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Alumnus John Fiedler is helping shine the national spotlight on his alma mater.
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Hollywood film producer John Fiedler is helping put his alma mater in the spotlight through his work on the Campaign for National Prominence.

The university's need for student housing is being met by a new $28 million residence complex that offers everything from cell phones to laundry facilities.

On the two-year anniversary of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, the university remembers the life of one of its most extraordinary graduates.

Pat Angel is a lady of firsts, lending her work ethic to such unique projects as the "Profiles in Prominence" books, campus beautification and much more.

Your preview of Thundering Herd Football 2003 showcases the players to watch this season as well as a feature on the Buck Harless Student-Athlete Program.

Meet award-winning professor Joan St. Germain and other talented faculty and students who work behind the scenes to make the Theatre Department a big hit.

Brianne Erwin, Marshall University's 90,000th graduate, is a model 4.0 student, a Yeager Scholar and an ideal choice to represent the school for years to come.

Film producer John Fiedler takes a break during an afternoon visit to the Getty Museum in Los Angeles. Photograph by Rick Lee.
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AN IDEA WHOSE TIME HAS COME

This summer, a few days after our country celebrated the 4th of July with fireworks from coast to coast, we staged a different kind of celebration at Marshall University.

We, too, lit some fireworks in the form of one of the most important and exciting announcements regarding economic development in our region and state in years. In a well-attended news conference at the Drinko Library on our Huntington campus, we unveiled a brand new IDEA – an IDEA whose time has come!

The Institute for Development of Entrepreneurial Advances, also known as IDEA, is a biotechnology development institute that will obtain patents and collect royalties from ideas developed on campus, and also create high-paying technology and science jobs in West Virginia.

Dr. Calvin Kent has stepped over from his position of Dean of Marshall's Lewis College of Business to serve as director of IDEA. Cal, who is considered a national expert on entrepreneurship, is the perfect choice for this position.

Prominent Marshall alums Selby and Donna Wellman, Jim and Verna Gibson, and Tim Haymaker, along with MU benefactor Dr. Joseph Touma, are securing $1 million to establish IDEA.

Selby, in fact, spoke with conviction of how this project can grow from an IDEA to reality, much as the massive Research Triangle Park, located between Duke University in Durham, N.C., North Carolina State University in Raleigh, N.C., and the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, N.C., has done since its creation in 1959. Today, the Research Triangle Park is the largest research park in the United States with about 38,500 full-time employees and about 140 organizations.

The mission of IDEA is to establish Marshall University as the primary engine for fostering economic development in the region. As Selby said, IDEA seeks to organically grow businesses in this area as opposed to the more difficult task of recruiting them.

Selby and the other investors also will provide “angel,” or start-up money to help entrepreneurs see if their ideas are marketable.

When someone asked Dr. Kent if the creation of this institute and Marshall's investment in biotechnology might be too late in coming, he immediately – and strongly – said no.

“If I believed even for one second that it was too late, I wouldn't be here today,” Cal said. I couldn't agree more. IDEA is going to make a true and lasting impact on the region and the entire state of West Virginia.

As someone once said, “Ideas are like children: there are none so wonderful as your own.”

This is one IDEA whose time has come! □

“The mission of IDEA is to establish Marshall University as the primary engine for fostering economic development in the region.”
Board of Governors Members Appointed

West Virginia Gov. Bob Wise has appointed three new members to the Marshall University Board of Governors. All three are Huntington residents and will serve four-year terms ending June 30, 2007.

The new members are Michael J. Farrell, Gary Adkins and Brent A. Marsteller.

Farrell, an attorney, served on the board from 2001 to 2002. A Republican, he becomes David Todd. Adkins and Marsteller are new appointees. Adkins, superintendent of Wayne County Schools and a Democrat, succeeds Dr. Sam Sentelle. Marsteller is President and CEO of Cabell Huntington Hospital. He is a Republican and succeeds Dr. Tom Angel.

"Governor Wise has selected three excellent individuals to serve on our board," President Dan Angel said. "During his year on the board Mike Farrell provided a tremendous service to higher education, and no doubt that will continue. I'm certain Gary Adkins and Brent Marsteller will make significant contributions."

Farrell said he is happy to be back on the board. "I look forward to resuming my responsibilities as a board member and assisting the university in these challenging economic times," he said.

Before assuming his current position, Adkins was assistant superintendent of schools in Wayne County, and before that was principal at Tol sia High School. "I'm thrilled about the appointment," Adkins said.

Marsteller, a Huntington native, has been with Cabell Huntington Hospital since September 2000 when he returned to his hometown from Panama City, Fla., where he was CEO for Gulf Coast Medical Center.

"As a graduate and lifelong supporter of Marshall, I consider it a tremendous honor to be appointed to the Marshall University Board of Governors," Marsteller said.


Sherri Noble remains the Marshall staff representative on the board, James M. Sottile is the new faculty representative, replacing Marshall Onofrio, and Michael Safcsak replaces Cory Dennison as student representative.

Biotechnology News

Marshall University President Dan Angel joined university officials and community leaders this summer in announcing the establishment of a biotechnology development institute that will translate the university's biotechnology development efforts into critical economic development dollars for the university and the greater Huntington area.

The Institute for Development of Entrepreneurial Advances (IDEA) at Marshall University will focus on the commercialization of technology and science developed on the Marshall campus and throughout the region. Dr. Calvin Kent, formerly dean of the Elizabeth Lewis College of Business, has assumed leadership of this new enterprise, effective July 15.

"IDEA will obtain patents and collect royalties from ideas developed on our campus and in our community," Angel said. "This is an endeavor that will use the innovations developed here at Marshall University and in our region to bring economic rewards to our region, in the development of new enterprises and high-paying jobs for our university and community."

"This project represents the next critical step in Marshall's attainment of National Prominence."

"Biotechnology is the fastest growing segment of the U.S. economy, with revenues tripling to more than $30 billion in the past decade," said Kent. "With the wealth of talent within the Marshall faculty and student body, IDEA will make it possible for Marshall to be a prime mover, propelling West Virginia into the high growth economy of the future."

CAMPAIGN TOPS $60 MILLION

The Marshall University Foundation Inc. has received a residuary bequest of $178,000 from the estate of Colin A. Campbell, which will establish the Colin A. Campbell Memorial Scholarship to benefit students in the College of Education and Human Services.

This gift, among others, has enabled the Campaign for National Prominence to top the $60 million mark on the way to the goal of $100 million. Currently, the campaign total stands at $60,545,123.

The Campbell scholarship will be awarded on the basis of financial need either to incoming freshmen or established Marshall students and may be renewed pending satisfactory academic achievement.

Colin Campbell was the owner of Campbell Organ Service in St. Joseph, Mo., and his late sister, Dr. Margaret C. Campbell, was a professor of education at Marshall. In 1987, she received the university's first Distinguished Service Award for her 30 years of service.

"We are indebted to the generosity and vision of benefactors such as Colin Campbell who have placed Marshall in their wills," said Tony L. Williams, interim dean of the College of Education and Human Services.

More information about the Campbell Scholarship or Marshall University's planned giving program may be obtained by calling the Office of Development at (304) 696-6214.
WORKING THROUGH IT

Just imagine that your household income was reduced by about ten percent, yet some of your most important expenses continued to increase. That's exactly what Marshall University is facing—only on a much larger scale.

If you've followed our budget situation in the newspapers and other media, let me say that it really is as bad as you've heard, but we are dealing with it and working through it. And we're working through it in a way that will have the least possible adverse effect upon our students.

For the current fiscal year, we were required to take just over 9 percent out of our budget—more than $6.2 million. To do this, we reduced all departmental budgets by 6 percent, with the exception of the academic units, which sustained cuts of 4 percent.

"Well," you might say, "why not raise tuition to cover the shortfall?"

There are a couple of reasons why tuition increases alone won't do the trick. First of all, the Higher Education Policy Commission, under West Virginia law, has set limits on the percentage amount that tuition can be raised each year. For this year, we were at the maximum, and even with that increase taken into account, the 6 percent cuts were needed.

More importantly, we need to hold tuition rates to a level that will be affordable for West Virginia students and families. Our state needs to increase its number of college graduates, and we are ever-mindful of the need for access to higher education. Keeping tuition increases to a minimum is one of the most important ways to do that.

The PROMISE scholarship, instituted last year under Gov. Bob Wise's leadership, has proven to be a great asset for higher education in West Virginia. It helps hundreds of families send their children to college. Right here at Marshall, I believe it has added both to the quantity and the quality of the students we serve.

And all of our students are getting a good educational value for their tuition dollars. Marshall has identified a group of ten "peer institutions" from other states in order to develop comparisons on a number of fronts, particularly financial ones. Our peers include schools like Ohio University and Wright State in Ohio, East Carolina University, the University of South Florida, and East Tennessee State University. When it comes to tuition rates, Marshall is among the lowest of that group. Indeed, we're at 76 percent of the mean. We're currently compiling the same figures for the fall term, and we expect that the trend will continue.

In short, a Marshall education is a good deal.

Of course, we're taking steps other than cutting departmental budgets and adjusting tuition to improve our financial standing. Currently, we have 50 job positions unfilled, and we review each position that comes open to be sure that it is essential. And, as many households are doing, we are refinancing bonds and other debt in view of the current low interest rates. We are also consolidating various support functions where we can.

As we've gone through this extremely painful process, I've been impressed by the team spirit shown by the faculty, staff, and departments here. In true Marshall fashion, people are pitching in where they can and resisting the opportunities to complain. We have a great university here and we intend to continue our rise to National Prominence. But it is clear that state funds will not be sufficient to get us there. Our Campaign for National Prominence, now more than halfway to its goal, will be the key to our growth and success...and the growth and success of the thousands of students who are pursuing their educational goals at Marshall. □
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Hollywood producer John Fiedler is lending his time and talent to Marshall’s Campaign for National Prominence

Story by Tom Hunter
Photography by Rick Lee

The hustle-bustle lifestyle of Southern California is a far cry from that of a college campus in the rolling hills of West Virginia. In reality, it’s just a step away in the mind of John Fiedler. He would be the first to tell you that the journey to this different world now seems like a small stitch in time.

The New Jersey native and Marshall University alumnus is in the midst of a successful producing career in the film industry. He has called the Los Angeles area home for the past two decades, where he stays busy with two careers – his and that of his wife, accomplished actress Bess Armstrong – as well as a busy family life with two sons.

A 1973 graduate of Marshall’s College of Fine Arts, Fiedler reflects on his time in Huntington with great admiration. He is appreciative of the opportunities he was
"I thought WVU and many of the other schools I visited were too big. Marshall was going to provide me with more opportunities, so I decided Huntington was the place for me."
afforded as a young theater student and relishes the ties that have kept him close to his alma mater.

