smith

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
Cameron Donohue, Rick Haye,
Rick Lee, Morgan Napier,
Austin O'Connor

Contributing Writers
Larry Crum, Jack Houvouras,
Keith Morehouse, Shelly Ridgeway,
Carter Seaton

Editorial Advisory Board
William "Tootie" Carter,
Maurice Cooley, Larry Crum,
Jeff O'Malley, Sherri Smith,
Sheanna Spence, Susan Tams

Marshall Magazine is
distributed three times a year by:
Marshall University
One John Marshall Drive
Huntington, WV 25755

ADVERTISERS' CONTACT:
HQ Publishing Co.
P.O. Box 384
Huntington, WV 25708
304-529-6158
mail@marshallmagazine.com

For subscription information contact:
MU Office of Alumni Relations at
304-696-3134

Comments or suggestions should be
addressed to:
magazine@marshall.edu

Designed & Published by:



HQ Publishing Co.
P.O. Box 384
Huntington, W.Va.
304-529-6158
www.hqpublishing.com

on the cover

Marshall alumnus Brad D. Smith reported to work as the university's 38th president on Jan. 3, 2022. Photo by Rick Lee.

© 2022 by Marshall University



Somerville & Company is a local, public accounting firm with a history of providing quality, professional services such as accounting, tax and other related services to individual and business clients.

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

Invested in Our Community
Dedicated to Quality
Committed to Excellence

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.



We design spaces that inspire.

Hal Greer Memorial Plaza at Marshall University
 The Landing at Marshall University
 Marshall University Football Team Room



Edward Tucker
 ARCHITECTS, INC.

| etarch.com |

1401 6th Avenue | Huntington, WV

When we needed you,
you were there.
And we are exceedingly grateful.



When you needed us,
*we were there, providing high quality,
compassionate care.*

As your trusted healthcare provider, **Mountain Health Network** is here every day providing the care you need. We were here for you during COVID-19 and we will continue to be here for you and your loved ones.



www.mountainhealthnetwork.org

We at Mountain Health Network are pleased to welcome a true Son of Marshall, Brad Smith, as President of Marshall University. As leaders in education, economic development and health care, Marshall and the City of Huntington have endless opportunities ahead and President Smith's leadership, business acumen and passion for the Marshall community will help make the most of those opportunities, leading us all to new heights.

- Kevin W. Yingling, RPh, MD, FACP



: cover story



Paying It Forward

It was well before dawn on Jan. 3, 2022, when Brad D. Smith arrived at Old Main for his first official day as Marshall's 38th president. Such early hours were nothing new to the former Fortune 500 CEO, who typically logged 80-hour weeks during his 11-year tenure running Intuit in Silicon Valley. But for the 57-year-old business executive, there was something different about reporting to work on this particular day. It was the realization of a dream that began not long after he graduated from college and moved away from the area. Smith was finally returning to his alma mater, his roots and his home.

Former Fortune 500 CEO Brad D. Smith returns home to lead his alma mater as its 38th president.

By JACK HOUVOURAS



As part of officially joining the Marshall staff on Jan. 3, Brad D. Smith was presented with a Kelly green jacket by Board of Governors Chairman Patrick Farrell (right) and Vice Chairman Toney Stroud.

“When I stepped down as CEO of Intuit three years ago, it became clear what my purpose was — to return to West Virginia and make a difference. Anything I have ever accomplished in life is because someone at Marshall University invested in me. I consider it the ultimate privilege to be able to pay that privilege forward to the next generation. This is a dream come true.”

Smith’s return began in April of last year when Jerome Gilbert announced that he would be stepping down as Marshall’s president in 2022. A presidential search committee was formed, and more than 100 candidates from across the country applied for the position. Working with outside consultants, the committee conducted a rigorous examination of all the qualified applicants. Ultimately, the list was narrowed to five finalists who were invited to the Marshall campus to meet with university and community stakeholders. When it was announced that Smith was a finalist, numerous leaders throughout the

state were pleased to learn that a West Virginia native had made the cut.

On Oct. 28, 2021, the university’s Board of Governors voted unanimously to name Smith the school’s 38th president. In doing so, the board made several historic “firsts.” Smith became the first Marshall alumnus to lead the university on a full-time basis and the first president to hail from the Huntington area. In addition, he became the first Fortune 500 CEO to lead an American university.

“Brad Smith is undoubtedly the right person at the right place and at the right time to lead Marshall University as our next president,” said Patrick Farrell, chairman of the Board of Governors. “As the search concluded, we discovered there is only one Brad Smith, only one Son of Marshall and only one candidate who has been preparing his whole life for this opportunity.”

Board member Dr. Kathy D’Antoni echoed those sentiments.

"This is a historic time in Marshall's history," said D'Antoni. "We have a nationally acclaimed business leader, a Marshall alumnus and a West Virginia native returning home to give back to the community where he was raised. Brad Smith is humble and gracious and embodies the spirit of paying it forward."

Because Smith comes from the world of business and not academia, some viewed the board's choice as unconventional. But others understood the role of a college president has evolved in the 21st century. An article in the Spring 2018 edition of *Linfield Magazine* stated: "A well-spoken intellectual is no longer enough. Leaders are needed who have worldly and practical skills, who can read a financial statement, seek out financial support and navigate a kind of education that will meet the practical skills in high demand."

Today, 22% of the college presidents in the U.S. come from outside academia. As such, perhaps the board's decision to choose Smith wasn't all that surprising. It would be hard to argue the skill set that Smith brings to the job. He is a proven leader, having led large, complex global enterprises through turnarounds, transformations and impressive growth. He has powerful contacts around the world and has rubbed elbows with the CEOs of Apple, Google, Microsoft, PayPal, JP Morgan Chase and Proctor & Gamble, just to name a few. He served on the President's Advisory Council for Financial Capability for Young Americans, has testified before Congress on key matters and has worked with elected officials and government agencies at the federal, state and local levels across the globe. He understands the importance of marketing and has worked with some of the most respected ad agencies in the world. It's not hard to see how a background like that will affect fundraising at the university. What's more, the number of doors Smith can open for student internships at major corporations is extensive. And, if the faculty and staff at Marshall are concerned about what kind of boss he will be, they will be relieved to learn that *Fortune* consistently listed Intuit as one of the "Best

“We want every student in this state to have a sense of pride about where they are from and to realize they no longer have to leave West Virginia to pursue their dreams.”

Brad D. Smith
Marshall University president

Companies to Work For" in the United States. In 2018 it was ranked No. 13 on the magazine's annual list.

Another important ability needed by today's college presidents is endurance. The demands of time and energy placed on these leaders have grown exponentially in recent years.

"These are arduous jobs," noted Stanley Katz, professor of public and international affairs at Princeton University. "Presidents spend a significant amount of time raising money and raising enrollments to provide

the wherewithal for high-level education. They tend to be very tired, working long hours and under pressure."

That shouldn't be a problem for Smith. He works out every morning doing P90X and recently converted to an entirely plant-based diet. In short, he is incredibly fit and well prepared for the rigors of the job.

> > >

Brad D. Smith was born in Huntington and raised in nearby Kenova. His father worked for Nestlé for 26 years, while his mother stayed at home to raise Brad and his two brothers. He was just 6 years old when the Marshall plane crash occurred a short distance from his family's house.

"I still remember looking out the window of our home and seeing the mountain glowing red," he recalled.

After graduating from Ceredo-Kenova High School, Smith was accepted to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, but after one semester decided to return to Huntington and enroll at Marshall.

"Marshall was pulling me back home. In the end, Marshall gave me everything I was looking for in an education," Smith said.

Eventually all three Smith brothers earned their degrees from Marshall. It was a dream of their parents that all three of their sons would go to college.

"I remember one Christmas morning my dad announced that he had a surprise, then gave each of us a

“Anything I have ever accomplished in life is because someone at **Marshall University** invested in me. I consider it the ultimate privilege to be able to pay that privilege forward to the next generation.”

Brad D. Smith
Marshall University president

class ring from Marshall that he had picked out himself,” Smith recalled. “A short time after, my dad passed away of a heart attack at the age of 58. My brothers and I wear the rings every single day, not only for Marshall, but for our parents and the sacrifices they made on our behalf.”

Smith earned a Bachelor of Business Administration with an emphasis in marketing from Marshall in 1986. He then went to work at several large corporations across the country, including Pepsi, 7-UP, ADVO and ADP. While working in Grand Rapids, Michigan, he attended night school and earned his master’s degree in management and leadership development from Aquinas College.

During Smith’s climb up the corporate ladder, one of his bosses expressed concern about his West Virginia accent. Convinced that it might hinder his career, he advised Smith to enroll in speech classes that would defuse his dialect.

“It didn’t work,” Smith laughed. “You know, it’s funny, I think that experience actually helped me learn an invaluable lesson in life – to be authentic to who you are.”

It was while he was working in northern Ohio that he met his wife, Alys, an attorney from Akron. It was a blind date of sorts, arranged by a coworker.

“I went to her house and when she opened the door it was love at first sight for me,” Brad confessed. “I managed to grow on her over time.”

They were married 18 months later and would go on to have two daughters, Payton and Devon.

In 2003, Smith accepted an offer to join Intuit, the Silicon Valley-based software giant and maker of QuickBooks, Turbo Tax and Mint. He then began a five-year rise within the company that was unprecedented. In 2008, Smith was named CEO. He was just 43 years old when he was asked to take charge of a global entity with 8,000 employees and annual revenues of \$2.6 billion. Smith’s 11-year tenure at the helm saw impressive growth. Revenue doubled, the workforce expanded and the stock price climbed from \$30 a share to \$215 a share.

Smith’s performance at Intuit received praise, and it wasn’t based solely on the profits he was posting for shareholders. He was a bit of a rock star with the employees, and his leadership style earned him numerous accolades. *Fortune* ranked him No. 6 on its list of Top CEOs in the United States, and *Forbes* ranked him No. 15 on its list of America’s Most Innovative Leaders.

At the end of 2018, Smith announced he was stepping down as CEO of Intuit, but agreed to stay on as chairman of the board of directors. Smith said his decision to scale back was based on his desire to spend more time with Alys and their two daughters. Another motivating factor was born out of a desire to pay it forward. The couple founded The Wing 2 Wing Foundation, which focuses on advancing education, entrepreneurship and the environment in Appalachia.

In the last six years, the Smiths have gifted Marshall a total of \$35 million. The first gift of \$10 million is being used to fund scholarships for students from West Virginia and Ohio. The second gift of \$25 million – one of the largest in the university’s history – is being used to help “reimagine” the university’s business school, operate a business incubator for aspiring entrepreneurs and fund the construction of a new College of Business building in downtown Huntington.

In 2020, the Smiths’ foundation donated \$25 million to West Virginia University to fund the Brad and Alys Smith Outdoor Economic Development Collaborative. The first initiative to emerge from the collaboration is Ascend West Virginia, a remote worker program designed to recruit individuals and families to live, work and play in West Virginia. The program is designed to attract 1,000 remote workers to the state over the next five years. It has already exceeded lofty expectations and garnered global acclaim.

“When you talk to young people today you learn that what’s important to them are life experiences,” Smith explained. “They also have a deep love of the outdoors, including hiking, mountain biking, whitewater rafting,

rock climbing and skiing. Research shows that West Virginia has more of those activities than any other state in America. Our job now is to sell them on why they should move here.”

Several leaders in Huntington see Smith’s close relationship with WVU President Gordon Gee as a shift in the right direction, and hope the two schools can work together on more initiatives going forward. Just one week into Smith’s new role as Marshall’s president, Smith and Gee publicly affirmed their intent to continue working together in a joint op-ed published in newspapers across the state.

