Alumnus
Ed Maier has mastered the art of giving back to the community

Mike D’Antoni’s career is as bright as a Phoenix Sun
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Meet distinguished alumnus and former card shark Ed Maier who has made all the right moves in life by giving back to his alma mater and community.

Political Science Professor Simon Perry celebrates his 42nd year of teaching at Marshall where he is beloved by both his students and his peers.

Former MU basketball great Mike D’Antoni is back in America coaching the NBA’s Phoenix Suns after touring the world in Europe’s Italian League.

Four new highly qualified professors from around the world demonstrate the university’s commitment to becoming a national leader in the biotechnology field.

Justin Swick and Derek Gregg are just two student entrepreneurs whose bright IDEAs are ushering in a new era of scientific innovation in the region.
President Bush Visits Marshall

President George W. Bush made a brief visit to Marshall's Huntington campus on April 2 to discuss job training and the vital role of community colleges with an invited audience. The audience members were selected from among local community leaders and Marshall faculty, staff and students. The President spoke candidly for approximately 40 minutes in front of an overflow audience of 600 people. "Without question, this was a huge honor for Marshall University," President Dan Angel said. "However brief the president's visit, it was a memorable event for the university community."

Marshall plans to change identification number policy

Some 20,000 Marshall University students, faculty and staff will have one fewer thing to worry about when they return to school in the fall.

Because of the potential for identity theft, which is one of the fastest growing crimes in America, Marshall is moving toward the use of a Generated ID Number instead of using the Social Security Number as an identifier to protect members of the university community, President Dan Angel has announced.

Identity theft occurs when a person steals personal information, including Social Security Number, credit card numbers, username and password, or other personally identifying information in order to fraudulently use the victim's credentials for illegal gain.

Angel said the identification number policy will impact many of Marshall's processes, "but it is critical that we protect all parties." The policy will create new Marshall University ID numbers for all campus stakeholders who need an ID number and will be used for all purposes, except for those that require Social Security Number by law or regulation.

Kerkian to Head MU Foundation

Glen R. Kerkian, a veteran development leader at Ohio University over the past 18 years, became Executive Director of the Marshall University Foundation, Inc., effective June 1. Kerkian also serves as Marshall's Senior Vice President for Development.

Announcement of Kerkian's appointment was jointly made by President Dan Angel and Jay White, president of the Foundation.

"We are gaining an experienced and successful person of high caliber," Angel said. "I'm extremely pleased. Glen will be a major positive addition to the Foundation, the university and the community."

With the hiring of Kerkian, the Foundation will assume responsibility for Marshall's Campaign for National Prominence, which recently topped the $78 million mark toward its goal of $100 million.

Kerkian had been Assistant Vice President for Development and Campaign Manager at Ohio since 1998.

"I am convinced that securing resources for higher education is of the utmost priority in this region and nationally," Kerkian said. "This is where I get my motivation and what keeps this work so fresh for me."
GOOD IDEAS ABOUND in emerging biotechnology industry

Biotechnology is the future of our state. Marshall University is poised to be the region’s major player in that biotech future. The question is often asked: “Why doesn’t West Virginia grow?” The answer: “So far the state has failed to become part of the ‘new economy.’” That new economy is characterized by high-tech firms utilizing the best science and technology available to create products and services which improve our quality of life.

The next question is: “How does West Virginia become part of this new economy with its rapidly growing, high-paying jobs?” The answer: “By utilizing the abilities and capacities of its research universities.” Many studies have proven that states with the fastest economic growth have strong research universities as their base.

One of the most research-intensive industries in the world, the biotechnology industry thrives on the intellectual capital found at universities. New biotech businesses usually originate out of research universities and are located nearby to capitalize on the innovations emanating from the faculty, the trained labor force and the availability of technology to explore these ideas. Studies show that 80 percent of all biotech firms locate near the university that nurtured them.

When Marshall established the Institute for the Development of Entrepreneurial Advances (IDEA), the goal was to commercialize the science and technology being developed by Marshall faculty, students and staff. The response has been overwhelming. More than 30 innovations with commercial potential have come to IDEA and several are on the “fast track” for venture initiation. Prior to last July, when IDEA was established, Marshall held only one patent. IDEA is now in the process of securing intellectual property protection for another 10.

IDEA goes beyond protection of the inventors and Marshall’s rights to what is invented on campus. Recognizing the importance of financing, IDEA is charged with producing business plans demonstrating the market potential of the innovations and to work with potential angel investors and venture capital companies to finance the projects.

What makes IDEA different is our dedication to creating the new jobs and entrepreneurialships in this area. Our concern is providing employment for Marshall’s graduates and others with strong science and technology backgrounds who otherwise would take their excellent training elsewhere to find employment. Further, we are determined to make Marshall what other major universities have become – the major engine for economic development in the region.

More than $100 million in new construction has been obtained to secure a world-class science and technology infrastructure for Marshall. This includes the new Edwards Comprehensive Cancer Center, the Robert C. Byrd Biotechnology Science Center, and the Biotechnology Development Center, as well as expansion of Marshall’s world-recognized DNA facilities plus a new rural health center. These facilities will keep and attract outstanding researchers who can produce a constant stream of new ideas for commercialization.

Our future lies before us and it really looks great! □
ASHE S TO G LORY, the public television documentary that chronicles Marshall University's inspirational recovery from the worst disaster in college sports, has received numerous awards, including an Emmy.

ASHE S TO GLORY has been presented nationwide in an abbreviated one-hour version. But now, through a special arrangement with its producers, you may own the complete, two-hour "Collector's Edition" on DVD.

THE ULTIMATE GIFT FOR HERD FANS

All in all, the new ASHE S TO GLORY DVD is the ultimate gift for anyone who loves Marshall sports. A percentage of the purchase price will be donated to the Ashes To Glory Scholarship at the MU Foundation. Order your DVD today from the Marshall University Bookstore.

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This unique video offers rare archival footage of Huntington in the 1970s, when students shopped downtown and gathered at the Shawkey Student Union.

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THE YOUNG THUNDERING HERD - a salute to the 1971 team - the courageous players who carried on the tradition of Marshall football. Charting their great victory over a powerful Bowling Green team, this video presents rare coaches' film - not seen by the public until now.

THE 1970 MARSHALL UNIVERSITY THUNDERING HERD - a touching tribute to the football players who died in the plane crash. Utilizing 3-D graphic effects, the video includes a photograph of every player who made the trip to East Carolina.

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408 4th Street, Huntington, West Virginia 25701, 304.523.1340
Drawing on wisdom passed down by his father and his own savvy as a former bridge champion, alumnus Ed Maier is making all the right moves in the game of life.

Article by Pat Dickson

On an early spring afternoon with milky sunshine spilling through the wall of windows of his comfortable penthouse office, Ed Maier is making a visitor welcome. A soft-spoken man with an easy smile, he's at home in what is clearly a working office, albeit a spacious one.

For Edward Handy Maier, the office high atop the City Center West Building near downtown Charleston is representative of the climb he has made in succeeding his father as president of the Sarah and Pauline Maier Foundation, one of the Kanawha Valley's largest philanthropic organizations, as well as overseeing a sprawling group of successful family businesses. But the ride to the top wasn't without some bumps, he'll tell you candidly, with some ironic elements of a riches-to-rags story with a Horatio Alger twist.

Photography by Rick Lee
The Maier family saga began with Ed's grandparents, William J. Maier and his wife, Sarah, both of whom had fourth-grade educations but who valued education and philanthropy almost above all else, traits they passed along to Ed's father, William J. Maier Jr.

William Jr. proved to be an apt student. Graduating from Huntington High School at age 16 in 1919, he applied for a scholarship to Harvard, a goal that might have seemed out of reach to anyone but a very determined mother and an ambitious son. William spent the summer after graduation working as a skulldragger in the C & O Railway repair yards. He was paid the grand sum of $1 per day.

Although he excelled at Latin and had won an award as the best Latin student in the state, William realized he would have to have an even higher proficiency in that language to be admitted to Harvard, so he hired a tutor who charged $2.50 per hour. “He was getting in two hours what it took me two and a half days to make … It taught me the value of an education,” he told the Charleston Gazette.

The tutoring paid off. The young man from Huntington was awarded a full four-year scholarship and, during his junior year at Harvard, he was awarded a Rhodes scholarship to Oxford University. Upon his return to the U.S., he taught undergraduate classes for Harvard and along the way earned a law degree. His parents' lofty expectations for their son had been realized.

