

Coach Doc Holliday eyes a Conference USA title



# Marshall

*g a z i n e*

## Distinguished Graduates

**Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin's career in state government  
leaves important legacy for all Marshall graduates**



See page 33 for ALUMNI NEWS and more

Summer 2016

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# Marshall

magazine

The official magazine of Marshall University

Summer 2016

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Senior Vice President  
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Ginny Painter

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Rebecca Stephens

Art Director  
Suzanna Stephens

Graphic Designer  
Stephanie Hall

Advertising Manager  
Ashley Thompson

Contributing Photographers  
Lexi Browning, Rick Haye, Rick Lee  
and Marilyn Testerman-Haye

Contributing Writers  
Pat Dickson, Molly McClennen,  
Keith Morehouse, Dawn Nolan,  
Carter Taylor Seaton, Susan Tams  
and Sandy York

Alumni Editor  
Pat Dickson

Editorial Advisory Board  
William "Tootie" Carter,  
Maurice Cooley, Jeff O'Malley,  
Sherri Smith, Leah Payne,  
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## on the cover

Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin, the first Marshall graduate to serve as West Virginia's governor, teaches an important lesson to the Marshall community about how far your education can take you. Also pictured are his wife, Joanne Jaeger Tomblin, their son, Brent, and Brent's wife, Brittany.

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# Spring with President Gilbert

It was a spring full of firsts for Marshall President Jerome A. Gilbert as he began his presidency.



President Gilbert talks with members of a Communication Studies class in January.



President Gilbert addresses the audience and graduating class at his first Marshall commencement May 7.



President Gilbert meets a young Herd fan at a Point Pleasant welcome event Feb. 8.



President Gilbert thanks the donors to the renovation fund for the President's House at an event in their honor March 18.

President Gilbert congratulates Mitzi Meade, who was named Employee of the Year on May 18.



President Gilbert takes a selfie with Marco at Marshall Day at the Capitol Feb. 26.



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Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin presents President Jerome Gilbert with a special proclamation for Marshall University Day at the state legislature on Feb. 26.



# SON of MARSHALL

With his term coming to a close, Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin reflects on his time in state government, his Marshall education and what's next.

**By Carter Taylor Seaton**  
Photos by Rick Hays

**W**hen Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin Jr. rises from behind the desk in his warmly paneled private office in the West Virginia State Capitol, his smile is infectious, and his blue eyes sparkle as he talks. His pride in being one of only 35 men to reach this vaunted state position is obvious, as is the fact that he is the only Marshall University graduate to do so.

Politics runs in the blood of this lifelong Democrat, and he admits being interested in it at an early age. His father, Earl Tomblin, held several Logan County offices when Earl Ray Tomblin was a boy, and he aspired to becoming a lawyer.

According to the governor's former senior advisor, Raamie Barker, Tomblin often took leadership roles in high school. As a teacher at Chapmanville High School, Barker recalled the popular student's innate ability to bring a group together to tackle a challenge. Tomblin also excelled in the U.S. government class

Barker taught. As he watched Tomblin in the center of every activity in the class, he knew the young man was destined for bigger things.

The first in his family to attend college, Tomblin received his Bachelor of Science degree from West Virginia University in 1974 after graduating from Chapmanville High School in his native Logan County. But, he received his master's in business administration from Marshall, doing so in little more than a year. He said rushing through his M.B.A. was necessary because he had other ambitions. Before graduating from WVU, he'd filed to run for the West Virginia House of Delegates, so he was in a hurry.

"In May, it was time for graduation. I won the primary on Tuesday and graduated from WVU on Saturday. It was a big week in my life," he said.

That fall, at 22, he entered graduate school at Marshall, became a substitute teacher, and



**Gov. Tomblin speaks at the memorial commemorating the 40th anniversary of the 1970 plane crash that killed 75 Marshall University students, faculty and supporters.**

campaign in the general election. Throughout that fall, and the following summer and fall semesters, he crammed in as many classes as possible, and earned his master's in business administration before running for re-election in 1976. Although he said his time on Marshall's Huntington campus was a bit of a blur, he holds his dean and professor, Dr. Robert Alexander, in high esteem. The two became lifelong friends. Following Tomblin's graduation, he won his House seat again, and hasn't been out of office since.

After graduating from Marshall, Tomblin bought a small, 24-hour diner in Logan. His family had

owned a restaurant in Chapmanville when he was young, but he said he didn't realize what he was getting into with the purchase.

"It was a good experience, not that I want to do it again," he said. "Even though I had a master's in business administration, it taught me what the real business world was like." Managing both the diner and his duties as a delegate was a challenge, but Tomblin relished it.

