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Guest of Honor at Brad D. Smith Foundation Hall

Marshall welcomes its NEW PRESIDENT Jerome Gilbert

See page 37 for ALUMNI NEWS and more

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Marshall magazine

The official magazine of Marshall University

Winter 2016

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CORRECTION: In the Autumn 2015 edition of *Marshall Magazine* the title of Carter Taylor Seaton's second novel, *amo, amas, amat...an unconventional love story* was misspelled as *amos, amas, amat...An Unconventional Love Story*. Thanks to Latin teacher and Marshall alumnus Frank Booth for letting us know.

on the cover **Get to know Marshall's new President Jerome A. "Jerry" Gilbert, and why he's the right person for the job. *Photo by Rick Lee.***

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

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

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

Comments or suggestions should be addressed to:
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Designed & Published by:
HQ PUBLISHING

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

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Autumn with President White

With the beginning of the Gilbert presidency, the Marshall University community is taking the opportunity to thank Gary G. White for his service as interim president during 2015 and the first few weeks of 2016. Here are some of the highlights from the fall semester.

President White received a "Because of You" award in the category of Management Professional at the 2015 Miners' Celebration, which took place at Tamarack Oct. 1. The event is sponsored in part by Marshall University's Center for Environmental, Geotechnical and Applied Sciences (CEGAS). He is pictured with author Homer Hickam (left) and singer Landau Eugene Murphy Jr. (right).

Matt Hayes (left), executive director of the Marshall University Alumni Association, assisted President White in unveiling the new Marshall University license plate Dec. 7 for vehicles registered in West Virginia.

President White accepted a "5-star challenge coin" Nov. 11 from David Moske (left), president of the student veterans' organization, Veterans 4 Veterans, indicating the university's commitment to a set of standards for supporting student veterans. At the podium is Kim White, director of military and veterans affairs at Marshall.

Participating in a ceremonial check presentation Dec. 17 for a $1 million gift toward scholarships from the Brickstreet Foundation are, from left, Greg Burton, CEO of BrickStreet Insurance; President White; Dr. Joseph Shapiro, dean of Marshall's Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine; Dr. Ron Area, CEO of the Marshall University Foundation; and T.J. Obrokta, president of BrickStreet Insurance.

West Virginia Division of Culture and History Commissioner Randall Reid-Smith (left), President White and Huntington Mayor Steve Williams (right), pose next to a picture of Old Main Dec. 18 during the unveiling of the West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office calendar, in which Old Main is featured.

President White congratulates incoming President Jerome A. Gilbert during a community welcome event for Gilbert Dec. 2.

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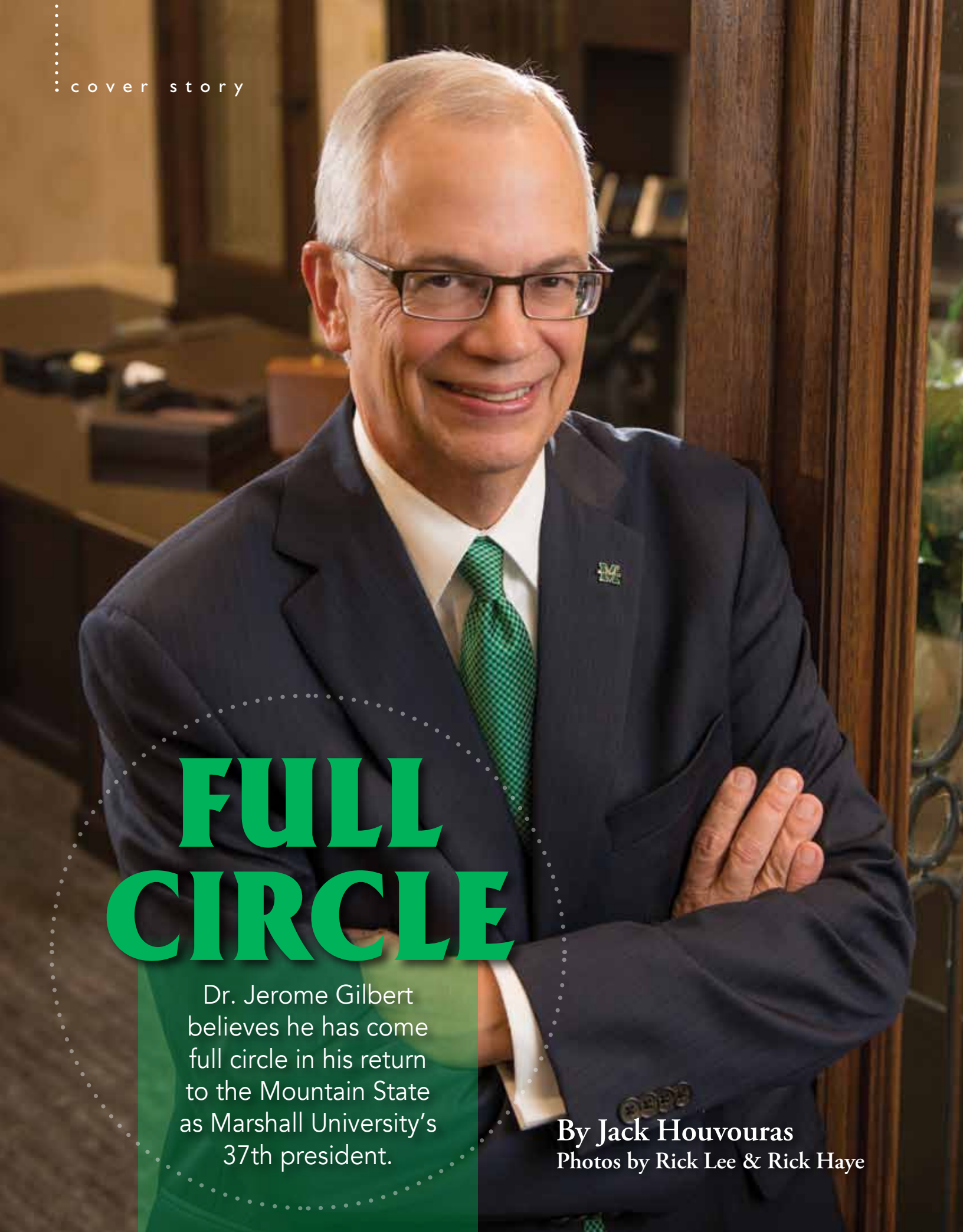


FULL CIRCLE

Dr. Jerome Gilbert believes he has come full circle in his return to the Mountain State as Marshall University's 37th president.

By Jack Houvouras
Photos by Rick Lee & Rick Haye

Gilbert receives his green Marshall jacket from Gary White, interim president, and Mike Sellards, chair of the Board of Governors, during a meet-and-greet event to officially welcome him to the university Dec. 2.

When Jerome Gilbert was a high school student in Jackson, Mississippi, he was one of two outstanding scholars selected to represent the state in the prestigious National Youth Science Camp in Bartow, West Virginia. Students from all 50 states participated in the month-long program held in the fields and streams, rivers and caves of the Mountain State. The experience left a lasting impact on the promising high school senior.

"There were 100 of us, and I can tell you every one of us left with a love for West Virginia," he recalled. "It was one of the most transformative events of my life. The beauty of the state has been with me ever since. I've always had a very warm spot in my heart for West Virginia."

Some 42 years later, Gilbert has returned to West Virginia. On Jan. 16, 2016, he officially assumed his duties as the 37th president of Marshall University. It is a journey that Gilbert feels might have been preordained.

"I feel like destiny has brought me back to West Virginia," he explained. "I'm coming back to where I started."

Dr. Jerome Gilbert, known to all as Jerry, was born and raised in Jackson, Mississippi. The middle of three children, he grew up in the 1950s and 1960s in what he described as the Jim Crow South.

"In many ways it was an idyllic place to grow up," he said. "It was the capital city so it was large, but with a hometown feel. But at the same time, there was a complete separation of the races and certainly I learned a lot seeing how people were mistreated. I saw firsthand the impact of segregation and how it negatively impacted our society."

His father worked as an accountant for a furniture factory before going out on his own and purchasing his own factory. His mother was a stay-at-home mom.

In school he was an exceptional student and described by most as gregarious and outgoing. As a young child, he played some sports, including baseball, but notes he was not the athlete his father was.

"My dad was a very good athlete and even played semi-pro baseball," he explained. "I think he was a little disappointed that my brother and I weren't better ballplayers."

His mother also has loved sports her whole life. She even golfed up until her late 80s. She watches almost every sporting event on television and has been following Marshall this year.

Gilbert loved to read from an early age, and found time to bond with his father and brother while hunting and fishing. Fishing was something his whole family enjoyed.

Following high school he enrolled at Mississippi State University in nearby Starkville, where he excelled in his study of biological engineering. Just before his graduation from college in 1977, his father, a lifetime smoker, passed away after a short battle with lung cancer.

"That was very traumatic for our family," he reflected. "I felt like we would always be together as a family and that nothing bad would ever happen to us. It took a while to get over that."

Unsure of what to do after graduating, Gilbert said he eventually asked himself a simple question: "What would my father want me to do? And then I remembered that he had told me while he was sick that he didn't want his death to slow me down. So I took his example and just carried on."

From there, he enrolled at Duke University where he pursued his Ph.D. in biomedical engineering. It was at Duke that he met his future wife, Leigh, a physics major from the College of William & Mary, who was pursuing her master's degree.

"She is a brilliant woman, a lot smarter than I am," Gilbert confessed. "We got married after I earned my Ph.D. and then the adventure began."

What followed was a long line of prestigious teaching posts in engineering and biomedical science at North Carolina State, University of North Carolina, University of North Carolina Medical School, University of Mississippi Medical Center (as an adjunct), and Mississippi State. He also became heavily involved in research and authored

Gilbert addresses the audience during the Dec. 2 meet-and-greet with his hopes and plans for the future of the university.