“My father had nine years of the finest education money could buy … and he did it on other people’s money. That had a profound effect on his thought processes for the rest of his life,” Ed said. “His mother encouraged him to study hard and to meet people who were more accomplished than he was so that he could improve himself and always remember to give back.”

Sarah Maier taught her son very well. Her unwavering encouragement and benevolent philosophy would become the rock on which the Maier Foundation would be built. Dozens of groups and organizations would eventually benefit from her loving lessons to her son.

With his exemplary education and keen intelligence William quickly showed business acumen. He began amassing holdings in natural gas, a merchandise storage business, and other real estate investments.

In 1958, having accumulated more money than he felt he would ever need for his family, he set aside half his fortune to form a charitable foundation. Again it was his mother who inspired his philanthropy.

With the creation of the foundation, a whole new element entered the lives of family members. Up until then, William Maier’s passions were his family, his business and the Craft Masons. But the new foundation became a passion as well. Grateful for the scholarships that funded his education, he began setting up scholarship funds and giving attention to other educational priorities.

“The first $2 million of income from the foundation was directed to the general endowment fund at Harvard University for West Virginia and Ohio students, because Dad had made money in Columbus, Ohio, and in West Virginia,” Ed says.

As the foundation and the business enterprises flourished, so did the Maier family, which grew to include four children. Ed and his siblings attended schools on Charleston’s west side, but in 1958, the senior Maier decided that Ed should attend prep school, and selected Woodberry Forest School in Virginia, an exclusive and academically rigorous institution.

His first year, all in all, went smoothly but the next year was a little rockier. At one point he called his father to tell him he was leaving Woodberry and coming back to Charleston on the next train.

“Oh no you’re not!” roared the patriarch. “I paid good money for you to go to school and you’re staying!”

That was the end of that discussion.

“So, against my will, I stayed,” Ed relates. “And as it turned out, my father really did know best … by the time I got to college I was well prepared academically.”

Upon graduation from Woodberry, Ed elected to attend Denison University, a small liberal arts college near Columbus, Ohio, which at the time had 1,492 students, 60 percent of them women. He’s candid about what happened his freshman year at Denison.

Suddenly surrounded by bright, witty and good-looking young ladies, Ed began to spend more time in the student union than class. His social life became quite active. And he discovered the game of bridge.

“Bridge was a wonderful way to meet girls,” he says quite frankly. And like his father before him, Ed excelled in whatever he embarked on. He soon became a first-rate bridge player, participating in and winning tournaments.

Playing bridge and mingling socially with fellow students was a lot of fun, but it came at a cost. He was to find out just how much of a cost very soon.

“Denison was quite strict academically,” he says. “I was so engrossed with bridge and I was having so much fun, I stopped going to class … I got F’s in four classes.”

His academic record meant he would have to sit out a semester. But even worse, his father had to find out. It didn’t take long for the thunderbolt to be hurled down from on high.

Furious, William cut his son off without a cent. His edict was: “Son, you’re on your own. If you want to get an
My father was the boss and I respected him. Sitting on the foundation board and working with him for eight years was probably the best lesson he could have given me.
Marshall is a place that will always hold fond memories for me. I had a good time, but also gained a good understanding of math, history and English. For three years I applied myself and studied hard. After all, I was paying my own way now.
Despite their party image, his fraternity brothers would turn out to be a group of high achievers who would distinguish themselves in a variety of fields.

"Marshall is a place that will always hold fond memories for me," he says. "I had a good time, but I also gained a good understanding of math, history, and English. For three years I applied myself and studied hard. After all, I was paying my own way now."

He needed to scrimp and save and watch his pennies carefully. After meeting Larry Long, who was to become a lifelong friend, he managed to come up with $300 to buy Larry's 1961 Chevy. He delights in telling the story of selling the car for $600 after he graduated. "Larry never lets me forget what a good deal he gave me," he says.

And in Larry he met a compatible bridge partner, as avid a player as he. Larry was a serious student of the game and had a library of books on bridge. "That's when I studied the game," Ed remembers.

The study paid off. The two played so well together they were soon one of the best pairs in the state and traveled everywhere in the Tri-State area playing bridge. They played so well, in fact, that they became Life Masters (an honor title given by the American Contract Bridge Association) before graduation, a lofty achievement. "We were pretty good," he says modestly.

After Ed's first year at Marshall, his father did give him a minimum-wage job working in one of the family warehouses during summer breaks. The work was hard but again he did it without complaint. The money was carefully saved to help pay college expenses.

So in December 1968, three years after he began at Marshall, Ed graduated with the class of '69, having totally paid for his own education. The rich kid from the mansion on the hill had done it all himself and had done it very well indeed. If there was a test in there somewhere, Ed had passed it with flying colors.

Perhaps impressed by his son's tenacity, his ability to change adversity into success and his determination, William Maier offered him a job working in the family's businesses. But Ed was by no means the privileged son of the boss. He started in the janitorial crew, sweeping floors and cleaning offices. Thereafter, he worked in every kind of position the company had - clerical, financial, technical, administrative. The experience proved to be an impressive codicil to his college degree.

As Ed took on more and more responsibility, his salary did rise, a necessity by this time as he had married and was starting a family. A turning point in his relationship with his father occurred when William asked him to go to Huntington to look at one of their companies, which
apparently was being managed poorly. Ed spent two weeks observing in Huntington. At the end of the second week he arranged for the two of them to have dinner on Friday evening.

"My father usually did all the talking, and everyone else always listened, and that included me," Ed says with a smile. "On this evening, however, I did most of the talking. I started telling him what I had observed - he was absolutely correct that the company was being mismanaged. I gave him a detailed list of everything I had seen. I couldn't believe it ... I talked for seven hours and he listened!"

At the end of the marathon conversation, William, who had no idea the company was in such disarray, asked his son to help him come up with a strategy to turn the company around, and together they collaborated on a business plan. There could be little doubt now as to who would be taking over the helm of the Maier enterprises in the future.

His involvement with the foundation began several years before his father's death when William asked Ed to become a member of its board of directors. The foundation, under the firm hand of its founder, had flourished. Made a member of the board before he was 30, Ed listened respectfully to his elders.

"He was the boss and I respected him," Ed relates, referring to his father. "Sitting on the board and talking with him for the next eight years was probably the best lesson he could have given me."

It was a bittersweet time for him when he took on the responsibility for both the family businesses and the foundation following his father's death in 1981.

"When he died, I decided I didn't want to run the foundation exactly as he had. There were some changes we needed to make."

"The foundation had more or less grown up by its bootstraps," Ed says. "Dad ran it on a day-to-day basis with just the help of his secretary. But the foundation was growing and we were getting numerous requests. The board agreed on the need for procedures and guidelines so we wouldn't have to have a lot of staff. I wanted the money to stay in the foundation."

Ed and his wife, Susan, along with the Maier Foundation, have been extremely generous to Marshall University. There was, of course, the $1 million bequest made to the Yeager Scholarship Fund. The foundation's first gift to Marshall came in 1968 with an endowment fund in which the foundation challenged the Masons, dollar for dollar, to raise $1 million for needy West Virginia students to attend Marshall and West Virginia University, with the funds to be split between the two institutions. Today, according to Ed, there is more than $3 million in that fund.

In 1971, the foundation began a program in the English department to award $5,000 annually to talented student writers. The William J. Maier Writing Award was named in honor of Ed’s grandfather, and Ed takes pleasure in personally presenting the gift each year. In addition, a Latin Award was created in 1978.

"Dad had received a Latin award at Huntington High School as the top Latin student in West Virginia ... So now we give a Latin prize and also give a scholarship to a Latin student at Marshall," relates Ed.

President Dan Angel presents Ed Maier with a prestigious President’s Circle jacket.

The foundation also provided money to help set up the Higher Education for Learning Problems (H.E.L.P.) program, a one-time grant the organizers of the program had requested.

In 2001, the Marshall University Foundation received an initial $30,000 gift from Ed and Susan to establish the Susan Runyan Maier Distance Learning Classroom in the College of Education and Human Services. Ed thought it only fitting that the classroom be named for Susan, who graduated from that college and who was an energetic and successful teacher for 17 years at schools in Kanawha County. In addition to providing distance learning...
through videoconferencing for faculty and graduate students, the classroom also serves as a demonstration site in videoconferencing technology for K-12 schools.