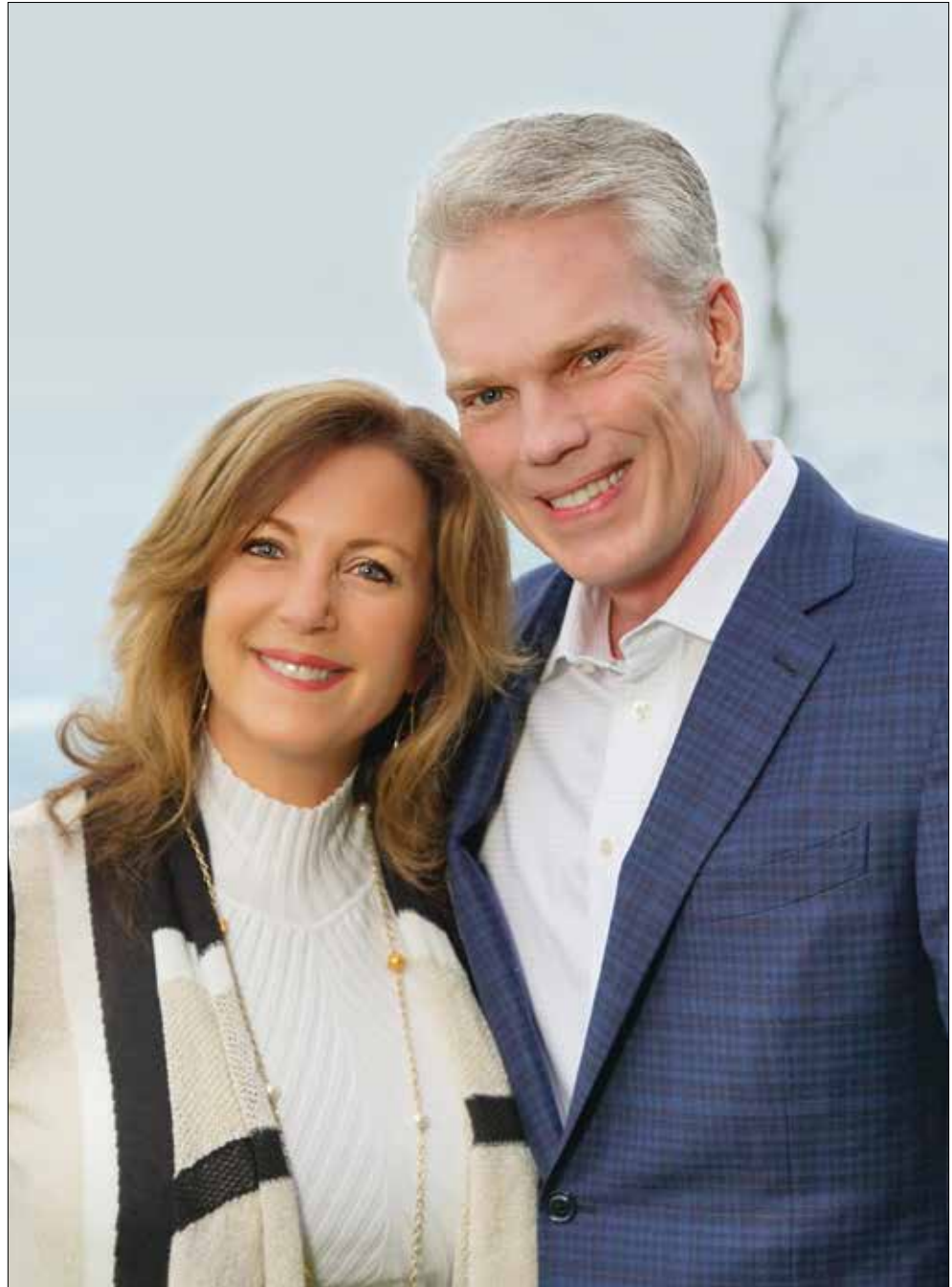
A recent example of that type of synergy is a new program designed to help make West Virginia known nationally as the “Startup State.”

“Today, 75% of all new jobs are created in startups,” Smith said. “As a result, both Marshall and WVU are working hard to reimagine their curriculums and help students thrive in the new digital economy. We need to encourage and support entrepreneurs in every corner of the state.

Education and entrepreneurship are the great equalizers in a society where opportunities are not always equitably distributed.”

Having overseen a predominantly young workforce during his years in Silicon Valley, Smith appears to have his finger on the pulse of the next generation.

“It used to be that eight out of every 10 college graduates wanted to work for a large corporation,” Smith said.



Brad and Alys Smith founded The Wing 2 Wing Foundation, which focuses on advancing education, entrepreneurship and the environment in Appalachia.

“Today, eight out of every 10 college graduates want to work for themselves. This is the digital generation mindset. They are dreamers and doers. I think if we could breed entrepreneurship, that could be our single biggest opportunity in West Virginia. We want every student in this state to have a sense of pride about where they are from and to realize they no longer have to leave West Virginia to pursue their dreams.”



Brad D. Smith was named the university's new president at a press conference on Oct. 28, 2021.

> > >

Marshall's new president is hard at work with his transition team, which has laid out a game plan for his first 100 days. High on his list of priorities is a listening tour to take the pulse of the university and the community. He has had 36 different sessions scheduled with faculty, staff, students, alumni, state and community leaders and health care professionals – all occurring in his first 40 days.

Smith also has high-level positions that need to be filled,

including a provost, an athletic director and several deans. Academically, he is empowering the provost and faculty to ensure Marshall's curriculum is grounded in general education while being market driven and future focused. He plans to increase accessibility to online classes and distinguish Marshall from other universities.

"We are in the 21st century, where higher learning is being changed and disrupted, and I want to help lead Marshall through this transformation. It is my aspiration that Marshall will rank among the elite universities in the nation in preparing young minds to compete in this new future."

Smith should feel right at home in Huntington. Throughout his career he returned numerous times to the area to see his mother and two brothers, with whom he is very close.

"I love the Huntington area," he said. "There is a pride and sense of purpose in both Huntington and Marshall that is different from many of the places I've been. Look at what

this community has accomplished since the plane crash. It has been hit with tragedy and fought its way through, and it just keeps coming back. And I think that is the secret to life." □

Jack Houvouras is the publisher of *Marshall Magazine* and *Huntington Quarterly*. He is a 1988 graduate of Marshall University. In 2021 he was inducted into the university's W. Page Pitt School of Journalism and Mass Communications Hall of Fame.

Leading West Virginia forward

Welcome **BRAD SMITH**

Choose Mon Health.
Feel the Difference





A PLACE in the SUN



From left, Sun Belt Commissioner Keith Gill, Immediate Past President Jerome Gilbert, President Brad D. Smith and Interim Director of Athletics Jeff O'Malley pose during a press conference on Nov. 1, 2021, where the announcement was made that Marshall had accepted an invitation to join the Sun Belt Conference.

A new day is dawning in Marshall athletics as the university prepares to join the Sun Belt Conference in 2023 ... or sooner.

By Keith Morehouse
Photos by Austin O'Connor

There are two signs that adorn the outside of the iconic Superdome in New Orleans, Louisiana. One is the sponsor, as the massive edifice is now called the Caesars Superdome. Much less conspicuous is the sign with a blue and gold circular logo which denotes the league offices of the Sun Belt Conference.

Welcome, Marshall University, to the Bayou.

In December, the Thundering Herd football team and its fans got to see for themselves what football is like right in the footprint of their soon-to-be new conference.

The Herd drew 16th-ranked Louisiana in the R+L Carriers Bowl in New Orleans and even before the game, Marshall Head Coach Charles Huff knew this league would be anything but the “Big Easy.”

“If we want to close the gap and compete in this conference, then our stadium has to look like our opponent’s stadium,” Huff said in his pre-New Orleans Bowl news conference. “If we’re going to the Sun Belt Conference we can’t have our stadium look empty. If it’s empty then we’re going to get embarrassed. It’s no different than if we walk into the stadium and I don’t have the team prepared to play. We’re going to get embarrassed.”

The Sun Belt invitation officially came Marshall’s way on Nov. 1, when league Commissioner Keith Gill, incoming Marshall President Brad D. Smith and Interim Director of Athletics Jeff O’Malley heralded a new day in Marshall athletics.

“I do think the Marshall brand is so important,” Sun Belt Commissioner Gill said of Marshall



Steve Cotton, the radio voice of the Herd and 28-year member of the Marshall broadcast crew, speaks at the press conference held Nov. 1, 2021, where the university accepted the Sun Belt’s invitation to join the conference.

after the news conference at the Joan C. Edwards Playhouse. “The university has a really excited, passionate fan base. I was at the Marshall vs. Appalachian State game earlier this year. There was so much green in that stadium — it was a great atmosphere and a great game. That’s something Marshall’s going to bring — great fans, great tradition and quality football.”

Marshall accepted the invitation to join the league as a new member, along with Conference USA mates

Old Dominion and Southern Miss, and will be joined by James Madison. The Dukes are coming up to the Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) ranks from the Colonial Athletic Association with a big football reputation. The addition of James Madison will also provide another regional connection with its neighbors in Virginia and West Virginia.

The courtship between Marshall and the Sun Belt seemed to be born out of mutual admiration. The Sun

“I do think the **Marshall brand** is so important. The university has a really **excited, passionate fan base.**”

Keith Gill
Sun Belt commissioner

Belt was looking to be proactive in the conference expansion game instead of waiting for other leagues' leftovers. Marshall liked the attractiveness of more regional rivalries and being a part of a southern-based conference. The TV deal with ESPN was also a game-changer, as finding Marshall on television during the Conference USA days became a cruel joke among the fan base. The Sun Belt deal with ESPN goes through 2031.

“A lot of us went down and saw the game at Appalachian State, and what a great environment it was,” O'Malley said. “On a Thursday night we brought about 1,500 people down there and they were excited – and that's even before anybody

knew what was going to happen. I think it's energized people here to get some of those old rivalries back – the Appalachian States, the Georgia Southerns. And to keep Old Dominion and have James Madison come up to the FBS level, that's what made things really attractive to us.”

The new 15-team league will have two divisions in football. Marshall will most certainly be in the East, on the same side as Old Dominion (Norfolk, Virginia), James Madison (Harrisonburg, Virginia), Appalachian State (Boone, North Carolina), Georgia Southern (Statesboro, Georgia), Coastal Carolina (Myrtle Beach, South Carolina) and Troy (Troy, Alabama).

The entry into the Sun Belt poses its own questions. The latest the move would happen is in the summer of 2023. Marshall, Old Dominion and Southern Miss have expressed an interest in leaving Conference USA earlier and joining the league in 2022 for the fall sports calendar season. Exit fees, scheduling and television rights make that a complicated equation.

“There's a lot of different things that are evolving on a daily basis,” said Marshall President Brad D. Smith after the news conference. “There are financial implications, there are commitments we've made to Conference USA, there's our desire to get into the Sun Belt Conference – so we're going to weigh all our options.”

And then there's the soccer program. As one example, there has been talk that West Virginia and Kentucky soccer teams could join the Sun Belt as affiliate members

WELCOME HOME,
President Brad D. Smith!

WE ARE...
Your Marshall Headquarters
APPAREL • NIKE SIDELINE • GIFTS • ACCESSORIES

Three sweatshirts are displayed: a white one with a green 'M', a grey one with a green 'M', and a black one with 'MARSHALL' in white.

Glenn's
SPORTING GOODS

3RD AVENUE AND 11TH STREET
DOWNTOWN HUNTINGTON
304-523-7766
WWW.GLENNSPORTINGGOODS.COM

Supporting Marshall and the Tri-State
FOR OVER 50 YEARS!

along with Marshall and the other league additions.

“We're really excited about men's soccer,” Gill said. “We never wanted to give it up; we just ran out of teams to have it. We'll have one of the best conferences in the country. We would love to pick up some affiliate members to make the conference a little stronger.”

The conference's nickname is the “Fun Belt.” Marshall and its fans are eager to try the new league on, and the early indications are that it will be a great fit. □

Keith Morehouse is a freelance writer and the sports director at WSAZ NewsChannel 3.

: flight school



Cleared for TAKEOFF

State leaders gather for the official opening
of the Bill Noe Flight School.

Photos by Austin O'Connor & Morgan Napier

On Aug. 10, 2021, Marshall University moved one step closer to assuming its role as a leader in the nation's aviation industry when the ribbon was cut on the Bill Noe Flight School's Maier Aviation Building. More than 100 people were on hand for the event including leaders from across West Virginia.

The state-of-the-art Maier facility, measuring approximately 10,000 square feet, and the hangar, which is approximately 12,000 square feet, both located at the newly renamed West Virginia International Yeager Airport in Charleston, welcomed the school's first class of around 20 students in the fall of 2021. Future plans are to expand the enrollment to 200 students a year. The hangar



Bill Noe is serving as executive aviation specialist for the new flight school programs, volunteering his time to advise the school's leaders.

houses Marshall's fleet of aircraft, including the Kelly green Cirrus SR20 planes that students will use for most of their instruction. Students will graduate with a Commercial Pilot: Fixed Wing Bachelor of Science degree. The coursework they complete in the program leads to the Federal Aviation Administration certifications needed to be a commercial pilot.

Plans for the flight school began in 2018, with multiple partners collaborating to make the vision a reality. In addition to Marshall University and Yeager Airport, Tri-State Airport and Mountwest Community and Technical College are working with Marshall to establish an associate degree program in aviation maintenance technology,



Bryan Branham is the Bill Noe Flight School's chief flight instructor.

