

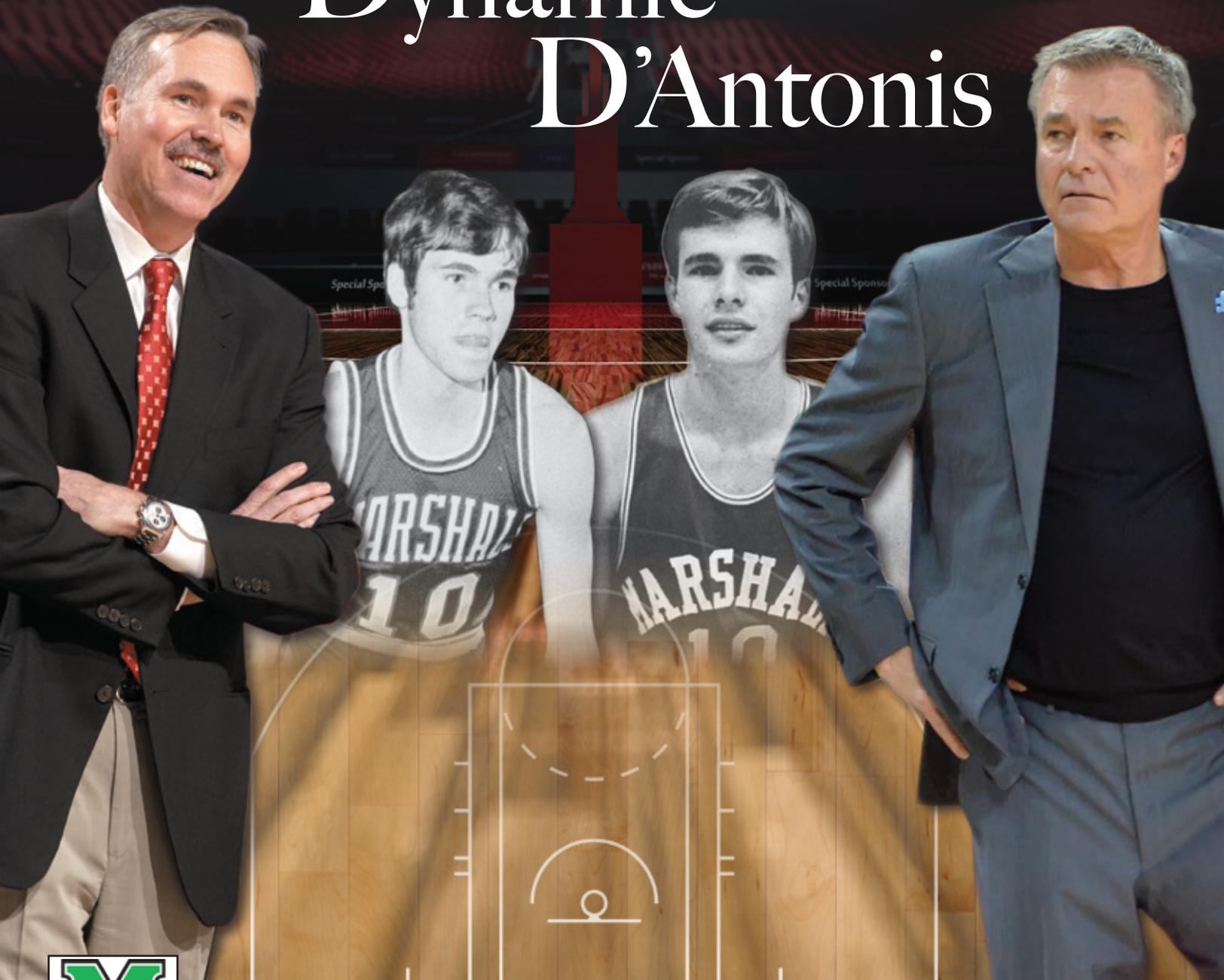
The university's ever-expanding footprint

Marshall



magazine

The Dynamic D'Antonis



See page 39 for ALUMNI NEWS and more

Summer 2019

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Marshall

m a g a z i n e

The official magazine of Marshall University

Summer 2019

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Marshall

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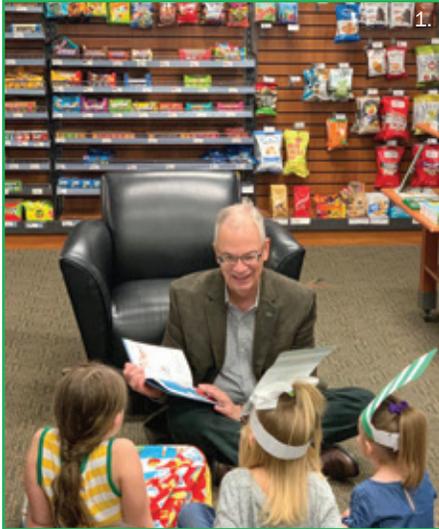
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on the cover

Mike and Dan D'Antoni were both star players at Marshall. Today they are both star coaches and two of the university's biggest backers.

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Spring with President Gilbert



1. President Gilbert helps celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday by reading to kids at the bookstore Feb. 23.



2. Brad D. Smith, Marco and President Gilbert celebrate the announcement of Marshall's new business incubator April 16.



3. President Gilbert works on bowls to be used at the annual Empty Bowls event April 12. The event is a soup lunch to raise funds to benefit the Facing Hunger Foodbank. Each attendee receives a hand-crafted bowl and a modest soup lunch for their admission price.



4. President Gilbert prepares to address the audience at the annual Spring Fountain Ceremony April 27.



5. President Gilbert demonstrates the new mobile phone ID at a launch event April 23. The mobile app allows students and faculty/staff to enter buildings, make purchases and more without an ID card by using Apple Wallet.



6. President Gilbert takes a selfie with a graduating senior at commencement May 11.



7. President Gilbert signs a memorandum of agreement with Southern Utah University President Scott Wyatt (seated at right) Feb. 25 to explore options to jointly offer a four-year bachelor's degree in aviation. Seated at the left is Dr. Jaime Taylor, Marshall's provost.



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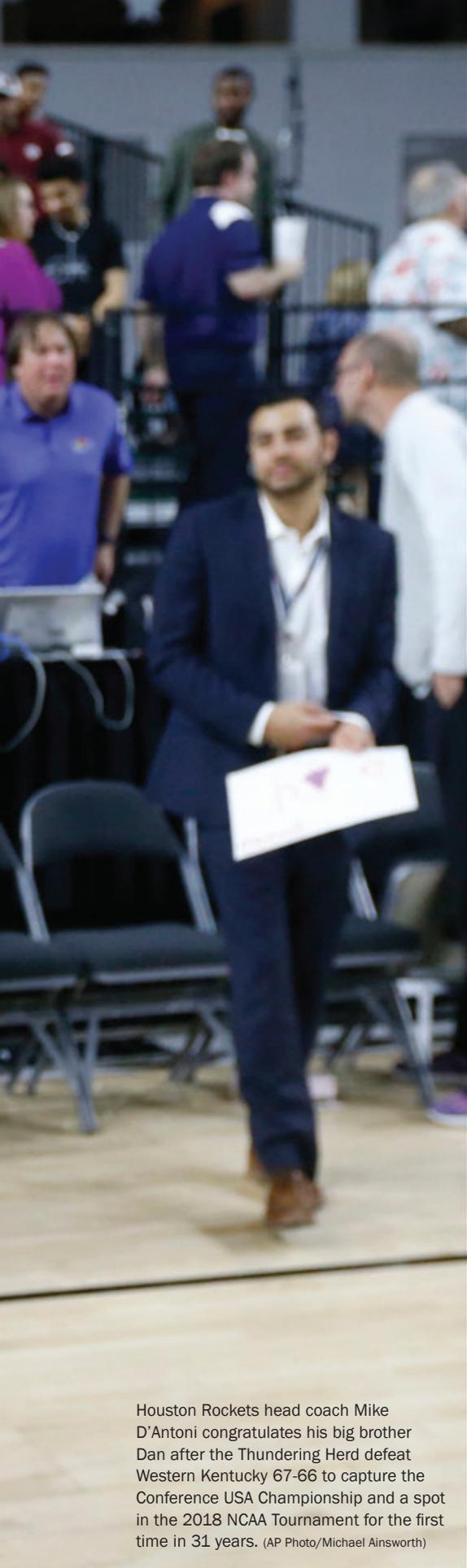
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The **DYNAMIC** D'Antonis

As brothers Dan and Mike will tell you, when you get one D'Antoni you get them all. And that has been good news for Marshall athletics.

Houston Rockets head coach Mike D'Antoni congratulates his big brother Dan after the Thundering Herd defeat Western Kentucky 67-66 to capture the Conference USA Championship and a spot in the 2018 NCAA Tournament for the first time in 31 years. (AP Photo/Michael Ainsworth)

By Keith Morehouse

Dan D'Antoni appreciates the benefits of taking the long view. When he steps off the porch of his home on a beautiful hilltop bluff in Cabell County, he can look to the east and see all the way to the cooling towers of the John Amos Power Plant in Winfield. A turn to the west and he gets a clear look at Ashland, Kentucky. This is his landing spot after a life lived in Mullens, Myrtle Beach, Phoenix, New York, Charlotte and Los Angeles.

This place is home.

"I'm a romantic, a dreamer," Dan said. "That was my dream to have a house that sat on a hill. To kind of overlook everything and sit back and have your family here. I built the house so my family could come back and be comfortable."

Brother Mike D'Antoni has his own idyllic view not far from the main

gate at the Greenbrier Resort. Howard's Creek meanders through his backyard and world-class golf courses are adjacent to his neighborhood. His house affords him the solitude to escape the night-to-night rigors of the NBA — a place to avoid the media glare after his Houston Rockets finished a run in the NBA playoffs with a 4-2 series loss to the Golden State Warriors.

"I'm going to be here for the next couple of weeks," Mike said. "I'm going to hang out here and play a lot of golf."

This is his home away from home.

These are "latitude" adjustments for the coaching D'Antonis, two brothers who are separated by time zones and charter flights, by hotels and gym floors. These lifestyles were fostered the old-fashioned way, back on Moran Avenue in Mullens, West Virginia. Their modest brick home was the bedrock of the D'Antoni family. Their father, Lewis, and mother, Betty Jo, created a loving abode and Mullens literally became the kids' personal playground.

"Dad made sure the playground was always open," Dan recalls. "The basketball nets were nice, the court was clean, the lights were on. He set the table for you not to fail."

"There were very few distractions in Mullens, let's put it that way," Mike said. "That made it a little bit easier. You grow up and do the right thing. The whole town was fundamental in everything we did."

Nobody seems more comfortable with his place in life than Marshall's basketball coach. Dan is something of a "hillbilly" philosopher, and he would take no offense at that description. He's always looking ahead with the ability to reminisce at the same time. It's how he's able to turn the



Meet just some of the D'Antoni family. Front row: Anna (aunt), Betty Jo (mom) and Mike (brother). Back row: Kathy (sister), Lewis (dad), Dan (brother) and Mark (brother).

page from Marshall's first-ever Conference USA championship and its first ever NCAA tournament win in 2018, to a College Inside Tournament Championship in 2019. He's always focused on the road ahead.