The most recent contribution from the foundation is a commitment for $500,000 to be directed toward the Robert C. Byrd Biotechnology Science Center. At the time the gift was announced, Ed cited the positive economic development effects the center will have for not only the Huntington community but also in the southern half of West Virginia.

For a man who has had the twin responsibilities of successfully running the numerous family businesses while overseeing the benevolent foundation, Ed has been remarkably steady at the helm. But for all of his accomplishments, awards, accolades and successes, the one he cherishes most is his family.

He glows when he talks about Susan and the four Maier children. His pride in all of them is evident. The children are young adults and established in their lives and careers. They’ve made their father proud – very proud.

The eldest, Edward Handy Maier, Jr. – always known as Butch – is a successful newspaper reporter at the Boston Globe. Daughter Erica is a missionary in Chile, having been there for two years. Elizabeth is pursuing a Ph.D. at the Institute of Transpersonal Psychology in Palo Alto, California. The youngest, Eliot, is an undergraduate at Concord College, majoring in business management and thinking about attending graduate school.

He’s quick to point out that Susan has had a tremendous role in shaping the children into the successful adults they are today. The couple first met when Maier’s son Eliot was in Susan’s second-grade class. They met again two years later at George Washington High School where Erica was on the basketball team and Susan was a volunteer adult representative for the cheerleading squad. Susan remembered Eliot and asked his father about him. It didn’t take long for a romance to spring up between the two and marriage followed three years later.

“Susan has been marvelous as a mother for the children,” Ed says. “She is such a nurturing person; the kids love and respect her. So much of what the children have accomplished in life has been because of her.”

Now, with his children embarked on their own careers, he can take a retrospective look at his own. He’s come a long way since the first day he arrived on the Huntington campus, virtually penniless but determined to get a good education on his own. The plush offices and waiting areas on the 13th floor – he’s obviously not superstitious – are comfortable and tasteful but not ostentatious. Like Ed himself, everything there is to make visitors feel welcome. Prominently displayed is a large, handsomely framed photograph of the John Marshall statue in front of the Drinko Library on a shimmering night. On a table, the latest issue of Marshall Magazine has a prominent place among publications from other institutions. And in a place of honor, centered on the wall behind his desk, is an impressive bronze plaque which commemorates the Maier contributions to the Yeager Scholarship program.

Each spring Ed looks forward to going to Huntington to present the writing and Latin awards.

“It’s a rejuvenation of our lives, a time to contemplate that,” he says. And he’s an avid basketball fan who tries to make as many of the home games as he can.

Once his great passion, bridge has faded somewhat into an occasional game with friends. He and longtime friend Larry Long do try to play in a tournament or two each year, and they’re still winning. But for right now there’s just too much for Ed and Susan to see and do. They love to travel and they’ve been all over – they particularly enjoy visiting France, Italy, and the Bahamas, especially Paradise Island, where they were married.

Ed is thoughtful as he contemplates retirement somewhere down the road. The best thing retirement could do for him is to free up time so that he could devote more energy to civic and community groups. Unlike some who consider serving on boards or committees a chore, Ed truly enjoys lending his time and expertise to worthy causes. And groups haven’t been shy about calling on him. The list of boards he’s served on and his current volunteer activities can fill several pages.

“I like community work; it is rewarding to me,” he says modestly. “There are challenges in such work. In some ways it’s as meaningful to me as giving money away.”

In fact, the Marshall Alumni Association recognized his civic contributions by awarding him their coveted Community Service Award.

Shortly before he died, William Maier responded with these thoughts when a Charleston newspaper asked several prominent citizens to give an account of why they give:

“Live frugally and accumulate fortune honestly as rapidly as you can. When you have enough to provide a modest standard of living for your wife and family, then turn to the world around you and seek diligently to find where you can invest the surplus of time and fortune to do the most good.”

For the son who picked up the mantle and has so ably carried on the proud tradition of his father’s cherished work, it is obvious that the apple has not fallen far from the tree after all.

Pat Dickson is Coordinator of Media and Community Relations on Marshall University’s South Charleston campus.
Simon Says

Dr. Simon Perry, a beloved professor of political science, says his 42 years at Marshall University have been some of the most rewarding in his life.

Unique, beloved, challenging, insightful and exceptionally intelligent. These were some of the adjectives used by Marshall University officials and students as they described Dr. Simon D. Perry, professor and chair of the Department of Political Science.

Perry completed his 42nd year at Marshall as the spring semester concluded in May. Before establishing residence in Huntington, Perry taught at the University of Tennessee, Michigan State University and the University of Michigan.

A native of Gilbert, W.Va., Perry attended public school in Mingo County. He graduated from Berea College in 1954, with majors in political science and history and a minor in philosophy. In 1955, Perry received a Master of Arts degree in political science from the University of Tennessee. He earned his Ph.D. in political science in 1961 from Michigan State University.

"I have enjoyed my work at Marshall," Perry said. "It has been exciting to watch the university grow and develop."

Marshall President Dan Angel said, "Simon Perry represents the best that Marshall offers its students. He's an outstanding teacher and researcher, and generations of Marshall students have benefited from his wisdom."

Students often rank Perry's classes among the most difficult they have taken. "Dr. Perry is obviously exceptionally intelligent, and he is definitely challenging," said Bethany S. Ross, a senior public relations major from Ona.

Article by Jessica Farner • Photography by Rick Lee
Paul A. Hughart, a junior political science major from Poca, agreed. “Dr. Perry is the epitome of what a college professor should be. He is always prepared with a well-developed lecture, and he is consistent in returning students’ tests and assigned papers during the next class meeting. His promptness shows his commitment to his students and his desire to see them improve the next time. Grading is not at his convenience, but rather a tool of learning in his class.”

According to Perry, “challenging” is a welcome description. “To be perceived as challenging is the greatest compliment,” Perry said. “Worthwhile professors are very difficult and demanding, and students should seek them out.”

Perry said the best teachers never stop learning. “Professionally, this is the greatest period of my life. Political science is growing and changing as a discipline. It is becoming more diverse, theoretical and empirical – more of everything that is positive.

“I truly enjoy preparing for each class. It is a lot of fun. I always want to devise the best way to present information so that it stimulates student interest.”

Perry provides students in each of his classes with long lists of suggested reading. Some of his preferred books include Robert Dahl’s Who Governs? Democracy and Power in an American City, Karen Armstrong’s The Battle for God, Samuel Huntington’s The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order and Garry Wills’ Negro President: Jefferson and the Slave Power.

“A part of Dr. Perry’s indirect teaching is his insistence that students begin building their own libraries,” Hughart said. “I personally have started collecting presidential biographies.”

According to Perry, the majority of college students are not adequately interested in political issues. “I think there is a delayed effect,” Perry said. “Fortunately, students will develop an interest in politics later in life when they have a stake in the system and experience its effects directly. At Marshall, we offer students a broad education, and the things they learn here will structure their later beliefs and political leanings.”

A new program featuring Perry’s name has been developed at Marshall. According to Dr. Alan B. Gould, director of the John Deaver Drinko Academy for Political Institutions and Civic Culture, the Dr. Simon D. Perry Academic Program on Constitutional Democracy is designed to study the impact of major American constitution builders, including John Marshall, and the role of constitutional democracy in the evolution of America’s political and civic life.

The program includes four new core courses crafted by Perry: “Shapers and Definers,” “Politics in History,” “Democracies and Dictatorship” and “Constitutions.” The program will include 18 additional courses in a variety of disciplines, including history, English, philosophy, sociology and political science.

Perry said the program is uniquely related to law.

“It is a much richer preparation for students who plan to enter law school than we currently offer.”

To date, $400,000 has been raised toward a $1 million goal. The university will provide a permanent professor position, and interest from the endowment will be used in part as a stipend for that chair. Tuition waivers also will be provided for two student assistants.

Perry has witnessed a number of changes during his 42-year tenure at Marshall. “Professors have more support and more opportunities to conduct research,” Perry said. “Marshall is transitioning to a research institution, and that is good for the future of the university.”

However, he said some things have remained the same. “We have always had talented, accomplished teachers at Marshall, and we still do,” Perry said. “I am very impressed with the young faculty.”

According to Perry, today’s students are incorrectly labeled as apathetic. “There is a general image that students are not as good as they used to be,” Perry said. “I have had more outstanding students during the past five years than
"I truly enjoy being around students and watching them gain knowledge and maturity while they are at Marshall. The feeling that you have made some contribution to their development is one of the factors that make teaching such a rewarding experience."