It is hoped that having a local pool of **highly qualified** and **in-demand graduates** will attract aviation industries to locate in the Huntington-Charleston area, giving the region's economy a boost.



Charleston Mayor Amy Shuler Goodwin spoke at the ribbon-cutting ceremony.



Immediate Past President Jerome Gilbert and President Brad D. Smith are both strong supporters of the flight school.



The flight school's second plane, a single-engine Cirrus SR20, was flown into Yeager Airport by Bryan Branham in April 2021.





(Above) To recognize Marshall alumnus Bill Noe's continued support, the flight school was named in honor of him.

(Below) Leaders from across West Virginia participated in the ribbon-cutting officially opening the Bill Noe Flight School on Aug. 10, 2021.

(Bottom) More than 100 people were on hand for the event at the new facility at Yeager Airport in Charleston.

beginning later in 2022. It is hoped that having a local pool of highly qualified and in-demand graduates of these programs will also attract aviation industries to locate in the Huntington-Charleston area, giving the region's economy a boost.

The school is named for Marshall alumnus Bill Noe, former Marshall University Hall of Fame swimmer, pilot and business executive. Noe has decades of experience in the aviation industry, eventually becoming the president and COO of Ohio-based NetJets. To assist in the school's development, Noe is serving as executive aviation specialist for the new programs, volunteering his time to advise the school's leaders. To recognize Noe for this support, the flight school was named in his honor.

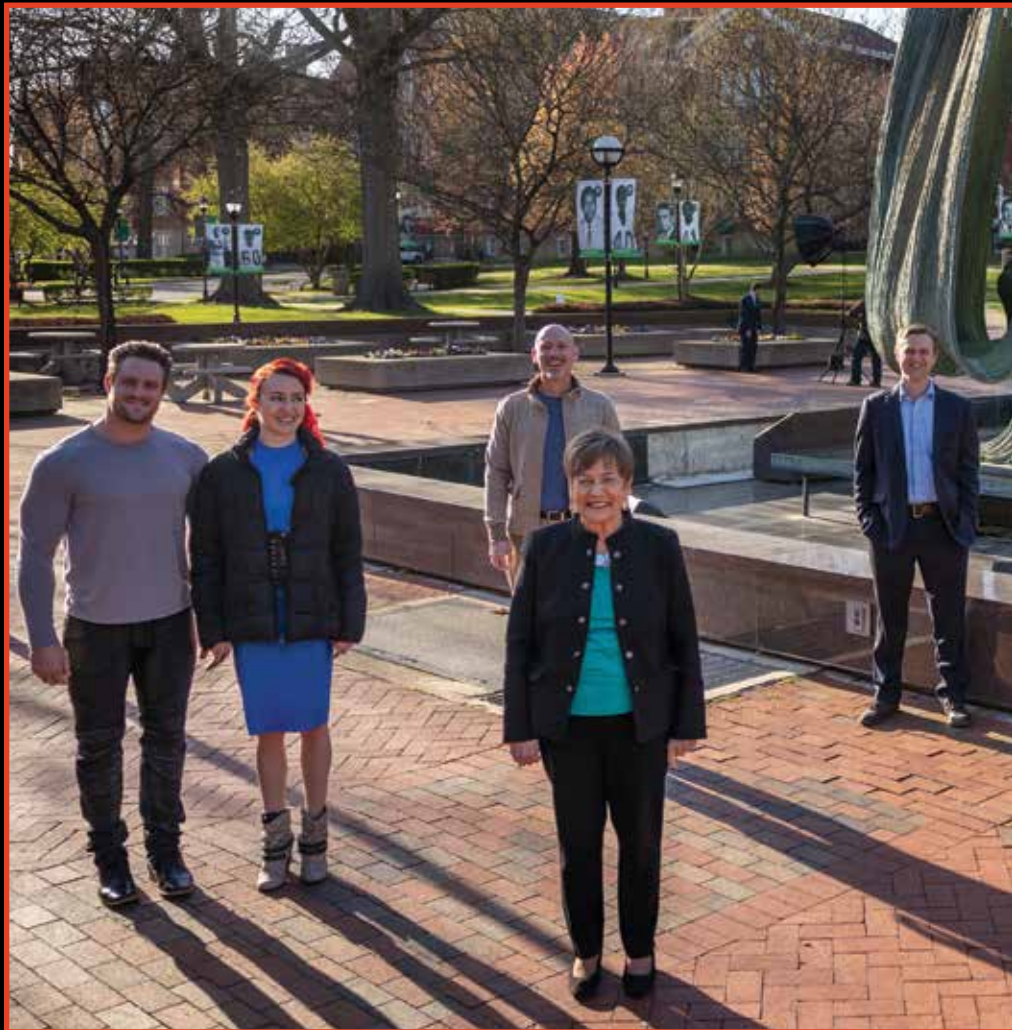
With a projected need for 10,000 new pilots in the United State per year for the next 20 years, Marshall has good timing in establishing an aviation school. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, pilots can expect to earn a median yearly salary of \$93,300. Graduates of the Bill Noe Flight School will be in demand throughout the country, providing a new network of ambassadors for the Huntington-Charleston region and Marshall University. □



TEDxMarsh

When you have what you believe is a great idea, what's the first thing you want to do? Share it! That's how great ideas become great projects, and that is the mission of the TED Foundation and its partners around the world, including TEDxMarshallU. While TED began in 1984 as a conference in which to share ideas on technology, entertainment, education and design, TEDxMarshallU has only been in existence for three years.

The idea came to Marshall in 2019 through the efforts of then-student body President Hunter Barclay and Vice President Hannah Petracca. Coincidentally, Dr. Brian Kinghorn, an associate professor of curriculum, instruction and foundations in Marshall's College of Education and Professional Development, and Dr. Ben Eng, an associate professor of marketing and entrepreneurship in Marshall's Lewis College of Business, had also been talking about bringing TEDx to the Marshall campus. Unlike most other universities, Kinghorn and Eng wanted the students to be integrally involved. So, when Barclay and Petracca approached the faculty members, it wasn't hard to convince them to apply for a partnership license.



RISING, Marshall's 2021 TEDx event, included, from left, husband and wife aerialist and roller-skating performers Tyce and Mary (Wolfe) Nielsen; Lt. Chad Napier, acting West Virginia state coordinator of Appalachia HIDTA; Dr. Kathy D'Antoni, educator; Brandon Dennison, founder and CEO of Coalfield Development; Red Dawson, former Thundering Herd assistant football coach;

all University

By Carter Seaton

Photos by Cameron Donohue



Dr. Suzanne Strait (foreground), associate director of Science and Research at the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission; Dr. Ashley Perkins, mental health advocate; Allen Meadows, representative of the Young Thundering Herd; and Lee Farabaugh, president and co-founder of Core10. Also featured was Jack Lengyel, former head football coach, not available.

With a shared vision and some quick planning, the first TEDxMarshallU event took place 10 weeks later. While his official title is “organizer,” Kinghorn also holds the TEDx license, but he says the students do almost all the work. As such, Barclay and Petracca chose “Innovative Solutions to Complex Problems” as the theme for 2019. Because Huntington had just been named “America’s Best Community” in a nationwide contest for its creative plans to solve tough problems, the pair wanted to highlight some of those innovative ideas. Speakers included Marshall student Rawan Elhamdani, an African-Middle Eastern woman living in Appalachia who spoke about being a vehicle to help people overcome stereotypes, and Dr. Briana Nannen of Marshall’s School of Music, who shared her idea for using music as a tool in facilitating addiction recovery. Later, she developed her idea into a men’s choral program at Recovery Point in Huntington.

In 2020, the theme was “Bridges” and presented ideas to bring people together. Ironically, coming together was the last thing 2020 allowed because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Plans to hold the event at the Jean Carlo Stephenson Auditorium in

City Hall in front of an audience of 500 were suddenly halted. Consequently, Petracca and the rest of her team had to scramble to create an alternative.

"We ultimately decided to pivot to a hybrid event," said Kinghorn. "We had our speakers, families and team on campus in the Don Morris Room. We literally switched our event to a streaming event in three days."

Speakers in 2020 included Congressional Medal of Honor recipient Woody Williams, who spoke about using his work supporting Gold Star families to build bridges for future generations. Peabody Award winner Trey Kay, of the podcast "Us and Them," talked about how his forum explores all sides of the cultural issues that too often divide us.

"Stressful as that year was, it was a professional development moment for me," said Petracca. "I was getting ready to graduate. Now, I can point to that event as something I was able to accomplish in my senior year of college."

According to Petracca, that was the point of bringing TEDx to Marshall.

"When TEDx became a reality at Marshall, it provided a platform

for students to hear about unique opportunities. For example, with Dr. Nannen's talk, students were able to execute the idea she brought up because they either heard or saw her talk. That is the full-circle moment we were looking for."

The 2021 TEDxMarshallU event, also held as a hybrid, focused on the theme of "RISING" as a tribute to the 50th anniversary of the 1970

Marshall plane crash. While the fall fountain ceremony honoring the 75 people lost in the crash is somber and solemn, the TEDxMarshallU team, including student leaders Kelly and Paige Leonard, wanted their event to be uplifting. Therefore, the theme spoke to Marshall's rise from adversity in three areas: education, mental health and economic development. Speaker Brandon Dennison explained how his work with Coalfield Development is helping rebuild the Appalachian economy through green energy jobs. His talk has had 35,000 views to date and was shared by former New York City Mayor Mike Bloomberg with his millions of followers on Facebook and Twitter.

In addition, the 2021 event featured talks by Coach Jack Lengyel and Coach Red Dawson, who led the Young Thundering Herd right after the crash.

For the fourth year of TEDxMarshallU another hybrid event is scheduled for Feb. 26, 2022.



Dr. Brian Kinghorn, associate professor of curriculum, instruction and foundations in Marshall's College of Education and Professional Development, is officially the TEDx "organizer" and also holds the TEDx license, but he says all the work is done by the students.

TEDxMarshallU

2022: Stories That Change Us

February 26, 2022

*A celebration of storytelling through
spoken word, art, dance, music and technology.*

For more information visit

www.tedxmarshallu.com/2022-stories-that-change-us/.

This year's theme is "Stories That Change Us," and information about the event can be found at www.tedxmarshallu.com. Both Kinghorn and Eng feel good about what has been accomplished so far. Realizing they've started a new tradition is both rewarding and challenging, they said.

"This is especially inspiring because it emerged from two students," Eng said. "It's students like these who give me immense optimism for the future of Marshall, the city of Huntington and the state of West Virginia. Our team is proud to carry on what Hunter and Hannah started."

Matt James, assistant dean of student affairs, who also directs student involvement, believes TEDxMarshallU can help prepare students for life after Marshall.

"Everything they're doing now is to build that resume, not just get a diploma," said James. "They're not only connecting and engaging with people, but exploring ideas that are broad and diverse so they're more prepared to go out into whatever their chosen field is and succeed. In the future, we'd also like to bring in speakers who already have a national platform in order to give Marshall an even larger national presence."

Eng's dream is equally lofty.

"Our team believes community members at Marshall possess innovative ideas that, if shared, can be applied to other areas in the world with similar problems. The ultimate impact of TEDxMarshallU is that it will allow Marshall to be a leader in solving some of the world's biggest challenges."

Now, that's a great idea. ☐

Carter Seaton is an author and freelance writer living in Huntington, West Virginia.



Comprehensive healthcare for the entire family.

Valley Health providers are dedicated to treating all of our patients' needs by providing quality comprehensive healthcare, from family medicine to specialty in-house services.

We accept most insurances, including Medicaid, and offer a *Sliding Fee Discount Program* for qualifying uninsured or underinsured patients.

42 CENTERS WITH SERVICES INCLUDING:

- BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
- DENTISTRY
- ENT/AUDIOLOGY
- FAMILY MEDICINE
- INTERNAL MEDICINE
- OPTOMETRY
- OB/GYN
- PEDIATRICS
- PHARMACY



VALLEY HEALTH
Quality healthcare in your neighborhood.

valleyhealth.org | (304) 525-3334



HEARD

Green Lawns

FERTILIZATION & WEED CONTROL

Get the Green Lawn Everyone Has HEARD About!

www.HeardGreenLawns.com

304-697-7790

Grass Busters

LAWN CARE & LANDSCAPING



OUR SERVICES INCLUDE:

- Lawn Maintenance mowing/trimming
- Landscaping
- New Lawn Installation
- Brush Hogging
- Spring/Fall Cleanups
- Sod installation
- Fertilization/weed control
- French Drain Installation

Licensed & Insured • **FREE ESTIMATES**

www.GrassBustersLawn.com

A Lasting Impression

The Marshall community recognizes former President Jerome Gilbert for his inspirational leadership and invaluable contributions to the university.