"Dad always told me the guy who's running the 100-yard dash and looks back to see if he's winning usually loses," Dan said. "Just keep running through the tape and on to the next one."

When he took the Marshall head coaching job in 2014, there were some skeptics. There was an effort from Marshall to try to entice younger brother Mike to coach in Huntington. That didn't work out, but the Herd was getting a D'Antoni one way or the other. Dan brought swagger, confidence and charisma to the Marshall program. Now, at age 71, he is already approaching 100 wins with the Thundering Herd and has taken the program to heights unseen.

"I don't think negatively," Dan said. "Find the positive and chase it. I didn't think, 'Man, I may be too old; I don't have enough experience; I've never coached at this



“I don’t think negatively. Find the positive and chase it.”

*— Dan D’Antoni
Head Coach, Marshall University*

“You can aim high when you’re invested in the school and community like we are.”

*— Mike D’Antoni
Head Coach, Houston Rockets*

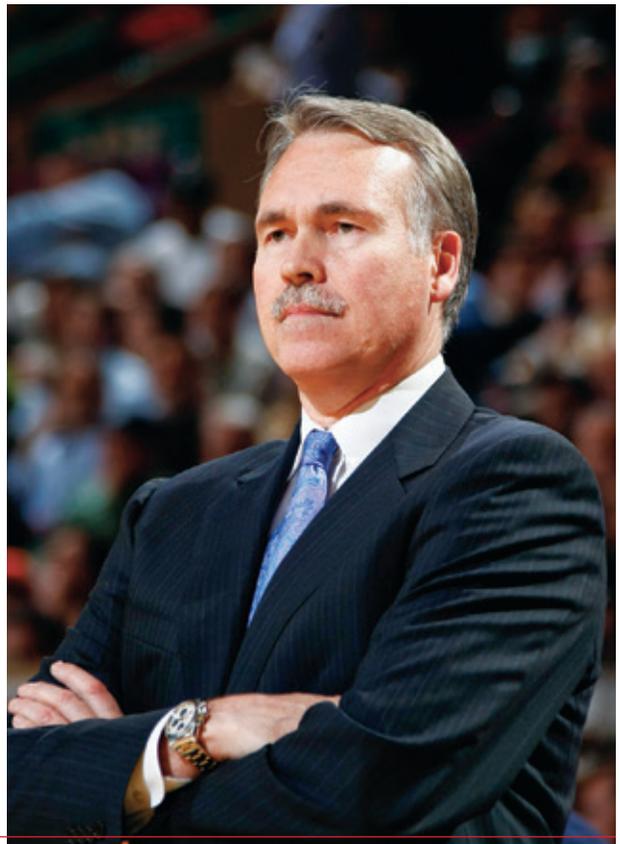
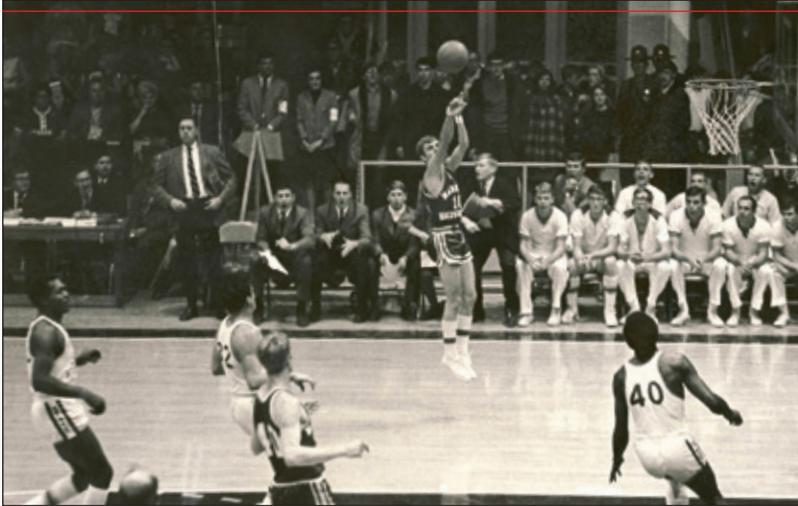


Photo by George Kalinsky.



Dan (shooting) played for the Thundering Herd from 1966 to 1970 and wore #10. Younger brother Mike played for Marshall from 1970 to 1973 and also wore #10.



In 2018, Dan led Marshall University to their first appearance in the NCAA Tournament in 31 years, and their first-ever NCAA Tournament victory.



The Herd was a bracket buster in 2018 when they defeated #4 seed Wichita State University in the first round of the NCAA Tournament.

level or my time has passed.' When I got the job I said, 'I'm doing it.'"

Younger brother Mike had no doubt that Dan would succeed at Marshall. He watched him build Socastee High School in Myrtle Beach into a national program. He hired him as an NBA assistant, not to be a "Yes-man," but to help him implement the D'Antoni system at the highest level of basketball. They did that in Phoenix, New York and Los Angeles. After those years of experience, Mike knew Dan was more than ready to lead his own college program. The only downside is that it didn't happen sooner for his brother.

"There's a lot of pride and satisfaction to see what he's done with the basketball program," Mike said. "I suffer and can hardly watch the Marshall games because I'm too emotionally involved — I don't need any more stress in my life. Dan has done an unbelievable job



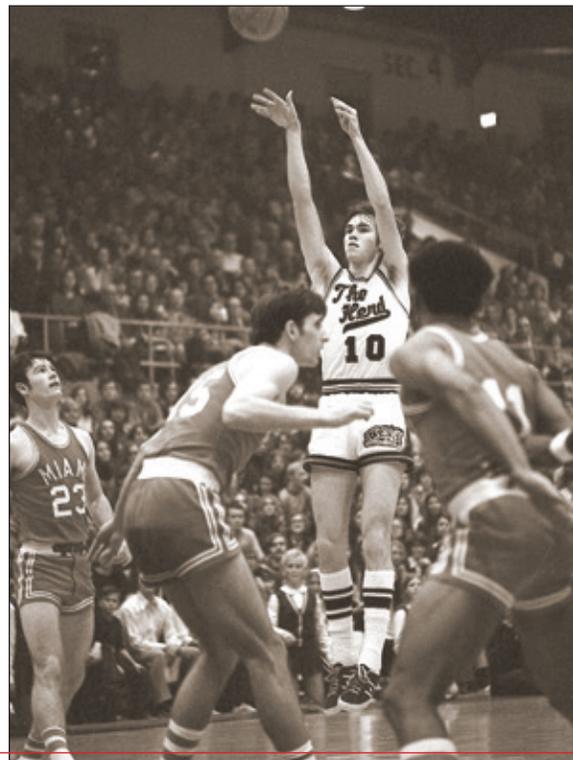
In 2012 Chad Pennington and Mike D'Antoni co-chaired the Vision Campaign for Marshall Athletics, a multimillion dollar fundraiser that led to the construction of the Chris Cline Indoor Athletic Complex, the Chad Pennington Athletic Hall of Fame, the Sports Medicine Institute, Buck Harless Student Athlete Academic Center and more.

and he will continue to do so because he really cares about Marshall. He loves the people, he loves the community, he loves Marshall.”

Back at those playgrounds in Mullens, the D'Antoni brothers honed their games in the 1960s and usually against some very accomplished players. They pushed each other too. Both became star point guards at Marshall and both are now Thundering Herd Hall of Famers. Each aspired to playing at the next level.

Dan got a shot at the NBA out of college, but he didn't have the 6-foot-3-inch frame and long arms that younger brother Mike was blessed with. “The Baltimore Bullets brought me in to camp and Coach Gene Shue told me I wasn't ‘big’ enough,” Dan recalled. “He might have meant ‘good’ enough.”

Mike got his chance to play professionally in the NBA for the Kansas City-Omaha Kings and San Antonio Spurs



When Mike played for the Thundering Herd, he scored 1,227 points, made 491 field goals and recorded 659 assists – which is third in school history.



Mike talks with Houston Rockets guard James Harden, the NBA Most Valuable Player in 2018, during a game against in Boston.

before taking his talents overseas, where he became a star in Europe. There he played for Olimpia Milano and became the team's all-time leading scorer while winning five Italian League titles and two EuroLeague titles. In 1990 he was voted the Italian LBA League's top point guard of all time, and in 2015 Olimpia Milano retired his No. 8 Jersey.

But despite all of Mike's on-court accolades, it was Danny who nearly always had the upper hand when they competed one-on-one.

"I'd come back from Italy after the season was over and he'd go out and whip my ass," Mike recalled. "I'm sure I've beaten him a few times, but not many. He was tough and fast."

Dan doesn't argue that he dominated what became a lopsided one-on-one series.

"But I was smart and folded before my little brother could catch up," Dan said with a smirk. "When I was 30 I decided to retire from our one-on-one battles."

The D'Antonis look out for one another. In fact, the family motto might as well be, "When you get one D'Antoni you get them all." Older sister Kathy is



Dan is the first Marshall head coach since Cam Henderson to produce three consecutive 20-win seasons.

an accomplished administrator at the West Virginia Department of Education, yet she navigates the Twitterverse with the digital dexterity of a teenager, cheering on Herd players from her keyboard. Younger brother Mark, a lawyer in Charleston, is the volunteer assistant coach in the family. A former college player at Coastal Carolina, he's got the gravitas to give both his brothers coaching tips.

"When they're not annoyed by me, I think they take me seriously," Mark says. "But I tell you, it's not easy for me to watch the Herd or Rockets games. It's taxing. It's like watching my kids play."

Mike watches the Herd program from his head coaching perch in Houston. He's won 628 games in his NBA coaching career and has twice been named the NBA Coach of the Year. And, he's still dishing out assists for his alma mater, helping with fundraising efforts including the recently completed Vision Campaign that he co-chaired with Chad Pennington. The duo helped raise a staggering \$35 million for the athletic department and those funds, from donors large and small, led to numerous upgrades including a new soccer complex, a long-coveted indoor



CJ Burks hustles past a defender at Marshall's first NCAA Tournament berth in 31 years. The Herd went on to defeat the Wichita State Shockers 81-75.

athletic facility that is home to both a football field and 300-meter track, new skyboxes at the football stadium, a 19,000-square-foot sports medicine research center, a 14,000-square-foot student-athlete academic center and a Thundering Herd Hall of Fame complex.

“You can aim high when you’re invested in the school and community like we are,” Mike said. “My brother Dan wants to spend the rest of his life in Huntington and that makes a huge difference. When a coach is just looking to jump from place to place, job to job, there’s no real connection to community. But when your work comes from a genuine love for the school or city, then special things can happen.”