A native of Newark, New Jersey, John was the fourth of six children in the Fiedler family. “We lived in Bergen County, New Jersey. I was raised in Wyckoff, a town of about 12,000.”

His father arrived in the United States as a seven-year-old German immigrant in 1929. After his arrival in America, Werner Fiedler settled in Roselle Park, New Jersey and later volunteered for World War II. He then used his G.I. Bill benefits to study electrical engineering at Carnegie Tech (now Carnegie Mellon) University in Pittsburgh.

Growing up in a busy household with four brothers and a sister, Fiedler fondly recalls the routine that he and his family developed on Sunday mornings. “Every Sunday, my father would go to the bakery and bring home the New York Times with various rolls, buns and crumb buns. We would all run for the particular section of the newspaper that we wanted. I always wound up getting the Arts and Leisure section, which no one else wanted. So, I came to read a lot about the theater at a young age,” Fiedler recalls.

The Sunday readings helped spark an interest in the creative arts. “I was the type of kid who had an appetite for the arts and theater, which was contradictory to my Dad’s view of the world,” Fiedler said. “My dad never discouraged my desire to pursue that type of career, but he was always curious about how you made money doing it.”

His father worked as an executive with the Bendix Corporation, an aerospace parts manufacturer. During Fiedler’s first year in high school, his father was offered a better opportunity within the company, which required relocating to Maryland.

After arriving in Baltimore, John Fiedler made a connection with his drama teacher at Dulaney Senior High School, George Sledge. Fiedler’s interest in theater continued to bloom as he became more exposed to the craft through school productions, classes and opportunities to see traveling productions in the Baltimore area.

“I remember seeing some Neil Simon plays that were very funny. I also recall seeing several musicals, because that was a more popular diet for people in the Broadway sense,” Fiedler said. “Barefoot in the Park” was one of the early productions he had the opportunity to see.

At a time when high school students didn’t face the same pressures as today’s students in making early college decisions, John Fiedler was trying to decide where he could continue his pursuit of the arts.

As Fiedler and his classmates finished high school, Sledge suggested that he take a look at two universities in West Virginia – West Virginia University and Marshall University.

“In my senior year, I took a journey. My first visit was to Morgantown … and then I traveled down to Huntington to visit Marshall. Once I arrived on campus for the first time, I felt very comfortable. It just felt like a good place for me to be,” he says, smiling.

After applying to several schools, he had to make a decision. “I thought WVU and many of the other schools I visited were too big,” Fiedler said. “Marshall was going to provide me with more opportunities, so I decided Huntington was the place for me.”

In the late 1960’s, Fiedler had easily made the adjustment from an urban setting on the Atlantic to a small community on the banks of the Ohio River. In Huntington, he maintained a very busy schedule, filled with classes, rehearsals and part-time jobs to help him pay his way through school.

“All of the plays were one-act productions. You would direct and act.” The major theater productions were staged in the Old Main Auditorium, while Smith Hall’s recital facilities were used for smaller campus productions. While Old Main’s facility didn’t afford Marshall theatre students much flexibility, it served as an inspirational venue for young actors hungry to learn.

“I did not feel hampered by the Old Main Auditorium. The emotional warmth of that place is quite real to me. I love that Old Main stage to this day.”

Although Fiedler enjoyed acting while he was at Marshall, he realized that theater wasn’t a one-dimensional profession. He decided to take a hard look at what could become the best career path for him in theater – production. “I realized that there were people who were better actors than I was. Acting is as much about type as it is talent,” Fiedler said.

During John Fiedler’s years at Marshall, Clayton Page was head of the theater department. He was a disciplined man who encouraged students to have a well thought out plan. “I made sure to be on top of my game around him. He didn’t yell or ever make you feel bad. He just preferred you to have a plan. He also encouraged you to do things that you didn’t think you could do,” Fiedler said.

One of Fiedler’s strongest influences within the department was Bruce Greenwood, who was a creative thinker with a strong knowledge of technical theater. “Bruce was a truly talented guy. An original. He had great design instincts and was passionate about his work,” Fiedler said of Greenwood.
Perhaps the most profound influence on Fiedler during his Marshall years was Bill Kearns, who had an understanding of the emotional aspect of theater unlike anyone he had encountered. "He taught me that each night had a life of its own and that was the exciting thing about theater. His approach to material was genuinely emotional."

November 14, 1970 is a day that remains embedded in John Fiedler's mind, as it is in the head and heart of every member of the Marshall community. The football air tragedy rocked the campus, its students and the community.

"That tragedy shook my world and certainly, without question, rocked the world of the entire community," Fiedler said. "Nothing can ever adequately explain that to me."

Shortly after receiving his degree, Fiedler left Huntington and headed for New York City. He began taking graduate classes and established a healthy habit of reading about the film industry. "I realized that there were many people who started working in theater before film...filmmakers who worked in both fields like Sydney Lumet (director of "Twelve Angry Men" and "Network")," Fiedler said.

His movie education progressed with readings of renowned critics such as Peter Bogdonovich (who later became an acclaimed director), James Agee, Dwight McDonald, Stanley Kaufman, Pauline Kael and Andrew Sarris. "Pauline Kael wrote emotionally and Andrew Sarris wrote historically. That combination was great for me," Fiedler explains. "I would read these critics and go see what they were writing about."

All of this inspired him to pursue a career in the film industry. Fiedler decided he needed to move to Los Angeles, as that was the principal hub of the motion picture industry. After arriving in Southern California, his first job in the film industry came with Los Angeles-based Technicolor, a leading innovator in motion picture technology since bringing color to movies more than 80 years ago.

"I loved every minute of it because it afforded me an opportunity to learn very quickly about the film industry," Fiedler said. "Technicolor was a great observation deck where I learned about cinematography and conceptualization. I saw every aspect of a film project from beginning to end, because it came through there."

After working several years at Technicolor, Fiedler became an executive for Rastar Films Inc., a Los Angeles-based production company. During his tenure at Rastar, he had an opportunity to work as a production and development executive on several large film projects. His association with the company came during a period in the early 1980s when Rastar scored several box office hits with movies such as "Blue Thunder," "Richard Pryor: Live on the Sunset Strip," "The Toy," "Spring Break" and "The Survivors."

Rastar Films eventually was merged into Tri-Star Entertainment. After the merger, John Fiedler continued working with Tri-Star in the development of major motion picture projects. Today, Columbia Tri-Star continues to be one of the most successful major studio partners in the film industry as a division of Sony Pictures Entertainment.

In 1988, Fiedler had an opportunity to move from an executive role into the more creative aspect of filmmaking. He served as a producer on the Kevin Reynolds-directed "The Beast," an adaptation of a William Mastrosimone play about a Russian tank commander in a wartime struggle in the Afghanistan wilderness.

He followed "The Beast" with a producer's role in 1990's "Tune in Tomorrow," based on Mario Vargas Llosa's novel, "Aunt Julia and the Scriptwriter." "Tune In Tomorrow" provided Fiedler his first opportunity to work with acclaimed British director Jon Amiel, known for his directorial work in "Somersby" and "Entrapment."

In 1995, Fiedler again worked with Amiel on the hit thriller "Copycat," starring Sigourney Weaver, Harry Connick Jr. and Holly Hunter. The film also gave Fiedler the opportunity to work with prominent film producer Arnon Milchan, whose cinematic credits include the Oscar-winning "L.A. Confidential," "Fight Club" and "Natural Born Killers."

As for his evolution as a producer, Fiedler is pleased with
his body of work thus far. He is a man who understands his role and appreciates the full evolution of the filmmaking process. “You have to find material that you like, that speaks to you in some way and reflects something that you think is worthy to go see,” Fiedler said. “The movie business is quite simply the business of ideas.”

As for the future, John Fiedler has numerous film projects in various stages of development ranging from character thrillers to a small, independent film project that is a love story. In the interim, he and a group of business partners have established EStudio Network, an Internet technology company that provides document management and production services for studios and independent producers.

Fiedler maintains strong ties to Marshall, primarily through his involvement with the Society of Yeager Scholars Board of Directors.

“These are great kids who are aggressively bright students. The opportunity to meet and interact with them is wonderful,” he beams. “The more students of this caliber that Marshall can attract, the better the institution, the community and the state are for it.”

Fiedler recently received a phone call from a fellow Marshall graduate following a career path similar to his own. The alumnus, one of Marshall’s first Yeager Scholar graduates, recently earned his master’s degree in cinematography from New York University.

“He was calling to let me know that he had a film that had been nicely reviewed in the L.A. Times. He wanted me to see his movie,” Fiedler said. “It’s nice to have an ongoing relationship with these students and watch them mature. The quality of the Yeager Board members and the students is amazing. My work with them is what I enjoy most about my association with Marshall University.”

Tom Hunter is a communications specialist with Marshall University’s Office of University Communications.
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“I’ve never seen anything to beat this anywhere,” declares Mike Meadows, Marshall’s Director of Facilities Planning and Management, as he proudly details the state-of-the-art amenities of the newest building project on the Huntington campus. The housing and dining facilities, located on 5th Avenue near 17th Street, are opening for students in August 2003 and January 2004, respectively. With these new buildings, the university places itself in an even better position to meet the needs of its student body and compete with other schools for the allegiance of incoming freshmen.

The $28 million facilities are truly impressive. Long before construction began, the university formed a planning committee that included students. The results are clear. These dorms are an efficient and practical class act. Gibson Hall, Wellman Hall, Willis Hall, Haymaker Hall and the dining facility all face one central plaza. The front door of each housing facility opens into a common area surrounded by a recreation room, laundry facility (four washers, six dryers each), computer room housing four permanent computers with Internet access, mail hall and Resident Director suite and office.

Someone will staff the front desk of each dorm 24 hours a day. The desk is situated perfectly so the person on duty can see the entire common area, aiding the residents’ security. No one can enter the building without a swipe card; in fact, even the dorm room doors are opened by keyless entry.

The rooms themselves are certainly something to write home about. All the rooms are set up in suite configurations including either four single bedrooms, two double bedrooms or four double bedrooms. Each suite contains at least one compartmentalized bathroom and a common living area. Two of the facilities are co-ed (by floor), one is all male and one is
Marshall's brand new $28 million residence complex offers students all the comforts of home including laundry facilities and cell phones.

By Marla Brannan  Photos by David E. Fattaleh
"When I came here three and a half years ago, students wanted two major issues addressed – parking and housing. With the dedication of our new parking facility and the forthcoming residence facilities, we have dealt with those two issues."  - President Dan Angel

all female. Each floor has two study lounges, one with a kitchenette and one with computer connections.

Each building houses 125 students, 500 in all. Willis Hall, the residence hall closest to 5th Avenue, is reserved for honors students who must be recommended for a spot. One-third of the remaining beds are offered to incoming freshmen on a first-come, first-served basis. Two-thirds are reserved for upperclassmen. Because there was such a demand for the available upperclass rooms, the university conducted a lottery to divvy them up. The average cost for all-inclusive room and board is approximately $4,000 annually.