> “I want to create a sense of **vision** and **success** for the future. **Enrollment** will be a big part of that. A marketing campaign will be **integral** to our success in that area.”

dozens of magazine and medical journal articles, most focusing on orthopedic and musculoskeletal injuries and surgery.

At Mississippi State he earned numerous awards for his leadership and innovative work, including induction into the school’s Hall of Fame and Engineering Hall of Fame as a student and selection as a faculty member as a multi-time recipient of the College of Engineering’s Hearin-Hess Distinguished Faculty award.

In 2010, he was named provost and executive vice president of Mississippi State University. Five years later Marshall University came calling following the sudden death of President Stephen J. Kopp. After a lengthy search that included more than a dozen candidates from around the country, the Board of Governors ultimately chose to offer the post to Gilbert. Local reaction to the hire was universally praised.

“His experience, vision and approach seem to make him an excellent choice as the university’s 37th president,” noted *The Herald-Dispatch* in an editorial. “Gilbert shows every indication that he fully understands the challenges Marshall faces — from tight state funding to rising tuition costs — and the need for expanded recruiting and enrollment, improved student retention and a viable approach to growing university research.”

The newspaper also noted his interpersonal skills that impressed students, faculty and community leaders alike.

“He shows an encouraging enthusiasm for the non-academic demands of the job, including fundraising, community connections and government relations. Moreover, those who have met him over the past few weeks have been impressed with his interaction with students, faculty and staff and his approachable, collaborative leadership style.”

Marshall legend Red Dawson signs a copy of his latest book, *A Coach in Progress,* for the new president.

Leigh Gilbert, wife of President Gilbert, reads to children during the Herd Holiday event Dec. 1.

Dr. Cam Brammer, faculty representative on Marshall's Board of Governors, said she was "amazed" at how in sync the board was when it came time to vote on the new president.

"Dr. Gilbert was the best choice for where Marshall is now and where we hope to go in the next few years," Brammer explained. "He won everybody's minds with his synergy."

Asked what immediate goals he had for Marshall, Gilbert offered the following:

"My first goal is to get to know everyone on campus. I'm quickly learning the culture of the campus. Second, I want to create a sense of vision and success for the future. Enrollment will be a big part of that. Third, I want to see students succeed and that includes finding ways that will give everyone a chance to graduate. Fourth, I want to set an agenda for more research on campus. Part of that will be leveraging the medical school with other parts of the university."

As for the endless array of budget cuts to state schools in recent years, Gilbert stands ready to meet those challenges.

"I faced similar budget issues when I was provost at Mississippi State and we worked through it," Gilbert said. "If we can increase enrollment at Marshall then that will help offset the budget cuts."

Gilbert already has some ideas on how to bring more students to Marshall.

"The competition for students has never been as intense," Gilbert explained. "In order to be in the game, you have to be committed to marketing and recruiting students to your university. I want a stronger marketing campaign for Marshall because there are a lot of great things here that should be very attractive to high school students. This is an institution with a strong liberal arts tradition; it has tremendous arts, music and humanities programs that are part of the history of the university. Then you look at the more recent developments of the medical school growth, biotechnology and engineering, and you have a pretty dynamic package to offer."

And Gilbert plans to leverage the university's sports programs as key part of his marketing efforts.

"Athletics serves as a front door to the university," Gilbert said. "It really is a marketing arm to the university. And, it ties our alumni back to the university and gives them something to be proud of."

Looking back on his career to date, Gilbert said he is proud of what he has accomplished. But, he was quick to point out that it takes a back seat to the greatest influence in his life.

"To me, family has always been the most important," Gilbert said. "I had two wonderful parents, one still with us, who taught me many life lessons. They taught hard work, optimism, perseverance, courage and humility. And when people ask me what I am most proud of in my life, I say 'my three children.'"

The new Marshall president beams with pride as he talks about daughters Caroline and Sallie and son Peter. And then there's granddaughter Eliza. "She's the new joy of our lives," both Gilbert and wife Leigh confessed.

The Gilberts said they are easily settling into life in Huntington.

"We've been so impressed with Huntington; we've fallen in love with the city and its people," Gilbert said. "It's bigger than our former hometown and there are more restaurants and shopping as well as a vibrant downtown. Everyone has been so welcoming. And we love that it's situated on the river with the hills nearby."

In their spare time the couple enjoys reading, gardening and cooking. And both are exercise enthusiasts. Gilbert enjoys cycling while wife Leigh is an avid runner.

Gilbert was quick to acknowledge the Board of Governors for the opportunity to lead the university in the coming years.

"I want to say 'thank you' to the Board of Governors for their confidence in me. I will give this my best and will

always keep the best interest of the university in everything I do. I will try to develop the trust of the faculty, staff, students and alumni. And, as a person of integrity, I will always be open and honest with people."

As for the future, Gilbert said he wants to not only grow the university, but also articulate to students everywhere the importance of higher education.

"I think we haven't told the story well enough about the value of a college education and what it can do to improve people's lives," Gilbert said. "It's much more than educating the student for a career. Perhaps it sounds a little dramatic but it's really about the future of our country and, I think, the future of humanity." □

Jack Houvouras is the publisher of the *Marshall Magazine* and the editor of the *Huntington Quarterly* magazine.

Gilbert meets with Layton Cottrill, general counsel and senior vice president for executive affairs, and Brandi Jacobs-Jones, chief of staff and senior vice president for operations, in the president's office.

Guest of Honor

Marshall University Foundation Hall renamed in recognition of alumnus Brad D. Smith's many contributions to his alma mater.

By Molly McClennen
Photos by Rick Haye

Brad Smith is becoming well known throughout his home state of West Virginia for two things: his successful career as president and CEO of Intuit and his loyalty to his alma mater, Marshall University. In a ceremony held Oct. 31, Marshall had the opportunity to honor Smith for that loyalty by renaming the Marshall University Foundation Hall the Brad D. Smith Foundation Hall. Smith has been a major donor to Marshall for years, most recently having given $10 million to Marshall for the establishment of the Brad and Alys Smith Family Scholarship Fund.

When asked what the naming ceremony meant to him, Smith said, "It's hard to put into words. It's the opportunity for me and my family to give back to those who invested in me for so many years. It's a real privilege and I hope it inspires the next generation to go out and pursue their dreams."

Smith grew up in Kenova, West Virginia, and graduated from the former Ceredo-Kenova High School. He studied at the United States

Military Academy at West Point before transferring to Marshall, where he earned a bachelor's degree in business administration with an emphasis in marketing.

After graduating, he began his career in business working for Pepsi. Smith also attended night classes to complete a master's degree in management from Aquinas College. After leaving Pepsi, Smith worked for direct mail marketer ADVO and business outsourcing solutions provider ADP. Since 2008, Smith has led software giant Intuit, which makes Quicken, QuickBooks and TurboTax. The company employs 8,000 people in its offices around the world, and its products are sold in 160 countries. Under Smith's leadership, Intuit is ranked No. 31 on *Fortune* magazine's list of the "100 Best Companies to Work For."

Smith credits his parents, his upbringing in West Virginia and the education he received at Marshall with supplying the foundation for his success.

"I sit at dinners next to people who went to Harvard, Yale, Oxford, Stanford and every once in a while, after they've had a couple glasses of wine, they will cozy up to me and ask how I think my education from Marshall University stacks up," he said. "I smile and tell them, 'I learned everything you learned in school, but mine cost $150,000 less and our football team was better.'"

Despite living in California and maintaining a grueling work schedule, Smith always finds time to give back to his home state and to Marshall. He received an honorary doctoral degree in 2014 when he was the speaker for Marshall's commencement ceremony. He was the featured speaker at the 2015 West Virginia Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting and Business Summit, where he called on state leaders to use education and technology as tools to solve West Virginia's economic problems.

Smith is all smiles at the naming ceremony held in his honor Oct. 31.

"Brad Smith exemplifies everything that is good about West Virginia and Marshall University," said Gary White, former interim president at Marshall University. "Not only is he an inspiring leader for one of the world's most exciting companies, he is generous and humble and everything his parents raised him to be."

Both of Smith's brothers also graduated from Marshall, an accomplishment that made his father especially proud.

"My dad received his GED before joining the Army," Smith said. "He and my mom had a dream that their three sons would all go to college. One Christmas morning my dad announced that he had a surprise. He then gave each of us a class ring from Marshall. A few days later my dad passed away of a heart attack. He was 58. My brothers and I wear these rings every single day, not only for Marshall, but also for our parents and the sacrifices they made on our behalf."

Smith's mother and brothers were able to attend the naming ceremony. Smith said it meant a lot to have them there, but he wished two more people could have been there as well.

"I wish my father was here," Smith said. "And, I wish Dr. (Stephen) Kopp was here to see this."

Dr. Ron Area, CEO of the Marshall University Foundation, said Smith epitomizes the foundation's values of diversity, pride, respect and integrity.

Smith poses for photo with his daughter, Devon, and wife, Alys, after foundation hall was officially renamed the Brad D. Smith Foundation Hall.

"I have been involved in the field of education for more than 40 years," Area said. "I have gotten acquainted with lots of special people, but Brad Smith has those special qualities that touch your soul. There is an energy around him that challenges you to excel and add value to your work. We are honored to have his name on the Marshall University Foundation Hall." □

Molly McClennen is a freelance writer who divides her time between Huntington and Chicago, where she attends graduate school at the University of Illinois.

The New Face of Marshall

Marshall University continues to evolve into one of the nation's most diverse campuses.

