

“The scholarship I was offered changed everything. It was the driving force behind every decision I was able to make and it has given me a thousand opportunities that I wouldn’t have had otherwise. It has shaped me into the person I am today. Without it, I would be on a completely different path filled with uncertainty,” said Shelby Blackburn, a recipient of the Charles and Shirley Romine Scholarship.

“When I found out that I had been awarded this scholarship, I experienced sudden relief and excitement, the kind that makes your heart thump loudly and the world stop for a perfect minute. It was the breaking point where I was on the edge of the most amazing experience ever and someone gave me the push I needed to get out there. Thank you to the Romine family for giving me the best opportunity ever! It has started my dream career.”

Studying marketing, Shelby hopes to graduate in the spring of 2023. She is excited to learn about design thinking and be in the College of Business at this pivotal time of growth and expansion. Describing the atmosphere as one of teamwork, students and professors alike value the opportunity to bounce ideas off one another.

The Minford, Ohio, native chose to study at Marshall because the campus felt homey. It had a similar pace to her hometown, allowed her to easily return home, but also gave her a vision of personal and professional growth. She enjoys seeing friendly faces on the Huntington campus and the peaceful environment. Her favorite places on campus are the Hal Shaver Bench by Smith Hall and the lobby of Corbly Hall.

“I feel centered on campus seeing students just like me starting their own lives and journeys. You never know who you will meet or the relationships you will build,” Shelby explained.

As a college student, Shelby believes her greatest challenge has been time management. Finding a balance without exhausting herself has been a feat that she has worked hard to discover. She is a member of the American Marketing Association and is the new president of the National Society of Leadership and Success (NSLS). She is thankful for these experiences on her educational journey because she never imagined that she would have the opportunities to be involved and excel in leadership positions related to her program.



Fun Facts

Name: Shelby Blackburn

Class of 2023

Hometown: Minford, Ohio

Major: Marketing

Favorite color: My favorite color changes from day to day. I would experience something on that day and it would remind me of a color and that's my favorite color of the day! It keeps things interesting!

Textbooks or eBooks: I prefer eBooks, not only because you can take them wherever, but you can also look up a specific word or phrase if you're having trouble with a homework question.

Favorite place in Huntington: I work at the Village on Sixth, an apartment property. I love seeing the people of my community on campus and being an asset to them both in the office and at Marshall. I love Fat Patties! That where my friends and I go to hang out, study, and destress after a long day. Ritter Park is amazing if you want to go by yourself or have a picnic with some friends!

“I’m proud and grateful that I have been supported and driven at Marshall. I think everything happens for a reason and the reason I’m at here is to grow as a person and build a better life for myself and the community around me,” she said. “I have big plans!”

Shelby anticipates trying new ideas and branching out. She hopes to leave campus better than she found it through helping the community and the College of Business. She credits her mother as her biggest supporter and is thankful for her continued support and advice, but is also thankful for the support of her professors.

“I aspire to learn from everyone around me. No one is perfect, and we all have so much to learn from one another, but I do hope to have the thoughtfulness and care that Lacie Bittinger, director of student services at Marshall, has for her work. I want to be that compassionate with the people in my life and career,” said Shelby. “Lacie is a genuine person and when you come to her with a problem, she brings it on to herself to fix it.”

The people of Huntington stand out to Shelby for their kindness and willingness to help Marshall students. Conducting interviews with local businessmen and women for research, meeting them in her classes and interacting with them on a daily basis, she finds their hospitality welcoming and supportive.

“It’s incredible to know people are cheering you on in the background,” she said.

“Alumni are the stepping stones for future students. They have the power to allow students the courage they need to chase after their dreams, enjoy the opportunities scholarships have provided and give back to Marshall as other alumni have. The support is important. I try my hardest to be the best student I can be because of Charles and Shirley. It’s a great motivator to know someone took a chance on me and that they have my back.”