The students fortunate enough to live in the new complex will enjoy not only a secure facility (room doors even have peep holes), but an extraordinarily convenient one. Each suite is fitted with a luxurious number of electrical outlets and has a digital thermostat for both heat and air conditioning. The five buildings run on the same efficient heating and cooling unit located in the dining facility.

All the buildings are handicapped accessible, offering specially equipped suites on the buildings' ground floors for students in wheelchairs. Those with sight or hearing impairments or other handicaps have the option of living in numerous outfitted suites throughout the four facilities.

All 500 residents will acquire cell phones, due to the creative thinking of Ed Grose, Senior Vice President for Operations. After noticing numerous ads for cheap mobile calling plans in the newspaper, he decided to check into what kind of deal West Virginia Wireless would give him for 500 phones. The university isn't providing roaming fees, but as long as a student is within the Huntington area, all long distance fees are included. Residents will be able to call their moms in Florida or boyfriends in Idaho every day if they want – and it's all included in room and board.

The dining facility, available to all Marshall students for 19 meals a week, is the building situated closest to 5th Avenue. It will
open, as scheduled, in January. A glass curtain (rounded wall of floor to ceiling glass) graces the plaza-side wall. This facility will be set up similarly to the Tower cafeteria – no lines and many choices. Entrees will be located on platforms where students may help themselves. A large salad bar, dessert bar and short order counter (for fast foods like hot dogs and pizza) offer numerous alternatives for every meal. As a result, the Holderby Hall cafeteria will close.

This new complex represents the fulfillment of a need for the university. According to President Dan Angel, "When I came here three and a half years ago, students wanted two major issues addressed – parking and housing. With the dedication of our new parking facility and the forthcoming residence facilities, we have dealt with those two issues."

The genuine need for more on-campus housing is the reason the four dorm buildings have always been scheduled to open before the dining facility. "For the last seven years our existing residence halls have been full. For the last four years they have been full early in the summer," says Grose. "We didn't have an opportunity to offer students on-campus housing and as a result we feel we've lost some students that would have come to Marshall. We're concerned that entering freshmen and sophomores really need on-campus housing – and the Grade Point Average reflects this."

And this isn't the last major construction project in the offing for Marshall – the university currently is beginning a 10-year master plan. Consultants have been meeting for the past several months, working on a three-pronged preliminary study covering space utilization, facilities evaluation and expansion. "We're doing really well with the space we've got. Hopefully the conclusion of this study will be knowing what we want to build and where we want to build it," Grose concludes.

The future for Marshall facilities is stellar. Potential and current students alike will have difficulty finding "anything to beat this anywhere." □

Marla Brannan is a freelance writer living in Huntington, W.Va.
Remembering one of our most extraordinary graduates on the two-year anniversary of the September 11, 2001 attacks

On September 11, 2001, the Tri-State, the nation and, in fact, the world lost a true visionary: Dr. Paul Wesley Ambrose. Paul was on American Airlines Flight 77 that destroyed parts of the Pentagon. At that time, he was the senior scientist working for the Surgeon General's Call to Action to Prevent and Decrease Overweight and Obesity. Headed to Los Angeles for a conference on childhood obesity, Paul lived each day of his 32 years with a vitality and compassion that infused his life with zeal for medicine, especially for improving Americans' health and medical care for the underprivileged.

By any definition, Paul Ambrose was an extraordinary human being. Born in Charleston, West Virginia, Paul spent the first two years of his life in Tornado before his parents, Kenneth and Sharon Ambrose, moved the family to Columbus, Ohio, where they pursued graduate degrees at Ohio State. From early childhood, his personality was seen readily; when he put his mind to accomplishing something, he would do it. When he wanted to learn how to ride a bike, he went out on the street and tried. He'd fall and have a big black and blue bump on his forehead, but he'd get back up on the bike and away he'd go. Once he made his mind up, he was committed to accomplishing his goal. Always inquisitive, he wanted to try new and different things - new food, new cultures, new ways of looking at old problems. As one friend wrote posthumously, "Paul will be the presence that makes us choose the path less traveled - the fun, original or offbeat decision - and those will be the decisions that make a difference in all our lives."

And Paul was genius at making a difference, both in individual lives and in the world at large. After returning to West Virginia while still a child, Paul graduated from Barboursville High School in 1987. He made friends with both students and teachers. He approached education and sports with the same commitment he dedicated to life itself.

Story by Kenneth Paul Ambrose
with Maria Brannan
Photos courtesy of the Ambrose Family
rose {1968 - 2001}
He performed well in both. Always popular, Paul was class president throughout high school. His love of the Spanish language and culture bloomed in the ninth grade and continued through college, medical school and beyond.

After graduation, Paul went to Marshall to study zoology and Spanish. As an undergraduate, he participated in a summer program in Madrid under Dr. Maria Carmen Riddel. Dr. Riddel wrote in her memorial that “Paul enjoyed challenges, lived fully, and learned from most circumstances and situations. From the first day he was there, he made every effort to communicate well and significantly with Spaniards and to learn from them.” His name always appeared on the Dean's List at Marshall, from which he graduated magna cum laude. He was a member of Omicron Delta Kappa (Leadership Honorary), the Spanish honorary and Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities.

Paul applied for early admission to Marshall's medical school and was accepted – it's unusual for students to be admitted after their third year of college, but he was eager to get started. After he completed his second year, Paul approached the administration about spending a year at the University of Salamanca in Spain. He wanted to study the health care system there. It provided him with international experience, a look at medicine in another country and an opportunity to become truly bilingual.

Some of his family and friends wondered why he took time away from med school and why he didn’t just finish his degree, but Paul didn’t fit the mold of others. He was interested in looking at new perspectives about improving the world of medicine.

When Paul returned from his year in Spain, he was instrumental in starting a chapter of the American Medical Student Association (AMSA) at Marshall where he was very active in the organization. After graduation from medical school, he took a position with AMSA at the national headquarters in Reston, Virginia, as the Legislative Affairs Director where he lobbied Congress on medical issues. This delayed the completion of his medical training, but provided valuable practical experience. A friend he made shortly after he accepted this position described meeting Paul for the first time: “It was easy, upon meeting Paul, to dismiss him as a pretty boy. Until he started talking. That was certainly my experience when I first met Paul in May of 1995 at a strategic planning retreat for the New Physician magazine...I ended up sitting with him when we broke for lunch. I looked at this guy across the table from me, with his deep blue eyes and chiseled cheekbones and floppy, highlighted hair and cool clothes, and I prepared to write him off. By the end of the meal, after Paul had intelligently and matter-of-factly touched on his experiences hiking through South America, on the need for a more cogent public-health infrastructure, and on the writings of Hunter S. Thompson, and I felt chagrined. Paul was the real deal.”

Dartmouth Medical School’s Department of Family and Community Health accepted Paul into its residency program. While there, he envisioned a program that would include his concerns for preventive medicine and public health as well as leadership in health policy. The Dartmouth Board of Trustees approved a new residency program (eventually named the Paul Ambrose Fellowship) that included family medicine, preventive medicine, a Master of Public Health or Master of Science in Clinical Evaluative Sciences and leadership training seminars in system change and personal mastery.

Paul wanted physicians to know how to change the political and medical systems to provide better care for their patients. Anyone awarded the fellowship completes a five-year program that entails dedication and commitment to these principles.

Paul operated on many levels while still in residency – in the hospital, in the halls of Congress, in the clinics, in the homes of his patients where he visited them after they’d been discharged. Donna Shalala, then Secretary of Health and Human Services, appointed Paul to a three-year term on the Council on Graduate Medical Education (COGME). He also
was elected president of the National Consortium of Resident Physician Organizations.

He brought new energy to the organization and developed a Resident Education Symposium he named after his mentor, Dr. C. Everett Koop (who later renamed it for Paul). Harvard University awarded Paul a cancer prevention fellowship with its Dana Farber Cancer Institute when he finished his residency at Dartmouth. After he graduated with a master's degree in Public Health, he was off to Washington again, this time to work with Dr. David Satcher, then United States Surgeon General, as the seventh Luther Terry Fellow – the clinical advisor to the Surgeon General. This was the position he held in the fall of 2001 before he boarded that ill-fated flight.

Dr. Paul Ambrose made so many contributions during a life too soon ended and had the potential to contribute so much more. He loved people and was deeply loved in return. He was a treasured son and an outstanding physician. Paul had a host of friends from all walks of life. He loved life, learning, his profession, his family and friends. Paul was a unique individual who had so much to offer the world. His life as a son, fiancé, grandson, uncle, physician and friend was too quickly ended.

Many honors have been presented to Paul Ambrose posthumously, including the Surgeon General's Medallion, the American Medical Student Association Lifetime Achievement Award, and the Marshall University Outstanding Alumni Award. Moreover, a number of awards or activities have been instituted or renamed in honor of Paul: The Paul Ambrose Scholarship at the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine at Marshall University, the Paul Ambrose Physician Resident Leadership Symposium, the Paul Ambrose Medical Student Leadership Symposium and many others. Dr. Koop had a bronze medal cast with Paul's image on it to be awarded annually by the American Medical Association to an outstanding young physician.

Kenneth Paul Ambrose is a professor of sociology and anthropology at Marshall University and the father of Paul Wesley Ambrose.
Patricia Angel, Marshall's First Lady, is using her strong work ethic to support such projects as the university's "Profiles in Prominence" books, campus beautification and much more.

Patricia Angel, Marshall's First Lady, is also a lady of firsts. A stalwart champion of the students, she is a behind-the-scenes motivator, a catalyst for innovation and growth within the university and the community. But her self-imposed title is "positive complainer."

"If I see a problem," she says, "I'll try to correct it and find other paths to make it work." And call her Pat. "If I hear anything else, I know I'm in trouble."

Although she has held various positions in both large and small communities, she thinks of herself as a "small town girl." Raised in a rural area in central Michigan, she says the strong sense of community and "hometown" feel of Marshall University and West Virginia in general were a perfect fit for her.

She began her career in education at a community college before earning a B.A. in English and Communication Education from Wayne State University, followed by an M.A. in Education, Speech and Media from Michigan State University.

She has taught English and communications classes at various community colleges and universities. She loved teaching speech because, "I love to see students take the tools of communication and develop the ability to speak for themselves." She tells people that she's actually been teaching since she was five, when she used to play teacher for the other kids using crayons and pencils with orange crates for desks.