By James E. Casto
Photos by Rick Haye & Rick Lee

Maurice Cooley recalled when he enrolled as a freshman at Marshall University in 1966, the school had "perhaps as many as a dozen" students from foreign countries. Today, Marshall has roughly 500 international students, hailing from 61 countries. In 1966, Cooley was one of 35 African American students residing on Marshall's campus and most of those were athletes. Today, he said, Marshall has "between 800 and 1,000 African American students."

As Associate Vice President of Intercultural Affairs and Outreach at Marshall, Cooley is proud of the dramatic increase in those numbers. But he emphasizes Marshall's efforts to build a more diverse student body go far beyond a matter of numbers.

Marshall is determined, Cooley said, to create "a diverse university of respect, learning, inclusion and engagement." Marshall's Office of Intercultural Affairs, he said, was established in 2014 to nurture students and move them towards becoming "citizens of the world." The role of a university, he said, is not merely to teach students skills and knowledge in their areas of study, but also to prepare them to live in a multicultural and inclusive society.

"When our students graduate, there is a strong likelihood they will be working in settings and businesses with people from all over the world. What we're trying to do," he explained, "is to more fully embrace and integrate the many cultures and geographical origins as well as differences and commonalities associated with race, ethnicities, religion, lifestyles, norms and our studies."

With the renovation of Marshall's former community college facility, INTO students have a place to gather to meet with faculty and staff and bond with other international students.

Since 2013, Marshall has partnered with INTO University Partnerships, a private company that works with leading universities around the world to expand opportunities for higher education. At Marshall, one of INTO's seven U.S. partners, international students join a supportive community designed to help them integrate into American university life.

INTO at Marshall is located in the former community college facility, which was extensively remodeled to provide a place for international students to gather and find the support they need to ensure their success.

INTO's inaugural enrollment at Marshall in August 2013 included 170 students from 23 countries. In the two years since, the program has recorded steady progress. In August 2014, it enrolled 227 students from 27 countries. In August 2015, it enrolled 298 students from 22 countries.

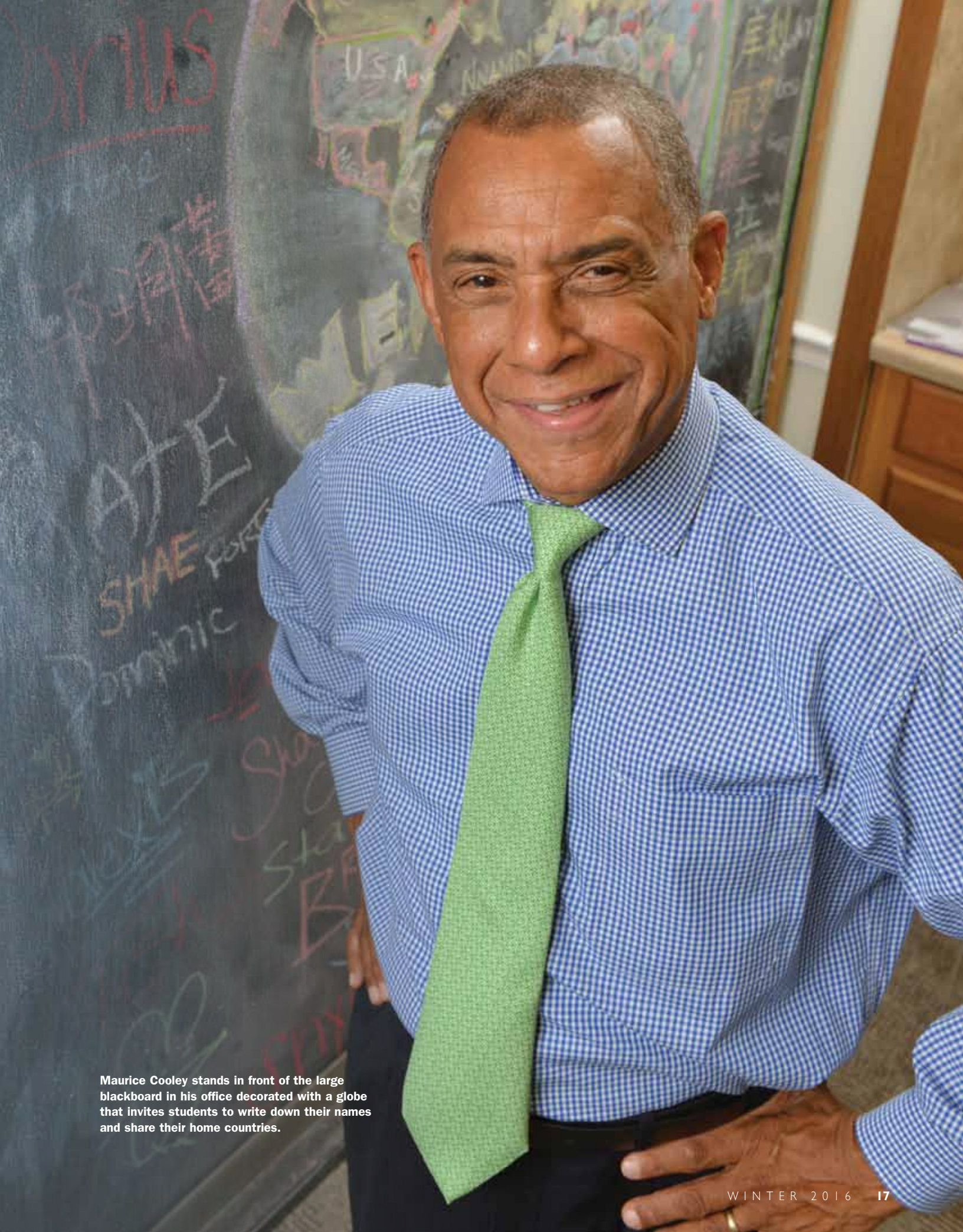
Rakesh Bangaru first came to Marshall from India in 2014. He has returned to Marshall in pursuit of his master's degree in computer science. He has also taken on the role of student ambassador for INTO.

Bangaru said when deciding to study abroad he chose the United States for its technological advancements and opportunities. Though Huntington wasn't quite the American city he envisioned, he has a new perspective on life in the U.S.

"To be frank, I expected the city to be like New York City, but it wasn't like that," Bangaru said. "It didn't reach my expectations, but I've been here a while now and I've changed my mindset. I found the beauty in Marshall's campus. Marshall offers a wonderful campus life for every individual. It has wonderful professors, and the staff at INTO is very kind and supportive."

Ashwin Athrey, an INTO student from India, has just started his first semester at Marshall studying computer science. He said he chose to come to the U.S. for global experience, and Marshall's computer science program offered the opportunity for a great education.

Athrey said Huntington is the



Maurice Cooley stands in front of the large blackboard in his office decorated with a globe that invites students to write down their names and share their home countries.

In 2013, Marshall first welcomed 170 INTO students from 23 countries. In August 2015, that number grew to 298 students from 22 countries.

first place he saw when he landed in the U.S., and so far everyone has been welcoming.

"The INTO staff has been really nice and friendly. I've also met other students and we've exchanged stories about our countries," Athrey said.

Marshall also offers programs aimed at recruiting minority high school students. "Our annual Intercultural Students Weekend has proven tremendously successful," Cooley said. Outstanding minority high school students and their parents are invited to the Huntington campus for an in-depth opportunity to learn what Marshall has to offer. This experience has attracted more than 125 Hispanic/Latino, Native American Indians, Pacific Islanders, Asian American and African American students. Cooley cited with pride the national recognition Marshall received in a 2010 report, "Big Gaps: Some Colleges and Universities Do Better Than Others in Graduating African American Students," published by The Education Trust. The study found Marshall is among the most successful universities in the country at graduating African American students at the same rate as white students.

Once students arrive at Marshall, several programs are available to assist them.

The Center for African American Students, located in the Memorial Student Center on the Huntington

Cooley meets with Yecen Zhu, a graduate assistant to the Intercultural Affairs and Outreach office from China, and Lisa Allen, the office's program manager.

campus, is the primary home for the Black United Students social club and a connection site for all black Greek-letter fraternities and sororities.

Founded in 2003 by Cooley, the Society of Black Scholars is a highly select honors program for African Americans. The program has a progressive focus on high academic performance, character development, integrity, professional leadership and service learning. Alumni of the program include a number of physicians, lawyers and other professionals with advanced degrees.

Concerned that too few minority students enter the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields, the National Science Foundation established the Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation. Marshall's membership in the alliance means minority students interested in the STEM fields have access to free tutoring, mentoring, advising and even opportunities to participate in research alongside seasoned Marshall faculty scientists.

The Chancellor's Scholar Program, funded by Marshall and the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission, seeks to recruit, educate and graduate minority doctoral students. Tuition, stipends and research assistance funds are available for qualified candidates.

Today there's growing public recognition that diversity involves more than an individual's skin color or where he or she was born.

Significantly, the website eCollegeFinder has named Marshall the most LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) friendly higher education institution in West Virginia.

"We have worked tremendously hard to embrace students from all backgrounds, including our LGBT community of students," Cooley said. "Our new programs, which include the LGBT Speaker Series, Safe Zone Training, Lending Library and more, offer new dimensions for our students. Marshall is a great environment for all students to grow, learn and gain acceptance from others, irrespective of our differences." □

The Cooley File

MAURICE COOLEY, Associate Vice President for Intercultural Affairs and Outreach at Marshall University, is a two-time Marshall graduate. He graduated from Marshall with a bachelor's degree in sociology in 1970, and then served three years active duty in the U.S. Army as a psychology specialist. He returned to Marshall and earned his Master of Arts degree in counseling in 1975 and later one and a half years of off campus-study in psychiatric study with Boston University Center for Psychiatric Rehabilitation Training and Research.

Before joining Marshall in January 2003, Cooley was employed for more than 25 years at the Prestera Center for Mental Health in Huntington, where he was a clinician, psychotherapist, program director and served as a divorce custody mediator with the local family law court.