During his second year in the House of Delegates, Tomblin met his wife-to-be, Long Island native, Joanne Jaeger. She was working on her bachelor's degree in journalism at Marshall, and serving in

During his years in the Senate, **Tomblin** became its **president**, and held the post almost 17 years, **the longest in state history.**

---

the public information office of the legislature, as well as working as a morning television show host, news anchor and general assignment reporter at WSAZ-TV in Huntington. Named Marshall's Broadcast Journalism Student of the Year, Joanne graduated in 1975. She also earned her master's in communications at Marshall in 1978, while she was still working at WSAZ. They met when he asked her to write a press release for the Logan media. The rest is history, as they say. The two Marshall graduates married in 1979 and he took her back to Logan County. In addition to politics, Marshall green runs in their blood. Their son, Brent Jaeger Tomblin, earned his degrees at Marshall as well.

Re-elected to the House in 1978, Tomblin next won election in 1980 to the West Virginia Senate, serving the Seventh Senate District composed of Boone, Lincoln, Logan and Wayne counties. During his years in the Senate, Tomblin became its president, and held the post almost 17 years, the longest in state history. Moreover, he became the state's first Lieutenant Governor when the position was created in 2000. He continued to serve in the Senate until 2010. At that time, Gov. Joe Manchin was elected

to the U.S. Senate, and Tomblin became acting governor. In 2011, he won a special election to fill Manchin's unexpired term, and was elected to his own full term in 2012.

As governor, Tomblin said he gets back to Marshall several times a year, though it's usually for business, not fun. He's amazed with all the new buildings and the progress the university has made.

When Gary White was Marshall's interim president, he said having a Marshall graduate as governor provided a great role model for incoming freshmen.



**Marshall's mascot, Marco the Bison, gives Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin a keepsake helmet from the Thundering Herd football team.**



**Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin conducts a formal ceremony on Feb. 26 naming former Marshall Coach Red Dawson as a Distinguished West Virginian.**

“I talked to them a lot about decisions we make and how if we make good decisions and we prepare ourselves well, opportunities will come at a later time that we can’t even imagine,” White said. “The governor is a great example of that.”

Tomblin said watching Marshall’s future direction under President Jerome Gilbert will be interesting. Marshall’s emphasis on the sciences and engineering excites him, but he’s also a great believer in a liberal arts background. Additionally, he hopes Marshall and WVU will continue working together.

“I think both institutions have the same goal in mind and that is to make West Virginia as good as it can be, to educate our people, and give them the kind of skills necessary to move West Virginia forward.”

Michael Sellards, chairman of Marshall’s Board of Governors, said he believes Gov. Tomblin has

demonstrated an unusual commitment to education, perhaps because he started as a public school teacher. According to Sellards, Tomblin has shown it in the state legislature, and again as governor.

“Certainly as a Marshall graduate, he understands the dynamics of Marshall University and the importance of Marshall to the Huntington community.” Sellards said that gives Tomblin a unique perspective.

However, with the perspective of a businessman, the governor has had to request fiscal cuts across state departments, including education, to achieve a mandated balanced budget. While he said college administrators must find ways to save money, he realizes they must also find new sources of revenue, like attracting more out-of-state students accustomed to higher tuition rates. He proudly points out that despite other cuts to education, he left Promise Scholarships,

His pride in being **one of only 35 men** to reach this **vaunted state position** is obvious, as is the fact that he is the **only Marshall University graduate** to do so.

needs-based funding, and tuition reimbursements for National Guard untouched.

While Tomblin can't run again, at least not for four years, he said counting him out of the picture would be a mistake. When his term ends in January 2017, after 41 years in state government, he hopes he will be leaving things better than when he found them in 1975.

"I'm not sure what I'm going to be doing. I'll be around. I tell everybody I'll take a week off and then be doing something else."

Meanwhile, look for him on the seat of an

ATV riding the Hatfield-McCoy Trails, tending his Chapmanville yard, or taking some trips for pleasure. □

**Carter Taylor Seaton** is a freelance writer living in Huntington. She is the author of two novels, and the nonfiction book, *Hippie Homesteaders*. She received the 2014 Literary Merit Award from the West Virginia Library Association, the Marshall University College of Liberal Arts Distinguished Alumni Award in 2015 and the Governor's Award for Lifetime Achievement in the Arts in 2016.



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# When GOOD Just Isn't GOOD ENOUGH



Not satisfied with the Herd's 10-3 record last season, Coach Doc Holliday says greatness can only be measured by one thing — **winning a conference championship.**

**By Keith Morehouse**

Photos by Rick Haye  
and Marilyn Testerman-Haye



Quarterback Chase Litton (left) will lead the Thundering Herd in its 2016 season. Defensive tackle Nyquan Harris is on the right.