The D’Antoni brothers, and their entire family, are evidence of that. Just look at what they have given to their alma mater over the years in terms of pride, goodwill and victories both on and off the court. The passion the D’Antoni family has for Marshall runs deep, all the way back to their Wyoming County roots. And the view of home has never looked better. □



Dan and Mike catch up at a Marshall men’s basketball practice last summer.

Keith Morehouse is the sports director for WSAZ NewsChannel 3 in Huntington. A 1983 graduate of the Marshall University School of Journalism, he is a regular contributor to *Marshall Magazine*.

EVER Expanding

Summer updates to the Huntington campus widen Marshall's reach and appeal.

By James E. Casto



The summer of 2019 has been a beehive of construction activity for Marshall University, with workers finishing two new buildings on Hal Greer Boulevard and making other major improvements on the campus.

Having outgrown its original home at the Hershel “Woody” Williams VA Medical Center, the Marshall School of Pharmacy is getting a new \$56 million building at Hal Greer and Charleston Avenue. Both the Pharmacy School building

and an adjacent residence hall are on track to open in August, said Brandi D. Jacobs-Jones, Marshall University chief of staff and senior vice president for operations.

The Marshall Board of Governors voted to name the Pharmacy School’s new four-story building after the university’s late president, Stephen J. Kopp, whose dedication and commitment were instrumental in the pharmacy school’s birth. The building will house the school’s research, instructional, communal and administrative functions.

The adjacent residence hall, named

Fairfield Landing, will house medical and pharmacy graduate students.

“These projects mark a milestone in Marshall history,” Marshall President Jerome A. Gilbert noted. “They also mark a turning point in the history of the Fairfield neighborhood, helping return it to prosperity.”

And these two construction projects are just the beginning. The university has other items on its ambitious agenda.

“This is a transformative summer for us,” Jacobs-Jones said. “In addition to the new pharmacy school and Fairfield Landing on Hal Greer, we’re making major investments to improve our dining options and refresh some tired spaces so we can make them more inviting for our students and visitors.”

The Memorial Student Center (MSC) is getting a \$3.8 million revamping, with more than \$2 million of that going to refashion the center’s food court, said Jeff Pratt,



a project manager with Marshall facilities and planning.

“La Famiglia Italian Restaurant, Huntington Market, Taco Bell and Steak ‘n Shake are going in, and Chick-Fil-A is going to transition to a full-service operation,” Pratt said.

Another \$1.8 million is going to redo the student center’s lobby, with a new stairway, flooring and furnishings.

“The existing stairway to the second floor takes up a lot of room and is outdated,” Pratt said.

“Unlike the current stairway, the new one will provide direct access to the center’s basement,” said William “Tootie” Carter, director of business operations at the MSC. “Currently a lot of people don’t even know the center has a basement. The existing stairs to it are all but hidden.”

“In redesigning the student center lobby we’ve made sure there will be lots of places where students can plug in and charge their cell phones and tablets,” Carter added.

“The student center is our campus living room and we want it to be a welcoming and comfortable place where students can relax, visit or catch up on their homework,” said Jacobs-Jones.

The Marshall Bookstore, located in the student center, also is getting a \$466,000 upgrade, with new carpet, furnishings and a first-ever dressing room. A new Nike Store within the bookstore will feature Nike-brand Marshall clothing and gear.

About two blocks away, renovations will continue at the Twin Towers Residence Halls and Dining Hall.

“The old Towers Dining Hall has been completely demolished and we’re putting in an entirely different concept featuring new eateries,” Pratt said.

One will be The Den by Denny’s, a smaller version of the popular restaurant chain known for its

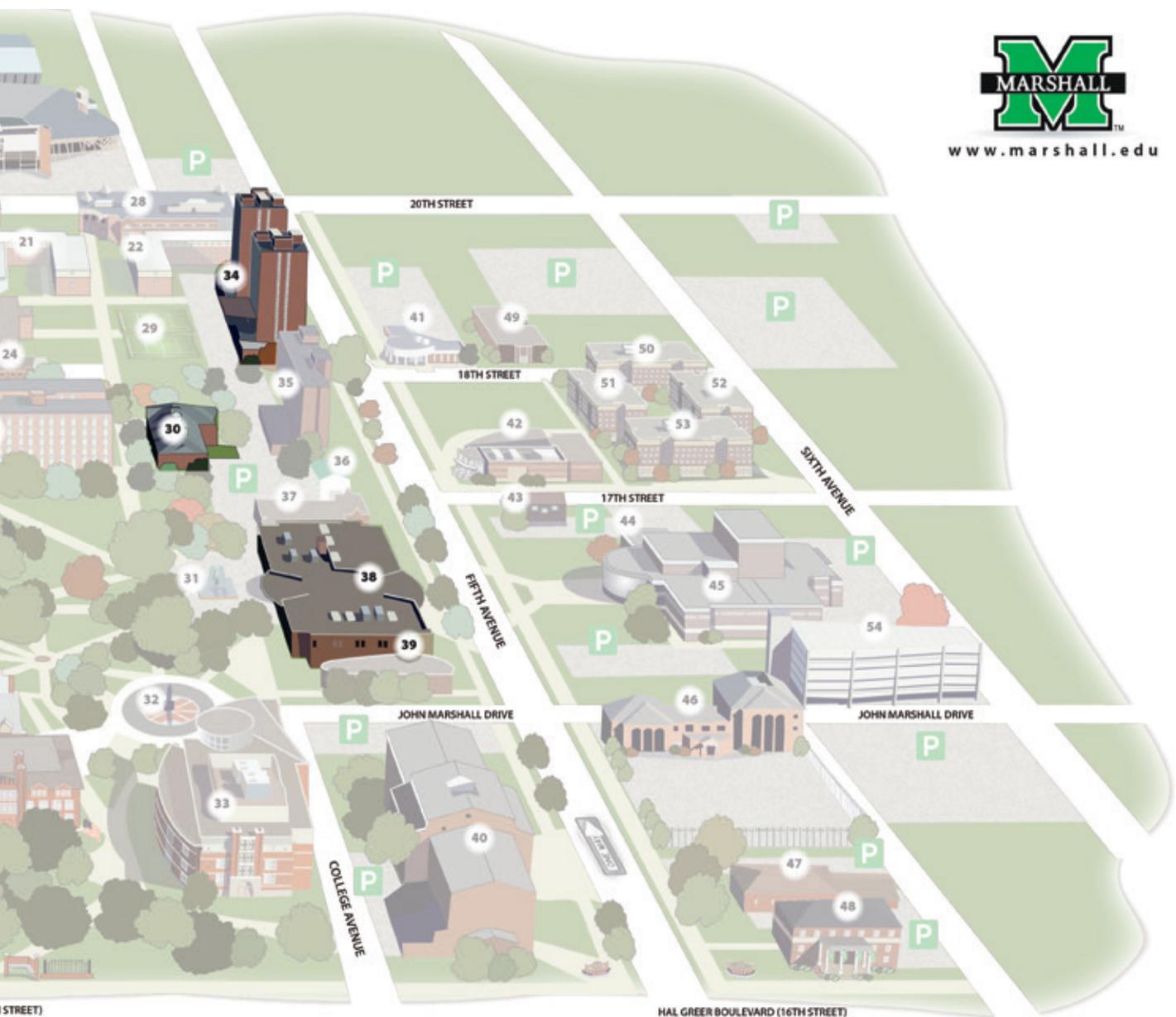


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- | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Dot Hicks Field | 12. Cam Henderson Center=HC | 23. Gullickson Hall=GH |
| 2. Art Warehouse=AW | 13. Laidley Hall=LA | 24. East Hall (INTO Center)=EH |
| 3. Third Avenue Parking Garage | 14. Harris Hall=HH | 25. Prichard Hall=PH |
| 4. Robert C. Byrd Biotechnology Science Building=BBSC | 15. Science Building=S | 26. Buskirk Hall=BU |
| 5. Arthur Weisberg Family Applied Engineering Complex=WAEC | 16. Morrow Library=ML | 27. Old Main=OM |
| 6. Arthur Weisberg Family Engineering Laboratories=EL | 17. Communications Building=CB | 28. Recreation Center=RC |
| 7. Chris Cline Athletic Complex | 18. Smith Hall=SH | 29. Brian D. Fox Tennis Center |
| 8. Joan C. Edwards Stadium | 19. Birke Art Gallery | 30. Jenkins Hall=JH |
| 9. HerdZone Bookstore | 20. Smith Music Hall=SM | 31. Memorial Fountain |
| 10. Sorrell Maintenance Building | 21. Freshman North Residence Hall=FN | 32. John Marshall Statue |
| 11. Multipurpose field | 22. Freshman South Residence Hall=FS | 33. Drinko Library=DL |

home-style breakfasts. There’s to be an upscale deli named the 1837 Marketplace – that’s the year Marshall was founded. And the third will be the Mein Bowl, which will

feature an Asian menu with dishes like stir-fry and sushi.

“We know that many of today’s students have what might be called an elevated palate,” said Jacobs-Jones.



HUNTINGTON CAMPUS

- 34. Twin Towers=TT
- 35. Holderby Hall=HY
- 36. One Room Schoolhouse
- 37. Campus Christian Center
- 38. Memorial Student Center=MSC
- 39. Campus Bookstore
- 40. Corby Hall=CH
- 41. Bliss Charles Public Safety Building
- 42. Harless Dining Hall
- 43. Career Services Center
- 44. Jomie Jazz Center=JJ

- 45. Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center=PAC
- 46. Brad D. Smith Foundation Hall/Erickson Alumni Center
- 47. Marshall Newman Center
- 48. Joseph M. Gillette Welcome Center
- 49. Wilber E. Myers Hall
- 50. Marshall Commons (Gibson Hall)=MC
- 51. Marshall Commons (Willis Hall)=MC
- 52. Marshall Commons (Wellman Hall)=MC
- 53. Marshall Commons (Haymaker Hall)=MC
- 54. Sixth Avenue Parking Facility

OFF CAMPUS LOCATIONS

- Forensic Science - 1401 Forensic Science Drive - Huntington, WV 25701-3628
- Department of Dietetics, located within Huntington's Kitchen, 911 3rd Ave, Huntington, WV 25701
- School of Pharmacy - 1542 Spring Valley Drive - Huntington, WV 25704
- School of Physical Therapy - 2847 5th Avenue - Huntington, WV 25702
- Hoops Family Veterans Memorial Soccer Complex - 2560 5th Avenue - Huntington, WV 25703
- Visual Arts Center - 927 3rd Avenue - Huntington, WV 25701

Construction and renovation projects underway this summer are indicated in full color.

revised 5/2018

“They want more food offerings, they want opportunities to customize their meals, and they want national and local food brands they recognize.”

Revamping the Towers Dining Hall is a \$2.8 million project.

“Last summer we did a lobby refresh at Twin Towers East,” said Mistie Bibbee, Marshall’s director of housing

and residence life. “This summer we’re doing the same for the lobby at Twin Towers West. That means new paint, new flooring and new furniture.”