**Dr. Simon Perry**

Perry’s wife, Frances, is a retired public school teacher. She taught English, literature, science and math to students in grades seven through 12. The couple has four children: David, Paul, Thomas and Kelly. They also have seven granddaughters.

"Fran is extremely intelligent, and she has an abundance of opinions," Perry said. "She is such a fun person to be around. She is very outgoing, and she is extremely loyal to her family at Marshall University."

Perry said Frances has nurtured his passion for reading. "Fran probably reads more than I do. From the time we were married, if I said I needed a book, she would go out and find it. She has bought me hundreds of books throughout the years."

Perry said he will spend at least one more year in the classroom. "I don’t plan to retire in the immediate future. I consider the option year to year, but the decision depends on my health and how I hold up.

"I truly enjoy being around students and watching them gain knowledge and maturity while they are at Marshall. The feeling that you have made some contribution to their development is one of the factors that make teaching such a rewarding experience."

Hughart is one of many Marshall students who hope Perry continues to teach for years to come.

"I am taking two of his classes this fall and hope I will be able to do the same during the spring semester," Hughart said. "Dr. Perry is a mentor to me. He encourages all students to reach higher and live better lives. Through his encouragement to learn outside of the classroom, his impact as a teacher will last a lifetime."

Jessica Farner is a graduate of Marshall University’s W. Page Pitt School of Journalism and Mass Communications. She lives in Parkersburg, W.Va.
Mike
Mike D'Antoni's challenge is to make the Suns rise. The Phoenix Suns, that is, a team that was among the worst in the NBA the last two seasons. In D'Antoni, a former Marshall University basketball star, Suns President Bryan Colangelo thinks he has the coach to revive a once-proud franchise. Colangelo believes in D'Antoni so much that on May 12 he extended his contract two years, through the 2006-2007 season.

"Mike did an outstanding job teaching, developing and motivating our young core this last season," Colangelo said. "Mike's basketball knowledge and communication skills make him a valuable asset for this organization."

D'Antoni appreciates the vote of confidence. His task as a coach is similar to that of a point guard, the position he played so brilliantly with the Thundering
Herd from 1971 through 1974 and later in the NBA, ABA and the Italian Professional League. His job is to be a leader, make others look good, help them improve their game and, more than anything, to win. D'Antoni thinks he can do just that, despite fielding one of the most inexperienced rosters in the league. Phoenix ended the season with just two players with more than two years of experience.

"I like the young guys," D'Antoni said. "We have a chance to be good."

D'Antoni is one of just 30 men in the world coaching an NBA team. He brings to the table a bevy of experience, having coached Philips Milan and Benetton Treviso to several Italian and European championships and a 144-68 record. D'Antoni knows, though, he will need more than just a wealth of basketball knowledge to compete with the likes of the San Antonio Spurs and Los Angeles Lakers. He will need a roster of talented, hard-working players.

D'Antoni has the backing of many Marshall fans, many of whom have no reason to care about the NBA other than their hero's presence on the Phoenix bench.

"We have some room under the salary cap," said D'Antoni, who has worked in the front offices of the San Antonio Spurs and Portland Trailblazers. "I know we're going to do some things to make this team better. This is a fun team to be around. We're going to work to get better."

D'Antoni was elevated from assistant coach one-quarter of the way into last season and inherited a team saddled with an 8-13 record. The Suns went 21-40 after D'Antoni replaced Frank Johnson. Phoenix improved under the former Marshall star, scoring more points and playing more under control. Still, the transition was difficult for a player accustomed to winning in college and in the pros.

"It was a tough way to take over," D'Antoni said. "Everyone was down emotionally. We weren't getting the job done."

D'Antoni's job got tougher after he took over. The team traded Stephon Marbury, Penny Hardaway
and Cezary Trebanski to the New York Knicks for Antonio McDyess, Howard Eisley, Charlie Ward, Maciej Lampe and two first-round draft choices. Later, the Suns got even younger, dealing Tom Gugliotta to Utah. D’Antoni expects help to come from the NBA draft, from free-agent signings and maybe from the acquisition of a player from Europe.

“We’re going to try to do it right,” D’Antoni said. “We want to get it turned around.”

D’Antoni has the backing of many Marshall fans, many of whom have no reason to care about the NBA other than their hero’s presence on the Phoenix bench.

With D’Antoni running the point and teammates Russell Lee and Randy Noll, each of whom joined D’Antoni in the NBA, the Herd went 23-4 in the 1971-72 season, climbing as high as No. 8 nationally. Marshall went 20-7 in 1972-73. D’Antoni was a key reason for the success.

“Mike was a second coach on the court,” former Marshall coach Carl Tacy said. “Mike’s ball-handling wizardry, leadership qualities and uncanny ability to set up teammates for easy scores helped keep alive our winning tradition. To an extent, we were as successful as he made us.”

A native of Mullens, W.Va., and the son of legendary high school coach Lewis D’Antoni, Mike scored 1,227 points in 80 games. He holds the school record for assists (659) by those who played just three seasons – freshmen were ineligible under NCAA rules when he played. He joined Russell Lee, Hal Greer, George Stone and Walt Walowac on Marshall’s “Dream Team,” selected by longtime Herald-Dispatch sports columnist Ernie Salvatore.

“D’Antoni was such a skilled ball-handler,” Salvatore said. “He had such great peripheral vision and an enormous arm span. He brought those boyish good looks with him and everyone loved him.”

D’Antoni was much more than just another pretty face who could play basketball. A two-time academic All-American and NCAA postgraduate scholarship winner, D’Antoni graduated with a degree in zoology. He speaks fluent Italian and is a dual citizen of the United States and Italy. D’Antoni has co-authored two books – Playmaker and Vivendo Giacando.

D’Antoni had a colorful career as a star player in Europe.

The Kansas City-Omaha Kings, now the Sacramento Kings, selected D’Antoni with the 20th pick in the 1973 NBA Draft. D’Antoni made the NBA’s second-team all-rookie squad and played one more season with the Kings before joining the St. Louis Spirits of the rival ABA. D’Antoni finished his U.S. pro career with the Spurs before moving to Italy where he played and coached. D’Antoni was Milan’s all-time leading scorer and in 1990 was voted the Italian League’s top point guard of all-time.

D’Antoni says his biggest thrill as a pro was “guarding Jerry West,” the legendary Lakers guard, West Virginia native and current general manager of the NBA’s Memphis Grizzlies.

D’Antoni, 53, returned to the Italian League for the 2001-2002 season and led Beneton Treviso to a 28-8 record and the Italian League championship. D’Antoni led his teams to the postseason each year he coached in the Italian League and twice was voted the league’s coach of the year.

D’Antoni coaches very much like he played.

“I played very fast,” D’Antoni said. “I want to pressure, get up and down the court and take advantage of the defense.”

Colangelo’s extension of D’Antoni’s contract sends a message to the Suns’ players that their coach is in charge and is well trusted.

“I’m happy that it went this way,” D’Antoni said of the contract extension. “They gave me a vote of confidence. Now we have to get the ball rolling.”

D’Antoni believes the Suns, led by talented youngsters such as Amare Stoudemire, Joe Johnson and Shawn Marion, will be dramatically improved. He said he draws on what he learned not only during his days as a player, coach and front office man in the NBA, but also on his experience in the Italian League, at Marshall and in high school. All of that experience helps shape D’Antoni’s philosophy.

“I’ve learned a lot from a lot of different people through the years,” D’Antoni said. “I think with the nucleus of guys we have coming back, with the (high) draft pick and the salary cap space we’ve added there’s no reason we can’t be pretty good. I hope we can be pretty good pretty quickly.”

Tim Stephens is a freelance writer living in Proctorville, Ohio.
In record numbers, teachers, administrators and licensed education professionals are expanding their skills through Marshall University’s Graduate School of Education and Professional Development. Using its Regional Center for Distance Education and Professional Development, Marshall is developing learning partnerships that are expanding graduate education throughout West Virginia.

With high-tech facilities and outstanding faculty, Marshall University is connecting adult students with more educational opportunities than ever before.
Four distinguished professors from around the globe demonstrate Marshall's commitment to excellence in the field of biotechnology research.

In November 2002, Marshall University announced a $6 million grant for a new and highly anticipated biotechnology center. Marshall President Dan Angel made this statement at the time: "This project will certainly have great implications for economic development ... this is something that is forward looking and recognizes the new knowledge-based economy."

