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EXTRA THE PARTHENON EXTRA

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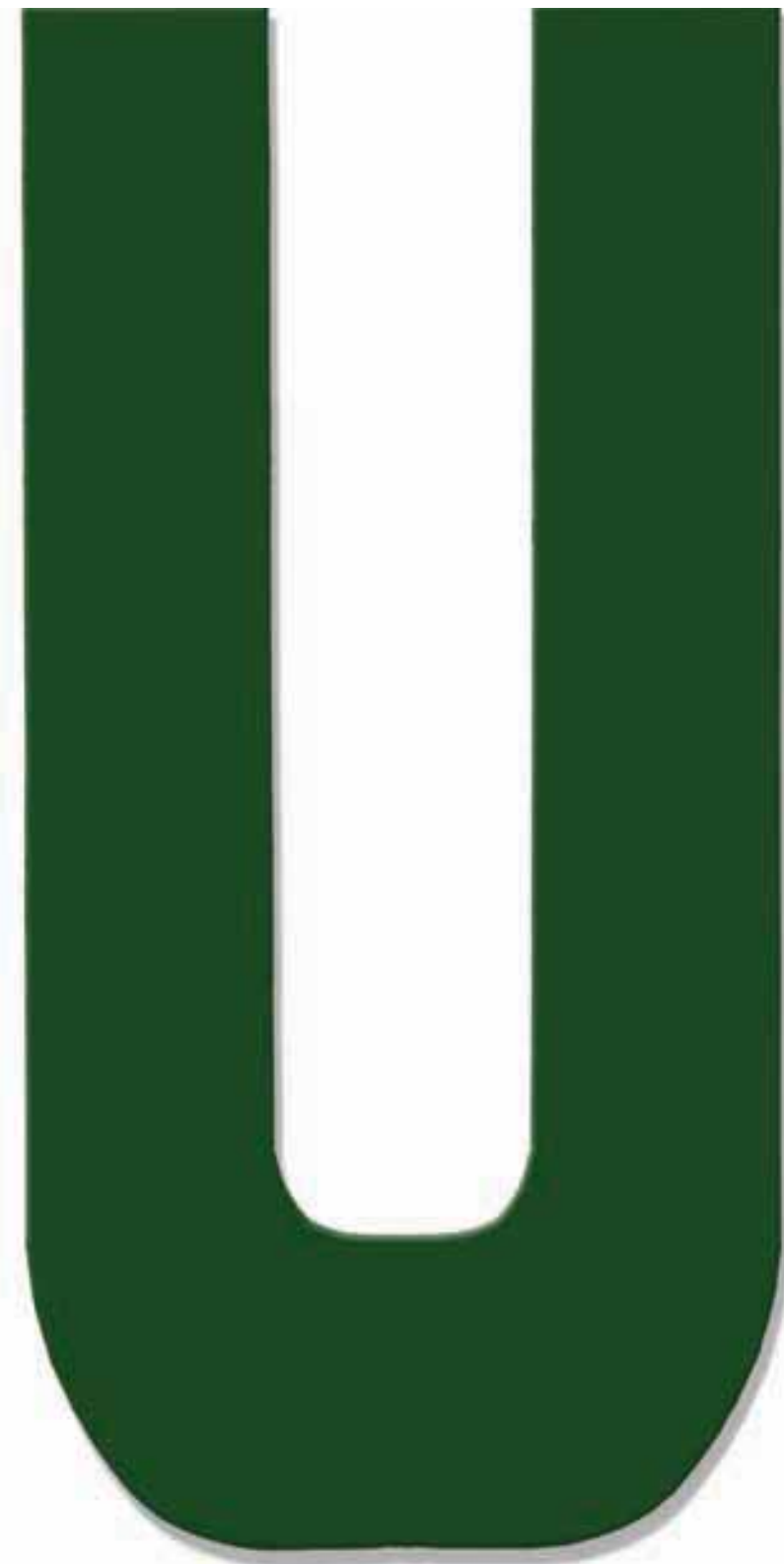
We are... MARSHALL



RICK HAYE

University hits 50-year mark

In celebration of Marshall's 50 years as a university, Gabriel Stabile places a bow on the historic marker near Old Main on the Huntington campus. (Left to right) Matthew Goddard, Kyle Mushet, Whitney Burdette, Derek L. Robinson, Xiao Xu and Mourad Gueddiche celebrate with Stabile as he places the bow.



While Marshall University is the oldest public institution of higher education in West Virginia, tracing its founding to 1837, it took nearly 125 years of sustained growth before the normal school established on a knoll in rural Cabell County would truly come of age.