How do you measure the impact of a person? Is it in their deeds? Their actions? What they aspire to? If those are the criteria for judging the impact of Marshall University's 37th president, then it's safe to say he made a lasting impression.

Dr. Jerome Gilbert announced on April 28 that he would be stepping down as president of Marshall. During his six years at the helm, the university greatly increased its national profile. Some of his many accomplishments include increased funding through increased research activities and the addition of new areas of study such as biomedical engineering, aviation, physician



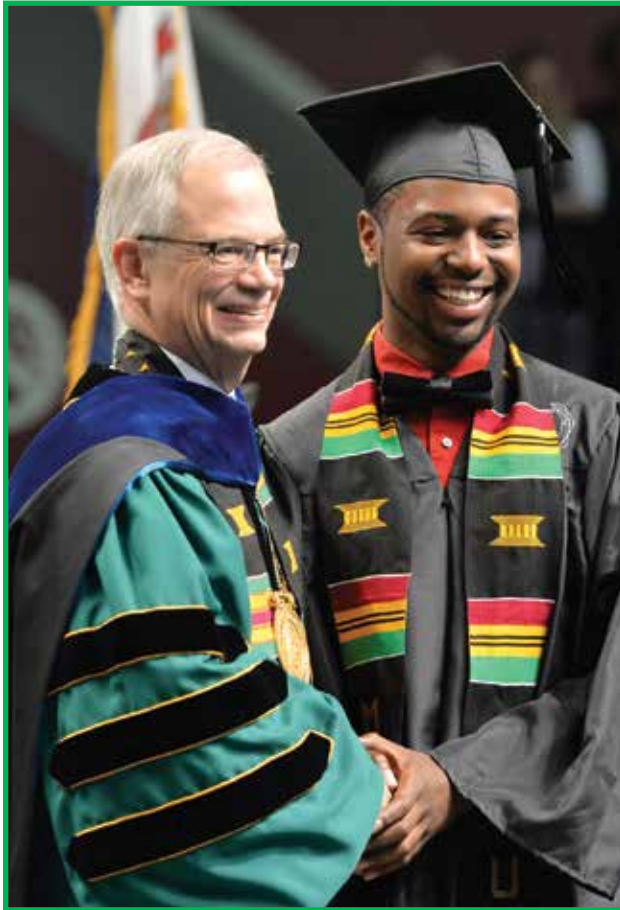
Dr. Gilbert was very involved in the community during his tenure. He is seen here working for Habitat for Humanity.

assistant and specialty agriculture. He has also been at the forefront of leading the charge for inclusion and diversity on campus.

Perhaps the most enduring element of his legacy has been his invaluable oversight of the university's largest and most ambitious comprehensive campaign — Marshall Rises. The success of this campaign assures that Gilbert's vision

will live on in perpetuity as innovative facilities and academic programs come to the university.

We thank President Gilbert for his inspirational leadership and invaluable contributions to Marshall and wish him all the best in his future endeavors. □



(Left) Diversity and inclusion at Marshall were two hallmarks of Dr. Gilbert's presidency.

(Above) Another highlight for Dr. Gilbert was the much-needed renovation of the Memorial Student Center.

(Below left) One of Dr. Gilbert's proudest accomplishments was the opening of the Bill Noe Flight School in Charleston.

(Below right) Dr. Gilbert congratulates Coach Chris Grassie after the men's soccer team brought home the university's first-ever Division I NCAA national championship.





Dr. Gilbert and his wife, Leigh, enjoy a reception the night before his investiture, which took place Sept. 22, 2016.



In 2018 Dr. Gilbert was on hand when the Thundering Herd played in the NCAA Tournament for the first time in 31 years.



Under Dr. Gilbert's leadership Marshall finally broke ground on a new baseball stadium in October 2019.



Dr. Gilbert was joined by Sen. Shelley Moore Capito at the dedication of the Marshall University School of Pharmacy.



Dr. Gilbert met Thundering Herd fans of all ages at a welcome reception at the Mid-Ohio Valley Center in February 2016.



Dr. Gilbert speaks to the media the day he was introduced as Marshall's 37th president.



Dr. Gilbert leads the applause as the plaque denoting Marshall's R2 research status is unveiled on May 8, 2019.



Dr. Gilbert was extremely popular with students and gladly took selfies with them whenever they asked.



Dr. Gilbert worked closely with now-President Brad D. Smith over the last five years to reimagine the College of Business.

SASSA Wilkes

Meet the artist who gained fame by painting 100 women in 100 days. That impressive project led to an NEA grant to teach community workshops focused on healing at Huntington's West Edge Factory.

By Carter Seaton

Photo by Rick Lee



Three paintings from Wilkes' 100 Badass Women project feature, from top: Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Frida Kahlo and Maya Angelou.

“If there’s one thing we all need to heal from, it’s being separate. **Making art** with people in the community seems like an awesome way to do that.”

— Sassa Wilkes



When it comes to Sassa Wilkes, it's difficult to put a label on the Marshall University alum. There's the incredible artist who has scores of followers on social media. Then there's the spouse and parent, the imaginative gardener, the former co-owner of a bakery, the teacher and the person who's launching an art studio in Huntington's West Edge Factory that soon will give back to the community.

"There are many different personalities that inhabit my body," said Wilkes, who is transgender and uses they/them pronouns. "It's always felt really difficult for me to stick with just one mode of expression when there is so much to learn and explore."

Wilkes first gained notoriety in the art world at the end of 2020 after painting 100 portraits of women in 100 days. Titled "100 Badass Women," the colorful portraits of world and local leaders were posted online each day and received rave reviews. A truly ambitious and grueling project, it garnered Wilkes a tremendous amount of respect and opened doors to new opportunities.

Born in Huntington and educated in the Cabell County public schools, Wilkes went to Marshall University. Unsure of what direction to take, they switched majors several times before dropping out to have a child, work and gain some life experience. When their son Max was 2 years old, Wilkes panicked and realized it was time to go back to school and find that direction.

"Eventually, I just couldn't deny that I really had such a strong pull to art," Wilkes said. "And after I realized I would tell my son to do



Marshall alum Sassa Wilkes was commissioned by the university in 2021 to paint a portrait of Dr. Carter G. Woodson, Father of Black History. The image is based on Dr. Woodson's likeness from a photograph in the Ancella Bickley Collection in the West Virginia State Archives.

what he loved if faced with the same situation, the decision became easy for me."

Wilkes credits both Jonathan Cox and Dr. Maribea Barnes-Marsano in Marshall's art department as strong influences. Upon returning to college Wilkes was drawn to sculpture.

"I carved stone and wood, did assemblage and steel," Wilkes said.

That educational experience resulted in a large steel structure Wilkes created called "Dancing with Max" that now stands in Harris Riverfront Park. After graduating with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in 2011, Wilkes went straight into a Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.) program at Marshall. In that curriculum, the classes included people studying to teach a variety of subjects, not just art, but it provided the skills necessary to become a teacher. When

Barnes-Marsano took an interim position, Wilkes replaced her as a full-time art education professor for one year.

After graduation in 2013, Wilkes and their mother began Sweet and Sassy Bakery in Barboursville. Sadly, it didn't last long, and Wilkes went to Cabell-Midland to teach art. Working with Advanced Placement art students, they taught sculpture and introduced aspects of art that the kids hadn't been offered in a while. But three years later Wilkes decided it was time for a change.

"I felt it was time to step away from teaching and get to the core of what I was really good at," Wilkes explained.

That turned out to be painting. While Wilkes still did some private art tutoring for children and taught art to seniors, most of their free time was devoted to becoming the best painter possible.

Today, Wilkes can be found at the West Edge Factory in a spacious art studio inside the turret of the building that once housed the Corbin Ltd. clothing factory. Thanks to an NEA grant given to Coalfield Development, Wilkes has been awarded a two-year residency to offer a series of community workshops with the theme of healing.

"We're all healing from something, especially in the last year," Wilkes said. "We were suffering, we were mourning and we were sick. If there's one thing we all need to heal from, it's being separate. We're not separate, and it would be so much nicer if we could collaborate in every way. Making art with people in the community seems like an awesome way to do that."

Wilkes said they aren't afraid to



AUTHENTIC AND RESILIENT

Mountain Mindful is a life-style brand that makes apparel, furnishings, and self-care products made from organic, reclaimed, and recycled materials.



888.413.0420

1040 Vernon Street, Huntington, WV 25704

info@mountainmindful.com

Products are subject to availability. See store for pricing and details.

take on political and social issues in their approach to teaching.

"I don't want to just teach art. I want to teach protest art and show how to argue in a non-polarizing way," Wilkes explained. "I want to teach self-portraiture in a way that explores insecurities and social imbalances. Ultimately, I want the community to feel really unified, including the art show at the end of our two-year grant."

It was during the height of the pandemic, when Wilkes missed the feeling of being together, that inspired the 100 Badass Women series of oil portraits. On the day Ruth Bader Ginsburg died, Wilkes felt compelled to paint her portrait. Realizing there were 100 days left in 2020, they decided to paint one woman's portrait each day until the end of the year. The paintings

ranged from local "shero" Jan Rader to a wide variety of entertainers, political figures and historical game-changers. For each, Wilkes began by researching their stories and deciding each morning who that day's subject would be. Serendipitously, the overwhelmingly positive reaction to the paintings on social media helped conquer their loneliness and often influenced the choice of future subjects.

"It was my way of reaching out to people. The social media interaction and community collaboration were the most meaningful parts of the whole project," Wilkes said.

A one-person exhibit of the 100 paintings is slated to open at the Huntington Museum of Art in November 2022, and Wilkes is considering including some of those online conversations along with the

portraits. Wilkes also hopes to publish a coffee table book of the 100 women in the near future.

"In many ways, those 100 portraits transformed me. I don't think I was totally comfortable showing up in the world because I wasn't being real," Wilkes said. "That's part of why I wanted to come out as trans and be honest about things. That felt like a necessary step. What's the point of being seen if you're not really being seen? I want to be 100% authentic all the time, no matter where I am. I think it's going to be a good thing."

Now we truly see all the parts that make up that one person known as Sassa Wilkes. And what we see is inspiring. □

Carter Seaton is a freelance writer living in Huntington, West Virginia.



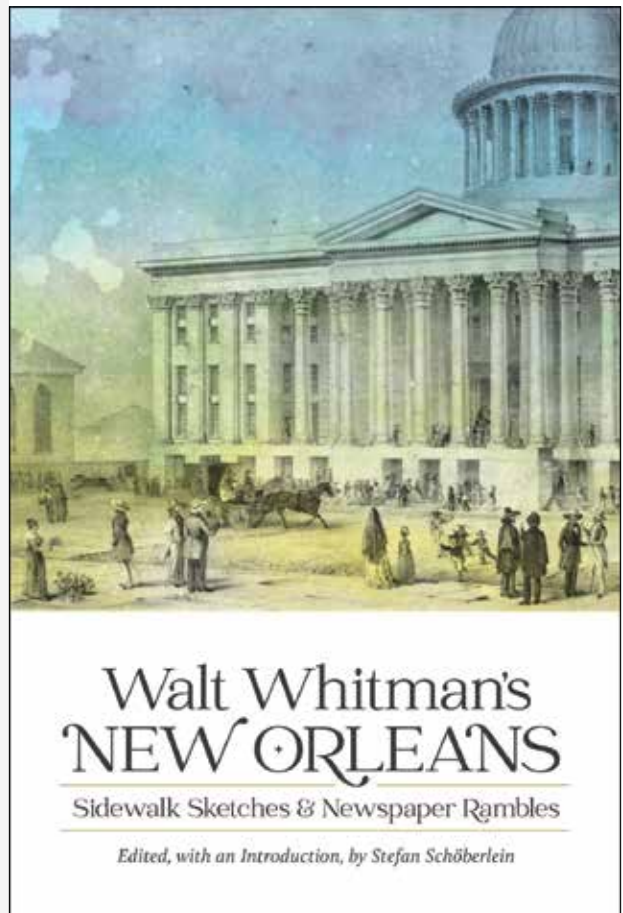
literature

MAJOR Discovery

Professor Stefan Schöberlein's
role in the discovery of
new writings by Walt Whitman
has the literary world abuzz.

By Shelly Ridgeway

Photo by Rick Lee



Sitting in his office at Corbly Hall, Dr. Stefan Schöberlein is surrounded by books and images of literary greats. As assistant professor in the Department of English and director of digital humanities, Schöberlein's passion for one particular American poet is palpable, and he is eager to talk all things Walt Whitman (1819-1892).