Pat has also been a county Register of Deeds in Michigan and a newscaster for a television station in El Centro, California, doing political commentary without Teleprompters. "I enjoyed writing the scripts and interviews myself," she recalls, "and being able to get the
facts and disseminate the information.” Pat invests so much time in helping students because she wants to give back the same kind of encouragement she received growing up. “I was very fortunate,” she says. “If someone hadn’t arranged for me to get a scholarship, I wouldn’t have been able to go to college, which opened up all the doors and gave me a life I wouldn’t have had. So I get really involved in encouraging students to do and try things, and I stay involved in what student life is like and what it can be, because they’re young and sometimes they need a push or a sympathetic ear.”

One very successful example of her efforts to get the students involved is the annual Christmas decorating campaign. “The kids put an amazing amount of work into the project. They learn from each other, not me, and get a sense of organization, commitment and accomplishment,” she says.

This is another “first” for Pat. Christmases past saw no concerted effort to decorate the campus aside from a few office displays. Now the students award a prize each year to the best decorated office.

The beautification effort spills out into the halls as well. Previously, the only photos displayed in Old Main were of buildings. Pat has encouraged hanging up pictures taken around campus of people engaged in everyday academic pursuits. These, she says, lend character and presence to the building and capture the spirit of the university experience.

Another way she is helping to motivate students is through her involvement in the Student Ambassadors program, which allows a select group of students to serve

“...I stay involved in what student life is like and what it can be, because they’re young and sometimes they need a push or a sympathetic ear.”

— Pat Angel
as diplomats for the university. Before Pat became involved, students were utilized only through orientation, giving tours to visitors and new students. The ambassadors go beyond that to represent the university to the entire community. They participate in actual leadership training before attending various functions like homecoming events and the S.C.O.R.E.S. academic event, interacting with other students and alumni.

Pat hastens to give credit to Barbara Tarter, Assistant Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean of Enrollment Management, and her staff for the development of the program, even though she provided the support needed to get it off the ground.

“I just happened to be in the right place at the right time,” she says.

Since coming to Marshall, Pat has crusaded for the restoration of the presidential home, and has organized a committee to raise funds for long-range maintenance. She has also compiled a complete photographic inventory of the house and designed a brochure about its history. This is important to her because she believes that the home of the president should be shared. To that end, she entertains a great number of guests – about 4,000 per year – including several student groups and various civic groups and organizations from throughout the community.

Along with President Dan Angel, Pat is responsible for Profiles in Prominence, a book that chronicles successful Marshall alumni. She says the book was inspired by their discussion of the various achievements of particular graduates; they were surprised such a project had not been undertaken before.

“The most exciting thing for me about the book is to see the similarities and threads of character that run through all the stories. It gives you a sense of pride in being a West Virginian.”

Pat also helped edit the book and wrote a chapter. Volume Two in the series is near publication, and Volume Three is now in the planning stages.

When asked which accomplishment at Marshall she’s most proud of, Pat responds, “The thing that makes me happiest is the hope that by my involvement I can contribute to a better quality of life for students, faculty and community.”

Pat enjoys rollerblading, bicycling, dancing and going to the theater. She is also a member of the Huntington Museum of Art Board of Trustees.

After spending some time this summer in Texas visiting with son Scott and daughter Shelby, she is excited about the start of fall semester and is looking for new projects where her involvement can make a difference.

Kevin Savage is a freelance writer living in Ashland, Ky., and a recent graduate of the Regents Bachelor of Arts program at Marshall University.
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2003 Thundering Herd Football Schedule

Aug. 30, Hofstra, 4:30 p.m.
Sept. 6, at Tennessee, 4 p.m.
Sept. 12, Toledo, 7 p.m.
Sept. 20, at Kansas State, TBA
Sept. 27, at Troy State, TBA
Oct. 11, Kent State, 4:30 p.m.
Oct. 18, at Buffalo, 1 p.m.
Oct. 25, at Western Michigan, 2 p.m.
Nov. 1, Akron, 4:30 p.m.
Nov. 12, at Miami (Ohio), 8 p.m.
Nov. 19, at Central Florida, 8 p.m.
Nov. 28, Ohio, 4:30 p.m.

Coach Bob Pruett and the 2003 Thundering Herd stand ready to repeat as MAC champs and go bowling again in December

By Tim Stephens
Photography by Rick Haye & Marilyn Testerman - Haye
The unofficial theme of Marshall football is “We play for championships.” Some of the so-called experts apparently think it should be changed to “We play for third place.” Several preseason publications predict mighty Marshall to fall. The Thundering Herd, winner of five of the last six Mid-American Conference championships, victor in five straight bowl games, producer of three NFL first-round draft picks since 1998, is predicted by many to finish no better than third in the MAC East Division this season. One publication – Athlon – ranks Marshall 79th among the 117 teams in NCAA Division I-A.

“It’s frustrating,” Marshall senior tackle Nate McPeek said. “You build a program and win as much as we have and some people still don’t believe in you. We’ll have to prove ourselves on the field.”

Herd Coach Bobby Pruett is confident his team will remain the class of the MAC, boldly predicting the 2003 Herd could be the best in school history. That sets the bar high for a program that has averaged 11.4 wins per season since 1996.

“We have a chance to be a very, very good football team,” Pruett said. “In some ways, we’re maybe as good as or better than we’ve ever been.” Being good, even very good, doesn’t necessarily translate to victories. The schedule comes into play. Winning at Tennessee and at Kansas State, perennial Top 20 programs, will be difficult. Also on the schedule are Toledo and Western Michigan, the only teams ever to win the MAC West. Going to Miami (Ohio) and Central Florida doesn’t figure to be easy, either.

That schedule, combined with the exit of record-setting quarterback Byron Leftwich to the NFL, gives fodder to the doubters. It also highlights the importance of Leftwich’s successor, junior Stan Hill, playing well. As quarterback of a program that has produced eight consecutive all-conference passers, including the last three – Leftwich, Chad Pennington and Eric Kresser – who all moved on to the NFL, the pressure on Hill is enormous.

“Stan has more experience than Byron had when Byron took over for Chad,” Pruett said. “And in his first game as a starter, Stan did better than either Byron, Chad or Eric.”

Hill responded to big-game pressure last season, throwing for 292 yards and four touchdowns and running for the winning TD on the final play of Marshall’s 36-34 must-win victory over Miami. For the season, Hill completed 52 of 83
passes for 536 yards and five touchdowns, with five interceptions. Hill (6-foot-3, 195 pounds) isn’t as big as Leftwich, nor does he possess Leftwich’s arm strength. Hill, though, is more mobile and is a coach’s son who thinks like a coach on the field. Marshall coaches won’t ask Hill to be Leftwich any more than they asked Leftwich to be Pennington.

“We’ll emphasize the things that Stan does well,” MU quarterback coach Larry Kueck said.

Marshall also will emphasize running the ball more, featuring tailback Butchie Wallace (129 carries, 614 yards, 7 touchdowns a year ago) and junior college All-American Earl Charles. Red-shirt freshman Tank Tunsstall and speedy Wilbur Hargrove also expect to see action.

“We’ll emphasize the run but it’s not because we don’t think we can throw the ball,” Pruett said. “Last year we passed to set up the run. This year we’ll run to set up the pass. We think our running backs can be special.”

When Hill throws, he will have two of the nation’s premier wide receivers as targets in senior Darius Watts and junior Josh Davis. Watts’ 3,063 career yards ranks first nationally among returning receivers. Davis’ 75 catches and 1,191 receiving yards led the Herd last season. Senior tight end Jason Rader also figures to be more of a factor this season. Junior college transfer Tremel Guillory could be an impact player as well.

The offensive line returns just two starters – McPeek (6-4, 317) at right tackle and senior Luke Salmons (6-3, 298) at left guard. Versatile senior Joey Stepp (6-1, 302) starts at center. Right guard Toby Bullock (6-4, 335) has tremendous physical skills. Junior left tackle Nate Griffin (6-5, 334) has the job of protecting Hill’s blind side.

“Offensively, we have some real stars,” Pruett said. “Our offensive line is bigger and stronger than it has ever been. We’re excited about this team.”


The secondary returns just one starter – junior cornerback Roberto Terrell. The other starters – safety Moriah Anderson and cornerback Willie Smith have extensive experience, however, as does senior safety Gladstone Coke. Junior college transfer Lonnie McCowan has a strong chance to win a starting safety job. Athletic youngsters Chris Royal and Ivan Clark also expect to contribute.

“We’re in as good a shape defensively as we’ve been,” Pruett said. Senior Ben Lewis will battle freshman Ian O’Connor for the kicking and punting jobs. Terrell and Hargrove are kick returners with game-breaking speed. Jeff Mullins will longsnap.

The biggest obstacle is the schedule. Four-time MAC West champion Toledo visits Marshall Stadium, as does always-troublesome Ohio, along with an Akron squad that upset Marshall a year ago. On the road, in addition to powers Tennessee and Kansas State, conference rivals Miami and Central Florida figure to be stiff challenges. Because of a quirk in the schedule, Central Florida gets 10 days to prepare for Marshall, while the Herd gets just a week to prepare for the Knights. “Our schedule is as good and as challenging as we’ve had,” Pruett said. “We have to play well. If we stay healthy and we stay eligible, we should be in good shape.”

Tim Stephens is the Huntington area director of Fellowship of Christian Athletes.
The "Buck" Harless Student-Athlete Program

Former Marshall football player Jayson Grayson smiles broadly when he talks about the academic help he received through the Buck Harless Student-Athlete Program.

"I wouldn't have graduated without it," said Grayson, a counselor at a juvenile rehabilitation facility near Pedro, Ohio. "It made all the difference in the world."

That's exactly what program director Michelle Duncan likes to hear.

"The program's ultimate goal is the graduation of all student-athletes," Duncan said. "Our daily objective is to facilitate the necessary educational services and environment for academic excellence, as well as career development."

The program, named for prominent businessman James "Buck" Harless of Gilbert, W.Va., allows student-athletes to better use their skills to grow in the classroom. The objective is to prepare the student-athletes for life after graduation.

"The Buck Harless program has been very beneficial to us," Marshall football coach Bobby Pruett said. "We've had an awesome run. We've been recognized by the NCAA every year since 1996 for graduating 70 percent or more of our players. That's phenomenal. The Buck Harless program has helped us tremendously."

Harless visits the Marshall campus at least twice a year to see how the program is progressing. Each fall, the Buck Harless Award is presented to a student-athlete who excels both academically and athletically. Specifically, the Buck Harless program offers academic advising, counseling, tutoring, a mentor program and career services. It helps student-athletes track their progress toward graduation, monitors their athletic eligibility and provides accommodations for students with learning disabilities.

Duncan said the program is essential for time-strapped student-athletes trying to juggle a full class load with the demanding schedule of major college athletics.

"The program was created to help all Marshall student-athletes balance their academic and athletic demands," Duncan said. "The program helps student-athletes with individualized guidance and current curriculum information to help achieve their goals."