Compared to the news that seems to grab attention nowadays, it is probably difficult for today's students to understand the significance of the granting of university status to the former Marshall College. But 50 years ago, the designation as a state university meant far more than just a name.

Video footage and still photographs shot on Marshall's campus the day the news broke that the West Virginia Legislature had passed the university bill depict a student body that celebrated as if the football team had won a national championship. A special edition of The Parthenon hailed, "We are now Marshall 'U'!" Crowds gathered as "College" was symbolically chipped off one of Marshall's state highway historical

markers. Students taped over the word "college" on the team sweat-shirts they proudly wore. Cheering and running across campus, they acted as if a war had just ended.

And, in essence, that is exactly what had happened. March 2, 1961, marked the end of a multi-year battle for Marshall's official recognition as an advanced higher learning institution in the state of West Virginia.

In his book, "Marshall University: An Institution Comes of Age, 1837-1980," Marshall historian Dr. Charles H. Moffatt noted that in 1961, university status would make Marshall the first university located in the vast stretches of central Appalachia between Lexington, Ky., and Lexington, Va., and between Athens, Ohio, and Knoxville, Tenn. At the time, many states had only one state university, as was the case here, with West Virginia University in Morgantown being the sole university among a handful of higher education institutions in the Mountain State.

Dr. Stewart H. Smith, president of Marshall from 1946 to 1968 and

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Celebrating 50 years as a university

As the oldest public institution of higher education in West Virginia, Marshall University has a long and distinguished history. Since Marshall was founded in 1837, however, there has been perhaps no greater milestone than the earning of university status.

Fifty years ago today, on March 2, 1961, to the joyous cheers of students, faculty, staff and members of the community in the brand new Gullickson Hall, Governor W.W. Barron signed into law the bill granting university status to Marshall College.

It was a tremendous day for West Virginia and the entire Marshall family. I have to believe that Governor Barron, as he put pen to paper, must have envisioned a vast array of possibilities for Marshall University, its potential for growth, and the enormous promise our beloved institution held for the great State of West Virginia.

Historical accounts tell us it took great maneuvering and political debate for our institution of higher learning to become a university. The change did not manifest from a simple petition or a common declaration. It was the culmination of a lengthy struggle led by one of my predecessors, President Stewart Smith, along with colleagues, friends of Marshall, legislators and other supporters.

It was indeed a defining moment in the history of Marshall University.

Today, I am proud to say that Marshall University is fulfilling the dreams of those who foresaw the institution's extraordinary potential and had the courage to pursue it.

Our university boasts record student enrollment, a flourishing research enterprise, and the growth of new, high-demand degree programs, like physical therapy, pharmacy and health informatics. The school's nationally ranked school of medicine and forensic science program, as well as its growing engineering school and the new school of pharmacy are among the many reasons more students than ever are choosing Marshall University to find their passions and pursue their dreams.

Our progress could not have been achieved without the steadfast support of our state's legislative and executive leaders—both past and present. They embraced a vision for what Marshall University could be in service to the people of West Virginia and our nation and then placed their trust in us to make that vision manifest. We greatly appreciate their tireless support.

We also are thankful to each of you for your continuing support of Marshall University. We remain committed to honoring the legacy of our namesake and advancing the capacity of our university to serve our state and nation with distinction for generations to come.

We Are... Marshall!



Stephen J. Kopp, Ph.D.
President

SPECIAL

SPECIAL

The Parthenon

MARSHALL UNIVERSITY STUDENT NEWSPAPER

Gov. Barron Tells Parthenon He'll Sign Marshall 'U' Bill

(See Story, Page 6)

Ring Out The News! Marshall Is Now A University!

JERILANT STUDENTS temporarily lose their composure as they receive the news that Marshall has been granted university status. Following the initial blowup, class was resumed with some degree of dignity in spite of the fact that complete concentration was somewhat difficult to achieve.

Marshall

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for whom Smith Hall is named, fought many years for his beloved college to earn university status by engaging legislators, backed by strong local support, and working on a public front to change attitudes about a second university in West Virginia.

Many thought the state should support only one large university, fearing another would drain resources from WVU. Smith argued that Marshall had earned university status because of the number of academic programs and advanced degrees offered, as well as the growth in enrollment. Smith, local legislators and area leaders said the change in status would not only help Marshall recruit more students and retain better faculty, it also would result in more federal funding and private donations, and help to bring more businesses to the state.