Highly qualified professors can help make that knowledge-based economy dream a reality, and in the last two years the university has hired four new faculty members, all experts in some aspect of biotechnology: Dr. Eric Blough, Dr. Patrick Collier, Dr. Philippe Georgel and Dr. Guo-Zhang Zhu.

(Opposite Page) From left, Dr. Guo-Zhang Zhu, Dr. Eric Blough, Dr. Patrick Collier and Dr. Philippe Georgel.
A Portrait Introducing the Cohort of Four:


eric blough, ph.d.
born: st. joseph, michigan
essentials: b.s. in biology from michigan technological university; m.s. in exercise physiology from southern illinois university; ph.d. in exercise physiology, from the ohio state university; post-doc, university of illinois chicago.
history: dr. blough has been at marshall since fall semester 2003 and teaches physiology and muscle physiology. prior to becoming an assistant professor at marshall he taught biology at his alma mater, michigan technological university.
expertise: molecular physiology.
quote: "the professors were asked what they are most passionate about in the field of biotechnology. the future. it is a very exciting time in science right now. the field is advancing at an incredible rate. the prospects that advances in biotechnology will bring to the field of medicine will be astounding."

philippe georgel, ph.d.
born: niort, france
essentials: master's degree in cell biology and physiology from université de poitiers (france), ph.d. in biochemistry and biophysics from oregon state university.
history: dr. georgel has been at marshall for two years and teaches molecular biology, advanced methods in modern molecular biology and nuclear proteins. prior to becoming an assistant professor at marshall he taught at the university of texas health science center in san antonio.
expertise: the effect of chromatin structure on gene expression.
quote: "biotechnology is open-ended. the researcher's imagination is the limit. every answer that we gather leads to a new set of questions to investigate."

simon collier, ph.d.
born: liverpool, england
essentials: b.sc. in biology from nottingham university, ph.d. in medical genetics from manchester university. (both schools are located in the united kingdom.)
history: dr. collier has been at marshall for a year and teaches genetics and genes and development. prior to becoming an assistant professor at marshall he taught at manchester university for three years.
expertise: medical and developmental genetics.
quote: "it's exciting that new technology will allow us to address old problems."

guo-zhang zhu, ph.d.
born: fujiang, china
essentials: b.s. in pharmacy, ph.d. in molecular biology (obtained in china), post-doc, university of california davis.
history: dr. zhu has been an assistant professor at marshall for about 10 months and teaches molecular biology lab techniques and principles of cell biology. this is his first teaching position.
expertise: molecular and cellular biology of cell-cell interaction.
quote: "biotechnology has great potential to create new job opportunities, improve human health, increase agricultural output and protect environmental and ecological systems."
It is important that these four scientists are innovative researchers. The ultimate goal of the biotechnology center will be to take the cutting-edge research conducted in its laboratories and use it as a springboard for forming new biotechnology businesses in the Huntington region and throughout West Virginia. But even now, before the new buildings are complete, the existing laboratories at Marshall are conducting ingenious and useful research.

Take, for instance, Blough. His expertise is in Molecular Physiology. He studies how muscle adapts to altered loading of contractile activity. For the layman, he explains: “Examples of the types of questions we look at could be the following: What molecular ‘on/off’ switches regulate muscle growth? How do they work? What turns them ‘on’ and/or ‘off’?”

George! offers expertise in a field of research that was not previously represented on campus. And Blough and Zhu feel they have great enthusiasm for science and what it has to offer. “I think that science is one of the few endeavors where someone can look at the result of some task they just completed (for example a good experiment) and realize that they may be the first person, ever, to see what they just did,” Blough explains. He continues, “If we, as educators, can change the way people think about their surroundings sometimes, it can instill in them a real enthusiasm to pursue further learning and exploration.”

Collier, an expert in Medical Genetics, has studied the characterization of mutations involved in human genetic diseases like Adrenal Hyperplasia and Polycystic Kidney Disease. He also has helped develop tests for genetic diseases. At Marshall he researches cell polarity. Zhu studies the beginnings of life itself. “My research studies the molecular and cellular biology of mammalian fertilization and early embryonic development; it focuses on understanding the process of sperm-egg union to develop new life,” he says. It’s not hard to see how this type of research (and answers to the questions arising from it) could hugely affect medicine and help draw affiliated businesses to the Tri-State area — and that’s just a single example.

There’s more. As Collier noted, “The production of graduates who are highly trained in skills that are currently in demand will be a resource for both established and developing businesses and institutions in West Virginia.” Important since, according to Zhu, Huntington will become an incubator for new biotechnology entrepreneurs, especially once the new center is finished. Biotechnology will be the perfect marriage between Marshall and its hometown. Marshall’s reputation as a great research school will continue to grow — and take Huntington’s economy with it. And even better, graduates in biotechnical fields will no longer have to search elsewhere for high-paying and challenging jobs.

Research, however, is only one aspect of the professors’ function at Marshall. What do they bring to the student body and, in particular, to those who want to pursue careers in biotechnology? And what do they and future growth in biotechnology at Marshall bring to the state in terms of higher education?

On a general level, Collier points out that scientific research “develops students’ observational, reasoning and technical skills appropriate for a variety of career paths.” George! offers expertise in a field of research that was not previously represented on campus. And Blough and Zhu feel they have great enthusiasm for science and what it has to offer. “I think that science is one of the few endeavors where someone can look at the result of some task they just completed (for example a good experiment) and realize that they may be the first person, ever, to see what they just did,” Blough explains. He continues, “If we, as educators, can change the way people think about their surroundings sometimes, it can instill in them a real enthusiasm to pursue further learning and exploration.”

As for higher education in West Virginia, George! believes that the emphasis on research at Marshall may bring national attention to the state, resulting in grants from groups like the National Institutes of Health or the National Science Foundation.

These four professors bring excellent teaching and a world of possibilities to both Marshall and the Tri-State area. And, hopefully, it will put West Virginia on the biotechnology map. As George! concludes, “The recruitment of a group of new faculty with diverse scientific laboratory expertise provides the opportunity for Marshall University to make an impact in high profile scientific research.” Well said. ☐

Marla Brannan is a freelance writer living in Huntington, W.Va.
JUSTIN SWICK and DEREK GREGG are just two student entrepreneurs whose bright ideas are ushering in a new era of scientific innovation in the region.

Article By Sandy Kerns • Photography By Rick Lee

If the U.S. poet Wallace Stevens was correct when he stated, "The imagination is the only genius," Marshall University is rapidly moving toward true savant status. After all, look at the facts: underclassmen with provisional scientific patents; 32 sponsored projects in the process of commercialization; plans for taking Marshall vigorously into the 21st century; and bringing much-needed economic development to the region.

Yet, it takes more than imagination to see projects to fruition. That is the job of Marshall's IDEA, or Institute for Development of Entrepreneurial Advances. IDEA's primary focus is commercializing technology and science developed on the Marshall campus and in the region. IDEA will not only obtain patents and collect royalties from ideas developed by students and faculty, but also create high-paying technology and science jobs in West Virginia. IDEA will endeavor to see that innovations produced or services delivered from new enterprises are established here rather than in another state or country.

The Vandalia Project clearly exemplifies IDEA. The seeds for Vandalia were planted when Liz Murray, Associate Professor in the Department of Integrated Science and Technology, and Dr. Herbert Tesser, Professor and Weisburg Chair of Information Systems and Technology Management, received a grant to develop a curriculum blending science and entrepreneurship.
Freshmen Justin Swick and Derek Gregg were two of 12 students who enrolled in the entrepreneurial course, "Technology and Innovation," in the spring of 2003. Students were assigned the task of developing an innovative approach to a technology issue. Murray, who worked in the private sector with a large maker of biotechnology research tools, knew of one such problem. DNA, while used in many biotechnology markets, is currently not duplicated efficiently.

Several weeks into the semester, though they had neither background in biology nor biotechnology, Swick and Gregg decided to tackle the issue. Even so, or maybe because of this, they came up with an idea for a device that would amplify DNA 20-30 times faster than allowed by current technology. They collaborated with Dr. Mike Norton, Professor of Chemistry, as well as researched the market and patent database.

"It was one of those things that seemed so simple that it had probably been done, but our research of the patent database concluded that it hadn't," said Murray.

One year later, Vandalia Research LLC was formed and has a patent pending for a device that has the potential to make large amounts of DNA efficiently and inexpensively. The device will be marketed worldwide and employ residents in a local biotechnology company.