**CHASE LITTON**  
Quarterback



**HYLECK FOSTER**  
Running Back



**TONY PITTMAN**  
Running Back



If Kroger ever wanted to abdicate its sponsorship of Marshall's Green and White Game, maybe The Travelers Companies and its ubiquitous umbrella logo would be the most logical corporate sponsor to step in. There's been no other Herd sporting event more in need of umbrellas than this annual end-of-spring football game. Almost on command, the rains have come during the Green and White game for six of Doc Holliday's seven spring games. The Herd was able to stay outdoors for the game portion of the final edition of spring practice. Immediately after the game, however, fans, players, coaches and media headed to the Chris Cline Athletic Complex for interviews and autographs. Holliday seemed to be joking when it was suggested to move the game indoors.

"I think it seats 500 to 1,000," Holliday said of the seating capacity of the indoor practice field. "Triple the tickets and we'll be all right, it's seven straight years it's rained."

Even amid the raindrops there was not much gloom and doom after the game. Marshall's offense came out firing on its first drive with the

football version of a back shoulder alley-oop from Chase Litton to the Herd's tallest wide receiver, Michael Clark. Clark and Litton played basketball together growing up in Tampa, and Clark played collegiately at St. Francis. Litton convinced him to give football a try.

"It's just exciting," Clark said after catching the touchdown pass from Litton. "I can't wait to play in the fall. Me and Chase have a thing. We just look at each other. We're basically best friends playing football."

He's hard to miss, and, his teammates hope, harder to guard.

"That's a 6-foot-7 weapon we just added to our roster," fellow receiver Deontay McManus said of Clark's arrival. "Mike's just coming off of basketball and it just took him awhile."

Marshall's plugging in several new names and numbers to a defense that lost such stars as Conference USA Defensive Player of the Year Evan McKelvy, linebacker D.J. Hunter, and cornerbacks Corey Tindal and Keith Baxter. Linebacker Frankie Hernandez won the defensive player of the spring award, though Holliday said it was a tough call.

"Chris Jackson (cornerback) was probably in the conversation for player of the year in the spring on defense," Holliday said. "Frankie Hernandez (linebacker) has been tremendous. There's also Davon Durant (linebacker). Those three inside defensive linemen – probably any of them could have won that award, too. I thought the defense, a lot of those young guys, really came along."

Marshall's offense practiced most of the spring with a patchwork of offensive line. Senior Clint Van Horn doesn't need to audition and he served as a player/coach during the spring. Since he's been granted a sixth year of eligibility, he'll serve as the elder statesmen and leader of that group along with center Michael Selby. With quarterback Chase Litton returning, he'll command an offense that would like to improve on its 168 yards rushing yards per game last season. Hyleck Foster, Tony Pittman, Keion Davis and Delvin Weems should all help carry the load. Even if he's hesitant to say it, this is the quarterback's offense.

"This is Marshall, I'm just the

**NYQUAN HARRIS**  
Defensive Tackle



**KEION DAVIS**  
Running Back



**DOC HOLLIDAY**  
Coach



quarterback,” Litton said. “We all respect each other. We all want to be the best player out there. We all want to be successful for each other and that’s what we do, we all push each other.”

Summer will be anything but a breeze for the Herd’s players and coaches. Conditioning and individual workouts are not optional in a locker room where the players know hard work breeds success.

“We can be great,” defensive tackle Nyquan Harris said. “Hard work and effort; we’ve got the talent. Even on off days we should be doing something.”

This program has been polishing its pedigree in the Doc Holliday era. The Herd is the only team in the Group of 5 conferences to register double digit wins in the past three seasons. Marshall’s won five straight bowl games. And the Herd’s 10-3 all-time bowl record is the best among major college football programs to have played at least 10 bowl games. But if you ask Doc Holliday what constitutes a great season, he has his benchmarks.

“Some people say you had a great year last year,” Holliday said. “No, we

didn’t have a great year last year. We had a good year because we didn’t win a championship. The term ‘great’ should be reserved for the years you win a conference championship and that’s what it’s all about. That will always be the goal here. We’re going to work our tails off to make that come true.”

Marshall’s schedule starts a week later than most FBS programs with its opener against Morgan State Sept. 10. Then it’s 11 straight weeks of football without an open week. In a two-game stretch that will be a supreme test, the Herd hosts likely preseason top 25 team Louisville and the next week travels to University of Pittsburgh. It’s a seven home-game schedule, which includes east division rivals Middle Tennessee and Western Kentucky coming to Joan C. Edwards Stadium.

Fall will come soon enough. The most pressing concern for Marshall’s players is to think about the season every day prior to the season. The players are saying all the right things.