By 1960, following the establishment of Marshall's College of Applied Sciences, a request was made to the state Board of Education to accord the institution university status. The board approved the request in October 1960, and the battle for a change in State Code to make it official began.

Smith had strong support from Huntington-area legislators, and he joined them in carrying the fight to lawmakers from across the state and to the governor's office. He unified the Huntington campus and, along with the elected officials and other Marshall supporters, they persevered. The so-called Marshall bill passed the West Virginia Senate on Feb. 16, 1961, and cleared the House of Delegates shortly after. Gov. W.W. Barron signed the bill and dedicated a brand-new Gullickson Hall at the same time during a ceremony on Marshall's Huntington campus on March 2, 1961.

As he put his pen to the paper, Barron said, "It is my privilege and pleasure to place my signature on legislation to change the name of this splendid educational institution from Marshall College to Marshall University. It is my sincere wish that Marshall's future will be resplendent with new pride and progress... which I am convinced will aid all of West Virginia."

The fact that representatives of the people of our State—those who are serving in the Legislature—have seen fit to designate this institution as a University means not only that they recognize what has been happening here and what we have so far built, but also it means that they are expecting more of us . . . The tradition of the name "University" demands our best efforts, attitudes, actions and accomplishments.

—Marshall University President
Stewart H. Smith, 1961

The university and city celebrated. It was a turning point in the university's history and set the stage for what has indeed been a new generation of pride. Enrollment has more than

tripled and the campus infrastructure has been completely transformed. The Marshall community experienced unimaginable devastation with the plane crash in 1970 and witnessed an incredible rebirth through the 1990s, a story that was retold with a star-studded motion picture in 2006.

Marshall now offers 159 majors and 105 degrees through its 12 colleges. The university boasts the nation's finest graduate program in forensic science, and a top-ranked School of Medicine and transportation research institute. Marshall has developed a reputation for bioscience research and has in recent years established new programs in engineering, physical therapy and health informatics. Marshall also is launching a new School of Pharmacy, expected to field its first class of students in fall 2012.

The state's investment in Marshall has more than paid off, tripling in the past few years under current President Stephen J. Kopp's leadership. The most recent economic impact study, completed in 2010, conservatively estimates that Marshall returns \$20 for every state dollar invested in the university, and helps to create more than 6,000 jobs.

Kopp has overseen more than \$200 million in new capital projects and major building renovation. Since 2005, Marshall has launched 10 new high-demand degree majors or programs and doubled its research grant funding.

Marshall's impact will grow even more, as the university expects record enrollment in fall 2011 and more than \$50 million in planned infrastructure improvements and new buildings over the next few years.

This growth would not have been possible without the vision and leadership more than 50 years ago from Dr. Smith and local legislators who recognized the need for Marshall to become a university. And, while there has been tremendous positive change since 1961, Marshall's mission will always be to serve the people of West Virginia and the entire region.

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“It is my privilege and pleasure to place my signature on legislation to change the name of this splendid educational institution from Marshall College to Marshall University. It is my sincere wish that Marshall’s future will be resplendent with new pride and progress . . . which I am convinced will aid all of West Virginia.”
—West Virginia Governor W.W. Barron
March 2, 1961



President John F. Kennedy’s congratulatory message was among the many which arrived after Marshall received university status last week. It was read to the student body at a convocation honoring President Smith.



Then and now, Marshall University students in 1961 and 2011 celebrate the change in university status. Current students are kneeling: Marcus Constantino, Derek L. Robinson, James Clark, Odianosen Ayewoh. 1st Row: Laura Hatfield, Briana McCoy, Amy Bublitz, Alex Greene, Whitley Mayo, Raymond Blevins. 2nd Row: Ryan Hughes, Amy Cattrell, Megan Graham, Allison Ramell, Lauren Cundiff. 3rd Row: Tyrell Carlton, Kyle Mushet, Amanda Branch, Elin Fields, Danny Holderby. 4th Row: Cameron Miller, Gabriel Stabile, Xiao Xu, Weiguang Jiang. Holding the Sign: Curry Wooldridge, Matthew Goddard.

The Marshall University Foundation, Inc., is pleased to congratulate Marshall University on celebrating 50 years of life-changing higher education as a public university.






MARSHALL UNIVERSITY

www.marshall.edu/foundation
519 John Marshall Drive • Huntington, WV 25703

Marshall University

has seen many milestones since its founding, few as significant as becoming a university.

On behalf of our 80,000+ alumni, a hearty CONGRATULATIONS, Marshall, on celebrating 50 years as a University!



www.heraldalum.com