Grayson strongly encourages students to take advantage of what the Buck Harless Student-Athlete Program offers.

"It does nothing but help," Grayson said. "Some people get stubborn and don't want help, or they just don't like to ask for help. The program is there for you. It's something that can help you. I'd advise any student-athlete to take advantage of it."

Grayson isn't alone. Athletes in all of Marshall's sports praised the Buck Harless program, including former MU linebacker Albert Barber.

"I can't say enough about it," Barber said. "It helped me so much. It got me straight and on track."

Tim Stephens is the Huntington area director of Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

"The Buck Harless program has been very beneficial to us," Marshall football coach Bobby Pruett said. "We've had an awesome run. We've been recognized by the NCAA every year since 1996 for graduating 70 percent or more of our players. That's phenomenal. The Buck Harless program has helped us tremendously."
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AUTUMN 2003
Award-winning professor Joan St. Germain and a group of talented students and faculty work behind the scenes to make the Marshall University Theatre Department a big hit

By Beth Henry • Photos by David E. Fattaleh

Before student actors put on their costumes and step into an Alabama courtroom or a Shakespearean love story, they are required to learn the ropes behind the scenes. Literally.

Beginning students in the Marshall University Department of Theatre must learn to handle the 56 ropes, or rigging lines, that control some of the lights and curtains around the stage. They must find their way through the maze of rooms and staircases in the Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center to gather props, replace light bulbs, sort through piles of furniture, mix paint and learn how to use saws. Students also learn how to create distinct eras and atmospheres through set construction and costume design.

“They get some basic experience in exciting things like learning how to sew,” said Joan St. Germain, costume and makeup professor. “We do some pretty large shows with people who don't know one end of the sewing machine from the other at the beginning of the year. But by the end of the year, they know what they're doing.”

Incoming students quickly learn theater jargon: scenery backdrops are drops, set platforms are flats, theater light bulbs are lamps. They work long hours together and become a close-knit family. Both acting majors and design/technician majors quickly learn that they need to work together to get the productions moving smoothly on and off the stage.

Senior acting/directing major Jerry Donahue II explained that sometimes freshman acting majors have a hard time working behind the scenes when they are eager to act, but he has learned to appreciate technical work.

“You really have to work together, and each part is just as important as the other part. I mean, if that prop is not there for you to use, then your line won't make any sense. What are you going to do? It takes everybody to run the show.”

Deb Carder-Deem, scene shop foreman, is an instructor who helps students get the hang of running everything backstage, from sound, to lighting, to pyrotechnics. “If I do my job well, you don't know I exist,” she explains.
“We all have professional experience. We know how Broadway operates. We know what a good quality theater is, and that’s what we try to work for.”

Deb Carder-Deem, Scene Shop Foreman

Tucked away in the basement of the Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center, there’s a treasure trove of clothing that can transport a visitor on a magical journey through time and to all sorts of places. Presiding over this basement kingdom is Joan St. Germain, Associate Professor of Theatre and Dance and a recipient of the 2002-03 Pickens-Queen Teacher Award. It’s her job to costume the actors who appear in the productions of the Marshall Theatre Department. In the world of the theatre, clothes really do make the man and the woman.

Working with a staff of work-study students and other students of varying sewing skills, it’s a challenge to mount a production in the short time before each show, but St. Germain and her crew make it on time. As audiences enjoy the shows they are blissfully unaware of all the time and minute attention that’s gone into them – and that’s just the way the backstage workers know it should be.

“The best thing is when the actors look right and you don’t think about what they’re wearing. You have to consider the stage picture as a whole and it has to be translated into the individual characters,” she says. “I enjoy getting inside the characters’ heads, developing a psychological profile for each character so you can understand why they do what they do and wear what they wear. It’s about creating imaginary closets filled with imaginary clothes a character would wear.”

A native of Rhode Island, St. Germain has been involved with costume design for the past 22 years, having worked her way up the hierarchy of technical theatre. Armed with a B.A. degree from Marquette University and a M.F.A. from The Ohio State University, and with a flair for the technical side of theatre, she spent five years working with regional theatres and in summer stock, honing her skills.

St. Germain became interested in teaching after working with students from an arts magnet school. “I liked working with the kids and I found I enjoyed teaching and I was pretty good at it,” she explains.

The shows she’s designed run the gamut of Broadway hits. She has worked on numerous musicals, which are the mainstay of theater, she says, as well as light comedies, dramas, dance, and well-loved classics like “A Christmas Carol.” Although the MU Theatre has been in existence since the 1930s, the MU costume shop is relatively new, formed only 9 years ago.

She’s done so many shows, she can’t really select favorites but probably her most memorable one was the 2001 production of “Our Town.” Shortly before beginning work on the bittersweet comedy/drama, she was diagnosed with breast cancer and began chemotherapy.

“Keeping focused on the show when so many things were happening was a challenge but it was a beneficial challenge. I could let go of what was happening physically and focus on art. I figured if I could keep it together for that show, I could keep it together for anything.”

And she did. Out of treatment for the past two years, the upbeat designer is looking for ways to give back for the care she received. This spring she organized a Marshall Relay for Life team to participate in the American Cancer Society’s Huntington event in May.
“We all have professional experience. We know how Broadway operates. We know what a good quality theater is, and that’s what we try to work for. We can get by on a $200 budget and build phenomenal scenery. That’s some of the magic that happens. We might have champagne taste on a beer budget, but we can still make it look great.”

Show preparation begins as soon as possible. St. Germain said they usually work on multiple shows at once. She said productions are scheduled about a year before the show opens, and preparation begins ideally at least 16 weeks before opening night. Set and costume designs are carefully drawn 10 weeks beforehand, but rehearsals aren’t scheduled until six to eight weeks before the play opens.

The directors work with the designers to explain their ideas of what they want the play to say beyond the text, and the designers work the ideas into the sets and costumes.

St. Germain said she reads the play three or four times, just to get the story and mood. Does the play take place in winter? What era do the characters live in? She talks to the director again to ask what to stress in the scenes. Then she and her students research period costumes to decide on fabrics, colors and the overall look of specific characters.

“At some point or another you have to put down on paper what it is you’re going to do, and that helps directors and it also helps actors, because it helps them get a sense of who they are in terms of the world of the play,” St. Germain said. All the preparation requires extremely long hours as the show opening draws near.

Donahue said that while preparing for a performance last year, he went four days without seeing daylight because he arrived so early and worked until well after midnight. He said that the theater students work and eat together all the time. In fact, they spend so much time together that they develop close ties to their instructors, their fellow students and even some of the props.

One special prop, a stuffed squirrel, has been included in performances many times. “We try to fit the infamous squirrel into every set – it’s been a tradition as long as I can remember,” the senior said.

Finally all the props, lighting, sound, sets and costumes come together, the week before the show. Carder-Deem said it’s their Hell Week, when things get frustrating.

“It gets a little tense, but the show always goes on – knock on wood. We haven’t really gone up with the paint drying. I’ve seen shows where they have just finished painting the set before the curtain goes up, but we don’t do that here. Our shows look good.”


More information about the Department of Theatre and upcoming performances is available by calling the theater office at (304) 696-6442 or the box office at (304) 696-ARTS. Information is also available on the web by visiting www.marshall.edu/theatre.

Beth Henry recently graduated from the W. Page Pitt School of Journalism and Mass Communications.
4:30 p.m. Saturday

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Our 90,000th GRADUATE

By Kimberly Carico Simpson

Brianne Erwin, the student selected to represent Marshall University as its 90,000th graduate, is a model scholar and outstanding young woman.

Even through the applause and cheers from more than 6,000 people at the Big Sandy Superstore Arena, Brianne Erwin could pinpoint the enthusiastic ovation from her family. It was on May 10, 2003, at Marshall University’s 166th commencement that Erwin and her family learned she had been awarded the title of Marshall’s 90,000th graduate. “It was a complete surprise,” Erwin said. “All eight candidates’ pictures were shown on the big screen, and then it was announced. I had five seconds to come up with something to say.”

And she addressed the house as graciously as someone who’d been doing it her whole life.

Making the announcement even more special for the senior psychology major and Yeager Scholar from Delbarton, W.Va., was that she was the first from her family to graduate from college. On top of that, Erwin did it with a perfect 4.0 Grade Point Average.

“My family is huge,” Erwin said. “And being the large family we are, we can be very loud. My parents, aunts and uncles, everybody cleared their calendars to be there for me the whole day. When the announcement was made, my sister Sarah started cheering and yelling for me. They all were so proud and supportive.”

To mark the milestone of having graduated 90,000 students, Marshall University leaders sought to select a student who would represent the university and its graduates. To be considered, students needed a minimum 3.0 GPA and to be in good academic and social standing with the university. Dr. Kateryna Schray, Associate Professor of English, nominated Erwin.

Several key figures had the task of choosing just the right person for the job from about 50 nominees. According to a university press release, a Marshall University Alumni Association board member, an MUAA staff member, a Marshall faculty member, a Marshall classified staff member, a Student Government Association representative and a
member of the Marshall University Foundation, Inc., were appointed to a committee in charge of reviewing the list of accomplished students.

Lance West, Vice President for Alumni Development, explained that the committee narrowed the applicants to eight undergraduates: Erwin, Evelyn Benger, Allison Carroll, Nora Gao, Emily Kelly, Erica Pierson, Jessica Rine and Joseph Spadafore. Finally, another committee of three selected Erwin as the person to represent the 89,999 graduates before her and to be a voice for Marshall University graduates to come.

"Having the 90,000th degree awarded signifies a tremendous amount of accomplishments by many," West said. "Our hope was to identify an individual that all previous graduates would be proud of. We truly believe the final selection depicts such a qualified individual."

"We hope to keep Brianne involved with the Alumni Association in the future as we do with all alumni," West said. "It’s amazing all the things she’s doing and the level on which she’s doing them." Erwin, the daughter of Craig and Anita Ann Erwin, is a Mingo County native and graduate of Burch High School. While at Marshall, she excelled in her studies and in the prestigious Yeager Scholar program, and learned the importance of volunteerism by spending countless hours at numerous local organizations.

"When I look back at my career, I’ll think that having a 4.0 GPA was great," Erwin said. "Each semester, there was a bit more pressure to continue that perfect GPA. But it was my time spent at the (Huntington) City Mission, my time at Barboursville School and working through PROWL that taught me life is about people, about showing love."

Erwin said the Rev. Bob Bondurant of People Reaching Out With Love (PROWL) inspired her to do her best and to help others during her years at Marshall. Erwin also shared her time and talent with Scott Community Center and Barnett Child Care.

To juggle the arduous course load of the Yeager Scholar program and the extracurricular activities she pursued, Erwin said time management was instrumental in her success.

"I remember Dr. (Richard) Badenhausen of the Honors Department telling us that anybody can sit in their room all semester long and get a 4.0," Erwin said. "He told us that our job was not only to do well academically but also to learn through doing other things. The key to that was setting priorities and managing our time."