Cooley has worked at Marshall for nearly 12 years – the first 11 as director of the Center for African American Students and since January 2014 in his current position.

During his time at Marshall, he has either created or enhanced a number of the university's signature programs for minority and underrepresented students, including the Society of Black Scholars, the Health Science and Technology Academy Summer Institute, the Donning of Kente celebration, the annual Diversity Breakfast, the Annual MU Unity Walk and the Black Alumni Connections Network.

"Maurice is one of the finest individuals I have ever had the good fortune to know," said former Marshall Interim President Gary G. White. "He has made, and continues to make, a very real difference on our campus every single day."

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

INDOMITABLE Spirit

A horrible accident robbed Geoff Hopkins of the use of his legs, but it didn't stop him from graduating from Marshall, excelling in a career helping military veterans or becoming a world-class athlete.

By Pat Dickson

Photos courtesy of Geoff Hopkins

Geoff Hopkins and his wife, Heather, play with their young sons, Ethan and Finley.

It was an ordinary Thursday, a little warm, on Sept. 15, 1988, when summer was making the first gentle curve into fall. In the theaters, moviegoers could choose from "A Fish Called Wanda," "Die Hard" or "Nightmare on Elm Street 4." Bobby McFerrin's infectious rhythms in his hit song, "Don't Worry, Be Happy" rapped from a hundred boom boxes. Michael Jackson had just been named the world's highest paid entertainer, and front-runner Anchorage, Alaska, learned that day it had lost the 1994 winter Olympics to an unfamiliar-sounding town in Norway called Lillehammer.

In the early evening, 22-year-old Geoff Hopkins headed out on his motorcycle for the short ride from Huntington to his home in Ona down Route 60, a familiar stretch he traveled regularly. Fresh out of the Army, and with a busy post-Army life, he was eagerly looking forward to

starting classes at Marshall in January. Fit and active, a trim athlete who ran competitively, he felt that life was very sweet that day.

It happened in a split second. Just past a gas station he lost control, hit a guardrail and was launched back onto Route 60 landing on the right side of his head and severing his spinal cord.

St. Mary's Hospital was right around the corner and help came fast, but it was a bad accident. Very bad. So bad his family was met by a priest when they arrived at the hospital and last rites were administered. Hopkins lay in a coma for three days with a traumatic brain injury and a spinal injury that would paralyze him from the sternum down.

After three weeks in St. Mary's, he was sent to the McGuire Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Richmond, Virginia, for more rehabilitation with the unwavering support of his family – mom Bev Pauken; stepfather James Pauken and, in fact, the whole family. It was an early Christmas gift when he left the rehab hospital Dec. 23 and headed home. It would take more than a devastating accident to derail his dream of attending

Hopkins (bottom row, center) was fresh out of the Army and enrolled for the spring 1989 semester at the time of his accident.

Hopkins was able to continue with his education as planned, graduating in 1992.

Marshall, so, right on schedule, he moved into Holderby Hall and began classes on Jan. 17, 1989.

Today Geoff Hopkins is a Marshall graduate with a degree in criminal justice — he graduated just as planned with his class in 1992 — and holds a Master of Education degree in recreational therapy from the University of Toledo. He's had a successful career as a rehabilitative therapist, much of it spent with the military.

"I have been providing adaptive sports programs for wounded, ill or injured veterans and active-duty service members for over 20 years," he explained. "I first began with the Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA), where I spent nearly 16 years providing adaptive sports such as bass fishing, trapshooting, bowling, wheelchair tennis and the largest annual wheelchair sporting event in the U.S. — the National Veterans Wheelchair Games."

He then worked for the U.S. Marine Corps Semper Fit program, helping to develop an inclusion policy for the entire Marine Corps.

In July 2016, he is moving to the Army's AW2 program, which assists and advocates for severely wounded, ill or injured soldiers, veterans and their families, wherever they are located and regardless of military status.

"My life will always be about serving wounded, ill or injured active-duty service members or veterans. They have sacrificed themselves for our country and working for them is the least I can do," he said.

And he helps people with disabilities wherever he finds them, such as his chance encounter on a train with a quadriplegic veteran in a dilapidated wheelchair who was in desperate need of a new one. Hopkins guided him through the proper channels, and the vet was able to obtain a new motorized chair from the VA tailored to his needs.

"You changed my life," the man later told him gratefully.

In fact, changing lives, including his own, has been Hopkins' mission for many years.

Actually, his accident changed his life in ways he could never have imagined on that September day because there's another side to Geoff Hopkins. He's an elite, world-class athlete, widely known in the field of wheelchair sports, a fierce competitor who regularly racks up major victories in competitions. Last year, for example, he was one of only 100 American athletes who were selected to compete in the first Invictus Games held in London. Championed by Britain's Prince Harry, it's a sporting event for wounded veterans in an effort to bring recognition to wounded warriors everywhere. In that rarified atmosphere of premier athletes, he came away with a bronze medal in handcycling.

This past summer, Hopkins was one of more than 60 athletes invited to try out for the first ever Triumph Games, which took place in New York City last August. Only 12 athletes were selected from that group and he was number eight in the final cut. The games used sports technology for an array of disabilities, all featured on a sports platform. Competitors took part in a triathlon, which included cycling, kayaking, and laser-rifle shooting. Two days later, the "Terrific 12"

Hopkins took home a bronze medal in handcycling from the inaugural Invictus Games in London in 2014.

competed in online video gaming and then completed the Triumph Games two days later, when they raced 2015 Roush Ford Mustangs. Hopkins won the car racing portion and took eighth out of 12 overall.

Married, with two young sons (six-year-old Ethan and newborn Finley Cooper), he and his wife, Heather, currently live in Fredericksburg, Virginia.

The road to where he is today has been long, with the usual twists, turns and even some spectacular detours, but he's stayed the course with indomitable grit and determination. And it's not always sunshine and chirping songbirds, he candidly admitted.

"I try to be upbeat, but I have days as we all do," he said. "But if I can help just one person, just talking with them or whatever, I'll take the time. Helping others is my passion because so many people have helped me along the way."

Hopkins believes Marshall gave him a strong foundation upon which he has built his new life.

"Marshall has a great vocational program. I moved into Holderby Hall which was accessible as is the whole Huntington campus. The university provided note-taking and any other services I needed. And while I was learning how to be a person with a disability, I was also learning how to be a college student," he said. "I was fortunate to have a friend living in the dorm, Jay Simms, a quadriplegic, who took me under his wing and helped me be both disabled and a student. I'll forever be grateful to him for that."

Sandra Clements, now director of Marshall's Office for Disabled Students, fondly remembered Hopkins from when he was a student assistant in that office, where she was a staff member.

Hopkins has also become an experienced race car driver, competing in the 2015 Triumph Games.

"He was our first wheelchair-bound student worker and I remember Geoff being very high functioning, very energetic."

There was discipline involved in those Marshall days, which has carried over to Hopkins' life today. Competing is tough and requires strength, stamina and patience. Hopkins trains vigorously five days a week, mostly handcycling, and he rides an average of nine hours a week.

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He competes in 12 races annually across the country and takes part in marathons as well.

But after all his accomplishments, incredibly, fate was not quite finished with him. In December 2013, his unflappable optimism was severely tested once again. Diagnosed with a life-threatening brain aneurysm, he underwent brain surgery and once again, the outlook was grim. But just as before, his indomitable spirit took over and his recovery went so well that by the following May, with the aneurysm gone, he was back vigorously training for the next competition.

"God has given me what I have and it wasn't my time to go, either time," he said. "There is a plan for me; I still have my mission in life. I need to be here for my beautiful wife, Heather, and our two sons." □

The Hopkins' sons Ethan, 6 years old, and newborn Finley.

Pat Dickson is coordinator of media and community relations at Marshall University's South Charleston campus.

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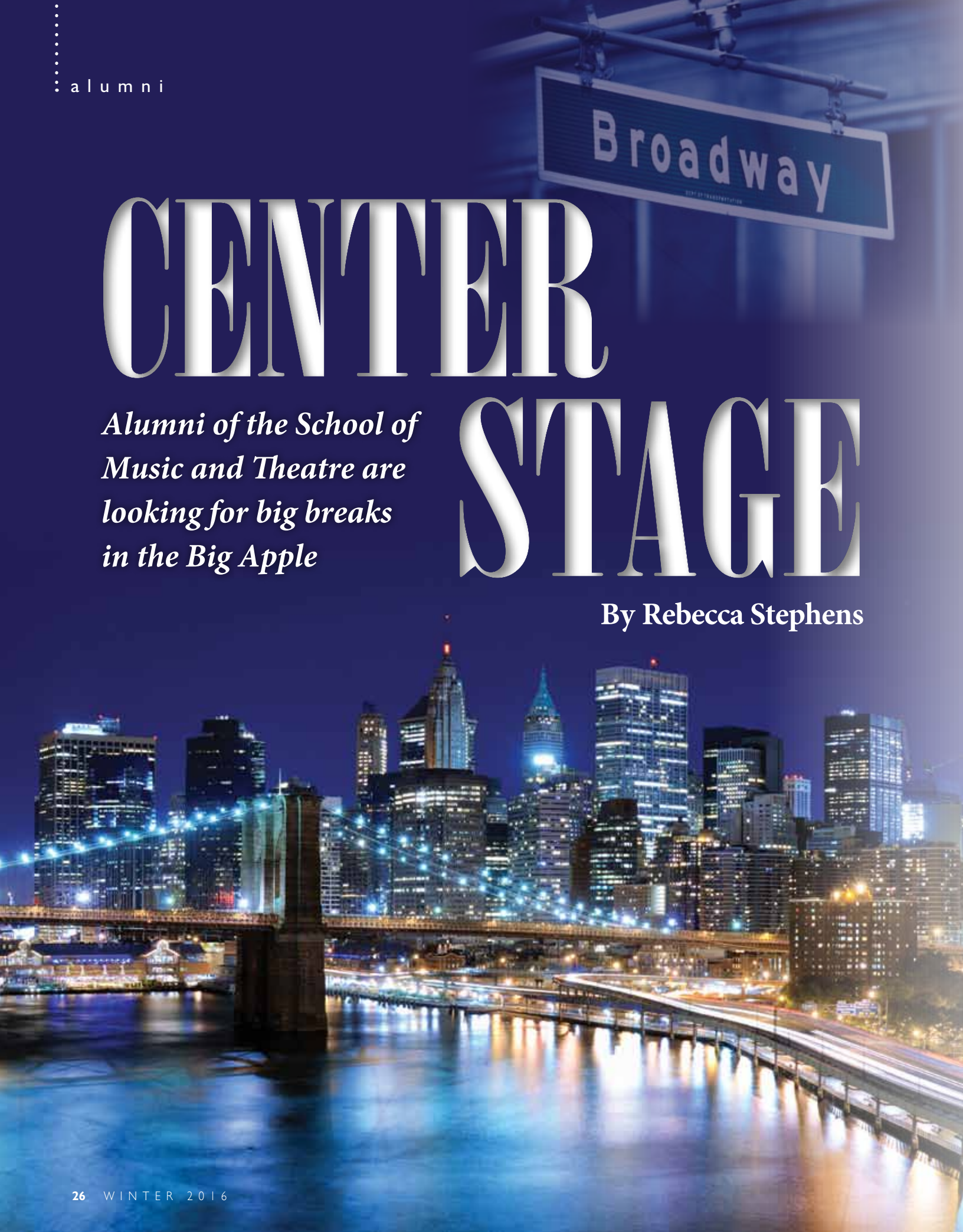
CENTER STAGE