To say that Schöberlein is a Walt Whitman enthusiast is an understatement. In addition to teaching a course on Whitman and Emily Dickinson during the fall semester, he has spent years as a Whitman scholar, including being involved with the Transatlantic Whitman Association that organizes the annual Whitman Week and the attendant symposium and the Whitman Studies Association that runs panels at scholarly conferences. He is also working as contributing editor for the Walt Whitman Archive, one of the oldest and most prestigious online archives in the country dedicated to digitizing and annotating all writings and historical documents relating to Walt Whitman.

Born and raised in Bochum, Germany, Schöberlein is a first-generation college student who developed a love for reading at a young age. After spending a year of high school in Minnesota as an exchange student, he later attended the University of Iowa during an academic exchange year of college while studying to become a special education teacher. Two years later, he returned to Iowa and earned his Ph.D. in American literature.

Fast forward to September 2021. That's when the literary world learned that Schöberlein and his colleague, Dr. Zachary Turpin from the University of Idaho, had discovered two previously unknown sets of Walt Whitman writings. They first reported their findings in the *Walt Whitman Quarterly Review*, and since then the discovery has been picked up by mainstream news outlets around the world.

The writings include a collection of letters to the editor of the *New Orleans Daily Crescent*, a newspaper that Whitman helped establish during a three-month stay there. It was widely believed by literary scholars that Whitman only contributed to the *Crescent* while physically living in New Orleans, but research by Schöberlein and Turpin proves otherwise.

"These writings give insight into a period of time in Whitman's life that we knew very little about until now," Schöberlein explained. "Everything from his interest in the republican revolutions in Europe to his thoughts on race and politics — it's very exciting stuff."

“These writings give insight into a period of time in Whitman's life that we knew very little about until now ... it's very exciting stuff.”

— Stefan Schöberlein

Regarded as America's first democratic poet, Whitman adopted poetic free verse that reflects the themes of the individual, body, soul, the nation and everyday life. Some scholars suggest his works mirror the founding values of America itself.

"He is certainly the most well-remembered poet from the period that avoided rhyme; embraced long, free-flowing lines; and relished in slang and innuendo," said Schöberlein.

Efforts by Schöberlein and Turpin to authenticate the writings began in the

summer of 2019 and required plenty of patience and research to verify the writings as belonging to Whitman. Penned under the name "Manhattan" as a likely nod to Whitman's upbringing in Long Island and his life in New York, the letters were published in the *Crescent* seven years prior to Whitman's well-known *Leaves of Grass* collection of poems (published in 1855) and continued for months after Whitman returned to New York from New Orleans.

Commonly referred to as a computational authorship assessment method, specific words and stylistic overlaps from Whitman's known works were mapped by Schöberlein against these unknown writings to compare and statistically measure the similarities. Additionally, several humorous sketches by Whitman and biographical evidence support the result of the computational assessment — confirmation of 50 unknown texts representing more than 40,000 words attributed to Whitman.

According to Schöberlein, one of the major benefits of teamwork on a project like this discovery is the shared knowledge and resources among professional colleagues.

"My work while at Marshall has been all collaborative. It would take years or decades to do these projects by yourself. Collaboration allows you to brainstorm about things and test out theories you have with another expert, even before an official peer review gets underway. Also, this kind of evidence-based writing makes it easier to write as a team," he said.

This spring, Schöberlein will publish an edited collection of Whitman's writings. Titled *Walt Whitman's New Orleans: Sidewalk Sketches and Newspaper Rambles*, it includes some of the newly discovered writings. Once the



Committed Professionals

Dixon Electrical Systems & Contracting is a team of respected, experienced professionals focused on providing you the quality and reliability you have come to expect from Dixon.

We are a full-service electrical contracting firm, specializing in a wide range of electrical services such as industrial, commercial, education & health care facilities, preventive maintenance, fiber and other low voltage systems, Oil/Natural Gas Electrical Services, and Building Automation Systems (BAS). We also have an in-house Building Information Modeling (BIM) department and a UL Rated Panel Shop.

We are committed to safety. From daily safety talks to weekly safety meetings, our employees strive each and every day to maintain our excellent safety record and E.M.O.D. rating. **Contact us today for all your electrical needs.**

Dixon
ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS
& CONTRACTING Inc.

3352 Norwood Rd. • Huntington, WV 25705
www.dixonelectrical.com
(304) 523-2712



Proud members of the National Electrical Contractors Association
and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

project is complete, all new Whitman discoveries will be added to the Walt Whitman Archive. His collaboration with Turpin will continue, as well.

In his second role as director of digital humanities, Schöberlein said the use of technology is another way to engage students and get them excited about learning new things about old literature.

“They get over their presentism and realize there are commonalities. It is a pathway to embrace writings from the 19th century and see their relevancy to today,” he explained.

With Marshall now offering a minor track of study in digital humanities, there is also potential for a whole new appreciation of the humanities.

“The goal is to introduce students to digital humanities. It fits nicely between humanities and computer science, from leveraging computational text to thinking critically about code, producing 3D printing projects or perhaps encoding a Whitman letter for digital publication.”

As word spreads about his work with the Whitman texts, Schöberlein is uniquely positioned in a new era of literary discovery that has a far-reaching impact.

“It helps to get Marshall University’s name out there

with national exposure. It also strengthens the digital humanities internally for faculty who may be skeptical of bringing in computational tools. And finally, it gets students excited to create and do things differently.”

Through his classroom teachings, Schöberlein is inspiring a new generation of students to explore Whitman’s work.

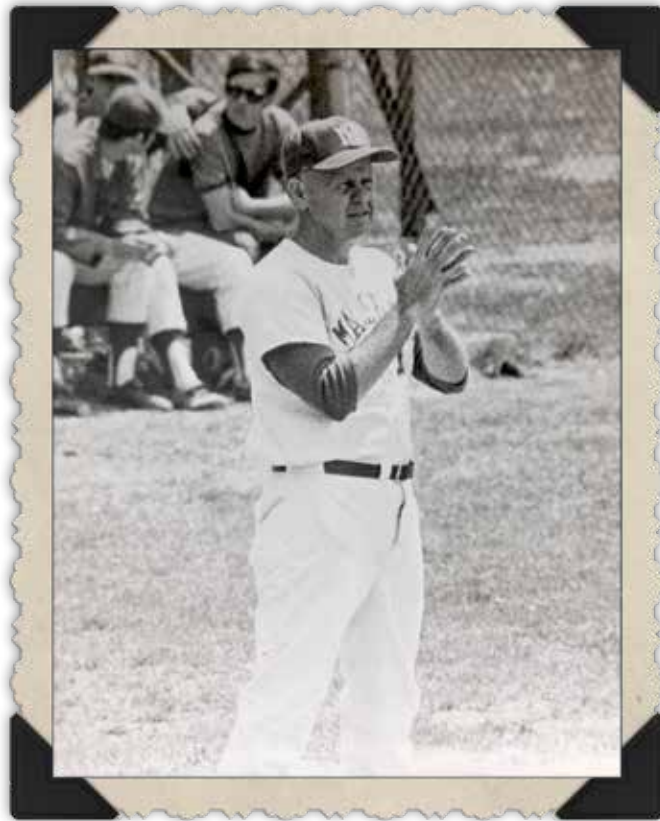
“It was a lucky coincidence that I was teaching a graduate class on Whitman and Dickinson this year, so I had a chance to bring some of my findings into the classroom,” Schöberlein said. “One of my students ended up meaningfully incorporating some of these new findings into her excellent final paper.”

Schöberlein is steadfast in his belief that it’s never too late to discover literary works and encourages beginners to take the first step in finding meaning within them.

“I think poetry pushes language to, and at times beyond, the breaking point and allows us to see and feel connections that we cannot otherwise perceive.” □

Shelly Ridgeway is a freelance writer living in Huntington, West Virginia.

In Memory of *Jack Cook*



Both Marshall and Huntington lost a sports icon in November when former Coach Jack Cook passed away.

By Keith Morehouse



Rick Reed spent 16 years in Major League Baseball. He was a two-time All-Star and pitched in the World Series. He has hundreds of stories about his time in pro baseball, but the tales he tells about former Marshall Coach Jack Cook are as entertaining as any.

"I was a junior at Huntington High School in 1981 and Coach Cook's son Chipper was a senior," Reed said. "Coach would pick us up after school in his old Maverick and take us to Prindle Field next to Fairfield Stadium. He would open his trunk with hundreds of used baseballs and he'd pitch batting practice to Chipper. We'd chase those baseballs all over those streets for him."

Sadly, the man whose name was synonymous with Marshall baseball passed away on Nov. 24 at 95 years of age. While Reed only played one year for Cook at Marshall, his affection for the coach is effusive.

"In my mind he was Huntington and Marshall's version of Sparky Anderson," Reed asserted. Anderson was the former Cincinnati Reds manager and member of Major League Baseball's Hall of Fame. Jack Cook and his son Chip are in the Marshall Athletics Hall of Fame.

His love of the game — the only major sport without a clock — made him a timeless treasure in and around Huntington's baseball community.

"He was the kindest, gentlest and as good a man as I've ever known," said Rod Butler, one of the stars of Marshall's legendary 1978 NCAA tournament team. Cook's impact on him is still very

**“He was
the kindest,
gentlest and
as good a man
as I’ve ever
known. He was
a great coach
and mentor.”**

Rod Butler

Member of Marshall's
1978 NCAA tournament team

fresh all these years later. "He was a great coach and mentor. The entire baseball family have lost a great one."

"He is Marshall baseball," said Jeff O'Malley, interim athletics director at Marshall University. "I think whenever you talk about Marshall baseball, the first person that comes up is Jack Cook. The same can be said for baseball in Huntington."

Cook is the all-time winningest coach at Marshall in any sport with 422 wins. He took his 1973 and 1978 teams to the NCAA Tournament. That '78 team still ranks as Marshall's most accomplished. The Herd beat Clemson and Florida State in its NCAA regional but lost two in a row to the Miami Hurricanes

to narrowly miss a chance at the College World Series. That year Cook was a finalist for National Coach of the Year.

All of this without a true baseball stadium to call home. In baseball it's a time-worn skill for a hitter to be patient at the plate, but few coaches have been asked to display patience like Jack Cook. When he became Marshall's head coach in 1967, he remembered Whitey Wilson promising him a new baseball stadium. There were more promises and more plans, yet nothing ever materialized. But like all good hitters, Cook kept his head down. He kept coaching and winning baseball games wherever the Herd was playing that day.

In October of 2019 he stood at a podium inside the Chris Cline Indoor Athletic Complex for a long-awaited announcement — Marshall was finally breaking ground on a baseball stadium. With dignitaries looking on, Cook's humility shone bright.

"I want to thank all the players who have played for me and gone through all these things and still have shown a lot of desire to make this a great baseball program," Cook said to the crowd.

Marshall officials are still trying to settle on a site for the baseball stadium. It will no doubt have Jack Cook's name emblazoned somewhere on the facility.

"His name has to be in big block letters," Reed said. "Maybe even his face on display. The man was Marshall baseball." □

Keith Morehouse is the sports director at WSAZ NewsChannel 3.



MARSHALL
ARTISTS SERIES
CREATED IN 1936

85 Years of Arts & Entertainment at Marshall University
304.696.6656 | marshallartistsseries.org



TWO BROADWAY HITS COMING THIS SPRING!




MarshallHealth

SUMMER

THE DONNA SUMMER MUSICAL
THURSDAY, APRIL 7
7:30 PM at the KEITH-ALBEE THEATRE
Tickets: 304.696.6656 or Ticketmaster.com

Dr. Mark Studeny & Dr. Melissa Lester Kevin & Rebecca Craig

STEP INSIDE A WORLD OF PURE IMAGINATION



ROALD DAHL'S CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY

THE NEW MUSICAL BROADWAY

Cabell County
Commission



MONDAY, MAY 9

7:30 PM AT THE KEITH-ALBEE THEATRE

TICKETS: 304.696.6656 OR TICKETMASTER.COM



Marshall Orthopaedics



Dr. Christopher &
Mrs. Tammy Hugh



Dr. David A.
Mrs. Sharon Denning



Marshall University
Dr. David A. Denning



2022-2023 SEASON ANNOUNCEMENT COMING THIS SUMMER

All events will follow current COVID-19 safety guidelines
Masks required when not consuming food or beverages

A photograph of a young couple sitting in the front seats of a car. The woman is on the left, smiling and looking towards the camera. The man is on the right, smiling and looking towards the camera. The car's interior is visible, including the dashboard and steering wheel.