Like Vandalia, IDEA has accomplished a great deal in a short time. Established in July of 2003 and led by former dean of the Lewis College of Business, Dr. Cal Kent, IDEA has secured more than $12 million for Marshall’s Biotechnology Development Center (BDC). With groundbreaking planned for fall 2004, the center will house IDEA, biotechnology labs and an incubator for biotechnology companies.

IDEA will also be responsible for establishing and operating the Center for Biotechnology Commercialization (CBC), which is primarily funded by a grant from the West Virginia Economic Development Grant Committee. The center will assist Marshall students and faculty in the commercialization and protection of patents, and will secure funding to help start new businesses in the region.

The BDC will provide small biotechnology companies, such as Vandalia, with lab space and business support, important but expensive factors.

"Having the ideas under some form of patent protection is the first step toward being able to commercialize them because if you don’t have the idea protected, you really don’t have anything to sell.” – Dr. Cal Kent

Being located on Marshall’s campus will allow these companies also to tap into the expertise of science professors, as well as those in business, communication, or any other needed area.

While providing expertise and service will help entrepreneurs to develop biotechnology products, Marshall's new intellectual properties policy and technology transfer office will provide ownership protection.

"Having the ideas under some form of patent protection is the first step toward being able to commercialize them because if you don’t have the idea protected, you really don’t have anything to sell," states Kent. In addition, the technical transfer office at Marshall differentiates itself from others in that it seeks to get ideas for products which originate and are developed and produced in West Virginia, thus creating jobs in the region.
The fundamentals are in place. Just add ideas, which are abundant at Marshall. So abundant that Murray believes the biggest challenge is having too many options. Many scientists on Marshall’s campus already conduct research sponsored by organizations such as the National Science Foundation and National Institutes of Health. One of IDEA’s functions is to show them how their work can become commercial products or businesses. In this, IDEA has been successful. In Kent’s 10-month tenure, Marshall has seen more patent activity than in the entire history of the university. Currently, 32 ideas from students and professors are in various stages of commercialization.

Active IDEA projects run the gamut: software used to improve treatment of pre-eclampsia and other hypertensive disorders, a system which uses specialized global positioning to identify potential failures in railroad track bed structures, a molecular fingerprinting method for the identification of fecal contamination in inland waterways, and a mouthing device for autistic children, as well as other biotechnical projects.

Lastly, Kent is enthused about building an understanding by state government and the general public for the importance of both a strong university research base and biotechnology for West Virginia’s economic development.

“If you look at any of the indicators, West Virginia is at the bottom when it comes to high-tech and bio-tech jobs. We’re not even close to the states that are one step above us. There is a desperate need to get high-tech, high-paying jobs in West Virginia,” Kent asserts. “And talented students leaving the area adds to the problem.”

According to Kent, successful state high-tech programs are universally associated with universities. Also, West Virginians must change their perception of what is good for the state. Although it may be more visible when one large company moves to the state and has a ribbon cutting, having numerous small companies, such as biotechnology firms, will provide the best opportunities in the future.

IDEA’s mission includes establishing Marshall University as the primary engine for fostering economic development in the region; providing quality assistance to scientists, inventors and venture initiators in the commercialization of ideas and the establishment of new business; expanding entrepreneurship education available to Marshall students, faculty members and the general public; increasing opportunities for faculty and students to incubate new ideas and turn those ideas into new enterprises; and expanding the flow of external funding to Marshall from government, foundations and private sources.

Imagination. Marshall IDEA’s program has plenty of that. And it has the ability to form an image of something not before perceived in our region. It has the creative ability to confront and deal with problems facing our state, and world.

The IDEA web page advertises it seeks “students with a burning desire to build their own enterprises, faculty with great ideas that can build new products, inventors with the next technological and scientific breakthroughs and partners with vision who are willing to support job creation.”

The quintet of Gregg, Swick, Murray, Norton and Tesser indicate that they are doing just that. Marshall is fertile ground. Norton emphasizes that students benefit from the unique matrix of classes and environment that Marshall offers. 

Sandy Kerns is a freelance writer living in Charleston, WVa.
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A tradition of excellence since 1932
This past year as I have served my first term as president of the Alumni Association, I have been very proud of the association’s accomplishments and would like to share some of those successes with you.

First I would like to recognize those who have contributed toward the new Erickson Alumni Center Campaign. We currently have more than 750 donors and almost two-thirds of our goal of $3 million. Once completed, the new center will truly be something of which students, alumni and friends can be proud.

Next I would like to thank those who assisted the Alumni Association in broadcasting two home football games last fall from Huntington. This exposure greatly helps our clubs around the country to stay connected with Marshall, and also promotes Marshall’s national prominence in all areas throughout the country.

Tying into exposure and communications for the Alumni Association, we are very proud of our e-newsletter, @Marshall. This piece has been delivered monthly to approximately 20,000 households, and the list is growing. It focuses on academics, athletics, alumni events and human interest stories affecting Marshall and our alumni. If you are not receiving this currently, contact us and sign up today.

The next area is our Alumni Club network and the growth and expansion to a new athletic conference, C-USA, beginning the fall of 2005. I have had the opportunity to travel to many of the alumni club events this past year and have experienced firsthand their enthusiasm for Marshall. Our clubs are very important to the Alumni Association and truly are the most effective way for the university to reach out to our alumni and friends and get them involved in being advocates for Marshall.

Another important area for the association is our two biggest events, Alumni Weekend and Homecoming, when we invite alumni and friends back to Marshall’s beautiful Huntington campus and share memories about the past as well as provide the vision for the future. This past year, both events were greatly attended and supported. This allows the MUAA great exposure and also a chance to get people more involved with the association and Marshall as a whole.

Finally I would like to recognize the alumni association board of directors, and the hard working alumni staff. These people are passionate about how to always make Marshall University a better place and welcome back alumni and friends to the university with warm hospitality. I am fortunate to serve as the president of MUAA, and I appreciate you giving me this opportunity to share with you all the wonderful things that MUAA has done this past year. We look forward to an exciting fall and spring for next year.

See you at Homecoming on October 23!
It is with great pleasure that I have been able to serve the Marshall University Alumni Association over the past year as your vice president for alumni development. During this period, the association, as the rest of the university, has faced many challenges such as staff reduction and budget cuts. But with a dedicated staff, an active and involved board of directors, and tremendous support from Dr. Angel and the university administration, the MUAA is stronger than ever.

We, along with the board of directors, developed a Long Range Plan for the Alumni Association that was adopted last fall, focusing on the vision, mission and values of the association, and directing the need to continue to serve alumni and friends of the university. Our vision statement is as follows: the MUAA is a catalyst to build lifelong partnerships among Marshall, its students, alumni and friends and to support the university's mission.

I would like to share with you our four main goals.

1. Foster a lifelong partnership with Marshall University through the development of programs and services;
2. Cultivate personal and financial commitment to Marshall University;
3. Provide avenues of communication with alumni, students and friends so that they will remain connected with Marshall; and
4. Be a visible and integral partner in the mission of the university.

The MUAA was incorporated in 1931, and has experienced tremendous growth. We are an organization serving people with a common mutual interest, and that is Marshall University. We invite all students, alumni and friends of Marshall to be an integral part of the MUAA and assist the university as an advocate in one or all of the areas mentioned above. Your involvement will make a difference, and your time and resources are valued. Contact us at (800) MUALUMX or west24@marshall.edu today!

Have a great summer, and I look forward to seeing you back for Homecoming on October 23 to cheer the Herd on to victory.

The Marshall University Alumni Association is pleased to announce its new board of directors.


The board of directors now has 50 members, including 30 elected directors, four appointed by the MUAA and 16 university constituency representatives. Each of the new elected members will serve a three-year term beginning July 1, 2004.

Tom Harris will be serving his second term as president for 2004-05. The other officers are Nancy Campbell, first vice president; Dr. James Harless, second vice president; Mike Graybeal, treasurer; and Sharon Porter, secretary.

The members of the MUAA and the staff of Alumni Relations would like to express the deepest sympathy for the passing of board member Paul A. Beckett, who died April 14 in Huntington. Paul served for two years as chairman of the Homecoming Committee and was also president of his Sigma Alpha Epsilon Alumni Board.