Alumni of the School of Music and Theatre are looking for big breaks in the Big Apple

By Rebecca Stephens



Living in New York City is merely a dream for most. For a handful of Marshall University theatre graduates, however, not only is that dream a reality, they are each finding success in their own ways.

"So many of our students are out there working in this business," said Jack Cirillo, program director for Marshall University Theatre. "They're doing plays, movies and television. It won't be long before we're hearing 'Marshall University' at the Tony Awards, Academy Awards or Grammy Awards. I really believe that."

For some, it's acting. For others, it's production. But no matter which path they've taken, these alumni owe much of their success to the School of Music and Theatre.

Nick Reynolds, a 2008 graduate of the theatre program, said Marshall gave him the right tools to develop his craft and challenged him to grow.

Courtesy Nick Reynolds.

Nick Reynolds appeared in season three of the hit Netflix series "Orange is the New Black."

"Marshall helped me figure out what my process is," said Reynolds. "Everybody that starts off in the acting world figures they have something to bring to the table, that they have a talent and that's enough. I'm not one of those people. I think if you want to be a professional in this world you have to have a craft that you can point to and say, 'This is why I do it, and this is how I do it.'"

In 2010, after graduating from Pennsylvania State University's Master of Fine Arts program, Reynolds made the move to New York City and has found work in television with small roles on shows such as the Cinemax series "The Knick," the Netflix original series "Orange is the New Black," and a role on the upcoming second season of another Netflix series, "Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt."

Courtesy Nick Reynolds.

Marshall theatre alumni catch up with Don Van Horn, dean of the College of Arts and Media.

Reynolds said his management company, Davis Spylios Management, has been instrumental in helping him find work.

"The first three years were a real struggle to find representation in a manager or an agent that 'gets me' and someone I wouldn't just get lost with," said Reynolds. "But Davis Spylios Management, [which] I've been with the past two years, has helped me book some really good roles."

For one graduate, her success has not been in theatre, but in a number of areas. From magazine writing to television commercials to the food industry, Caitlin Haught Brown has done a little bit of everything.

After graduating from Marshall in the spring of 2009, Brown spent the following semester working for the crew of "Jamie Oliver's Food Revolution." Her work with the show's food team inspired her to continue her education in a different direction by attending Mountwest Community and Technical College's culinary program.

Since moving to New York City, Brown has worked for

Courtesy Nick Reynolds.

Reynolds (right) in a scene for "Alpha House," a web series produced by Amazon Studios.

many clients, including *Martha Stewart Living* magazine and The Food Network.

Brown said though she is not directly working in theatre, she still uses her theatre education every day.

"We learned to be creative, but also how to be collaborative and to use that to yield the best results," said Brown. "A lot of those skills have translated to what I do now. I've really found a lot of parallels that have followed me to New York."

For Jordan Bean, Josh Meredith and Patrick Taylor, the key to finding work was to create it themselves.

Bean, Meredith and Taylor founded their own production company, Dark Matter Productions, which opened its first show, "Pretty Theft," in November at The Celebration of Whimsy Theatre in the Lower East Side.

Taylor said the name of the company stems from the group's desire to produce work that focuses on the darker

Courtesy Marshall University.

Patrick Taylor (left) and Josh Meredith (right) during a performance of "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum."

matters in life and topics that are often underrepresented, such as neurological disorders and women's issues, which are each found in "Pretty Theft."

Taylor, who has Tourette's Syndrome, said he loves the idea of bringing awareness to issues that are often misinterpreted.

"We want to use art as activism," he said.

Bean, who majored in public relations and minored in theatre, said she, Meredith and Taylor all bring different skill sets to the table that complement each other.

"Because of my communication background, I picked up a lot of stage managing jobs," said Bean. "I've also done directing. I have more experience on the production side of things while Patrick and Josh are actors. We were all doing our own thing in theatre in different ways, but we figured the best way to make sure our work is seen is to create it ourselves."

Meredith, unfortunately, couldn't be there for the

Courtesy Marshall University.

Caitlin Haught Brown performing in Marshall's production of "The Glass Menagerie."

opening of "Pretty Theft," but only because he was in Toronto rehearsing with Disney Cruise Lines to be a main stage performer on the Disney Magic.

Meredith said he has enjoyed a lot of success since moving to New York City, a dream he's had since he was young. Upon relocating, he brought his one-man show, *Josh M!*, which he developed at Marshall, to a small cabaret.

Courtesy Marshall University.

Reynolds (right) starring in the comedy "The Merry Wives of Windsor."

While the alumni now feel as though they have a good hold on the city, each noted the challenges New York presents, including culture shock and financial stress.

"I had vacationed there several times, but no one could've prepared me for the challenges I faced moving

Courtesy Jordan Bean.

Taylor and Bean with the cast of "Pretty Theft," Dark Matter Productions' first show that opened in November.

there initially," said Meredith. "Luckily, I got to move with two of my best friends, so we had each other when things got tough."

Reynolds said that no matter how prepared you try to be, the expenses of the city often catch up.

"That's the biggest problem for an actor in New York; you have to find your bread and butter," he said. "Sometimes you have to make the choice between going to work or going to an audition. That's one of the toughest problems."

Courtesy Marshall University.

Taylor and Bean during an intimate scene in Marshall's presentation of "The Last Night of Ballyhoo."

Cirillo said each of these graduates has done well in New York City in the face of adversity.

"To me, it says so much that they are all in some way, shape or form still involved in theatre when clearly by this point in time they know how difficult the climb is," said Cirillo. "Yet, they are still persevering and trying to make a go of it in New York, the greatest theatre city in the world. I have such great respect for them, not only as former students, but as artists. I'm so respectful of what they've been able to accomplish and I can't wait to see where they go."

The alumni do their best to keep in touch and see each other when possible, but note their busy schedules make it difficult. However, they often support one another by way of social media as the number of graduates relocating continues to grow.

And as Reynolds noted, "We definitely feel like there is a Marshall heartbeat in New York City." □

Rebecca Stephens is the managing editor of the *Marshall Magazine*.

MARSHALL
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GAME CHANGER

Marshall Sports Medicine Institute

A unique collaboration between Marshall and Cabell Huntington Hospital leads to a state-of-the-art facility that treats sports-related injuries for both athletes and the community at large

By Jean Hardiman
Photos by Rick Haye

To Marshall University Athletic Director Mike Hamrick, the new Marshall Sports Medicine Institute looks like science fiction.

Watching an athlete rehabilitate with an underwater treadmill, complete with underwater cameras to monitor gait, and considering that the antigravity treadmill can remove 80 percent of an athlete's body weight for movement with less strain – these are the kinds of things he simply cannot believe.

"Sports medicine has changed so much since I was a football player," said Hamrick, who graduated

The technology of the underwater treadmill removes 80 percent of a person's body weight for less strain during rehabilitation.

The Marshall Sports Medicine Institute staff includes highly trained physicians and physical therapists ready to help student-athletes get back on their feet.

from Marshall in 1980. "Then, sports medicine was, 'Take two aspirin and put some ice on it.' This is so complex and gives us a significant edge in recruiting athletes to Marshall. When a parent comes in with their son or daughter on a recruiting trip, and they see the Marshall Sports Medicine Institute, they walk out saying, 'Wow!' And they know their son or daughter will have the best medical care here at Marshall."

The new institute celebrated its ribbon-cutting in September, securing the last piece in the puzzle that is the Chris Cline Athletic Complex. Ten years in the making, the complex also includes an indoor practice facility, the Buck Harless Student-Athlete Academic Center and the Marshall Athletic Hall of Fame. It was funded through the university's Vision Campaign. Spearheaded by former Thundering Herd greats Chad Pennington and Mike D'Antoni, the

> This is a **game-changer** for the community because the facility's state-of-the-art equipment is **available to anyone** in need of medical care.

campaign raised $35 million and also funded the new Hoops Family Field and Veterans Memorial Soccer Complex on Fifth Avenue.