SEE HOW MUCH YOU COULD SAVE

Are you overpaying for auto and home insurance? In just a few short minutes, you can compare rates from top providers like these:



855-849-7598 | info.simplyaffordableinsurance.com/marshall

everGreen YOUR ALUMNI CONNECTION

A MESSAGE FROM MIKALA SHREMSHOCK

MUAA National President



Dear Fellow Alumni:

Another spring is around the bend and still the world holds so much uncertainty. For nearly two years, we've been living in the "new normal," where masks and hand sanitizers are now always at hand. This new era has brought many changes: from families learning to make "socially distanced" holiday memories, to health care workers being recognized for their everyday heroism, to highlighting the discrepancies in employment, housing, health care and education access around the world.

I must admit that every time someone says, "Herd Immunity," I think of Marshall. I think of the resilience of the Marshall University family in Huntington and around the globe. Despite the ongoing challenges, this pandemic has made us more creative, more determined and more focused on what is truly important in our lives.

For example, the School of Medicine, School of Pharmacy and College of Health Professions have been playing an outsized role in keeping up with the health care needs of our country. While travel is currently uncertain, Marshall is preparing students to take to the skies through the new commercial pilot and aviation technology programs. We've seen amazing work from our students, faculty, coaches and staff over the past several years. And we celebrated the return of a Son of Marshall and College of Business alum, Brad D. Smith, as the 38th president in January.

For the third consecutive year, our Alumni Weekend will look a bit different than it has in the past; but the hard work and accomplishments of our students and alumni have never been more celebrated. If you are not able to visit the Huntington campus this spring in person, I encourage you to take a virtual tour of the campus, read an issue of *The Parthenon* online or even consider enrolling in an online course.

The merger of virtual and real-world spaces allows for some amazing new opportunities. New alumni chapters are forming in many regions, and they are engaging members in new and creative ways – from virtual fundraisers and auctions, to happy hour chats with notable Marshall alums and students. I encourage you to get involved with your local chapter or start one of your own!

The newly elected Board of Directors members will begin their three-year term in July. If you're interested in serving on the board or in other opportunities to engage with Marshall, please contact us. Be sure to stay connected with the alumni social media accounts and visit HerdAlum.com for up-to-date listings of events.

Thank you for your support of Marshall University. Hope to see you soon, whether in person or virtually! Go Herd!

Mikala Shremshock
 President, Marshall University Alumni Association

ALUMNI RELATIONS STAFF

MATT HAYES, Executive Director
LARRY CRUM, Associate Director
KASEY STEVENS, Assistant Director

Emma Chapman

ESCAPING THE CLUTCHES OF 'THE MIGHTY KIWI'

By Larry Crum

Imagine, if you will, a race.

On one end of this race stands an ordinary, everyday man or woman trying to complete a 1-mile obstacle course through downtown Los Angeles in front of a national television audience. At the other end of this race is \$1 million.

Of course, like any made-for-television game show, this competition comes with a catch. After a brief head start, these average Americans are then chased down by a series of elite athletes whose entire mission is to stop them from reaching the finish and winning the grand prize.

Sound intense? It is.

Developed by NBA superstar LeBron James and hosted by former NFL quarterback Tim Tebow, *Million Dollar Mile* debuted on CBS with nine episodes during the summer of 2019. With colorful personalities, extraordinary athleticism and gifted physiques, the stars of the show were the defenders who took turns each week hunting down and eliminating contestants.

While all the defenders had their time in the spotlight, one who made a significant splash during the five-month run of the show was Emma Chapman, a two-time Marshall University graduate and former Thundering Herd athlete, affectionately known as “The Mighty Kiwi.” Chapman is one of the most decorated obstacle course racing athletes in the world and has made a name for herself on the competitive circuit of CrossFit competitions and Tough Mudder X races.

Recognized nationally for her skill in these arenas, Chapman was an easy selection to star on the show and

was one of the first athletes featured in the debut episode. Of course, starring on the show also meant she had to try on a different persona as a villain on national television.

“As defenders, we were basically seen as the bad guys. As competitive as I am, I wouldn’t say I am a mean person, so it was really hard for me to get into character. Still, the overall experience was truly amazing and one that I am extremely grateful for,” Chapman said.

Chapman was one of 10 defenders, a group made up of six men and four women. Their job was to chase down the contestants attempting to win the \$1 million as they navigated five separate obstacles, each earning them more money. The contestants were given a two-minute head start before the defenders began their pursuit.

With so many gifted athletes in one space, Chapman admitted the competition quickly shifted from the contestants to the defenders themselves.

“Filming the show in L.A. was an amazing experience. Being behind the scenes of a television show was really unique. And, of course, when you put several competitive athletes together in one place, crazy things happen,” Chapman said. “One evening, the other female defenders and I were discussing how we could beat any of the male defenders through the obstacle course. This conversation was overheard by one of the producers who then decided it would be a good idea for some of us females to race against the male contestants on the show.

“I believe it was the next night where they read aloud who we would be racing against when they said that I would be racing against a male contestant. I was shocked

and extremely nervous at the same time. I did not want to be the defender who gave away the \$1 million prize, so I knew I had to step up to the plate. The contestant ended up getting to the fifth obstacle where I overtook him on a rock-climbing wall that was located at the end of a swimming pool. I would like to know what my heart rate was during the race because I believe it was the most nervous I have been in my entire life.”

That moment was a microcosm of her time on this earth thus far. Simply put, Chapman was born for the big stage.

Born in England before moving to New Zealand at the age of 10, Chapman grew up in a family of athletes. And it wasn’t long before competition became a way of life. She began playing soccer at a young age before joining local clubs and working her way up to playing for New Zealand’s U20 national team.

“My dad, both brothers and I grew up playing soccer — or football as we call it. I was always active and enjoyed playing a number of different sports. Playing soccer gave me so many amazing opportunities, including traveling the world representing New Zealand at the U20 Women’s World Cup, and ultimately leading to Marshall University,” Chapman said.

During her time playing for the national team, one of her coaches connected her with former Marshall University women’s soccer coach Chris Kane. A few months later, Chapman was on a plane and on her way to Huntington to play for the Herd.

“I am forever grateful for the opportunity to attend university where I pursued my degree in education and represented the university in soccer,” Chapman said. “The opportunity to attend university and play a sport is unique to America and not really an option in New Zealand. When I arrived at Marshall, I almost instantly felt at home amongst my teammates and Huntington.”

While she was quick to make friends, life in West Virginia took some getting used to. But it wasn’t long before her newfound friends and teammates helped set her on the right track.

“When I arrived in Huntington and was picked up by

Chris, I remember vividly Coach taking a right turn on red and I was instantly in shock,” Chapman said with a laugh. “Obviously driving on the opposite side of the road took me a while to get used to. Still to this day I go to get into my vehicle to drive, only to realize I have opened the passenger side door. There were several examples of things like that from the dairy products — the cheese is very yellow

here — to the portion sizes. One piece of advice I got from family and friends before coming to the USA was to eat half of what they serve in restaurants, and they were not kidding.

“In terms of culture shock, overall it was not as bad as I thought it was going to be. West Virginia shares a lot of similarities with New Zealand, in particular the south island where I lived. The people are friendly and there are lots of mountains and the weather is seasonal. I really did feel at home when I arrived here.”

During her time in Huntington, Chapman earned two degrees, including her master’s degree in education in 2013. She also met her future husband, Corey Chapman, and helped guide the Thundering Herd women’s soccer team to Conference USA success during her senior year.

“I spent eight years in Huntington and I always tell people that if I could go back in time, I would do it all over again,” Chapman said. “Playing soccer for the Thundering Herd was such an amazing experience and I take great pride in it. I also really enjoyed my time during my studies in the education department where I met some lifelong friends and my husband. Coming to Marshall literally changed the course of my life.

“I initially had plans to move back home after graduating, but here I am, 14 years later, still living in America. I am forever grateful for the opportunity to come over here and represent the university.”

Today, Chapman resides in Berea, Kentucky, with her husband and two dogs. Chapman teaches health education to middle school and high school students in Berea, and her husband, Corey, is the strength and conditioning coach at Madison Central High School, where he also coaches football. As a teacher, Chapman feels right at home doing



Former Thundering Herd athlete Emma Chapman has made a name for herself on the competitive circuit of CrossFit competitions and Tough Mudder X races.

something she has dreamt of since she was very young, and it is all thanks to her education at Marshall.

"I have been active my entire life. I pretty much played every sport growing up. My parents were also huge advocates for health and wellness and are both very active themselves. In fact, my dad still plays soccer and will be turning 60 soon," Chapman said. "Some of my role models growing up were the teachers I had — in particular, the physical education teachers. I knew at an early age that I wanted to pursue teaching as a career, specifically being a health and physical education teacher. It allows me to make a positive impact in the lives of my students each day and promote a healthy lifestyle. There are so many additional benefits such as teaching my students what it means to work as a team, strengthening their social skills, and improving their focus and abilities in the classroom."

But that is far from the end of this story.

Over the past four years, Chapman has competed professionally in CrossFit challenges and other competitive arenas, including obstacle course racing and, more recently, triathlons. In fact, it was during her time in Huntington that Chapman fell in love with CrossFit, as it scratched that competitive itch that was missing when her soccer career was over.

"I started CrossFit back in 2014 as it filled the void of training that was missing. It sounds funny to say out loud, but I really missed being told what to do, how to do it, when to do it when it comes to working out. My time playing soccer at Marshall was just that," Chapman said. "I am a pretty routine-oriented person, and joining a CrossFit gym allowed me to add working out back to my routine on a more consistent basis."

After two years of training, Chapman qualified for her first regional event in 2016 before making it all the way to the team competition at the CrossFit Games in 2019, where her team placed fifth in the world. She then qualified for the CrossFit Games as an individual in 2020, only to have that opportunity taken away due to the pandemic. "I was absolutely devastated, but it motivated me more and I then went on to qualify for the semifinals in 2021," Chapman added.

In addition to her time in CrossFit, Chapman also ventured into the world of obstacle course racing and competed in her first Tough Mudder X competition in Richmond, Virginia, in 2018. At the event, 50 male and 50 female competitors battled the course over three races to decide a champion. Setting a personal goal to place in the top 10, Chapman went on to win the competition, opening many doors in the years that followed.

"After winning the Tough Mudder X competition and being crowned world champion, that led to a host of amazing experiences including the Spartan Games in 2019, Spartan World Championship races in 2019 and 2021 and my involvement in the *Million Dollar Mile* show," Chapman said.

After years of success on the soccer pitch, in gyms, on muddy fields across the nation and on national television, what drives Chapman to be successful?

"I am a very competitive person by nature, and I believe that stems from growing up with a twin sister and two older brothers," Chapman said. "I really like the opportunity to challenge myself more than anything. For me, competing against other people isn't what drives me. What drives me is seeing my own performance improve from all the work that I put into training. That feeling of getting better is almost addicting. It's definitely what keeps me motivated."

Another thing that keeps her motivated are the kids she guides each week. And when they found out that their teacher was going to be on television, it didn't take long for them to chime in how they felt.

"My students still talk about the show to this day," Chapman said. "I was not allowed to say I would be on the show until they publicly announced who the defenders were. There were several commercials that aired prior to the show, including a Super Bowl commercial, and it was there that some people spotted me. I appeared in the first episode, and we ended up having a watch party at the school."

"Being the villain was a shock to some of my students. I had several tell me that they didn't think I could be mean. I just hope that my time on the show helped to inspire my students to believe that through hard work, anything is possible."

While she has already lived a life that has taken her around the world and thrust her onto the national stage in many arenas, Chapman remains humble and always points to Marshall as a guide on this amazing journey.

"Marshall University really did change the course of my life," Chapman said. "Marshall helped give me my career, and it was there that I was introduced to CrossFit. I attended my first class after graduation at CrossFit Thunder and I was instantly hooked. That filled the void that playing soccer left and ultimately led to all the opportunities I have experienced to date."

"I truly believe I would not have had as much success and experienced the amazing opportunities that I have if it had not been for attending Marshall." □

MARSHALL ALUMS AMONG THE MOUNTAINS

Some 300 miles away from Huntington in the far east nook of the Mountain State, surrounded by hills trimmed in blue and gold, a peak of Kelly green is growing on the horizon.

Marshall University graduates Tim Pownell and Adam Stewart work together at United Bank, which has offices in Martinsburg and Charles Town. In an area saturated with West Virginia University and Shepherd University alumni, Pownell and Stewart bonded over their pride for their alma mater, which led to the creation of the Eastern Panhandle chapter of the Marshall University Alumni Association in the spring of 2021.