“He was so enthusiastic about Homecoming and getting alumni to return to campus,” said Nancy Pelphey, coordinator of alumni programs. “Paul made it his mission to attend each and every Homecoming event, being the first to arrive and the last to leave. He was a true Son of Marshall and will be sorely missed by all of us.”
Alumni Weekend

1. Pat Angel welcomes guests in the entranceway for the first official event of Alumni Weekend, a Champagne Reception on Friday at the president’s home for individuals who have contributed to the Erickson Alumni Center campaign.

2. Donna and Joe Head (right) with Mr. Erickson.

3. The Class Luncheon on Saturday honored the 50th reunion class (1954) and the 60th reunion class (1944). They were joined by the Grand Class – those who graduated before 1954. The event was held at the Francis-Booth Experimental Theater of the Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center.

4. Dr. Sam Clagg (left), professor emeritus of geography, recounted some of his wonderful Marshall memories at the class luncheon. He's shown here with Lance West, vice president of alumni development.

5. All of the alumni award winners posed for this picture after the banquet on Saturday. Front, left to right: Bill Willis, Distinguished Alumni Award; Joseph Williams, Distinguished Service to the Community; and Michaelyn Ann Butcher, the Nancy Pelphrey Herd Village Cheerleading Scholarship. Middle row, left to right: Dr. Marcia Harris, the Dr. Carolyn B. Hunter Distinguished Faculty Award; Jacqueline “Jackie” Scaggs Frazier and Vickie Hinzman Pullins, both Community Achievement Award winners; and Sean Callebs, Distinguished Alumni Award. Back row, left to right: William Smith, Community Achievement Award; Nicholas Slate, the Nancy Pelphrey Herd Village Band Scholarship; Gary White, Distinguished Service to the Community; John Ryan Stewart, Cam Henderson Scholarship; and David Price, representing the Boone County Club, Club of the Year.

6. Sue and Art Keyser with Charles F. Erickson (left), major benefactor of the future new Erickson Alumni Center and son of its original benefactor, Charles O. Erickson.

7. Distinguished Alumni Award winner Sean Callebs (left) and Tom Harris, alumni association president.

8. Distinguished Alumni Award winner Bill Willis (right) and Tom Harris, alumni association president.
A new face for student recruitment at Marshall

There is a new face for student recruitment at Marshall University, and that face belongs to Sara Damron.

Sara, a 2003 Marshall graduate with a degree in journalism/public relations, is a counselor in the Admissions Office. One of her specific responsibilities is to manage the Marshall alumni recruitment program.

"I am really looking forward to working with my fellow alumni to assist in recruiting future students and help Marshall University grow," said Damron.

The recruiting program gives Marshall alumni a chance to interact with prospective students through college fairs in their home area, scholarship presentations to graduating seniors, and hosting special events.

Sara also recruits students in Kentucky, as well as Mason, Jackson and Wood counties in West Virginia. In addition, she supervises the faculty telecounseling program, which links Marshall faculty with prospective students.

If you would like to get involved in student recruitment, or have any questions please contact Sara at (304) 696-3160 or e-mail her at sara.damron@marshall.edu.

Please share your news with us by filling out the form included with your magazine. Preference will be given to active alumni; other news will be printed as space allows, and should be received within six months of the event. For more Class Notes, go to www.alumniconnections.com/marshall/.

Arrivals
To Kelley Kincaid Hankins and Brian Hankins (BBA'97) of Huntington, a daughter, Megan Shae, on Jan. 9, 2004.
To Kimberly Wheeler Miller (BA'93) and Charles Miller (BA'94) of Arlington, Va., a daughter, Caitlin Alexandra, on Nov. 7, 2003.

Marriages

Deaths
Gene King of Montgomery on Jan. 3, 2004, at age 77. He was supervisor of the mail room at the Graduate College in South Charleston until his retirement in 1996.
Peggy Keith Marinelli (att.'50-'51) of Bradenton, Fla, on Jan. 12, 2004, at age 71.
Dr. J. Randolph McCarthy (BS'37) of Tampa, Fla., and formerly Kennett Square, Pa., at age 88. He was a retired professor of chemistry at Marshall.
Dr. Harold “Hal” Shaver of Huntington on March 1, 2004, at age 65. He was dean of the W. Page Pirt School of Journalism and Mass Communications which, under his direction, became a freestanding school in 1999.
Dr. John A. Singley of Huntington on March 8, 2004, at age 71. He was professor of occupational safety and health in Marshall's College of Information Technology and Engineering.
Betty Lovett Spencer (BA'42) of Huntington on Feb. 2, 2004, at age 82. She received the MUAA Community Service Award in 1995.

1950s
William A. Harper (BA'52) has published Thumbs Up! Living with the Kiss of Death, about his life with his wife, Margaret (RBA'78), during the last two years of her
You don't have to live in West Virginia to stay connected to Marshall!

MU alumni clubs across the USA!

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  Southern California

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  Jacksonville
  Palm Beach
  Fort Lauderdale
  Fort Myers
  Tampa/St. Petersburg

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  Savannah

Kentucky
  Lexington

Mississippi
  Gulfport

North Carolina
  Charlotte
  Winston-Salem
  High Point
  Greensboro
  Raleigh/Durham
  Wilmington

Ohio
  Cincinnati
  Columbus
  Cleveland

South Carolina
  Myrtle Beach
  Hilton Head

Tennessee
  Middle Tennessee

Texas
  Austin
  Dallas/Ft. Worth

Virginia
  Richmond
  Roanoke

Washington DC

West Virginia
  Boone County
  Charleston
  Huntington
  Lewisburg
  Logan
  Putnam County
  Ripley
  Tri County Club

For information on regional club activities in your area or to find your regional contact, visit our web site at www.marshall.edu/alumni

If your area is not represented and you would like to volunteer, contact Nancy Pelphrey in the Office of Alumni Relations (800) MUALUMX or via e-mail at the address above
Spotlight

Earline Allen  BA '65, MA '66

When Earline Allen first came to Marshall in the early 1960s to study art education, the Art Department only had three kick wheels for pottery, and ceramics was only taught as a special topic. Now, due in part to her interest and hard work, the university offers a full complement of equipment as well as Bachelor of Fine Arts and a Master of Arts degree programs, both with concentrations in ceramics.

Allen graduated in 1965 with a B.A. degree and in 1966 with an M.A., both in art education. She also earned a Master of Fine Arts degree in ceramics from Ohio University. She began teaching at Marshall in 1970 and is now a professor in the art department.

Specializing in ceramic vessels made from porcelain, her work has won numerous awards on both local and national levels. And because of her expertise in her field, she acts as a consultant for many of the area schools. You will find her work on display at the Ross C. Purdy Museum of Ceramics in Westerville, Ohio; the Huntington Museum of Art; the Zanesville (Ohio) Art Museum; and numerous private collections. Ceramic Art Magazine recently featured an article about her work and philosophy.

Allen credits her philosophy as a teacher to the influence of two of her own teachers during her early days at Marshall. “Dr. Arthur Carpenter, then department chair, taught me that every individual has creative potential and it should be encouraged to grow,” said Allen. Another department chair, June Kilgore, made an impact. “Kilgore was my painting teacher,” said Allen. “From her I learned the nature of art. She was very inspiring and encouraged me to be an artist and a teacher. I try to instill a love for clay in my students. After this is achieved, all things are possible. Students want to understand the character of the material, its technical properties, as well as its aesthetic potential.”

Art is not Allen’s only talent. She was a majorette in the marching band and sang in various Marshall choirs, musicals and operas. She still enjoys the Choral Union at Marshall.

Recently, her love for art and her concern for the growing problem of hunger in the area motivated her to use her creativity to assist in a very worthy cause. In April 2004, the Marshall University Keramos Potters Guild and the Huntington Area Food Bank sponsored “Empty Bowls,” a project to raise money for the food bank. Allen and her class, as well as potters from all over the state, created 400 ceramic bowls to be given to participants of the event held at the First Presbyterian Church. For a minimum $10 donation to the food bank, guests were invited to take home the bowl of their choice as a reminder of the hunger in the world.

The project was a joint venture with public relations students in the School of Journalism and Mass Communications “It was all the students’ idea,” said Allen. “Sarah Altmeyer, a Keramos member and public relations student, decided the two classes could work together toward this cause.”

“Earline Allen is an inspirational teacher and a role model for all of us,” said Jean K. Miller, outgoing chair of the Department of Art. “No student is left behind in the ceramics studio. She loves art, loves students, and loves Marshall University.”