With the addition of the Marshall Sports Medicine Institute, the university now has second-to-none offerings not only for student-athletes, but the entire Tri-State community as well.

"This is a game-changer for the community because the facility's state-of-the-art equipment is available to anyone in need of medical care. It is a total sports medicine package rolled into one location," Hamrick said. "You have orthopedic surgeons, physical therapists, athletic trainers and the latest equipment for any kind of sports injury that occurs."

With decades of experience, physicians at the nearly 20,000-square-foot facility include board certified and fellowship-trained orthopedic surgeons and fellowship-trained physicians in sports medicine primary care, concussion care, seizures and more. They treat a variety of musculoskeletal problems and injuries to the joints most often affected by sports — the shoulder, elbow, hip, knee and ankle — with X-ray equipment right on hand.

In all, the center has services including sports medicine, surgery and primary care, as well as physical therapy, nutritionists, aquatic therapy, performance enhancement, chiropractic care and sports psychology. All of this is offered through a unique partnership among four entities — Marshall Athletics, the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine, Marshall Health and Cabell Huntington Hospital. The hospital provides physical therapists, athletic trainers, nutritionists and psychologists, as well as access to services including MRIs, laboratory testing and outpatient surgery.

"All this makes treatment and diagnostic workup for our patients much easier," said Dr. Charles Giangarra, chief of the Marshall Orthopaedics Sports Medicine Division.

The relationship among Marshall University sports medicine, the medical school and Cabell Huntington Hospital is key to making the institute the amazing facility it is, he explained.

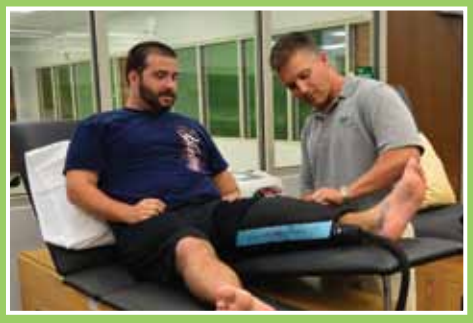
"We wouldn't be where we are without the support of Cabell Huntington Hospital and the effort in putting the institute together," said Giangarra, an orthopedic surgeon who has been at Marshall 12 years and spent three years helping to plan the new institute.

He described the institute as a "dream come true," as it would be for "anyone who does what I do for a living."

In the whole debate about athletics versus academics, this complex is a carefully planned combination of both.

"Dr. Stephen Kopp was a visionary. He saw the benefit of both," Giangarra said. "One thing that's great about the institute is that it's open to everyone, even if they're not Marshall athletes."

The institute, located at the front of the Chris Cline Athletic Complex in the 2200 block of Third



The sports medicine institute is open to the public and has a daily walk-in clinic Monday through Saturday for student-athletes and weekend warriors as well.

The institute's state-of-the-art facility offers the best sports medicine has to offer in training and rehabilitation services.

The institute is also designed to help area youth tackle problems with obesity and teach them proper exercise techniques.

Avenue, has a daily walk-in clinic Monday through Saturday. It also accepts patients referred by other doctors. A doctor can write a prescription for physical therapy, sports psychology or to see a nutritionist, so that anyone can benefit from the multifaceted offerings at the institute.

With the help of nutritionists, the center has offerings for diabetic and hypertensive athletes, and it can treat both eating disorders and the less commonly understood condition of disordered eating, which involves food and supplement consumption that do more harm than good.

Along with assisting athletes and weekend warriors, Giangarra sees a role of the institute as helping area youth battle obesity by providing a single location where they can address various issues related to physical health and athletic performance.

For those who experience bumps on the road to fitness or absolute peak performance, they can have injuries treated and rehabilitated and then get further training to improve performance all in one place now. All the while, they can progress with close supervision by those knowledgeable about the science of, and safety measures needed for, optimal movement.

"The therapy center is doing exceptionally well and our sports performance area is really taking off. That's something we weren't able to offer before," Giangarra said.

And the excitement doesn't stop there, he said. The center is also primed for leading-edge research.

"Research is going to be a focus," he said. "There already are a number of ongoing projects."

They focus on topics such as returning to play after a concussion, injuries common to softball pitchers, advancements in orthopedics and biologics involving injections to help heal injuries.

It appears the sky is the limit for the new sports medicine institute. As Giangarra proudly asserted, "There is a world of things we're going to be doing in the future." □

Jean Hardiman is a Uniontown, Ohio, native who moved to Huntington 17 years ago to work at *The Herald-Dispatch*. She is a freelance writer, and is married with two young daughters and a grown stepdaughter.

The Marshall Sports Medicine Institute staff of physicians and physical therapists.

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YOUR ALUMNI CONNECTION

A MESSAGE FROM BENJAMIN M. SANDY

MUAA National President, Class of '07 and '11

Fellow Marshall Alumni,

Spring will be here before you know it and that means Alumni Weekend is quickly approaching. From my perspective, the highlight of the weekend is the alumni banquet on Saturday evening. This annual event provides the Alumni Association a stage to honor a select handful of alumni from many diverse professions. Each award given is a significant honor, as every honoree must have incredible achievements in his or her career to even be considered. It truly is a wonderful evening. Within this issue, you will find more details about the event including cost and how to make reservations.

It is very impressive that we have so many young alumni who are making significant contributions in the workplace despite being in the early stages of their careers. However, one of the largest challenges facing the alumni association today is remaining in touch with recent graduates. Please help us keep the alumni association current with your career achievements and best contact information. One of the easiest ways is to visit our recently redesigned website, www.herdalum.com. Once there, you can update your information such as preferred e-mail address, or submit a class note – which may be included in the next magazine issue!

When talking to fellow alumni, a common statement I hear is "I would like to get more involved and help, but I don't know how." Well, I have some very exciting news that has huge potential to change how alumni interact with their alma mater. The Marshall University Office of Recruitment has created a new "alumni recruiter" program and needs our help. Now, alumni all over the world can channel their love and passion for Marshall University to help recruit new students.

There are several ways you can help, all tailored to how much time you're able to commit. Alumni can simply refer a student, provide a testimonial about their experiences, or submit photos from their time at Marshall. Additionally, alumni can register to represent Marshall University at high school scholarship ceremonies or personally deliver recruitment materials to high school counselors. These activities will be extremely beneficial for areas outside of West Virginia where, due to limited resources, our enrollment

(continued on next page)

ALUMNI RELATIONS STAFF

MATT HAYES, Executive Director
LARRY CRUM, Assistant Director
ROB ELLIS, Assistant Director
DAVID JOHNSON, Graduate Assistant

ALUMNI PRESIDENT'S LETTER

(continued from page 37)

advisers are unable to visit regularly. I have already signed up to participate and I encourage you to do the same! Please visit www.marshall.edu/recruitment/alumni-recruiting/ or call 304-696-6833 to sign up or ask for more information.

Lastly, I would like to welcome the university's new President, Dr. Jerome A. "Jerry" Gilbert and his wife, Leigh, to Marshall. I have faith in the Board of Governors that they have chosen the best candidate for the job and I cannot wait to see what's in store for the university. With that said, I applaud the outstanding job that Interim President Gary White has done and thank him for his service to Marshall University!

Thank you for reading and especially for your contributions towards our alma mater. It's a wonderful time to be an alumnus of Marshall University!

Benjamin M. Sandy, '07 and '11
President
Marshall University Alumni Association

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HOMECOMING 2015

Herd Fans Just Want To Have Fun!

If you enjoyed the big hair, boom boxes and neon colors of the 1980s, then Marshall's Homecoming 2015 was the place for you!

Homecoming 2015 truly was a "Blast from the Past" as students, staff and alumni came together for a week full of fun '80s-themed activities leading up to the Herd's 30-13 victory over North Texas. Among the highlights was a Thursday night parade and bonfire that drew massive crowds, the rockin' Picnic on the Plaza, the Unity Walk and a huge gathering of Marshall alumni and friends at the annual Alumni Tailgate.

Isabelle "Izzy" Rogner, a junior from Lewisburg who is also the Student Government Association vice president and a Herd cross country and track and field runner, was voted Miss Marshall, while Nigel Wallace, a senior from Logan, was named Mr. Marshall on a damp Saturday afternoon at Joan C. Edwards Stadium.

Other big winners during Homecoming festivities were Thunder Cup winners Sigma Tau Gamma fraternity and Delta Zeta sorority. In the office decorating contest, Marshall Family Medicine won overall best office.

Relive all of the excitement of Homecoming 2015 in our special photo extra in the following pages and online at HerdAlum.com. □

Marshall Family Medicine won the overall championship during the Office Decorating Contest with their elaborate look at '80s pop culture.

Members of the Delta Zeta sorority get in on the '80s spirit during the Homecoming parade.

Isabelle "Izzy" Rogner and Nigel Wallace celebrate after being named Mr. and Miss Marshall at Homecoming 2015.

HOME COMING 2015

MARSHALL UNIVERSITY

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90

Welcome
INTO

Taylor Brown Wood

By Pat Dickson

The Homecoming game on Oct. 3, 2009, was a 21-17 loss to East Carolina University for the Thundering Herd, but that isn't what Taylor Brown Wood, then a student and member of the swim team, remembers about that day. Her memory is only of the wonderful time she got to spend cheering on the football team alongside her grandparents, Judy Musser Bailey and Robert Bailey Jr. who had met and were married on Marshall's campus more than 50 years before.

"We had such a memorable day," she said. "I was able to spend some rare one-on-one time with them and it was one of the last games my grandfather got to see in person. We were very close." Robert Bailey died last Oct. 28.