Summer 2019 has also seen

“These projects mark a milestone in Marshall history. They also mark a turning point in the history of the Fairfield neighborhood, helping return it to prosperity.”

— Marshall President Jerome A. Gilbert



Photo by Ben Powell.

workers put the finishing touches on a two-year, \$3.7 million refurbishing of Jenkins Hall, Pratt said. The project included new carpet, new HVAC and even a new elevator.

In an effort to make recycling easier to do on campus, the university is installing new recycling bins in six high-traffic areas, said Sustainability Coordinator Amy Parsons-White.

“The bins will be clearly marked showing what items we can recycle,” Parsons-White said. “And I’m happy to report we can now accept glass to recycle. We’ll be taking that to Adams Trucking on U.S. 60 East, where they will repurpose it, grinding it into sand.”

Plans call for the work to be completed before the year is out. Some of it will be ready when the students return to campus in August.

With all of the updates to the Huntington campus, it’s evident that the university is growing, changing and creating more welcoming spaces for more members of the Marshall family. □

James E. Casto, retired associate editor of *The Herald-Dispatch*, is the author of a number of books on local and regional history. His latest is *Huntington Chronicles*, which offers capsule accounts of many of the noteworthy people, places and events in the city’s history.

The food court in the Memorial Student Center is undergoing extensive renovations including updating existing restaurants and new additions, like La Famiglia and Taco Bell Express.

HAL GREER CORRIDOR

Safety is a main concern as the university footprint continues to expand.

Stretching from Interstate 64 to Third Avenue, Huntington's Hal Greer Boulevard is a busy thoroughfare – and a dangerous one.

Unlike Third and Fifth avenues – which are one-way, high-volume, high-speed streets – Hal Greer carries traffic in both directions. It has four lanes with a center turn lane for much of its length. The high traffic volume and the speed at which people tend to drive make it hazardous for pedestrians in many places.



Looking north toward the Ohio River, construction continues on the Fairfield Campus on Hal Greer Boulevard.

The continued growth of Marshall University and Cabell Huntington Hospital along Hal Greer threatens to increase the danger to pedestrians.

Recognizing this threat, the City of Huntington, working with the state Division of Highways, the KYOVA Interstate Planning Commission and Marshall, has put together a plan for welcome safety improvements on Hal Greer.

The design includes medians (filled with plants and flowers) to get drivers to slow down. It also includes intersection treatments, high-visibility crosswalks, pedestrian countdowns and lighting to make the street more walkable and promote pedestrian safety.

A protected bike lane from Third Avenue to Eighth Avenue and a 10-foot-wide, multi-use path from Third Avenue to Washington Boulevard are also part of the plan.

No timetable for implementing the new design concept has been set.

“The Hal Greer Corridor is a significant geographic marker for Marshall University and we are pleased to partner with the city and others to re-imagine what the corridor can be,” said Marshall University President Jerome A. Gilbert.

“As our footprint continues to expand, particularly on our Fairfield health sciences campus, we are very attuned to the needs of our students, faculty and staff, as well as residents of the areas,” Gilbert said. “I look forward to what the future holds for this area and am excited to see the upgrades and renovations that will help build a thriving, robust community.”

BEST OF BOTH WORLDS

The multitude of opportunities to study abroad may be one of Marshall's best-kept secrets.

By Molly McClennen



Part of Marshall University's mission is to "create opportunities and experiences to foster understanding and appreciation of the rich diversity of thought and culture." Those opportunities and experiences take many forms, but perhaps none illustrate that mission better than when Marshall students study in another country.

The multitude of opportunities to study around the world may be one of Marshall's best-kept secrets. Students can choose to study at 300 sites in 42 countries, ensuring there is an opportunity to match almost any interest. Students can participate in exchange programs with universities in Spain, the United Kingdom, France and Japan, or join in programs led by Marshall faculty to Italy, El Salvador or China, among other countries. In addition, Marshall partners with affiliate travel-abroad agencies that send students to dozens of countries on almost every continent.

Tyler Sharp, program coordinator in the Office of International Student Services, says people often think study abroad is only for students who want to learn a foreign language, but any student can benefit from a summer or semester living in another country. In fact, many of the classes students take while abroad are taught in English, so being proficient in another language is not required.

"It is about the experience of getting out and seeing the world and being able to bring that back to campus," Sharp says. "It is a resume builder. It is a character builder. It helps you develop the ability to understand other cultures and perspectives. It is just



Study Abroad Program Coordinator Tyler Sharp highlights the importance and benefits of studying abroad.

an all-around good experience for anyone."

Students earn credit toward their degrees while studying abroad. They also gain an experience that helps them stand out from their peers in a competitive job market.

"When tech companies or companies located in bigger cities can see on a resume that someone has left their small corridor and ventured out into the wider world to study abroad, they really value that," says Sharp.

Anastasia Artayet Shepherd, who graduated from Marshall with a degree in Spanish, spent a month studying in Madrid her senior year. She credits the experience with doing far more than helping her improve her

Spanish proficiency — it led her to a career working with international students and gave her friendships that transcended country or language.

"It was amazing from the first moment when we landed in Madrid and had the opportunity to be fully immersed in the language. Being able to wake up every morning and sit in the cafes, listening to the conversations going on around us, meeting people from around the world, I could never have imagined that experience before," she says. "We had classmates from Ireland, Australia and Germany. That was my first experience making friends abroad."

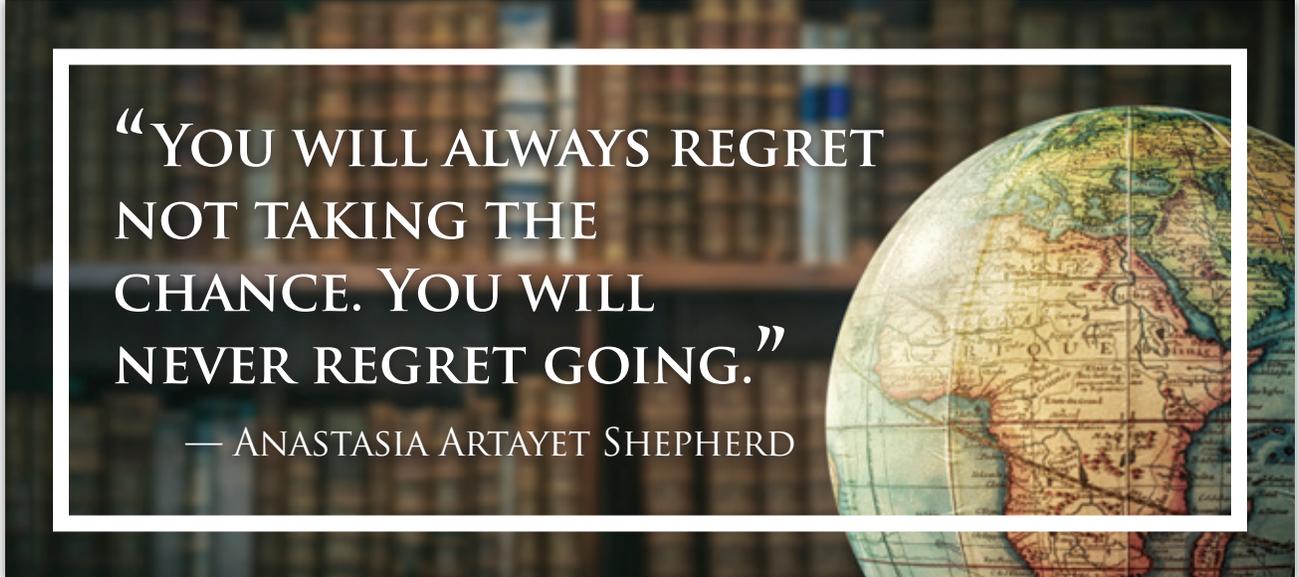
She recalls singing "Country Roads, Take Me Home" with her German friends while doing karaoke.

"I still think of them every time I hear that song," Shepherd says.

The idea of leaving the U.S. to study is daunting to some students. They may not



Marshall student Erica Burns spent a month studying at Hanyang University in Seoul, South Korea.



“YOU WILL ALWAYS REGRET
NOT TAKING THE
CHANCE. YOU WILL
NEVER REGRET GOING.”

— ANASTASIA ARTAYET SHEPHERD

believe they can afford to study abroad, or they may be overwhelmed by the process of making arrangements to travel overseas. Marshall’s Office of Study Abroad helps the student through every step of the process, from selecting which site is the best match for the student’s major and interests, to finding sources of funding, to making the final travel arrangements. Students are often surprised to learn how affordable it is to study abroad. Many programs offer scholarships and financial aid can be used to cover costs.

Erica Burns, a junior majoring in statistics and Japanese, spent a month studying at Hanyang University in Seoul, South Korea. She credits the month she spent in South Korea with giving her the confidence to consider working overseas someday, something she had been interested in doing but was not sure would be realistic.

“Studying abroad really pushed me out of my comfort zone,” Burns says. “While my mom came over to Seoul with me, she left after a week and I was an ocean away from anyone I knew. I had to learn how to maneuver the subway system, order food in a language I had only begun to learn and make new friends, all of which can be intimidating. But looking back it has given me confidence that I am able to do much more than I thought I could.”

In addition to studying, students have the opportunity to immerse themselves in the culture of the country while they are abroad, through excursions to cultural and historical sites. Burns says while she was in South Korea, she went to the SMTOWN Museum (one of the biggest entertainment companies in Korea), Everland amusement park and the famous Gangnam District from the Gangnam Style song.

“It was the longest I had ever spent away from home,

but it was also the first time that I wasn’t ready to come home when it was over,” she says.

Students bring these experiences and perspectives with them when they return to Marshall, enriching the campus community.

“Diversity of people and ideas is what a university is about. It is nice for students to go abroad and experience that diversity firsthand,” says Sharp.

Burns encourages her peers to take advantage of the opportunities Marshall offers to study abroad.

“For any student on the fence about studying abroad, I say take the leap. Studying in Korea was the best month of my life and I hope that other students will also have the opportunity to grow, learn, change and step out of their comfort zones.”

Shepherd agrees that more Marshall students should study abroad.

“You will always regret not taking the chance. You will never regret going,” she says. “It is something that will always make an impact on you. You will have experiences you would never have otherwise. And you find out so much about yourself when you are living abroad because you have to rely on yourself for things. After having that global experience, no matter what you end up doing in life, you will always be able to reflect on that and use it in your career or to help form relationships with other people.” □

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



McVey has portrayed Jean Valjean in theatrical performances of *Les Misérables* over 3,200 times, more than any other actor in history. (Photo by Paul Kolnik)

Bring Him Home

Broadway star J. Mark McVey dreamed a dream that led him around the world as a performer. Now, the Marshall alum is focused on giving back.

By Katherine Pyles

They may be separated by time, distance and fictionality, but the names Jean Valjean and J. Mark McVey are inextricably intertwined.