Earline Allen has won numerous awards for her work on both local and national levels.
The Best of Both Worlds

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Herd Village

a success story

In 1998 the Marshall University Alumni Association decided the campus needed a place for corporate groups to meet and entertain clients, friends and co-workers—and what better time to do that than just before a Marshall home football game! The infield of the Walter “Lefty” Rollins Track was chosen as the venue, and it is appropriately called “Herd Village.”

For football enthusiasts, this is the perfect location. Located next to the Cam Henderson Center and just across the street from the Joan C. Edwards Stadium, the grassy area offers a comfortable and convenient setting for Herd fans to gather before all home football games.

With the partnership of A-Z Rental, Recreational Sports, and the dedication of the alumni relations staff, the plan became a reality. With the 1998 sponsorship of Pepsi Cola, the doors to Herd Village opened. “The first year we rented 15 tents,” said Nancy Pelphrey, coordinator of alumni programs. “Not a lot, but enough to be encouraged. We were able to make a profit of just over $4,000 that first year.”

With the profits from Herd Village over the past seven years, the Alumni Association has been able to endow two Herd Village Scholarships. In 2000, during the annual Alumni Weekend Awards Banquet, the MUAA board of directors decided to name the scholarships after Nancy Pelphrey. “It was such a nice surprise,” said Pelphrey. “It takes a great deal of dedicated individuals to be successful at an endeavor such as this and I was honored that they decided to name the scholarship after me.” One of the awards goes to a Marshall cheerleader and one to a marching band member. The past recipients have been Seth Summers and Andrew Smith (2002); Melissa Morrison and Kelly Adkins (2003); and Michaelyn Butcher and Nicholas Slate (2004).

(continued on page 44)
An extra added attraction of Herd Village starting this past season was the Thunder Rally - a brief band concert conducted by the Marching Thunder under the direction of band director Steve Barnett. “This rally was open to everyone and really served as an opportunity to get everyone excited about the game,” said Pelphrey. “I want to thank the marching band for doing this and especially Mr. Barnett.”

Herd Village has gained more title sponsors in the past few years - Davis Chrysler Plymouth, South Point Ford and most recently, Stadium Bookstore. “Without these sponsors, we would not have had the success we have enjoyed,” said Lance West, vice president for alumni development. “Plus, Kindred Communications has been a media partner of Herd Village since it began.”

In addition to the generous sponsors, the Alumni Association would like to thank the individuals and groups who have rented tents during the years. During the 2003-04 football season we had the pleasure of hosting the following groups for Herd Village:

- Bank One; Campbell, Woods, Bagley, Emerson, McNeer & Herndon P.L.L.C;
- First Baptist Church of Kenova; Jenkins Fenstermaker, PLLC; Collegiate Licensing; Big Green Scholarship Foundation; Southwest District Labor Council; Pullen, Fowler and Flannigan; Team Member Activities - Toyota Manufacturing; CITE; Cabell County Board of Education; Tri-State Hematology; Friends of Matt Matthews; Guaranty Bank; Bowles, Rice, McDavid, Graff and Love; Marshall University School of Medicine; College of Nursing and Health Professions; and the SAE 50th Reunion.

Herd Village will begin its seventh season this fall. If you or your group are interested in renting a tent during one or more football games, please call the Alumni Relations Office at (304) 696-3134 or (800) MUALUMX.
Laura Boggs Darby knew she wanted to be a nurse from the time she was in high school, and was even accepted into nursing school with high praise from her teachers. However, due to finances, she was unable to go to college and, instead, pursued a government job in Washington, D.C. This work did not appeal to her, so she eventually returned to her native Greenbrier County two years later. After marrying Darrel Darby in 1948, she spent many happy years raising a family of six and supporting his education and career as a doctor of pediatric medicine.

Although nursing still interested Darby all those years, nursing school was not open to married women and women over a certain age. But things changed and finally, it was her turn to pursue her dream. She entered nursing school at Marshall University at age 49.

It would be an understatement to say she made up for lost time. “As a senior in the BSN program, I needed a senior project,” said Darby. “While working at Cabell Huntington Hospital, I heard about the Hospice concept and knew Huntington was in need of hospice care. I went to the area hospitals and asked if they would participate. Dr. David Daniels was one of the first to become involved, and still serves on the board today.”

The next step was finding a location. Dr. Bill Neal of the Cabell-Huntington Health Department found some office space. The Junior League of Huntington stepped in with volunteer and financial help, particularly with a six-week training program in which 82 people participated.

“At first, it was all volunteers,” said Darby. “We were on call 24/7. And most of the nurses and doctors who helped out worked full-time as well. Junior League members worked in the office.”

Darby worked hard to get the influential people of Huntington interested in helping. Soon there was enough money to hire a part-time director, Charlene Farrell. Hospice moved into a new office in the Pritchard Hotel – one room and the bathroom for storage!

Hospice of Huntington was well on its way. Twenty years later, Farrell still serves as the executive director, there is a very strong board of directors, and Hospice continues to provide end-of-life care for patients from Cabell, Wayne and Putnam counties and nearby Ohio.

“Laura is a visionary and is always willing to meet an unmet need in the community,” said Farrell.

Darby is modest about her achievement. “I never felt like I started Hospice,” said Darby. “I felt like I was divinely directed to do this. I just knocked on doors and people responded.”

Darby has also been a major factor in helping Ebenezer Medical Outreach Inc. in Huntington grow from humble beginnings in 1991 to a tremendous medical resource for people in the area who have no insurance. Ebenezer was a gift to the Huntington community from Fairfield West and the Ebenezer United Methodist Church. “I originally went there as a nursing student,” said Darby, “but stayed on as office manager, running the clinic, getting it incorporated, getting a board of directors involved, and getting it qualified for state grants.”

Soon Ebenezer was able to hire a part-time executive director and, as the medical staff grew, Darby was able to become involved in patient care as a family nurse practitioner. Located in the former Douglass High School, the clinic now has a paid office staff and a number of nurse and doctor volunteers. There are specialists, internists, psychologists, women’s services, and soon dental services.

Darby was presented the MUAA Community Achievement Award in 2002 and the honorary degree of doctor of humane letters in 2003. She still works as a family nurse practitioner and serves on the board of Ebenezer Medical Outreach.

Laura Darby has been a positive influence on the Huntington area. She has been a role model for many and an inspiration to all that have the pleasure of working with her. She has truly had an outstanding and long-reaching effect on the Huntington community.
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The MUAA Online Community

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- Broadcast E-Mail: @MARSHALL, a monthly newsletter that goes out to more than 18,000 alumni who have a registered e-mail address – a hi-tech way to keep up with what is going on at Marshall.
- Class Notes: A database for alumni to post notes regarding births, marriages, moves and career changes, including new jobs and promotions.
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A. Go to www.marshall.edu/alumni and click on the MUAA Online Community link at the top.
B. This will take you to the Online Community page. Then, hit “Click Here to Register Now.”

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The response to this venture has been tremendous. The Marshall University Alumni Association is very proud to be taking this step in continuing to be the Best Connection to Marshall University.

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"We feel very fortunate to have begun a partnership with Liberty Mutual," said Tom Harris, MUAA president. "The association evaluated their proposal very diligently and received high recommendations from other alumni associations around the country that have similar partnerships with them."

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I moved into the new Laidley Hall in the fall of 1936, a bright-eyed young girl of 17 who was eager to learn. I worked in the dorm office to help pay for my room and board. The girls were friendly and I liked my roommate very much.

The members of Pi Kappa Sigma sorority asked me to join them and it was a great group of girls. I excelled in my studies and loved school.

The spring of 1937 brought the great Ohio River flood. Students were allowed to go home for the week but three of us in Laidley Hall (Mary Lou Taylor, Ann Tully and myself) decided to stay in the dorm. We really didn't have a way to get home. A few boys stayed in Hodges Hall and together we had fun wading ankle deep in and out of the dorm. Some books, records, etc., in the basement of the library received damage but the dining hall remained open.

The college corner and student hangout across the corner from the main entrance was flooded, along with many homes on Third Avenue.

Bill Banks pretended to save Ann Tulley in the boat just outside the dining room, but we had too much dry ground showing in the picture to make it look real. We had fun and all students returned to school four days later.

Golda Langston still roots for the Thundering Herd from Spartanburg, S.C.

This column is designed to give you the opportunity to share pleasant memories of your student days at Marshall College/University. You can send your memory, 300 words or fewer, to Marshall Memories, MU Alumni Association, One John Marshall Dr., Huntington, WV 25755; or e-mail drastura@marshall.edu.
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