Erwin’s time management skills will continue benefiting her as she plans on volunteering with Americorps for a year before entering the physical therapy program at Duke University in the fall of 2004.

"When I came to college, part of me wanted to be a doctor," Erwin said. "But I’m a very emotional person, and I wasn’t sure if I could handle the emotional detachment that doctors sometimes have to have. At the same time, I wanted to work with people."

After volunteering for a local physical therapy center, Erwin said she found a way to work with people and see their progress without the emotional distress of life-threatening situations. She then chose to study physical therapy.

Before going to Duke, however, Erwin asked for a one-year deferment so she could spend that time volunteering for Americorps, an organization that works much like the Peace Corps but whose volunteers remain in the United States. The volunteers work with disaster relief and organizations like Habitat for Humanity.

"Whatever need is greatest is what I’ll be doing," Erwin said. "I loved getting an education but to me, it was a selfish but necessary pursuit. I want to give something back. I think it’s important to help people feel some of the things I’ve felt."

After her three and a half years at Duke University, Erwin plans to return to the Mountain State.

"This is my home," she said. "I’ve grown up here. My family is here. West Virginia is a place where I hope to be a vehicle of positive change. I love it here, but I also realize that we have some problems. I hope I can help us become a more healthy state."

Erwin also said she hopes her new role as the 90,000th graduate is just another part of her strong relationship with Marshall University.

"I hope to be able to represent the university I came to love," she said. "I would love to still be able to do things for the university."

Kimberly Carico Simpson is a freelance writer living in Ona, W.Va.
A Message from Tom Harris [ MUAA president ]

Photo credit: Kent Bryant Photography

One of the most recognizable advertising slogans suggests, "You are in good hands with..." Well, you know the rest. This has certainly been the case with the Marshall University Alumni Association.

Through the capable leadership of Jeff Porter and the dedicated alumni relations staff, significant progress has been made in reshaping your alumni association into an energetic organization focused on serving the greater Marshall community.

It goes without saying that Jeff leaves some very large shoes to fill. Major accomplishments during his tenure as MUAA president include initiation of a campaign to build a beautiful new alumni center, implementation of the online community, an increase in services such as the MBNA alumni card and travel program and the establishment of a close working relationship with university administration and staff members.

There are many others, but clearly we are a stronger organization today because of Jeff's dedicated efforts. Now it is time to move to the bar again.

As your new president, I look forward to working with Lance West, our fine staff and board of directors to build on the momentum achieved over the past three years.

We face numerous challenges in the months ahead, not the least of which is meeting our goals even with reduced funding. Though we will feel the pinch along with the rest of the university, I can assure you we will work hard to provide quality services throughout the year.

Our top priorities for the next 12 to 18 months are to support the university's Campaign for National Prominence, complete funding and begin construction on the new Erickson Alumni Center, develop a long-range plan providing strategic direction for the next five years, enhance our online community services, strengthen relations with our regional clubs and establish a meaningful program for our young alumni.

Marshall University's greatness has been enhanced under Dr. Angel's leadership. I know I can count on each of you to share your time and resources to attain national prominence for our alma mater. Go Herd!
As Green As It Gets!

Homecoming 2003
October 6-11, 2003

There is no doubt the week of Homecoming is green, green, green! So green, in fact, the theme of this year’s celebration sponsored by the Alumni Association is “As Green As It Gets.” Green flags will be waving at the football game at 4:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 11, against Kent State. But that’s not all that will be happening on campus. It will be a week filled with decorations, student activities, a blood drive, the Alumni Run, Homecoming Parade, receptions, breakfasts, luncheons, banquets, reunions and parties.

The Parents Weekend activities will provide an opportunity for students and parents to enjoy Homecoming festivities together. For more information, call the Student Affairs Office at (304) 696-6422 or e-mail student-affairs@marshall.edu. Here is a look at the events coming up for Homecoming Week.

Monday, October 6
Office decorations - each MU office is being asked to decorate to promote the Homecoming theme “As Green As It Gets.” Prizes will be awarded.

Tuesday & Wednesday, October 7 & 8
10 a.m. - 4 p.m. - Student Government Blood Drive. Marco’s in the Memorial Student Center.

Wednesday, October 8
5 p.m. - 7 p.m. - The Marshall University Alumni Association will THUNDER INTO MASON COUNTY, taking Homecoming and the color green to the great Herd fans in that county.

Thursday, October 9
Noon - Naming of the Homecoming Court
1 p.m. - Office Decoration Judging

Visit www.marshall.edu/alumni/Homecoming2003.asp for more Homecoming events, including Greek, academic and tailgate activities.
Swing Time at Marshall!

Alumni Weekend 2004
April 2-3

Whether you are into swing dancing or not, you can still have a swinging time during Alumni Weekend next April 2-3!

Some new events have been added to the calendar, ranging from academic to athletic.

Thursday
The John Deaver Drinko Symposium will be held at 2 p.m. in the Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center. Drinko Fellow Dr. Edward Bingham of the Department of Music will give a presentation and musical performance, "Reflections from the Bridge: Observations on the Creative Process." A reception will follow. Free and open to the public.

Friday
The Elizabeth Gibson Drinko Honors Convocation will be held at 7 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center. The featured speaker will be Jane Alexander, former president of the National Endowment for the Arts and accomplished actress. This is the 10th anniversary of the event which honors all students who have distinguished themselves academically throughout the year. Free and open to the public.

A champagne reception will be held for all contributors to the Erickson Alumni Center Campaign. The location will be announced.

Saturday
The Class Luncheon will honor the 50th reunion class (1954) and the 60th reunion class (1944). They will be joined by the Grand Class – those who graduated before 1954. The event will be held from 10 a.m. until noon at the Francis-Booth Experimental Theatre of the Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center.

The Annual Green & White scrimmage will be held at Marshall Stadium at 4 p.m.

The President’s Social will be held at the Memorial Student Center Plaza from 6 to 6:45 p.m. The Annual Alumni Banquet to honor our distinguished alumni and friends will follow in the Don Morris Room at 7 p.m. The theme, “Swing Time at Marshall,” will be in full force with swing time entertainment and a dance floor if you are “In the Mood.” The cost for this event is $40 per person or $70 per couple. For more information visit the alumni Web site at www.marshall.edu/alumni.

Alumni Weekend is sponsored by:

Glades Springs Resort
www.gladespings.com
Glade Springs
www.coopercommunities.com
(304) 573-4473
STADIUM BOOKSTORE

The Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity is celebrating its 50th Reunion, with the festivities starting October 31st. For more information please go to the alumni Web site at www.marshall.edu/alumni.
Alumni Weekend April 25-26, 2003
Constructing Memories

Seven people and one alumni club were honored by the Marshall University Alumni Association at the 2003 Alumni Awards Banquet on Saturday of Alumni Weekend.

(A)
Back, left to right: Congressman Nick Rahall, Distinguished Service to the University Award; Dr. Patrick L. Brown, Carolyn B. Hunter Distinguished Faculty Service Award; David B. Akers, Community Achievement Award; Mello Cottone, Distinguished Alumnus Award; Dr. Lonnie G. Thompson, Distinguished Alumnus Award; Rodney Miller, president of the Boone County Club, the Club of the Year.

Front, left to right: Former Senator Marie Redd, Community Achievement Award; Dr. Ellen Mosley-Thompson, Distinguished Alumnus Award; and Melissa Morrison, winner of the Nancy Pelfrey Herd Village Cheerleading Scholarship. Also present were Kelly Adkins, winner of the Nancy Pelfrey Herd Village Marching Band Scholarship, and Curtis Ray Head, member of the Thundering Herd football team and winner of the Cam Henderson Scholarship Award.

(B)
Grand Class

(C)
Class of 1943
Back, L to R: Nellie Kessler Thackston, Betty Lovett Spencer, Helen Dawson Sanders, Martha Givens Newman, Maurice Hybert
Front, L to R: Elaine Adams Novak, Irene Cornell Maddocks, Sam Clagg, Lewis Maddocks, Robert Shank

(D)
Class of 1953
Back, L to R: H. Pat Albright, Carl Cecil, David Hale, Charles Winkler Sr.
Middle, L to R: Jeff Porter, Janet Riley Greiser, Dr. Evelyn Fulbright, Nancy Cooper Burkhardt, Grover Hamrick
Front, L to R: C.T. Mitchell, Mary Jane Tweet, Virginia Rasnick Keefer, Churchill Hodges

(E)
Members of the Boone County Club, selected Club of the Year.

MILESTONES

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/

Correction: Carol L. Julian was listed in a previous issue as a Friend of Marshall. She is a 1971 graduate.

Arrivals

Marriages
Michele R. Duncan (BA'95) and David Bishop on Sept. 21, 2002.

Deaths
Marie Louise Ballard (BA'43) of Fayetteville on May 6, 2003, at age 88.
Lewis A. Carroll (BA'43) of McLean, Va., on Feb. 20, 2003, at age 82. He received the MUAA Distinguished Alumnus Award in 1993.
Joan Chambers Upton (BA'53) of Prince Frederick, Md., on May 28, 2003, at age 69.
Emily H. Dial (BA'61, MA'70) of Glen Cove, N.Y., in November 2002 at age 87.
Vernon M. Edwards (BA'37) of Wilmington, N.C., on April 2, 2003, at age 88.
Abraham Kozer (BA'41) of Lake Oswego, Ore.
Nyle Eleanor Yates McCowan (BA'49) of Ashland, Ky., on Aug. 9, 2002.
Frank Alfred McGurk (BA'35) of Baton Rouge, La., on March 13, 2003, at age 91.
Richard Gladden Miller Jr. (BA'40) of Palm Beach Gardens, Fla., on March 22, 2003, at age 84. Miller was a member of The MU Foundation Inc. and an MUAA lifetime member, and was named to the MU Business Hall of Fame and the MU Business Wall of Honor. He received the MUAA Distinguished Service Award.
Joseph Clark Morton (BS'48) of Summersville on March 13, 2003, at age 86.
Harriet W. Rigney (BA'52, MA'58) of Baltimore, Md., on March 13, 2003, at age 79.
Shannon Ewing Sexton (MA'99, MAT'00) on May 8, 2003, at age 29.
John S. "Jack" Weaver (BA'37) on April 9, 2003, at age 87. He was one of the “18 Ironmen” of Marshall who played for Cam Henderson.

1950s
Lawrence L. Pauley (BA'56) of Huntington has published Mud River Tales: A Collection of Stories in Rhyme, a journey into growing up in Hamlin, W.Va., along the Mud River during
You don’t have to live in West Virginia to stay connected to Marshall!

HERD NATION CYBER CLUB
www.herdnation.com or carlos@lets-go-herd.com

MU alumni clubs across the USA!