McVey, the 1981 Marshall grad and renowned performer who has portrayed the tormented hero of *Les Misérables* more than any other actor, considers it an honor.

“I feel so very grateful and fortunate to have been asked to come back again and again to portray Valjean,” said McVey, who has performed Valjean’s heartrending story on Broadway, London’s West End and the musical’s 25th anniversary tour, among other performances. “Each time I return to the character, I learn and gain so much. It’s



McVey returned to Huntington to address Marshall University graduating seniors at the May 2017 commencement.

the role I was made for and the message I was made to deliver. It’s who I am.”

McVey’s journey to Valjean began in Huntington, West Virginia, where his parents encouraged their four children to find and explore their God-given gifts. McVey participated in church choir programs and productions like *Godspell* and *Jesus Christ Superstar*, as well as classic American musicals including *The Music Man* and *Oklahoma!*. He performed with the Musical Arts Guild, founded by a group of culturally conscious community members that included his mother, a talented singer herself.

“God gives each of us a unique set of gifts, and it’s

“God gives each of us a unique set of gifts, and it’s our job to discover those gifts and use them to the best of our ability.”



our job to discover those gifts and use them to the best of our ability,” McVey said. “We are each uniquely created. I thought I was going to be a really good basketball player, and then I realized I wasn’t. I thought I was going to be a rock ‘n’ roll star,

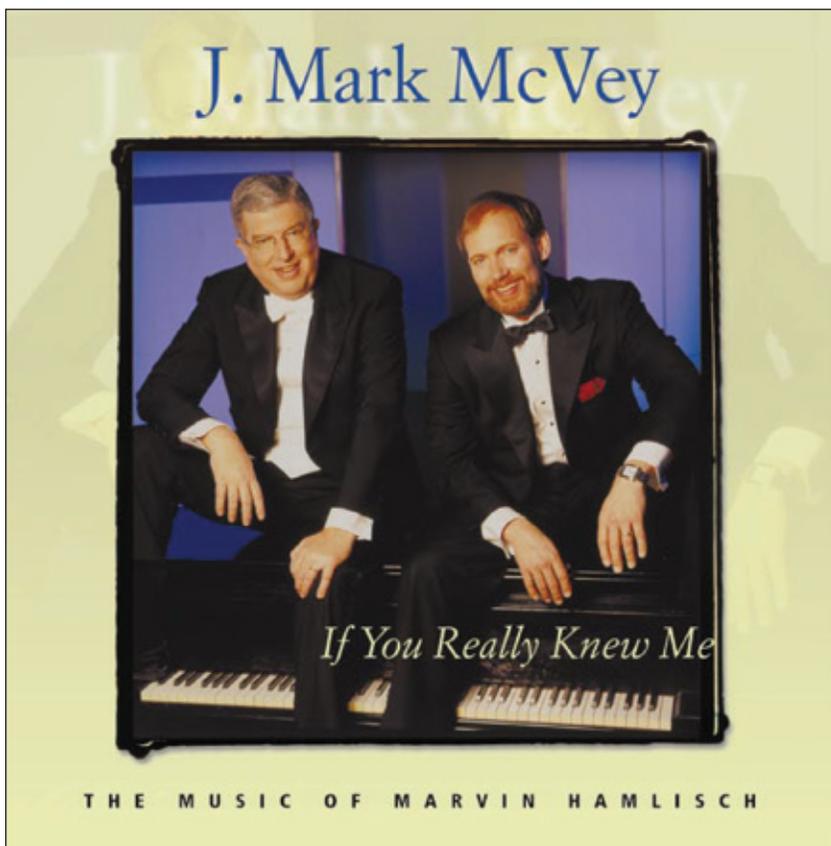
and then I realized I wasn’t. But I could go toe to toe with anyone when it came to singing. And I knew that gift was one I could move forward with.”

Still, the path forward wasn’t always clear, from the high school

music teacher who blocked McVey from participating in all-state chorus – “you fool around too much,” she told him – to his own questioning of his gifts to provide a living, which led him to pursue a business degree while attending Marshall. All in all, the decision to major in business has served him well, he noted, as he’s spent the past 35 years marketing himself as a performer.

After graduation, McVey took a sales job in Florida, where he made a life-changing realization.

“I realized that I was wasting my time and talents by not following my dreams and using my gifts to the best of my ability,” he said. “That’s a hard lesson to learn when you’re young, and it can be scary. However, that lesson can be a lot harder if you find yourself 10 to 20 years down the road stuck in a job that you don’t like, realizing that you conformed to what the world was telling you instead of what God’s still, small voice was telling you. It’s always good to seek wise counsel and learn patience. Then, however, we must



McVey has released three solo albums, including “If You Really Knew Me” featuring renditions of Marvin Hamlisch songs.

“Huntington and Marshall University are my roots, my community and the place I love to come back to.”



step out in faith and create our own opportunities.”

Years later, McVey delivered the 2017 commencement address at Marshall, where he quoted motivational speaker Zig Ziglar: “When you catch a glimpse of your potential, that’s when passion is born.” It’s a truth McVey has known his entire life, but passion requires more than potential, he said. It also requires vision, patience and “a dogged determination to see your dreams come true.”

“That is where we will find true happiness and significance,” he said.

McVey left his desk job and moved into an apartment in New York City with his sister Beth McVey, an actress on Broadway and “a true inspiration” to McVey. Within three weeks he landed an understudy role in the musical *Kismet*. What followed was a whirlwind of performances in regional, off-Broadway and touring productions, including a production of *Les Misérables* for which McVey won the Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Lead Actor. Soon after,

he made his Broadway debut, landing the seminal role of *Les Mis*’s Valjean.

“I auditioned five times for *Les Mis*, and the first four times I didn’t even make it in the door to sing,” said McVey, who was “typed out” due to his height and hair color. “I

was actually auditioning for Enjolras, the student leader, and when I finally got in I sang his song. They asked if I knew [Valjean’s famous prayer] ‘Bring Him Home.’ I said, ‘Yeah, sure.’ So I sang, and the first words out of the guy’s mouth were,



The McVeys pose for a family photo. From left: daughter Kylie, wife Christy Tarr-McVey, daughter Grace and Mark.

‘Where have you been?’ I said, ‘Dude, I’ve been standing outside the door for the last six months!’”

Within less than a week, McVey was on the journey of a lifetime, portraying the iconic protagonist of the world’s most famous musical. Over the next 25 years, he would play Valjean more than 3,200 times, including being the first American to perform the role in London’s West End. His passionate portrayal launched a successful singing and acting career that included stints on Broadway and television, performances with symphonies around the world, and a host of acclaimed recording projects. While performing in *The Who’s Tommy* on Broadway, he met and fell in love with his on-stage wife, actor Christy Tarr. The pair were married in 1999 and have two teenage daughters, Grace and Kylie.

McVey made his Carnegie Hall debut with the world-famous composer Marvin Hamlisch, who became a mentor and trusted friend. Inspired by Hamlisch’s wisdom, McVey’s life today is centered on giving back.

“I was so blessed to have that relationship with Marvin Hamlisch,” McVey reflected. “He believed I’d been given gifts to make a difference in the world. And that’s my goal, for the rest of my days.”

McVey performs and speaks at religious, corporate and educational institutions throughout the U.S. His



McVey was the first American to perform the role of Jean Valjean in London’s West End.



McVey often returns to Huntington for musical performances, bringing a bit of Broadway to his hometown.

current program is called *Life Lessons from ‘Les Mis.’*

“Playing Valjean taught me to really look at the message I’m delivering,” he said. “Valjean’s message was one of grace, redemption and compassion. What message are we delivering as a country? What values are we communicating?”

He said his goal is to revive the values of family and faith, as well as to inspire future leaders not only to find and explore their gifts but also to have patience and perseverance in discerning the path for their life.

“We’re made to be in relationship with one another, yet across our country relationships are breaking down,” he said. “We’re made to lead from a place of service, rather than a place of authority. We’re made not to figure it all out on our own but to trust God and those around us. I want to help bring back the beliefs and values our country was founded upon – things like forgiveness and kindness and integrity, honesty and patience and loyalty, and, most of all, love.”

Those values he first learned in Huntington and at Marshall are why those communities will always be home, he said. “Huntington and Marshall University are my roots, my community and the place I love to come back to.” □

Katherine Pyles is a freelance writer and editor living in Huntington.



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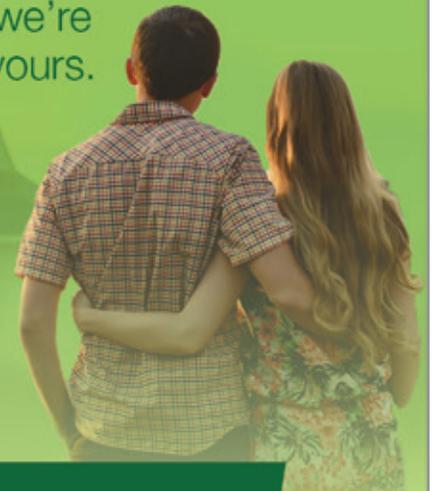


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UNCOMMON

Tucked away or in plain view, a look at some of the more interesting places on the Huntington campus that you may have missed.

This stone arch on the Hal Greer Boulevard side of John Deaver Drinko Library was once part of Northcott Hall, where Drinko now stands.

CAMPUS

A Photo Essay by Rick Lee & Rick Hays



Drive too fast down Third Avenue and you may miss it, but the striking facade of the Science Building pays tribute to Benjamin Franklin, Charles Steinmetz, Thomas Chamberlin, Josiah Gibbs, Louis Pasteur and Thomas Edison.

Flooded with natural light and open work spaces, the Simon Perry Center for Constitutional Democracy in Old Main is a hidden gem.





Did you know that the press box on the third level of the Joan C. Edwards Football Stadium is dedicated to Marshall alumnus Ernie Salvatore? The renowned reporter and columnist for *The Herald-Dispatch* covered sports in Huntington for nearly 60 years.

You'll have to climb a lot of stairs to find the green roof high atop the Arthur Weisberg Family Applied Engineering Complex. The unique roof aids in stormwater reduction, lowers energy demand, increases the life of the roof and more.





With the completion of the John Deaver Drinko Library in 1998, the old James E. Morrow Library (above) became an afterthought. It's unfortunate because this architectural treasure boasts 100,000 square feet that today house books, government documents, special collections, mini museums and more.

Some alumni will remember getting lost in "The Stacks" at the Morrow Library which continues to house thousands of books, periodicals and other items.





On the north side of Old Main, you can find an original “Marshall College” doorway arch from the late 1800s.

Tucked behind Career Education on Fifth Avenue is the Marshall University Student Garden. Together with Gro Huntington, the sustainability department created this space for students to meditate, relax and lounge in nature. In the fall, the teepee structure is covered with vines.





In 2010, a time capsule was placed in the Brad D. Smith Foundation Hall. It is to be opened at Homecoming in 2060.

The Special Collections department in Morrow Library boasts an entire room dedicated to Chuck Yeager and his memorabilia.