Her grandparents had a great influence on her decision to attend Marshall, said Wood, who now lives in Abingdon, Maryland. There's a rich family legacy stretching back decades. Her grandfather, who was born in Mount Hope, West Virginia, graduated in 1962 with a degree in economics, followed by her grandmother, a Huntington native, who received her bachelor's degree in secondary education in 1963. Her grandmother's twin, Jacqueline Musser McGhee and younger sister, Linda Musser Harris, along with Harris' daughter, Jayne, are also Marshall grads. "So three out of the four of my grandmother's sisters graduated from Marshall," Wood pointed out. Wood is also happy to report that her sister, Madison Bailey Brown, has transferred from another college and enrolled at Marshall this semester.

"My attachment to Marshall started very young," Wood said. "When I was in eighth grade, I knew I was going to Marshall. Our whole family watched their ballgames all the time on TV. When I went to my cousin's wedding, I got a Marshall T-shirt and told my classmates that's where I was going."

True to her crystal ball, she did come to Huntington in the fall of 2007, were she swam for Marshall the next four years. Her family's swimming legacy is strong as well. Wood's mother, Suzanne Bailey Jurich, was on the swim team at Towson State College (now Towson University) in Maryland, and her aunt, Lisa Bailey Appel, swam at both Shepherd and Fairmont State in West Virginia and, in fact, is in Fairmont State University's Hall of Fame.

"I started year-round swimming in kindergarten when I was five," Wood said. "Swimming is part of why I came to Marshall. I liked the girls on the team and I wanted to swim at a place that was Division I, and Marshall just seemed to fit the mold of what I was looking for."

Romance blossomed on campus for her as well, just as it had for her grandparents decades ago. She met her future husband, C.J. Wood, who played offensive guard and tackle on the football team. He graduated in December 2011 with a degree in business management and again in May 2012 with a second degree in business marketing.

"He never lets me forget that he got two degrees in five years when I got one in five," Taylor Wood said, laughing. Today, C.J. Wood is the manager of a Rite Aid store close to their town.

It was only natural the two athletes would meet and later fall in love.

"The athletic community at Marshall is pretty small, so we all got to know one another," she said. "Some of the swimmers had become very close with several of the guys on the football team. It was cool to know them personally and still get to share in their accomplishments as fans on game days."

In fact, several of Wood's teammates also married their "college athletics sweethearts," including her former roommate, Susie Velte Bruhin, who married one of C.J.'s former offensive line counterparts, John Bruhin.

When the movie, "We Are Marshall" came out, Wood and her mother were able to attend a special showing for Maryland-based alumni the week before the film's premiere took place in Huntington.

"We were so thrilled to get to see the movie, especially surrounded by other Marshall graduates and fans. There were so many personal elements included in the scenery and background of the movie that were cool to see. I remember being really excited to see Twin Towers, which is where I ended up living my freshman year, and the campus chapel, which is where my grandparents were married.

"We are a very tight-knit family, very close," Wood emphasized. "I have never lived far from my aunt and uncle or my grandparents. So it was a little hard for me in the beginning that I was the first grandchild to actually leave and go away to college, but it turned out fine and I am back home now building my life right alongside them."

Today, Wood has a successful career as a respiratory therapist in the Pediatric ICU at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore. She has also been trained as an ECMO specialist, which is a practitioner who runs a pump that takes blood out of the heart, oxygenates it, and puts it back into the heart in patients with very sick lungs or a very sick heart.

"The respiratory therapists at Johns Hopkins run this system and it's pretty intense; very few hospitals do that," reported Wood, who received a bachelor of science degree in respiratory care from the cooperative program between Marshall and St. Mary's Medical Center in May of 2012.

She's still nostalgic about her time in Huntington and especially that football game she attended with her grandparents.

"I am really grateful that I attended Marshall. It was the best college experience for me. I was excited to go to a place my grandparents loved so much. I am blessed to have had that day with them back in 2009 and carry with me the memories I have of my grandfather spending time in such a meaningful place to our family."

Shortly after her grandfather's death, Wood paid tribute to them on her Facebook page, saying: "I got to walk the same path that they had almost 50 years before and it was an experience I will always cherish. I love my grandparents more than anything in this world and it took that college experience for me to truly realize how rare it is for a person to have the kind of relationship I have with them. [In this] place I was blessed to know about through him and my grandmother, and where I would go on to find the love of my life, just as they had so many years before." □

Pat Dickson is coordinator of media and community relations at Marshall University's South Charleston campus.

Taylor and C.J. Wood's wedding photo.

2016 Alumni Award Nominations

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 takes nominations year-round. Send in your nominations ASAP to be considered for this year's award.

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 "Who 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 Email: _____

My Name: _____

My Address: _____

My Phone: _____

My Email: _____

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

Marshall observes #GIVINGTUESDAY

On Tuesday, Dec. 1, the Marshall University Alumni Association and the Marshall University Foundation participated in #GivingTuesday, a global day of giving, to help kick-start the annual fund campaign supporting Marshall University and its students. This year, more than 30,000 organizations in 68 countries came together to celebrate #GivingTuesday, a movement that has inspired giving around the world, resulting in greater donations, volunteer hours and activities that bring about real change in communities.

Steve Williams declared Tuesday, Dec. 1, as #GivingTuesday in Huntington in a proclamation and press conference held at the Brad D. Smith Foundation Hall.

"Marshall has a sense of purpose and values that I love. Look at what it has accomplished since the plane crash. Champions aren't defined by whether they hit the canvas, but by how quickly they get back up. Marshall University just perseveres. It's a university that has been hit with tragedy and fought its way through, and it just keeps coming back. And I think that is the secret to life."
—Brad Smith, President and CEO of Intuit, generous benefactor and Marshall University alumnus

"I give to Marshall University because I want to give others the opportunity for an education that my wife and I were afforded."
—Bernie Coston, alumnus and Marshall University Foundation board member

"Because of donors, I have been able to attend, learn, and enjoy the greatest university in the state of West Virginia. Thank you!"
—Izzy Rogner, student and Miss Marshall 2015

"We give back to Marshall University because it's given so much to us. It's truly a special place."
—Marshall University Alumni Association Board President Ben Sandy and his wife, Jessica

GET TO KNOW...

Max Lederer

Marshall University Alumni Association board member Max Lederer was a busy man during his time here on the Huntington campus. Max is a 1982 graduate of Marshall University, having received a bachelor's degree in political science, and spent four years with the Marshall ROTC. During his time at Marshall, Max earned his parachutist's wings from the U.S. Army Airborne School and was a resident advisor at Holderby Hall. He also was on the student council for three years and was the chief justice of the student council his senior year, along with serving on the debate team and honor society for political science. He spent all four years here living in the residence halls, which allowed him to spend a lot of time participating in school activities. Let's get to know Max Lederer...

Why do you love Marshall?

Attending Marshall was the best decision of my life. I grew up in western New York. Attending Marshall not only introduced me to a different culture and lifestyle, but the number of international students here created a desire to experience more of the world. Marshall professors encouraged me to look beyond the campus to the world at large and the activities stressed leadership and conducting myself in an ethical and respectful manner. I formed lasting friendships with others who exemplify the Marshall spirit of service and caring for others. While I moved on to other circles of colleagues and friends, my Marshall family is an intricate part of the foundation of who I am. I will forever cherish my time at Marshall.

What is your favorite Marshall memory?

I had a number of great experiences during my time at Marshall, including rappelling with friends off the cliffs along Route 60 and spending time exploring and learning about the Tri-State area with a special friend, but my most memorable event was the fall break backpacking trip I led my senior year as the Outdoor Recreation Committee chair. We had a group of 10 with little to no experience camping. We had a great time researching trails, mapping out elevation, planning meals, sharing the weight of the equipment between the men and women on the trip and shopping together for food. We had to carefully read the topographical maps, plan for steams and water purification for drinking and cooking, and have basic first aid as common knowledge. We arrived the first day in cool weather and hiked about five miles with packs averaging 40 pounds. When we woke the next morning, it had started to snow. As a group we decided to continue our four-day backcountry trail hikes wading through washed out bridges of cold mountain streams and up and down steep inclines and starting a fire for a warm evening meal. Everyone came home really dirty, tired and sore, but safe.

In a nutshell, tell us about life after Marshall.

After leaving Marshall I completed law school and then spent the next six years involved in the administration of justice, both as a defense counsel and prosecuting accused servicemen and women. Additionally, I provided advice on the law of war while in combat during Desert Shield and Desert Storm and prosecuted military personnel accused of treason and desertion. After completing military service, I spent time practicing employment law for the Federal government before transitioning to legal counsel for the *Stars and Stripes* media organization, practicing a number

After graduating from Marshall, Lederer (second from left) enjoyed a successful military career. He was awarded the Bronze Star for his service in Desert Storm and Desert Shield.

of legal disciplines including media law and intellectual property. I learned the publishing industry as the legal counsel and moved to the management side of the business before being selected as the publisher. I had the opportunity to live overseas for 14 years and was able to travel to many parts of the world. While I now live in the nation's capital, I still travel to Europe, Asia and the Middle East frequently. The leadership skills I learned at Marshall as well as the discipline to always prepare have greatly contributed to my success. You do not need to be the smartest person in the room, but you should be the best prepared.

What is your greatest life achievement so far?

I have had a lot of unique experiences and successes, such as being a recipient of the Bronze Star for my service in Desert Storm and Desert Shield and prosecuting murderers, rapists and child abusers while a prosecutor for the U.S. military, but my greatest professional achievement was my selection as publisher of the *Stars and Stripes* media organization, allowing me to continue to serve the men and women of the U.S. military risking their lives for all of our safety.