Arizona
Phoenix

California
Elk Grove
Southern California

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

Georgia
Atlanta
Savannah

Kentucky
Lexington
Louisville

Maryland
Baltimore

Massachusetts
Boston

Mississippi
Gulfport

North Carolina
Charlotte
Winston-Salem
High Point

Greensboro
Raleigh/Durham
Wilmington

Ohio
Cincinnati
Columbus
Cleveland

South Carolina
Myrtle Beach

Tennessee
Franklin

Texas
Austin
Dallas/Ft. Worth

Virginia
Richmond
Roanoke
Washington DC

West Virginia
Boone County
Charleston
Huntington
Lewisburg
Logan
Putnam County
Ripley
Tri County Club
(includes: Mason County, WV & Meigs & Gallia Counties, Oh)

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

MARSHALL UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
Black Alumni Inc. celebrates 25 years

Black Alumni Inc. was founded 25 years ago by Sheila Callahan McDaniel, Howard Henderson, Marie Redd, Bill Redd, David Harris, Benny Thomas, Wilma Harris and Dorothy Scott. Since then, the organization has grown to more than 1,000 members. Activities range from social functions during Homecoming Week to an annual bus trip and tailgate parties. During Homecoming, the Awards Banquet honors Outstanding Black Alumni and contributions to the organization, with as many as 300 attending.

The group recently completed Campaign 2001, a way to continue building a legacy to help black students succeed at Marshall and ensure the growth and vision of Black Alumni Inc. Campaign 2001 monies were used primarily to establish an endowed scholarship and provide students with textbooks and tutorial assistance through the Center for African American Students’ Programs office. This new scholarship is now known as the Nate Ruffin Scholarship Fund in honor of the departed lifetime member and MU Black Alumni visionary. The first award will be made this year.

“The purpose of organizing Black Alumni Inc. was not to have a separate entity from the MU Alumni Association,” says founding member David Harris, “but more for the three-fold purpose of 1) attempting to build a sense of belonging and loyalty for Marshall among African American graduates; 2) improving the circumstances for young blacks who decide Marshall is their choice to continue their education by serving as advisors, mentors and advocates as well as serve as informal recruiters for MU to enhance diversity; and 3) serving as a resource for the area high school system to prepare students for the college experience. Much of what we do today still embodies these three goals.”

Janis Winkfield is serving in her fourth year as president; Kevin McClain is vice-president; Lisa Allen is secretary; and William Smith is treasurer.

Lifetime members, based on contributions, are David Harris, William Redd, Sharon Ruffin, Martin Andrews, Julius Boyd, Bill Dodson, Mickey Jackson, John Williams, Joe Williams, Joyce Lee and Zach Qualls.

For more information about Black Alumni Inc., please visit http://www.marshall.edu/blackalumni/.

MILESTONES

1960s

Barbara Bias (BA'65, MA'68) received the Veterans of Foreign Wars National Citizenship Education Teacher of the Year Award for 2002-2003. She has taught for 35 years, and has been at Meadows Elementary for 30 years.


1970s

Dr. Mark C. Rowh (MA'75), vice president for advancement at New River Community College in Dublin, Va., has won a Distinguished Achievement EdPress award from the Association of Educational Publishers. The award was for “How to Be a Great Test Taker,” which appeared in the September 2002 edition of Career World.

Curtis E. Finney, Jr. (BA'77, MS'84) was elected National Education Association director for New Hampshire. The NEA is a 14,000-member teacher association.

Sylvia K. Goodson (MA'78) was honored in October as the 2002 National Distinguished Principal from the state of West Virginia at a reception in Washington, D.C. In April 2003 she received a full Fellows Scholarship to work on her doctorate. Goodson is principal at Geneva Kent Elementary School.

Mark Scott Burgess (BS'79) of Charleston has published his first novel, Once to Die, a black comedy set in the southern coalfields.

1980s

Carter Taylor Seaton (BA'82) of Huntington has published the novel Father's Troubles, a period piece set in Depression-era West Virginia, much of it in Huntington. The book will be introduced at the West Virginia Book Festival in Charleston on Oct. 11-12.

Norman Russell (BS'83) is a senior inspector with the U.S. Marshal's Service in Louisville, Ky.

Dr. Robert Weiler (BA'83), an associate professor of health education at the University of Florida, has been appointed chair of the Department of Health Science Education. A UF faculty member since 1993, he recently received a University of Florida Research Foundation Professorship.

Amy Lynn Corron (BA'84) graduated from the Toledo College of Law in May 2003. She is an attorney with Cosme, D'Angelo & Szollosi Co., L.P.A., in Toledo, Ohio.

Jeffrey Anderson (RB'A84) was promoted to lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Air Force. He is serving as chief of E-3 inspections for North American Air Defense Command in Colorado Springs, Colo.

the Great Depression. Pauley is a retired federal administrative law judge.

This C-Ball team in Bridgeport, W.Va., is named “The Thundering Herd” and was the regular season C-Ball champion for the Bridgeport Little League Association. Marshall alumnus and former student body president Mike Queen sponsored the team and obtained permission to use the Marshall trademark from Marshall University. In this photo, the team dedicated their final game to Sgt. Christopher Parker, the father of one of the teams members, who missed all of the games because of deployment to Iraq.
The Marshall University Alumni Association, in conjunction with our travel partner Alumni Holidays, is planning an exciting trip to Prague!

Travel to Prague, in the Czech Republic, on Nov. 13-20 and enjoy Gothic romance and Old World charm in one of Central Europe's most interesting cities.

For a brochure about this trip, call Nancy Pelphrey at (304) 696-3134 or (800) 682-5869. Or you can visit www.ahi-travel.com/marshall for details.

EAC Campaign surpasses halfway mark

The Erickson Alumni Center Campaign has surpassed the halfway mark in reaching its goal of $3 million. This fundraising effort was initiated in early fall 2002 and is part of the university's Campaign for National Prominence.

This 22,000 sq. ft. building will house the Alumni Relations and Development staffs, along with facilities for use by campus and constituency groups associated with Marshall. It will be located at the site of the current alumni center, and will truly be the crown jewel of the new “commons” block with four new dormitories and a soon-to-be completed student cafeteria.

“We are very fortunate to be at the halfway point at the end of one year,” said Lance West, vice president for alumni development. “We wish to express our sincere gratitude to those who have committed to this worthwhile project. As we begin Phase II, it is our plan to work closely with the Alumni Association board and various volunteers in soliciting contributions to complete this campaign.”

For information about the new Erickson Alumni Center, please call Lance West at (304) 696-2901 or visit www.marshall.edu/alumni/.
Alumni clubs and the Marshall Alumni Association invited area alumni and friends in three states to receptions in June to promote the Campaign for National Prominence as well as academics, athletics and the role of the Alumni Association. The Central Ohio Club met June 5 at the Buckeye Hall of Fame Cafe, with special guests Dr. Dan Angel, MU president; Tim Haymaker, Campaign chair; Coach Bobby Pruett; Lance West, vice president for alumni development; Dr. Sarah Denman, vice president for academic affairs and provost; Jeff Porter, MUAA president. Pictured above: (left) Mickey Jackson and Tim Haymaker; (right) Larry LeMaster and Jim Gibson.

On June 11 the MUAA hosted a reception in the Lexington area at the Club at Beaumont Center, with special guests Dr. Dan Angel, Tim Haymaker, Coach Bobby Pruett, Lance West, Dr. Sarah Denman, Jeff Porter and Royce Chadwick. At right, Dr. Angel seeks support for the Erickson Center campaign.

The Charlotte, North Carolina Club gathering took place on June 10 at the Marriott City Center, with special guests Dr. Dan Angel, Coach Bobby Pruett, Lance West, Dr. Sarah Denman, and Jeff Porter. Pictured above: (left) Sandra Moore and Coach Bobby Pruett; (right) Cliff Shephard, President Angel and Jeff Porter.

Gena Taylor Ellis (BA'86) graduated from the University of Oklahoma in summer 2003 with a master of liberal studies degree, with a creative thesis on screenplays and short stories. She is a veteran army officer and freelance journalist.

Vicki Esmwiler Evans (RBA'86) graduated from the Presbyterian Hospital School of Nursing in Charlotte, N.C., in June. She is now employed as a registered pediatric nurse in the Hemby Children's Hospital at Presbyterian Hospital in Charlotte.

Dr. Leon Newton (RBA'87, MA'89) has published The Village Poet and Collection of Writings, a compilation of short stories. Newton is founder of the Newton Institute for International Affairs and Humanitarian Policy, a non-government think tank.

Rajiv Kumaraswamy (BA'87) was promoted to global training and recruiting manager for SchlumbergerSema, based in London. He oversees career development and recruiting for a 25,000-employee IT organization with offices in more than 70 countries.

Mark Stanley (BA'87) is currently serving as a major in the U.S. Army, Central Command in Qatar. His specialty is analyzing and briefing satellite imagery for Gen. Tommy Franks, among others.

Karen E. Klein (BA'88, MA'95) graduated from Indiana University School of Law-Bloomington with a doctor of jurisprudence in May 2003. She is practicing law in the area of civil litigation with Huddleston, Bolen, Beatty, Porter & Copen in Charleston.

Deana Meadows Raffo (BA'90) graduated from Tennessee State University with an Ed.D. in higher education. She is director of leadership development at Middle Tennessee State University.

Karla Davis Rinard (BA'90) earned a Level 1 yoga certification from YogaFit. She is also certified in kickboxing, group fitness, and aquatics. Rinard teaches at the Family Fitness Center in Parkersburg and is director of the Belpre Senior Citizens Center in Belpre, Ohio.

Angela Jeffery Bennett (BA'92) of Harvest, Ala., was named Teacher of the Year 2002-2003 at Rainbow Elementary School.

Jennifer Nicole Sias (BA'92) was promoted to user education librarian/associate professor at Marshall in March 2003.


Jeff Parsons (BA'94) was promoted to news director for CBS Atlanta News, the CBS affiliate in the ninth largest television market in the country.
Whom should we honor? Help us decide!

2004 MU Alumni Association Awards


Nominations are accepted throughout the year for each of the following categories. The Awards Committee makes its decision based on nominations received before October 30, 2003.

**Distinguished Alumnus/Alumna** – Given to Marshall alumni for outstanding national achievements in their particular fields of endeavor.

**Alumnus/Alumna Community Achievement** – Given to alumni for success in their particular fields of endeavor and personal contribution to their respective communities (a Marshall alumnus/alumna is any former student who has received academic credit at Marshall University and whose class has graduated).

**Distinguished Service** – Given for loyal and unselfish service to Marshall. This award is NOT limited to Marshall alumni.