You'll find the W. Page Pitt School of Journalism and Mass Communications Hall of Fame on the third floor of Smith Hall.

Lining the halls of the Science Building are displays of prehistoric creatures, including this one of a Woolly Mammoth jaw.



TOGETHER, WE HELP EACH OTHER DO MORE.

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

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

To learn more about our partnership and all the benefits in store for Marshall Alumni, call 866-238-1426 or visit nationwide.com/MUAA.



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YOUR ALUMNI CONNECTION

A MESSAGE FROM MAX LEDERER

MUAA National President



Marshall Alumni:

In May, I participated in Marshall's spring graduation ceremony on behalf of all Marshall alumni. As I entered the Big Sandy arena for both ceremonies (the number of graduates required two ceremonies) I was struck by the excitement in the air from the prospective graduates and their families and friends. There was a significant number of graduates who were the first in their family with a degree. I reflected on the nerves of walking across the stage and the uncertainty as they face the next stage in their lives. As many will remember, graduation is an exciting day. These graduates were all smiles and many celebrated the event with selfies with President Gilbert as they crossed the stage and, in some cases, animated reactions. It is exciting to be part of that atmosphere and to welcome these Sons and Daughters of Marshall to the alumni family.

The school year brings many opportunities for alumni to connect with the university and share with each other the wonderful experience of attending Marshall University. It is also a time when we as alumni can welcome these new alumni as supporters of Marshall. Encourage our young alumni to stay engaged and join with you in attending Homecoming 2019. We can all help the next generation walk across the stage as a proud member of the Thundering Herd.

Encourage young alumni, as well as seasoned alumni, to join the local Marshall alumni chapters around the country. It is a terrific way to stay connected with the university, meet fellow alumni, grow your personal and business connections, and enjoy chapter events around the country. Currently, there are 22 chapters throughout the United States. In addition to large chapters, such as the ones in Parkersburg and Cincinnati, there are chapters in Hawaii, Arizona, New York, Florida, D.C. and many other locations.

The chapters' primary purpose is to connect alumni in a geographic area to share experiences and stay connected with the university. The alumni chapters are also a fun way to learn about other alumni success stories and be an ambassador of the university to future attendees of Marshall. The chapters hold various events – gatherings to share dinner and learn about activities of the university, host the president of the university and other officials when they are in the chapter area, welcome incoming students, and share social events. When you join one of those events, you can't help but experience that old excitement and pride you had for your university when you were a student. Keep that spirit alive by participating in fundraising events to award scholarships for deserving, grateful students who are attending Marshall from the chapter area.

Chapters are a vital part of the university, contributing on many levels. One example is the Parkersburg chapter. This year the Parkersburg alumni raised \$40,000. Since 2009, the chapter has raised over \$200,000, providing many \$1,000 scholarships to students and other fundraising campaigns of the university. In addition, the chapter funded a \$25,000 scholarship endowment with the Marshall University Foundation. All this was accomplished while having fun. Those scholarships bring real hope and pride to those chosen and are a true help with all those student bills. Chapters also assist in outreach to prospective students at local high schools. In coordination with Marshall's admissions and alumni offices, these alumni ambassadors

ALUMNI RELATIONS STAFF

MATT HAYES, Executive Director
LARRY CRUM, Associate Director
ROB ELLIS, Associate Director

attend high school ceremonies to recognize acceptance to the university and announce scholarships that have been awarded. This is a great way to extend the outreach of Marshall and create greater awareness of the fantastic opportunities at Marshall. It is a rewarding opportunity.

If you are not already involved in a chapter and are interested, please visit the chapter section on www.herdalum.com. In this section there is contact information for each chapter and where they are located. If there is no chapter in your area and you are interested in starting a chapter, there is contact information for an alumni staff member who can advise and assist.

The alumni website, www.herdalum.com, has a wealth of information. The site provides information on many alumni events, such as the activities of Homecoming, Alumni Weekend, how to make a gift to the university and events in other localities. Contact the alumni staff for assistance in establishing an ID and password to unlock other benefits for alumni.

Alumni events are rewarding opportunities to reunite

with your Marshall University family. I urge all alumni to join a chapter and participate in alumni activities. Be a recruiter and an ambassador throughout the year. Pay forward the help you received. This is a responsibility and an opportunity. Become an active alumni member and stay connected. Let people know what WE ARE MARSHALL means to you and honor those who have gone before us and keep the Marshall spirit alive.

Thank you for your continued support of Marshall University through the Alumni Association. The Alumni Association Board of Directors hopes that each time you visit www.herdalum.com, the Facebook page or a campus or center, you learn something new about the university, your classmates, the faculty and staff. I encourage each of you to contact the board and provide your suggestions. We are here to serve you. Thank you for your continued support of the university.

Max Lederer
President, Marshall University Alumni Association

SHARE IN THE ALUMNI EXPERIENCE!

Connect with the Marshall University Alumni Association on social media and share in the alumni experience!

Friend us on Facebook, like us on Twitter and follow us on Instagram for up-to-date news, photos and live updates from all of the major alumni events and happenings on campus and around the country as the MUAA brings Marshall University to you!



Marshall University
Alumni Association

www.herdalum.com





Marshall University Alumni Association Board of Directors Nomination Form

The Alumni Association is now accepting nominations for 10 of its 30 elected positions on the Board of Directors. The term of office is three years beginning July 1, 2020.

Qualifications:

- Must 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 three on-campus board meetings during the year, and be willing to assist in his/her home area in promoting Marshall and the Alumni Association.
- Attach nominee's curriculum vitae/résumé.

Please complete this biographical form in conjunction with your nominee in order to provide the nominating committee with the necessary information to assist them in the selection process.

Nominator's Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____
E-mail Address _____
Reasons for Nomination _____

Nominee's Name _____
Class _____ Degree(s) _____ Spouse's Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____
E-mail Address _____
Employer _____ Position _____
Business Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____
Years served on Board (*list dates if previously served*) _____

We are very interested in how the nominee serves his or her community, and any professional awards received. Include civic groups the nominee belongs to, volunteerism and community service projects in which the nominee has been involved, honors and awards he or she has received, and professional organizations in which the nominee is a member (please list all pertinent information to assist the nomination committee, including dates and offices held).

Only a maximum of five items would be listed on the ballot. Please list in order of preference.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Self-nominations will be accepted. The MUAA Nomination and Election Committee will screen the nominations and select no fewer than 10 or more than 20 for the ballot to run for the 10 director's positions. You can return your nomination by e-mailing it as an Adobe PDF document to alumni@marshall.edu, faxing it to (304) 696-2299 or mailing it to: MUAA Board Nominations, Erickson Alumni Center, One John Marshall Dr., Huntington, WV 25755-6200

For more information, call the Alumni Association at 304-696-2901.

HONORING OUTSTANDING ALUMS

Marshall University Alumni Association welcomes a tremendous class at the 82nd Alumni Awards Banquet.



For the 82nd time in Marshall University’s illustrious history, a new class of alumni were enshrined in the Marshall University Alumni Association’s version of the Hall of Fame, as men and women from across the country returned to the Huntington campus to be honored at the 82nd Alumni Awards Banquet Saturday, April 13.

During one of the biggest banquets in recent history, more than a dozen alumni from numerous fields and backgrounds were honored during the star-studded evening.

Highlighting the list of honorees was Dr. David Allie, who was named the recipient of the Marshall University Distinguished Alumni award, the alumni association’s highest honor. Other award recipients included Mike Kirtner, recipient of the Distinguished Service to Marshall University award; Frankie Jones, recipient of the Outstanding Community Achievement award; and Jennifer Owen, recipient of the Young Alumni award.

“Our slate of awardees this year was outstanding as we enjoyed a fantastic celebration during this year’s banquet,” said Matt Hayes, executive director of alumni relations at Marshall University. “Year after year, our award nomination process reveals extraordinary Sons and Daughters of Marshall who are leaders in their fields and full of gratitude for the role our university played in helping turn their ambitions into reality.”

Dr. David Allie, a 1974 graduate and recipient of the Marshall University Distinguished Alumni award, is the medical director and chief of cardiothoracic, vascular and endovascular surgery at the Louisiana Cardiovascular and Limb Salvage Center, which he founded in 2009. Allie



(Left) The Don Morris Room in the Memorial Student Center is packed with participants come to honor distinguished alumni at the banquet. (Inset) Award winners line the stage and pose.

received his undergraduate degree from Marshall before earning his medical school degree from West Virginia University and, upon graduation, served in the general surgery residency program at the Charleston Area Medical Center in Charleston.

Allie has over 35 years of medical clinical practice and was an early co-founder of the Cardiovascular Institute of the South, one of the five largest cardiovascular practices in the nation. As an award-winning physician, Allie was named the Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgeon of the Year in 2000 and holds a number of clinical firsts in the field. During his distinguished career he has trained more than 2,000 physicians, given hundreds of lectures and presentations on the field and written more than 250 articles, editorials and papers in educational journals.

“Sharing the successes of our awardees each year never gets old,” Hayes said. “Each awardee’s Marshall story offers inspiration to our university community and motivation to our amazing students. Marshall University is truly an institution on the rise.”

Mike Kirtner was the recipient of the 2019 Distinguished Service award given to individuals who show an unwavering commitment to the university. Kirtner is the president and CEO of Kindred Communications in downtown Huntington, West Virginia, and is a 1973 graduate of Marshall. Kirtner has been an avid supporter of the university for decades,



Mike Kirtner (right) receives the 2019 Distinguished Service award to Marshall University from Matt Hayes.



Frankie Nowlin (right) receives her 2019 Outstanding Community Achievement award from Matt Hayes.



Jennifer Owen (right) receives her 2019 Young Alumni award from Matt Hayes.

using his skills as a gifted orator in a number of roles throughout the years. He has hosted major Marshall University events, served as the public address announcer for Marshall University men’s basketball games and halftime performances by the Marching Thunder, and been master of ceremonies for university functions including pep rally events, scholarship dinners and in particular, the *We Are Marshall* movie premiere in Huntington.

Frankie Nowlin, a 1970 graduate of Marshall University, was the recipient of this year’s Outstanding Community Achievement award. Nowlin, a native of Huntington, spent more than 20 years in the workforce development system, 14 years in corporate America and served in a number of community leadership roles before recently retiring. Among her many outstanding achievements include her work with the YWCA of Columbus and her time on several nonprofit and educational boards in both Huntington and Columbus, in addition to using her professional roles to help better her community. She was named in both *Jet* and *Ebony* magazines and was named Ms. April in the inaugural calendar for the Women for Economic and Leadership Development.

Finally, Jennifer Owen, a 2005 graduate of Marshall, was named this year’s Young Alumni award recipient. Owen is the senior vice president for the Commercial Lending Group in Johnson



Dr. David Allie accepts the 2019 Marshall University Distinguished Alumni award. Allie is a 1974 graduate and the medical director and chief of cardiothoracic, vascular and endovascular surgery at the Louisiana Cardiovascular and Limb Salvage Center.