FAST FACTS

Favorite movies: "Patriot" with Mel Gibson and, of course, "We Are Marshall"
Favorite food: Orange sherbet-and-cream ice cream
Favorite hobbies: Playing basketball, hiking, running with my dog and hanging with the family
Favorite music genre/band: Classic rock and Charlie Daniels (he did a bunch of free concerts in Iraq for soldiers and came to my office in D.C., where he agreed to use *Stars and Stripes* art on one of his CD covers)
First car: Nissan Pulsar T-Top, upgraded for driving on the German autobahn
Favorite travel destination: I have lived in Asia and Europe as well as traveled throughout the Middle East, but my favorite travel destination is backpacking in the Appalachian Mountains with friends and family
Favorite sport and/or sports teams: New York Yankees and all Marshall teams
Something about you people might not know: I help run a dog rescue with as many as 22 puppies and adult dogs at my house at one time

Alumni Weekend 2016

SAVE *the* DATE

April 22-23, 2016

Mark your calendar for a weekend full of fun and fellowship as the Marshall University Alumni Association presents Alumni Weekend 2016. The university community will celebrate as alumni from around the country return to the Huntington campus for a weekend full of activities. You will have the opportunity to renew friendships, make new friends, remember your days at Marshall and witness the amazing changes on the Huntington campus.

A reservation form for Alumni Weekend 2016 is provided on the next page detailing all of the wonderful events. Make plans to join us today and be sure to visit us at www.herdalum.com for special discounts and further details.

ALUMNI

Alumni Weekend
Reservation Form 2016

Name _____ MU Class Year _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Daytime Phone (____)_____ Evening Phone (____)_____

Your Guest(s) _____ MU Class Year _____

Event Tickets

	No. of Tickets	Price per Person	Amount
❑ Please make me an active member of the Marshall University Alumni Association. I have designated my gift to the right and included the amount in my total.	____	____	
FRIDAY, APRIL 22 **Dinner Theatre:** Join us for dinner and the MU Theatre production of "Romeo & Juliet" at the Joan C. Edwards Playhouse. Tickets include a themed dinner, coffee and conversation with the director and play. *Dinner – 6 p.m. / Showtime – 7:30 p.m.*		$35/person $60/couple	
SATURDAY, APRIL 23 **Reunion Breakfast:** Open to all MU alumni. Enjoy a delicious breakfast and catch up with classmates and friends as we recognize the Class of 1966 "Golden Class," Class of 1991 "Silver Class," and "Grand Class" in the John Marshall Room (Memorial Student Center). *Breakfast – 9 a.m.*		$10/person	
79th Annual Alumni Awards Banquet: Celebrate the achievements of Marshall's finest as we honor our distinguished alumni and friends in the Don Morris Room (Memorial Student Center). And join us after the awards celebration for a night of dancing and fun! *Dinner – 6:30 p.m.*		$75/person $140/couple $500/table of 8	

Ticket Total _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED _____

❑ Check enclosed. Please make checks payable to MUAA and **mail this completed form to:**
Marshall University Alumni Relations
Alumni Weekend Reservations
One John Marshall Drive
Huntington, WV 25755-6200

❑ I wish to charge my order to: ❒ VISA ❒ MasterCard ❒ Discover ❒ American Express

Credit Card Number _____ Exp. _____ Security Code _____

Signature _____

Marshall University Alumni Association
www.herdalum.com

To make reservations and for more information, call the Office of Alumni Relations at: (304) 696-3134

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.marshall.edu/alumni.**

1950s

Nancy Cooper Burkhardt ('53) and her husband, **Dr. Edward Burkhardt**, (B.A. '53) became first time great-grandparents with the birth of Emma Ruth Pepin. Emma Ruth is the daughter of Jamie Burkhardt Pepin and husband Matt Pepin of Charleston, South Carolina. She is also the granddaughter of Dr. David and Janel Burkhardt and Paul and Brenda Pepin, all of Columbia, South Carolina.

1980s

Paula M. Warren Davis (B.A. '88) was installed as the Southeast International Vice President of Alpha Delta Kappa at its recent International Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah. Serving in this leadership capacity, she will formulate and implement policies that govern Alpha Delta Kappa's 32,000 member organizations, representing educators in every state of the U.S. as well as in Canada, Mexico, Jamaica, Puerto Rico and Australia. Alpha Delta Kappa is an international honorary organization for women educators who work toward the goals of educational excellence, altruism and world understanding.

2000s

Oakley Dean Baldwin (A.A.S. '00), a retired Chief Warrant Officer (U.S. Coast Guard) with 30 years of service, has written a book called *Devil's Ground*, a nonfiction story about a business he owned on Harper Road in Beckley, West Virginia. The book was on the "Top 20 list of Hot New Releases" on Amazon.com. The author says if you enjoy reading about unusual occurrences, unexplained phenomena, accidents, thriller mysteries and strange happenings, you will enjoy this book. The author's blog may be viewed at http://thebaldwinstories.wix.com/author-blog.

Nora Gao Barre ('03) shared her story of her efforts to get family members out of Syria and her on-going campaign to get remaining family out as well with presidential candidate Jeb Bush at a town hall meeting he hosted in New Hampshire last fall. Her meeting with him was photographed and widely shared with the media.

Josh Watson (B.S. '03) participated in Miami University's (Ohio) Earth Expeditions global field course in Namibia in summer 2015, where he studied cheetah physiology and ecosystem management with the Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF). A teacher at Guyan Valley Middle School in Branchland, West Virginia, he took the graduate course in pursuit of his master's degree from Miami University's Global Field Program.

Andrew Drain (B.B.A. '06) has been selected as a Financial Management Analyst with Emerging Issues, where he will be responsible for gathering, analyzing and presenting a diverse array of examination-related and financial information pertaining to the financial services industry and FDIC-insured commercial banks and thrifts. His duties will include technical support and assistance to management pertaining to financial information gathering and analysis. During his assignment, he will be participating in the design, production and administration of management reports to disseminate analysis to supervisory personnel, senior management of the Corporation, other regulators and the public. Drain will assist with identification of changes or unusual trends in financial institutions that may be of interest to senior management.

2010s

Sarah Skaff Brand (B.S. '10) and **Christian Brand** (B.A. '11) were married on May 10, 2015. Sarah, a cum laude and honors graduate in Biological Sciences received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Charleston on May 3, 2015. While at Marshall she was a member of Alpha Xi Delta, the National Collegiate Honor Society, Dean's list during her four years and a 2009 Homecoming attendant. Christian was a member of the Marshall's golf team, where he served as captain and was Conference USA Player of the Year. Since graduating, he was the first West Virginia amateur to play in the inaugural Greenbrier Classic. Since turning pro he has won several tournaments and won the West Virginia Open in both 2014 and 2015.

CORRECTION: In the Autumn 2015 edition of *Marshall Magazine* Bob Gregg (B.A. '70) should have been identified as a member of Zeta Beta Tau Fraternity. Gamma Epsilon was the name of the Marshall chapter. Thanks to classmate and fraternity brother John Sommer for pointing this out.

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, 2016.

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.
- Nominations must be received by April 1, 2016 to the Office of Alumni Relations
- Attach nominee's curriculum vitae/resume.

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 _____

Email Address _____

Reasons for Nomination _____

_____

_____

_____

Nominee's Name _____

Class _____ Degree(s) _____ Spouse's Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Email 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.

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

ALUMNI
Marshall University Alumni Association

www.herdalum.com • alumni@marshall.edu

A MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE OF ALUMNI RELATIONS

WE ARE : TWO LITTLE WORDS, ONE VERY BIG MEANING

Greetings, Fellow Alumni and Friends of Marshall University:

Nosotros somos. Nous sommes. Wir sind. Chung toi la.

All are different ways to say two simple words: *we are*.

To some, "we are" are just two little words on a page. But for members of the Marshall family, the words "we are" elicit both a feeling of pride and a sense of belonging. "We are" is much more than a collection of two consonants and three vowels. "We are" resonates within us. It represents all of us and brings us together.

One afternoon in early fall, a group of international students were making their way across campus. Their eyes filled with awe and optimism as they took in the beautiful and inviting Huntington campus. Something about this group of wide-eyed new students made them stand out – their shirts. These Kelly green T-shirts had a word cloud representing the many different international cultures here on campus with two larger words in the middle: "We are." Written in more than a dozen languages, the shirt symbolized everything that is great about Marshall University. It brought a sense of pride to all of us, knowing that our university, with its humble and sanguine beginnings back in 1837, has blossomed into a beacon of dreams and higher learning for students from around the world. "We are" truly embraces all of us. We are ... Marshall.

Walking across the Huntington campus, you can almost hear the echoes of those who have come before us. In the newly renamed Brad D. Smith Foundation Hall, the echoes can be experienced by viewing yearbooks dating back to the early 1900s, as well as special photos, letters and various memorabilia from our university's history. The echoes are heard in the shouts of passionate Herd fans cheering our teams to victory and also in the cool, crisp air on a reverent November morning as we remember the 75. And they are present in our classrooms, offices and homes of graduates around the world, and in the words of this letter. We are ... Marshall.

That is the goal we are striving to achieve. We want to continue serving all of Herd Nation in a way that supports our alumni maintaining strong connections to Marshall University and the many wonderful things happening here. Having just completed an overwhelmingly successful Homecoming, we now shift to focus on Alumni Weekend, a special time filled with celebration, fellowship and fun. Taking place on April 22-23, Alumni Weekend 2016 will begin on Friday evening with the very popular themed-dinner theatre, followed on Saturday by a reunion brunch and our 79th annual Alumni Awards Banquet that evening. Please mark your calendars now for this wonderful weekend and be sure to look for special pricing offers on the events page of our website at www.herdalum.com. We are ... Marshall.

Finally, the staff and Marshall University Alumni Association board of directors wish to extend to Dr. Jerome Gilbert a very warm welcome into the Herd family as the 37th president of Marshall University. We look forward to the leadership he will provide, as together we continue building upon the many innovative and exciting things happening here at the university and for our alumni around the globe. This is the beginning of a new era and we are ready to get started. **We are ... Marshall!**

Best Regards,
Rob, Larry and Matt

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