If you would like to submit the name of an individual you believe is qualified as a nominee for one of the awards, please request a nomination form by calling (304) 696-2901 or (800) 682-5869, or by e-mailing hudson2@marshall.edu. The nomination form is online at www.marshall.edu/alumni/nominations.

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The Marshall University Alumni Association invites you to enroll your child in the Baby Herd Club. A $29.95 membership includes:

- Baby Herd membership certificate
- Sipper cup
- Growth chart
- Baby Herd bank
- Baby bottle
- Pacifier with clip

The $29.95 enrollment fee includes tax and shipping. Please allow 3 weeks for delivery. Call (800) 682-5869 for further information.

Mail to:

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

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Robert Shank

Charles Robert “Bob” Shank is spending his retirement surrounded by a vast collection of movie posters, more than 600 movies on video, and a lifetime of memories about Marshall, his years of teaching and his many performances on the stage. Lorena, his wife of 30 years, appeared in many of the same plays Bob was in, and shares his love for old movies.

Bob graduated in 1943 and earned a master’s degree in European history in 1952. “Once I got my master’s,” said Bob, “I knew there was much more to be learned.” And he has never stopped learning.

A social studies/history teacher, Bob taught grades seven through 12 at Milton Junior High School and Huntington East High School, as well as in Red Jacket, Welch and Man, among others. He even tried gigs in Towson, Md., and Ashtabula, Ohio, but always came back to Huntington. “I would tell the kids one-liners to get their attention,” said Bob. “Then I went on to the subject matter and by then, I had them.”

He is still telling one-liners. If you ever meet Bob, you will be amazed at how many jokes he remembers. “A sense of humor acts as a balance wheel to sanity,” claims Bob. “I am most proud of my sense of humor and making people laugh.”

Bob is also quite proud of his career in acting. He started out on radio at the local stations, doing both comedy and drama. At Marshall he appeared in “The Dresser,” “The Diary of Anne Frank” and many others. There he met Elaine Adams Novak (formerly a director of the theatre program at Marshall) and formed a friendship that would last a lifetime.

He also appeared in a number of plays at the Abbott Theater (where he and Lady Lou Jenkins won awards for the most appearances) and the Musical Arts Guild, both in Huntington. Productions included “Prisoner of Second Avenue,” “Ten Little Indians,” “Carousel,” and “Fiddler on the Roof.” At the Paramount Arts Center in Ashland, Ky., Bob played the mayor in “Inherit the Wind,” directed by Charlie Cummings. After Bob talked his wife into auditioning, she landed the role of the lawyer’s wife.

“Comedy is my preference,” said Bob. “It is more of a challenge. With drama you can use body movement and tone. With comedy you have to convey that you are having fun.”

He really had fun in the seventies when he was emcee of “Ye Ole Time Variety Show,” a live vaudeville-type stage show.

“My best memories of Marshall are being on stage, but I also fondly recall President Stewart Smith, Bill Kearns and Sam Clagg,” said Bob. “And I especially remember Elaine Novak. She is a charming lady with a brain that wouldn’t quit.”

The feeling is mutual. “I knew Bob both as a student and as a fellow actor,” said Dr. Novak. “He was a very reliable performer in the many shows he did at Marshall and in the community. Even as he got older he was always there when I needed a character actor.”

And Bob still is a character! As he might say, “Shanks for the memories!”

MILESTONES

Thomas Perry (’96) is a captain in the U.S. Army, leading a deployment for the Quartermaster Center and School, Supply and Service Mobile Training Team to Afghanistan. Following deployment to Afghanistan, Cpt. Perry will take command of the 16th Field Service Company, 49th Petroleum Group.

Cynthia Handy Coulson (MA’98), a teacher at Scott Tenys Elementary, led her Singing Tigers to win the West Virginia division of the Oscar Mayer Talent Search, winning $10,000 and a visit from the Weinermobile for the school’s Music Department. Coulson was named Putnam County Teacher of the Year for 2002-2003, received the RESA III Exemplary Teaching Techniques Award and, in March 2003, was named one of 10 Arch Coal Teacher Achievement honorees.

Mia McMellon Morin (RBA’96) was promoted to 2nd lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force after receiving her master of arts degree in human resources from Webster University. She is now a manpower and organization officer stationed at Luke Air Force Base near Phoenix, Ariz.

Crystal Nester (BA’99) received a master of science degree in counseling psychology from Chestnut Hill College in May 2003. She is employed with Community Services of Devereux in Phoenixville, Pa., as a pre-adolescent therapist.

2000s

Diane Perry Mathis (BA’00) is a fraud analyst with TriCenturion LLC in Palm Harbor, Fla.

Molly Harbour Bassett (BA’01) has been nominated as a Charity of John Hopkins Shareholder for the 2003-04 academic year at Harvard Divinity School in Cambridge, Mass. The Hopkins Share is one of the oldest foundations of its kind, dating back to 1657. Bassett is a former Yeager Scholar.

Errin Jewell (BA’00, MA’02) is public affairs and desktop publishing specialist for the Nick J. Rahall II Appalachian Transportation Institute, a university transportation center in Huntington.

And... MU President Dan Angel was selected a distinguished alumnus of the School of Liberal Arts at Purdue University in Indiana. He received his degree in communications from Purdue in 1965.
Yes, a mouse can help a buffalo!

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Nominate Your MUAA Board Members
for 2004-2007

The Alumni Association is now accepting nominations for 10 positions on the MUAA Board of Directors. The term of office is three years beginning July 1, 2004.

Qualifications are that a candidate:

- Be an active member of the Alumni Association through an annual gift to The Marshall University Foundation Inc.;
- Be energetic and enthusiastic in support of the university and concerned with its growth and potential;
- Be available to attend two on-campus board meetings during the year; and
- Be willing to assist in his/her home area in promoting Marshall and the Alumni Association.

Nominations must be received in the Office of Alumni Relations by Dec. 14, 2003.

Mail to:
Marshall University Alumni Association
One John Marshall Drive
Huntington, WV 25755

Nominee’s Full Name_____________________
Street address ___________________________
City__________________________State______Zip________
Phone (______)__________________

The MUAA Nomination and Election Committee will screen the nominations and select a minimum of 13 and a maximum of 20 for the ballot to run for the 10 director positions.

Self nominations will be accepted.

The Heritage Society

Have you included Marshall in your estate planning?

The Heritage Society was established to recognize those who have the foresight to provide for the future of Marshall University and its students through a planned gift such as a bequest in a will, trust, gift annuity, life estate agreement or life insurance.

If you have planned a gift to Marshall and wish to become a member of the society, please contact Dr. Lynne S. Mayer, associate vice president for development, Marshall University, One John Marshall Drive, Huntington, WV 25755-6002; phone (304) 696-6214 or toll free at (800) 682-5869.

Ride With Marshall Pride

The new Marshall University license plates are available for the state of West Virginia. The price ranges tentatively from $50.50 to $75, depending on when your current license plate expires.

The license plate numbers range from 1001 to 9999. Select your number and call Kim Brooks at (304) 696-2523 or (800) 682-5869 to see if it is still available. You may also request an application by calling the same number.

The renewal fee for the next year is $45, payable to the DMV. Please allow 60 days for delivery. The Marshall vanity plate can only be purchased through the Office of Alumni Relations.

To receive an application form, please call Kim Brooks at the MUAA at the numbers above.
On the Shoulders of Giants
by Thomas F. Scott, M.D.

While attending the honors convocation this spring, I marveled at the wonderful physical plant and depth and breadth of faculty support available to today’s students at Marshall University. I could not help but compare in my mind’s eye the Edwards Playhouse Auditorium with the auditorium in Old Main used for so many decades for so many functions. I also recall the stalwart faculty in the immediate postwar period that educated so many of us in my generation. What vision, dedication and stamina that group of individuals possessed!

Under the leadership of soft-spoken Stewart Smith, they performed miracles of disseminating knowledge. Never before or since have so many been beholden to so few, to paraphrase Winston Churchill. It was a miracle of the loaves and fishes at the education table. Marshall was characterized as a teaching university, not a research institution, and teach they did. A load of five to six classes a semester was standard. Due to the modest salary structure, many of them loaded up their wares to peddle higher education at the Logan Branch or Portsmouth, Ohio, by moonlight. Their people gave and gave of their time and talent.

Most are gone, although Sam Clagg of the Geography Department is still on the scene. John Bartlett, chemistry professor and dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, introduced a generation of our physicians to the mysteries of organic compounds. Ralph Edeburn, also the pre-med advisor, along with Dorothy Fisher, provided the same in the biological sciences. They were aided and abetted by Hollie Darlington, whose research led to Cranberry Glades becoming a national wilderness. Robert Britton excelled in geography.

The waving cane and cryptic blackboard notes of Charles Moffat made history come alive. Strict-grading Wayne Warncke in English was counterbalanced by easygoing Rufus Land in economics (and also math).

My aunt, Helen Hunter, labored to help talented teachers share her enthusiasm for helping young people to read. Page Pitt, along with Virginia Lee, comprised the faculty of the Journalism Department. Although Pitt was legally blind, he was also a pool shark. The incomparable “Swede” Gullickson would exhaust every avenue of effort to find a sport or physical activity that the most awkward boys would enjoy. His counterpart, Louise McDonough, sternly maintained tight discipline on the female side of physical education.

Juan Fors in Spanish, Walter Perl in German and Joe Jablonski in art added to the mix as did A.E. McCaskey in engineering, Larry Nuzum in education and Leo Imperi in music.

All of these men and women held some secret zest for teaching. In the early 1950s, a faculty, including instructors, numbering about 150 provided instruction to more than 4,000 students, who, in spite of inherent procrastination and fascination with the opposite sex, learned.

My thesis is that this small cadre of extremely hard working, dedicated to the point of obsession, people were the giants that made today’s success possible. We are standing on their shoulders. Their gift to us can only be repaid by continuing their dedication to the joy of training and guiding youthful minds.

Dr. Scott, an orthopedic doctor in Huntington, is an immediate past member of the MU Institutional Board of Governors.
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St. Mary's Medical Center's Surgical Weight Loss Program provides evaluation and possible surgical treatment of obesity.

Gastric Bypass surgery involves two parts. First, a small stomach pouch is created by stapling the stomach. This pouch is then connected to the small intestine in such a way that a portion of the small intestine is bypassed. It is possible to do this through an open, long incision in the abdomen or through a laparoscopic approach in which six small incisions are used. The approach which is best for you will be determined by your surgeon.

In order to be considered a candidate for Gastric Bypass surgery, you must meet the following criteria:

- Weigh at least 100 pounds over ideal body weight
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After a consultation with the Weight Loss Surgery team, it will be determined if you are an appropriate candidate for Gastric Bypass.

If you think weight loss surgery might be right for you or a loved one, call St. Mary's Medical Center at either 304-526-1234 or 1-800-9ST-MARYS and ask for the Bariatric Program. A nurse will contact you.

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