City, Tennessee, and has served in a number of high-ranking leadership roles within the banking industry over the past decade. She is also heavily involved in her community, working with her local YWCA, United Way, Ronald McDonald House and other organizations in Tennessee. She was selected as a “Power Women of the Tri-Cities” and received the “Forty Under 40” award in her region, both in 2017.

Other awards handed out during the Alumni Awards Banquet included the Cam Henderson Scholarship Award, given to Cara Martin from the Marshall swimming and diving team; the Nancy Pelphrey/Herd Village Scholarship Award, given to Julia Birney and Shannon Morrone; the Nate Ruffin Scholarship Award, given to Japri Miller; the Janis Winkfield Scholarship award, presented to Ellis Bryson; the MUAA Chapter of the Year, awarded to the Marshall University Alumni and Big Green Chapter of Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky;

and the Emerging Chapter of the Year, presented to the Capitol Chapter.

College awards presented during the event went to Jennifer Wells (College of Health Professions), Isabelle Rogner (College of Business), Dr. C. Douglas Phillips (School of Medicine), Robert Doeffinger (College of Information Technology and Engineering), Harvey Austin (College of Arts and Media), Dr. Leslie Hicks (College of Science), James Bailes (College of Liberal Arts), Steve and Mary Beckelhimer (College of Education and Professional Development) and Dr. Tyler Clay (School of Pharmacy).

The Marshall University Alumni Association would like to thank everyone involved with this wonderful event, including event sponsors Nationwide Insurance, Cabell Huntington Hospital and Kindred Communications. For more information about the Alumni Awards Banquet or to nominate someone for a future award, visit www.herdalum.com. □

TO MARSHALL . . . AND BEYOND!

Want to be a part of something big?

Want to say you were there for a piece of Marshall history? Then you do NOT want to miss one of the biggest Homecomings in Marshall University history as our alma mater showcases its past, present and future with "Marshall and Beyond!" A full week of activities on and around the Huntington campus will lead up to a major announcement that you will not want to miss during the Homecoming game versus Western Kentucky on Saturday, Oct. 26.

The game will be preceded by major activities, including the Homecoming Parade and Bonfire on Thursday, Oct. 24; Picnic on the Plaza and Herd Madness on Friday, Oct. 25; and a full day of activities on Saturday, Oct. 26, including the Homecoming Stampede 5K, Marshall University Alumni Tailgate and much more!

This is your opportunity to showcase your Thundering Herd pride, reunite with friends, check out the latest growth on the campus and celebrate with your fellow Herd Alums as we celebrate the tremendous growth of our campus and celebrate "Marshall and Beyond!"

Monday, October 21

OFFICE DECORATION

WHEN: ALL WEEK

WHERE: MARSHALL UNIVERSITY
HUNTINGTON CAMPUS

INFO: Campus offices are asked to decorate using the Homecoming theme. The offices are judged on Thursday of Homecoming Week and prizes awarded at the Friday, Oct. 25, Picnic on the Plaza. Prizes are awarded in multiple categories for large and small offices.

.....

UNITY WALK

WHEN: 4 P.M.

WHERE: PERIMETER OF MARSHALL UNIVERSITY
HUNTINGTON CAMPUS

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

For a complete schedule of events visit www.HerdAlum.com/Homecoming19.



Thursday, October 24

HOMECOMING PARADE

WHEN: 6:30 P.M.

WHERE: DOWNTOWN HUNTINGTON

INFO: Floats, marching bands and everything you love about parades fill the Thursday night air!

• • • • •

PEP RALLY AND BONFIRE

WHEN: 7:30 P.M.

WHERE: HARLESS FIELD

INFO: A new tradition! Students and alums enjoy a massive bonfire with plenty of entertainment and activities featuring university coaches, cheerleaders and team members, the Marshall University Marching Thunder, float awards and much more!

Friday, October 25

PICNIC ON THE PLAZA

WHEN: 11:30 A.M.

WHERE: MEMORIAL STUDENT CENTER PLAZA

INFO: Marshall's largest and most exciting on-campus Homecoming party! The Marshall University Alumni Association throws a party with free food, drinks, music, games and lots of fun for students, faculty and alumni!

• • • • •

MARSHALL MADNESS

WHEN: 7 P.M.

WHERE: CAM HENDERSON CENTER

INFO: Marshall fills the Cam for the first basketball practice of the year with food, games, giveaways and more!

Saturday, October 26

HOMECOMING STAMPEDE 5K

WHEN: 8:00 A.M.

WHERE: MEET AT JOHN MARSHALL STATUE (Route circles the campus, heads downtown, and ends back at the statue)

INFO: Students, faculty, alumni and Marshall University supporters are invited to come together for a fun run around the Huntington campus with multiple age groups and prizes.

• • • • •

MU ALUMNI TAILGATE

WHEN: 11:00 A.M.

WHERE: HARLESS FIELD

INFO: ALL are invited to this wonderful tailgating experience! Enjoy great food, hang with friends, play tailgating games, enjoy performances by the Marching Thunder and Marshall University Cheerleaders, and hear greetings from special guests. Don't miss the famous Alumni Tailgate prior to the game!

• • • • •

HOMECOMING GAME VS. WESTERN KENTUCKY

WHEN: 2:30 P.M.

WHERE: JOAN C. EDWARDS STADIUM

INFO: Marshall battles the Western Kentucky Hilltoppers in the annual Homecoming Game!

Marshall has given you so much. Now is the time to give back.

Support Marshall University with a gift and discover the many benefits of becoming an active member of **YOUR** Alumni Association!

Discover the many benefits of active membership in the Marshall University Alumni Association

- National and local discounts!
- National clubs and MU activities around the globe!
- Networking opportunities!
- Keep in touch with friends, classmates, professors and administrators!
- Be in the know with all things happening at Marshall University through your subscription to Marshall Magazine, monthly newsletters and special social media opportunities!
- Knowledge that your money is contributing to the continued growth of Marshall University!

A financial gift in the amount of your choice activates your membership.

For more information, contact the Marshall University Alumni Association at (304) 696-3134 or alumni@marshall.edu



Marshall University
Alumni Association

www.herdalum.com • alumni@marshall.edu



2020 Alumni Award Nominations

Deadline for submissions is January 1, 2020.

The Alumni Association proudly recognizes achievements of distinguished alumni, friends and students by presenting awards at its annual Alumni Awards Banquet. Past honorees have included outstanding educators, successful business people, prominent scientists, sports and entertainment personalities and ordinary people with extraordinary devotion to Marshall.

The Awards Committee makes its decision based on nominations received on or before January 1, 2020. Nominations received after that date will be considered for 2021.

CATEGORIES:

Distinguished Alumnus/Alumna: Given to Marshall alumni for outstanding national achievements in their particular field of endeavor.

Alumnus/Alumna Community Achievement: Given to alumni for success in their particular field 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.

The Young Alumni Award: Presented to an alum who is 35-years-old or younger, is an active member of the Alumni Association, shows outstanding achievement in his or her field of endeavor, has a personal commitment to his or her community and demonstrates service to Marshall University and its students. This award is not open to members of the MUAA board.

The Dr. Carolyn B. Hunter Faculty Service Award: Established to recognize contributions and to provide incentives for continued service from faculty to the community, the university and students in their respective fields.

For a list of past award winners or to submit the name of an individual you believe to be qualified as a nominee for one of the awards, go to www.herdalum.com and go to "Alumni Awards" under the "We Are" menu. This nomination form must be received in our office by the above date. The Awards Committee will review the qualifications of nominees and select the recipients.

Award winners will be asked to submit a number of photos for a video presentation during the Awards Banquet. Please make sure the nominee would be willing to submit these photos within two weeks after notification of having won the award. He/she must be able to attend the Alumni Awards Banquet in April.

Please include the following to support your nomination in order to provide the selection committee with as much information as possible:

1. An explanation of how your candidate fulfills the criteria for the award category for which he/she has been nominated;
2. The nominee's vita/résumé, including career highlights, volunteerism, honors and awards, community service, professional organizations, publications, etc.;
3. Letters of nomination detailing personal knowledge of the candidate and his/her personal and professional achievements; and
4. Other supporting documentation, such as copies of magazine and newspaper articles.

* All categories may not be awarded each year!

I hereby nominate the following person for: _____

Nominee's Name: _____

Nominee's Address: _____

Nominee's Phone: _____ Nominee's Business/Occupation: _____

Nominee's E-mail: _____

My Name: _____

My Address: _____

My Phone: _____

My E-mail: _____

Please send this form with the documentation indicated above to:
 Alumni Awards Nominations
 Marshall University Alumni Association
 One John Marshall Drive
 Huntington, WV 25755-6200

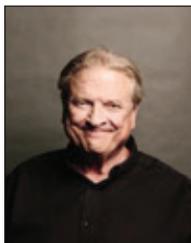
1970s

Fred (B.A. '66, M.A. '70) and **Donna Byer Reeder** (B.A. '64) of London, Ohio, were the Madison County inductees for the Central Ohio Senior Citizens Hall of Fame. They were recognized for their accomplishments and volunteerism at the 44th Annual Central Ohio Senior Citizens Hall of Fame Recognition Ceremony May 15.



Gary Gentry

(B.A. '71, M.A. '73) has headed the largest Christian promotion company in the nation, Premiere Productions, for the past 25 years. In 2019, Premiere led the promotions for the film *Unplanned*, which has grossed over \$18 million to date.



1990s

Jill Francisco

(B.A. '94) is the president of the National Association of Legal Assistants (NALA). She has had a successful career as a legal assistant in Huntington and was the charter president of the Legal Assistants/Paralegals of Southern West Virginia in 2004-2006. She also serves on the Marshall University Big Green Scholarship Foundation Board of Trustees.



Susan

Lavenski (B.A. '92, M.A. '94) was named by *Industry Era* magazine as one of the top 10 Entrepreneurs of the Year for 2019. She also served as the commencement speaker at the 2019 Marshall University Spring



Commencement ceremony. She has been at Charles Ryan Associates since 1998, where she is now owner and CEO.

2000s

Katie (Grant) Blakeley

(B.A. '03), who currently serves as CEO of Pet-First Pet Insurance, has been named a finalist for the Entrepreneur Of The Year® 2019 Award by Ernst & Young in the East Central program. Widely considered one of the most prestigious business awards programs in the U.S., the program recognizes entrepreneurs and leaders of high-growth companies who are excelling in areas such as innovation, financial performance and personal commitment to their businesses and communities, while also transforming our world. Blakeley was selected as



Please share your news with us by sending it to the

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

Preference will be given to active alumni;
other news will be printed as space allows and should be received within six months of the event.