“We see a lot of promotion for WVU and Shepherd University, and we thought it would be great to form a Marshall chapter,” Stewart, who is the chapter’s president, said.

Pownell and Stewart began serious conversations in March, and by April the chapter was officially founded. The chapter has seven members on its board of directors and close to 20 additional members.

After nearly a year since its formation, the chapter has hosted a handful of tailgates and game-watching events with numerous attendees at each.

“We’re not far from James Madison University,” Stewart said. “We want to promote tailgates once Marshall and JMU are both in the Sun Belt.”

Beyond the ability to cheer for the Herd in person, Pownell and Stewart are focused on bolstering Marshall’s presence in the Eastern Panhandle.

The Eastern Panhandle is one of the fastest growing areas in West Virginia, which presents a perfect opportunity for current and future Marshall alumni. Pownell, the chapter’s vice president, and Stewart want to utilize the chapter to recruit high school students to attend Marshall.

“We have a committee that is working on reaching out to the high schools to speak to the guidance counselors.

We want to get Marshall’s name in front of the students,” Pownell said.

In addition to recruitment, Stewart said the chapter wants to help students from the Eastern Panhandle monetarily.

“Our long-term vision is we would like to have enough capital to create scholarships for Eastern Panhandle students,” Stewart said. “We want to focus on enrollment.”

In an area that favors WVU and Shepherd, Stewart said the chapter wants to create the same atmosphere for Marshall alumni that the other universities in the Eastern Panhandle receive.

Pownell, who graduated in 1989 with a bachelor’s degree in finance, said part of what

makes Marshall special is its history. He said his pride for his alma mater grew after watching “We Are ... Marshall” for the first time.

“I think everybody wants to feel pride in where they went to school,” Pownell said.

It is the same pride and individuality that Pownell and Stewart wish to share with other alumni in their area. Stewart said in the Eastern Panhandle and its surrounding states of Maryland and Virginia, there are approximately 700-800 Marshall alumni in the region.

“We would like to see more alumni join our organization and see it grow and expand,” Stewart said. “There are a lot of alumni in the area, and our goal is to continue to reach out to those past alumni and make them aware of our chapter.”

The chapter has plans to host a cocktail hour in the spring for Marshall alumni and will also welcome families whose children are interested in learning more about Marshall.

For Marshall alumni in the Eastern Panhandle who wish to be involved, visit the Facebook group, Marshall University Eastern Panhandle Alumni Association, or e-mail Stewart at astewart@united-brokerage.com. □



Part of the Marshall-Martinsburg connection attend a football game at Joan C. Edwards Stadium.



HOMECOMING 2021

After more than a year of virtual gatherings and celebrations done via a screen, Marshall University was thrilled to return to in-person activities in the fall with a Homecoming celebration that was aptly dubbed Back and Better Than Ever!

The theme accompanied activities the week of Oct. 4-9 in one of the largest on-campus celebrations of the year. It also served as an inspiration for alumni and students, many of whom were returning to the Huntington campus for the first time since the start of the pandemic.

To celebrate such a momentous occasion, and to honor the 50th anniversary of one of Marshall's most iconic teams, this year's Homecoming grand marshals were the players, coaches and staff of the Young Thundering Herd, the renowned 1971 Thundering Herd football team that helped set the benchmark for a return to prominence for Marshall University and its athletic program. The team was led in the Homecoming parade by Young Thundering Herd member and 1974 team captain Allen Meadows and Lucianne Call, former cheerleader and daughter of former director of athletics Charlie E. Kautz, who perished on Southern Airways Flight 932.

Among the highlights of Homecoming 2021 were the annual Homecoming parade and bonfire, Picnic on the Plaza, Unity Walk, Stampede 5K and a huge gathering of Herd alums, students and supporters at the annual Marshall

Family Tailgate presented by the Woodlands Retirement Community.

This year's Mr. and Miss Marshall were Zach Ihnat and Caroline Kinder. Ihnat is a civil engineering and Spanish major sponsored by Alpha Sigma Phi from Charleston, West Virginia. Kinder is a secondary math education major from Ona, West Virginia, who was sponsored by Marshall's Baptist Campus Ministry.

Other standouts during Homecoming 2021 were the overall winners of the annual Homecoming Stampede 5K, Stephen McCollam of Charleston, West Virginia, and Roegan Good of Frame, West Virginia. The remaining top five finishers from the event were Eric Desmond of Huntington, West Virginia; Brookelyn Reynolds of Waverly, West Virginia; and Lucia Okuno of Prichard, West Virginia. The overall winner of the virtual office decorating competition was Marshall Urology.

Wrapping up the week, the Thundering Herd defeated Old Dominion 20-13 in overtime during the annual Homecoming game. Quarterback Grant Wells threw for 299 yards and two touchdowns tossed to Shadeed Ahmed and Willie Johnson, bolstered by a 77-yard rushing effort by freshman sensation Rasheen Ali. With the win, Marshall extended its Homecoming record to 27-4 since the opening of Joan C. Edwards Stadium in 1991, with a current win streak of nine straight games.

Relive more of the excitement from Homecoming 2021 online at HerdAlum.com. □





Hal Greer honored during Homecoming with dedication of statue

During Homecoming week, former college and NBA basketball star athlete Harold Everett “Hal” Greer was honored posthumously with the dedication of a bronze statue in his likeness. The statue is located adjacent to the Henderson Center, the home of Marshall basketball today.

The nearly eight-foot piece of artwork, situated on a marble base and surrounded by four benches and newly planted trees, was commissioned by the university to honor Greer, who played for Marshall from 1954-58 and is credited with breaking the collegiate athletics color barrier in West Virginia. He was inducted into Marshall’s Hall of Fame in 1985.

Greer’s wife, Mayme Greer, and their children and family traveled to Huntington for the festivities, which included a block party in the Fairfield neighborhood where Greer grew up.

Huntington native Frederick Hightower Sr. was the sculptor selected by the university in 2018 to create the artwork, but COVID-19 created delays at the foundry, and completion of the statue was delayed until last year.

Hal Greer, the first African American scholarship athlete at Marshall, broke the color barrier in collegiate sports in West Virginia, but the path was not easy. Restaurants and hotels refused him admission when he was traveling with the team, and he endured insulting shouts from the stands. Greer also played baseball at Marshall and in 1955 was the first Black student-athlete to play baseball at a traditionally white public college or university in West Virginia.

Following his collegiate career, Greer was selected in the 1958 NBA draft by the Syracuse Nationals, later the Philadelphia 76ers. He was named to the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 1982, and in 1996, the league named him to its list of the 50 Greatest Players in NBA History.

Both Marshall and the 76ers have retired his jersey numbers 16 and 15, respectively, in his honor. □



‘Exploring Marshall’ video series provides unique behind-the-scenes access to campus



In the fall of 2020, with the pandemic in full swing and much of the nation still locked down as COVID-19 rampaged the globe, an obvious need arose among the population for the simplest of needs – connection.

Connection to people. Connection to places. Connection to the things that we cherish most.

At that same time, Marshall University was gearing up for its annual Homecoming celebration with a twist – the university’s first all-online Homecoming week. And that is when the idea was formed to marry the one thing people craved the most, with a medium that could help bring people home – virtually speaking.

Thus, Exploring Marshall was born.

With the university shifting Homecoming to a virtual celebration, the Office of Alumni Relations began work on a series of videos that could help bridge the gap between the kinds of activities in which alumni would typically partake during Homecoming weekend and the limited options created by the pandemic.

That year, the alumni office unveiled three episodes of an all-new, television-style video series titled Exploring Marshall, aimed at connecting alumni hungry to return to the Huntington campus with a unique behind-the-scenes look at their alma mater. All three episodes took a different look at the campus.

Among the featured videos that year was an episode dedicated to the familiar locations that alumni and students have come to know and love and how they have changed through the years. Another episode took a deep dive into new facilities and programs that have come to campus in the past 20 years. The final episode visited off-campus locations such as famous eateries, hangouts, and places alumni and students of all ages frequent.

All three videos, professionally created by West Virginia-based film company Filmanatix, feature interviews with campus officials, staff, faculty and students, all hosted by the executive director of alumni relations at Marshall University, Matt Hayes.

“Exploring Marshall is something that we are very proud of in our office. In a time where so many were longing to return to campus and enjoy that community and connection that comes with being a graduate of Marshall,

we were proud to be able to, in our own small way, bring Marshall to our alumni,” Hayes said. “That first year we really wanted to showcase the people and places that make Marshall special. It was a treat for us to be able to highlight the buildings and landmarks that people love to visit and see how they have changed through the years, while at the same time providing a look at the newest facilities that have come to Huntington over the past few decades.

“It was something that we really enjoyed creating, and it was very well received by the alumni community.”

Airing nightly during the week of Homecoming, the series was an instant hit.

Due to the immense popularity of the series, Exploring Marshall returned during the 2021 Homecoming festivities with two new episodes diving into important topics, people and places that make the university special. In “Episode 4: Young Thundering Herd,” the series took an in-depth look at the famous 1971 Marshall University football team that helped bring the university and its athletic program back from the ashes, complete with interviews with players and coaches and never-before-seen footage from the 1971 season. In “Episode 5: Rising to New Heights,” the series looked at the movers and shakers behind Marshall Rises, Marshall’s largest and most successful comprehensive campaign, which helped set the university on a pathway of prominence.

All episodes of Exploring Marshall are available on the Marshall University Alumni Association (MUAA) website, HerdAlum.com or on the MUAA YouTube channel.

“After such a warm reception to the series, we were thrilled to be able to bring it back this past year with new episodes highlighting two of the most important events in our university’s history, the rebirth of our football program with the Young Thundering Herd and the overwhelming success of the Marshall Rises campaign,” Hayes said. “With tens of thousands of views around the world since its debut, we hope to air new episodes of Exploring Marshall each year where it makes sense. I can’t wait to see where the series takes us next.”

For more information about Exploring Marshall, or to suggest ideas for new episodes, reach out to the Office of Alumni Relations at alumni@marshall.edu. □

CLASS NOTES

1950s

The Rev. Frank Bourner (B.A. '56) released *Made from Raw Materials* in July 2020. Bourner said he originally wrote the book as a memoir for his children, but later decided to turn it into a biographical novel. The novel tells his life story from childhood to retirement. Bourner, a retired Methodist minister, tells of his inadequacies, temptations and failures.

1960s

Richard Ardisson (B.B.A. '69) was inducted Aug. 12 into the Defense Credit Union Council's Hall of Honor for his work in supporting credit unions and the military community.

Dr. George T. Arnold (B.A. '63, M.A. '65), professor emeritus of journalism, has written another book, *Serendipitous Hodgepodge & the Kitchen Sink*. It follows the January 2021 publication of his second novel, *Old Mrs. Kimble's Mansion*, and includes a personal remembrance of the Marshall plane crash tragedy.

1970s

Stephen Treacy (B.A. '71) received the "Best Uncommissioned Screenplay" from the Oxford International Film Festival in 2020 for his screenplay "Winter Bird."

Denise Hill (B.A. '72, M.A.J. '76) was honored with an Outstanding Volunteer Award by the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) for her philanthropic efforts in northeast Ohio. A member of the board

of the Stark County (Ohio) Library Foundation since 2016, she has chaired the annual fundraiser and will begin a two-year term as the foundation's president in 2022. She also is a longtime volunteer for the Women's Board of Aultman Hospital, JRC Early Learning and Senior Center, Meals on Wheels and Women's Initiative Network. The award was presented during the National Philanthropy Day virtual ceremony Nov. 5. She is a past president of the Marshall University Alumni Association board of directors.

Tom Noone (B.A. '76) is a USTA/PTR tennis pro in northern Virginia. He has been the boys' and girls' head tennis coach at Bishop Ireton High School in Alexandria, Virginia, since 2012.

1980s

Greg Stone (B.A. '88) has rejoined the *Charleston Gazette-Mail* as a reporter.

Jeanne Hamrick (B.A. '81) is the recipient of the AARP New Mexico 2021 Andrus Award for Community Service. The award is given annually to the volunteer who, over the course of the year, best exemplifies the spirit of AARP's founder, Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus, and her motto of "To serve, not to be served." Hamrick co-chairs the AARP New Mexico Health Legislative Advocacy Team and worked on the passage of paid sick leave laws at both the local and state level, helping with the passage of the New Mexico Healthy Workplaces Act.

Doug Harper (B.B.A. '89) is a business coach for the West Virginia Small Business Development Center, heading the Huntington Center,

which primarily covers Cabell, Mason, Lincoln and Wayne counties.

Barbara McConnell (B.A. '82, M.S. '85) has returned to the farm where she was raised in Trenton, Tennessee.

1990s

Cathy Fulks Thomas (B.F.A. '94, B.A. '12) teaches art at Poca High School in Poca, West Virginia. Her mixed media work was included in the Tamarack exhibit, "A Teachable Moment," which showcased works created by art educators across West Virginia.

Emily Burch Harris (B.A. '94, M.A.J. '96) has published her debut epic fantasy book with Podium Audio. *Shadowplay* is set in the Spellmonger Universe and was co-written with *New York Times*' bestselling author Terry Mancour. Harris works as the student newspaper program director for North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University in Greensboro, North Carolina. She is also the 2020 recipient of the College Media Association's adviser of the year for four-year student media.

2000s

Jennifer Baileys (B.A. '05) is an anchor and investigative reporter for WLKY in Louisville, Kentucky.

Brian Casto (B.A. '07) received the 2022 Teacher of the Year Award by the West Virginia Department of Education. **Kelly Bryant** (M.A. '15, school principalship certificate '19), **Claire Jones** (B.A. '08), **Beth**

CLASS NOTES

Nunley (M.A. '96) and **Kimberly Tenney** (special education certification) also were named finalists.

Edward A. "Ted" Diaz (R.B.A. '10) was appointed Cabinet Secretary of the West Virginia Department of Veterans Assistance (WVDVA) in July 2021.

Les Harbour, CPA, (B.B.A. '09) has been promoted to manager of the Fyffe Jones Group, an accounting firm with offices in Huntington; Ashland, Kentucky; and Portsmouth, Ohio.

Tarabeth Heineman (B.S. '04, M.A. '06) has been named the executive director of the June Harless Center for Rural Educational Research and Development. Her appointment began July 1, 2021.

John Hoesli (Regents B.A. '04) recently retired from the U.S. Coast Guard after 30 years of active duty service. He has accepted a federal civilian position as regional exam center chief with the U.S. Coast Guard in St. Louis, Missouri.

Daniel Jonas (B.S. '08, M.A.T. '10) teaches high school science in Parkersburg, West Virginia, and also has conducted snake education programs for the general public.

Lori Kersey (B.A. '07) is working for HD Media (*Huntington Herald-Dispatch* and *Charleston Gazette-Mail*), covering the city of Charleston and Kanawha County.

Dr. Dale Robertson (B.S. '04) has joined St. Mary's Urology in Huntington.

Michael J. Woelfel (B.A. '07) has been appointed Cabell County Circuit Court clerk.

2010s

Audrey Burkett (B.B.A. '14, M.A. '17) was appointed assistant dean of students at Davis and Elkins College.

Jacob Cross (B.A. '16) graduated from the University of Kentucky College of Law in 2019 and was commissioned into the U.S. Air Force as a JAG Officer. He is currently a captain and is chief of military justice on Barksdale Air Force Base in Shreveport, Louisiana.

Maggie Luma (M.A. '15) has been appointed chief of staff with the June Harless Center for Rural Educational Research and Development, effective July 7, 2021.

Mike Maloney (M.A. '18) is associate head coach and offensive coordinator at West Virginia Wesleyan College in addition to duties as recruiting coordinator.

Dr. Elliot Smithson (M.S. '16) is an athletic trainer and physical therapist in Beverly Hills, California. He is CEO of his own company, PerformanceXMedicine. While at Marshall, he worked as an athletic trainer for the Center for Wellness in the Arts.

Matt Stapleton (B.B.A. '10) was chosen by the American Institute of Personal Injury Attorneys as one of the 2021 "10 Best Attorneys" for client satisfaction in the area of personal injury law in West Virginia.

Breon Taylor (B.A. '17) is a military police officer stationed at Schofield Barracks in Hawaii. □

For more Class Notes, go to www.herdalum.com.

PLEASE SHARE YOUR NEWS WITH US

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.

Send details to

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



IN MEMORIAM

Pariss M. Coleman I (B.A. '68) died Aug. 2, 2021.

He had a long career in the Toledo, Ohio, public schools, serving as a physical education teacher, coach of football and track, assistant principal and principal before retiring in 1998. At Marshall, he had a football scholarship and played for Coach Charlie Snyder. He was also on the track team. He was a member of the Kappa Alpha Psi Inc. fraternity, and remained active in its Toledo alumni association. After he retired, he and his wife served as marriage counselors at their church and he sang in a local community chorus.

Walter Louis "Walt" Garnett ('70), who played on a baseball scholarship at Marshall under prominent baseball coach Jack Cook, died Oct. 5, 2021, in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. He was inducted into the Marshall Hall of Fame and was a member of Kappa Alpha Psi. He was a co-owner of the Wild Wing Café in Myrtle Beach.

James E. Gibson ('62) died July 2, 2021, at his home in Sarasota, Florida. A life-time member of MUAA, he served on its board, as well as the boards of the Society of Yeager Scholars and the Marshall University Foundation Inc., as well as vice chair of



James and Verna Gibson

the university's Campaign for National Prominence. He received the MUAA's Distinguished Service Award and with his wife, Verna K. LeMasters Gibson, is represented on the Pathway of Prominence on the Huntington campus. He was a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity; a past board member of the Girls and Boys Club of Sarasota, Florida, and Huntington, West Virginia; a supporter of Hospice of Huntington; and a member of the Episcopal Church. He was also a member of Community Lodge #684 in Columbus, Ohio, for 44 years. His early career was in sales management and then as an investor in small businesses.

Dr. Robert W. Paskel (M.A. '62) died Dec. 26, 2021, in Winchester, Virginia. He taught and served in administrative roles in four school systems and a state system in three different states after earning an M.A. from Marshall.



Robert Paskel

Dr. Michael "Bryan" Reynolds

(B.S. '78) died Jan. 7, 2022. A resident of Brooksville, Florida, he had practiced osteopathic medicine since 1985, including 10 years in St. Albans, West Virginia, as well as in Ohio, Texas and Florida. He was a member of the American Osteopathic Association, the Pinellas County Osteopathic Society and the local Marshall alumni chapter. □

Marshall University honors alumnus Ted Wilson with memorial bench outside Memorial Student Center Plaza

The Marshall University alumni family lost a dear friend last year with the passing of Theodore "Ted" Wilson.

Wilson, a longtime member of the Marshall University Alumni Association Board of Directors and a Big Green member, died peacefully on Aug. 10, 2021, in Huntington, West Virginia, at the age of 75.

In addition to being an avid supporter of Marshall and Thundering Herd athletics, Wilson is perhaps best known for his involvement and leadership of the Marcelo Lajterman



Memorial Golf Tournament, which raised more than \$100,000 for Marshall University student-athletes through the years. Wilson made it a

goal to ensure that those lost in the Nov. 14, 1970, plane crash were not forgotten.

Prior to the 2021 Memorial Fountain Ceremony, Wilson was honored by the university with a memorial bench on the Huntington campus located just outside the Memorial Student Center Plaza.



83RD Alumni Awards Banquet

Saturday, April 9, 2022 | Brad D. Smith Foundation Hall



Distinguished Alumnus
Brad Smith



**Distinguished Service
to Marshall University**
Alys Smith



Outstanding Community Achievement
William Joseph Kehoe
Cathy Burns



Distinguished Young Alumnus
Jeff McKay

The Marshall University Alumni Association (MUAA) is proud to present the 83rd annual Alumni Awards Banquet on Saturday, April 9, 2022, at Brad D. Smith Foundation Hall in Huntington. After two years of delays brought about by the pandemic, the MUAA is excited to recognize this outstanding class of awardees when the event resumes in an all-new location this spring.

Don't miss this wonderful annual event as the MUAA once again joins with the campus community to celebrate and honor outstanding alumni, students, faculty, supporters and friends of Marshall University. For more information about the 83rd annual Alumni Awards Banquet, visit www.herdalum.com or call (304) 696-3134.





A MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE OF ALUMNI RELATIONS

A YEAR TO REMEMBER

Greetings, Fellow Alumni and Friends of Marshall University:

Another year has come and gone. The year 2022 is well underway and that means another 12 months brimming with opportunity and boundless possibilities for each of us.

Of course, with each journey around the sun, it is equally as important to take a moment to reflect on the past to truly appreciate the present. And what a past year to reflect upon.

Without question, 2021 was one of the more memorable and impactful years in the history of Marshall University. New leaders. New programs. New athletic conferences. New buildings. New ... everything!

With so much to think back on, we took a moment to list some of our favorite moments from the past year as we get ready for even bigger things in 2022. How will you take advantage of the year ahead?

NEW LEADERS: Perhaps the biggest moment was welcoming home Brad D. Smith as Marshall University's 38th president. Smith, a Kenova, West Virginia, native and Marshall graduate, is the first Son of Marshall to serve as president. Also in 2021, we welcomed new Head Football Coach Charles Huff, who joined the Thundering Herd staff and led the team to a 7-5 record and a berth in the New Orleans Bowl.

CHAMPIONS: Truly, was there a bigger moment than the Marshall men's soccer team winning the national championship? On May 17, the men's soccer team won its first national championship, defeating the No. 3-ranked Indiana Hoosiers. From coast to coast, the #HerdAlum family celebrated the historic win.

LIVE EVENTS: After a year apart, Marshall University students, alumni and supporters were once again able to gather in person for its Homecoming festivities. The theme — "Back and Better Than Ever" — did indeed come back in a big way with a weeklong celebration before our winning game against Old Dominion.

FLYING HIGH: Aug. 10 marked the official opening of the Bill Noe Flight School with a ribbon-cutting at the Maier Aviation Building at Yeager Airport. Marshall students will earn a four-year Commercial Pilot: Fixed Wing Bachelor of Science degree. In addition to its flight school in Charleston, Marshall is also partnering with Mountwest Community and Technical College on a two-year aviation maintenance technology degree, which will be housed at Tri-State Airport in Wayne County.

GROWING PROGRAMS: On Nov. 10, Marshall University broke ground on the Brad D. Smith Center for Business and Innovation. The center will allow for more interdisciplinary collaboration among students and faculty, concurrently advancing research, 21st-century learning and community engagement. The facility is expected to welcome students in the spring semester of 2024.

A SUNNY FUTURE: In a year of major athletic moments for the Herd, one of the biggest is Marshall University's invitation to join the Sun Belt Conference. The Sun Belt Conference was founded in 1976 and began sponsoring football in 2001. The addition of Marshall will bring the number of Sun Belt members to 15. Let's make this year just as memorable as the last!

Until next time, Godspeed and GO HERD!

Best Regards,
Larry, Kasey and Matt



Proud Sponsor of Marshall University Athletics!

**HOME OF
FRIENDS & FAMILY
PRICING!**

Dutch Miller

AUTOMOTIVE GROUP

PROUDLY SUPPORTS

**GET OUR
BEST PRICE
UP FRONT!**



CHEVROLET
DUTCH MILLER CHEVY
1100 Washington Ave.
Huntington, WV 25704
DutchMillerChevy.com



HYUNDAI
DUTCH MILLER HYUNDAI
1202 Washington Ave.
Huntington, WV 25704
DutchMillerHyundai.com



SUBARU
DUTCH MILLER SUBARU
1901 Patrick Street Plaza
Charleston, WV 25312
DutchMillerSubaru.com



**...AND WELCOMES YOU TO OUR
NEWEST RIPLEY LOCATIONS**



RIPLEY CHRYSLER, DODGE, JEEP, RAM

435 S Church St.
Ripley, WV 25271

DutchMillerCDJRofRipley.com



DUTCH MILLER FORD OF RIPLEY

3315 Charleston Rd.
Ripley, WV 25271

DutchMillerFordOfRipley.com



DUTCH MILLER KIA
6400 US Rt. 60 East
Barboursville, WV 25504
DutchMillerKia.com



DUTCH MILLER KIA
335 MacCorkle Ave.
South Charleston, WV 25303
KiaWV.com



DM DODGE, CHRYSLER, JEEP, RAM
339 MacCorkle Ave. SW
South Charleston, WV 25303
DutchMillerDodge.com

DutchMillerAuto.com



Beth L. Hammers
Class of '91 (BBA) & '93 (MBA)
CEO, Marshall Health

We are employing and caring for the Marshall community.

Thank you to our 1,900+ employees who provide access to 75 areas of specialty care while educating and training the next generation of physicians, PAs and researchers.

Marshall Health ranks in the top 25 as one of the largest employers in West Virginia.



Join our team!



Marshall Health