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

a finalist by a panel of independent judges. Award winners were announced at a black-tie gala on June 13 at the Cincinnati Music Hall in Cincinnati. PetFirst Pet Insurance offers coverage to tens of thousands of pets nationwide and employs a staff of nearly 60 at the Jeffersonville headquarters. "I joined PetFirst in 2004 and have served in a variety of roles, including marketing director, vice president of business development, president and now CEO," said Blakeley. "Being a part of the team that has helped to grow the company from a startup to what we are today is both humbling and exciting. It's great to see how far we have come and how we are continuing to grow. All the while, we are helping pet parents to take financial worry out of the equation when it comes to decisions about health care for their pets." Now in its 33rd year, the Entrepreneur Of The Year® program has expanded to recognize business leaders in more than 145 cities and more than 60 countries throughout the world.

Kristi Ellenberg (B.A. '01, M.A. '03) is now serving as the dean of general education, liberal arts, and sciences at Bridge Valley Community and Technical College in Montgomery and South Charleston, West Virginia.

A.W. Hamilton (B.A. '05) has been named head men's basketball coach for the Eastern Kentucky University Colonels. He



began his collegiate career at Wake Forest before transferring to play three years at Marshall University. He has been a championship coach at Hargrave Military Academy, and served as assistant coach at North Carolina State University before accepting the head coaching position at EKU.

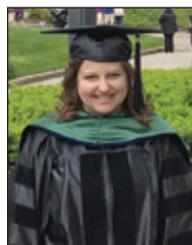
Jacob Scheick (B.A. '01) is a litigation specialist in Austin, Texas, for the firm Almanza, Blackburn, Dickie, & Mitchell LLP.



After graduation from Marshall he earned an M.A. in English Literature from University of Texas and a J.D. from the UT School of Law. He has been with his current firm for the past eight years, and was named partner in 2017.

Dr. Heather Sowards

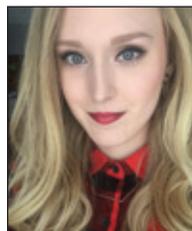
(M.A. '03) was honored at the May 5 Marietta College Commencement as Faculty of The Year, as chosen by the Student Government Association. She has been teaching at Marietta College as a full-time faculty member since 2016 and overall since 2010.



Christopher Washington (B.A. '02, M.A. '04) is now an assistant professor of English at Francis Marion University. He has two new publications this year, *Romantic Revelations: Visions of Post-Apocalyptic Life and Hope in the Anthropocene*, and *Romanticism and Speculative Realism*, co-edited with Anne C. McCarthy.

2010s

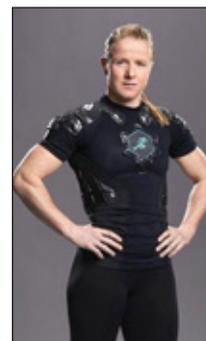
Hannah Blatt (B.A. '14, M.A. '16) has been promoted to communication specialist at Disney in



Orlando, Florida. She interned at Disney while a graduate student, and has been employed in their communications division since receiving her M.A. in 2016.

Emma Chapman

(B.A. '11, M.A. '13) appeared on CBS's *Million Dollar Mile*, which aired March 27. Chapman, a former Tough Mudder



X World Champion and a Crossfit Games competitor, came from her hometown of Christchurch, New Zealand, to attend Marshall and play for the women's soccer team. As a "Defender" on the 10-episode show, she was tasked with stopping contestants from winning one million dollars through a series of obstacle course challenges. Nicknamed "The Mighty Kiwi," Emma currently resides in Richmond, Kentucky, with her husband Corey and their "fur child" Winston.

Lydia Cyrus (B.A. '18) is the 2019 winner of the Maureen Egen Writers Exchange Award for fiction, sponsored by Poets & Writers. She will receive a sponsored trip to New York City to meet with top professionals and to present a public reading. She is currently pursuing an M.F.A. at Purdue University.

Ann Marie Lockard (B.A. '19) has been selected as a summer intern for the National Weather Service office in Charleston, West Virginia. As a non-traditional student in the geography program these past three years, she has been a role model to her classmates. This internship opportunity is a significant step toward her professional advancement in geography/meteorology.



A MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE OF ALUMNI RELATIONS

THIS IS THE GREATEST SHOW

Greetings, Fellow Alumni and Friends of Marshall University:

While not at the forefront of everyone’s mind just yet, it is never too early to start talking about Homecoming. The sights. The sounds. The memories. Homecoming is always one of the most anticipated events on the Marshall calendar and this year the annual pilgrimage back to the Huntington campus has all of the ingredients to be one of the biggest Homecoming celebrations in years – maybe ever!

A newly formed and already heated conference rivalry game against Western Kentucky? Check. Special events for alums of all ages to take part in? Check. Parades, bonfires and tailgates? Check, check and check. Oh, and a surprise announcement during the game that is sure to leave everyone talking? You’d better believe it.

Apptly themed “Marshall and Beyond” and celebrating the past, present and very bright future of our alma mater, Homecoming will be packed with all of the traditional events that Herd fans have come to know and love, plus a few extras, culminating with the Homecoming game on Saturday, Oct. 26. The parade and bonfire will once again kick off the weekend, this time being broadcast via livestream to all those unable to attend, followed by a collage of activities ranging from the alumni association’s pep rally Picnic on the Plaza on Friday, Oct. 25, to the fast-growing Homecoming Stampede 5K and world famous Alumni Tailgate on Saturday, Oct. 26.

While Homecoming is always a special time for our alumni to return to the campus, catch up with classmates and take in all of the growth and changes on campus, with a major announcement and a few surprises along the way, this is one Homecoming you are not going to want to miss.

Plans are already underway as you read this magazine to bring new and exciting elements to the Homecoming experience, culminating with a major announcement during the game that will mark one of the most exciting moments in Marshall’s storied history. It is a milestone you are going to want to be a part of and say you were there, as Marshall University enters a new and exciting new phase of growth and prestige.

If you have not already made plans to join us for this historic weekend, please visit our website, check us out on social media or call the Office of Alumni Relations at 304-696-3134 to make sure you are there to celebrate “Marshall and Beyond” with us.

As always, to check out the entire Homecoming schedule and join the conversation surrounding this historic weekend, alums can visit www.HerdAlum.com for complete details and to purchase tickets to the various events on and around campus.

We hope to see you at as many activities as your schedule will allow and look forward to celebrating with you the major accomplishments Marshall University has already achieved and the bright future ahead as our institution rises to new heights. It is an exciting time to be a Marshall University alumnus. It’s an even more exciting time to be a future alum as the next generations of Sons and Daughters of Marshall reap the benefits of the amazing work currently underway by our university with the overwhelming support and guidance of our dedicated alumni around the globe.

Thank you for your continued support of Marshall University!
Until next time, Godspeed and GO HERD!
Best Regards,

Rob, Matt and Larry



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★ *Permco USA, 1964*
★ *Guyan Machinery, 1914*

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DMD 25

P2 57

Versa-Pak
Dry-Valve



Permco was founded in 1964 to design and manufacture replacement parts for the mining industry, but its roots date back to 1914. That's when the Shell family founded Guyan Machine Shop in Logan, West Virginia. There they built a thriving business before founding Permco in Streetsboro, Ohio. Son Robert Shell Jr. took the reins of the company and built two additional manufacturing plants in Tianjin, China. Today, Permco is an international brand servicing customers around the globe.

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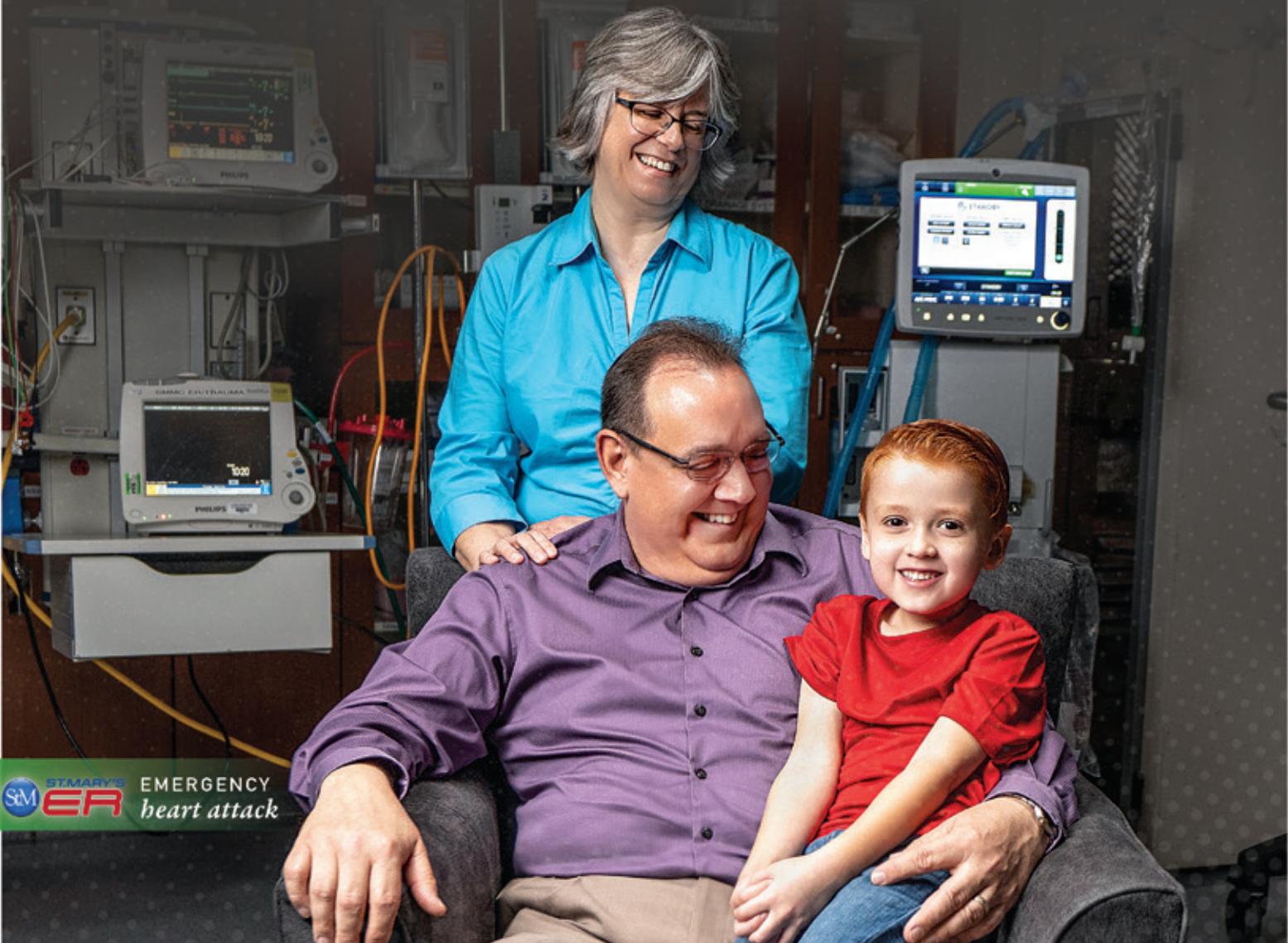


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