“One practice, one day,” is McManus’ credo. “We’ve got some tough teams on our schedule, but we’re not really worrying about them,

we’re worrying about us and making what we do gel and come together. By the time we face those teams we should be good.”

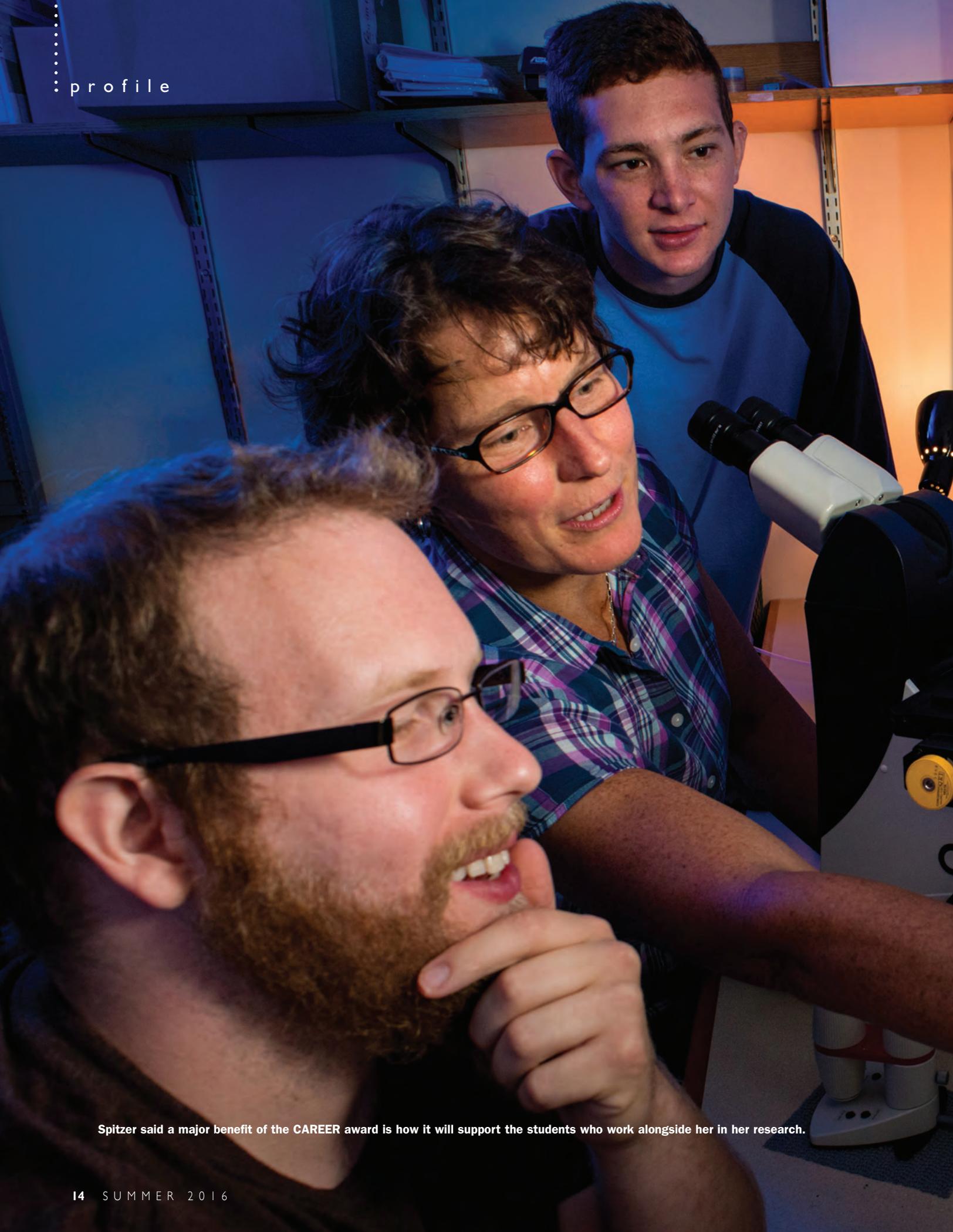
Blue-sky expectations for sure. □

**Keith Morehouse** is the sports director for WSAZ NewsChannel 3 in Huntington.

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the DATE**

**MARSHALL  
vs.  
LOUISVILLE**

**September 24  
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Spitzer said a major benefit of the CAREER award is how it will support the students who work alongside her in her research.

# ABOVE and BEYOND

College of Science assistant professor Nadja Spitzer honored with prestigious award for her research and dedication.

By Molly McClennen

Photo by Rick Lee

According to the National Science Foundation's website, the Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) award is the organization's most prestigious award "in support of junior faculty who exemplify the role of teacher-scholars through outstanding research, excellent education and the integration of education and research within the context of the mission of their organizations." For anyone who has the opportunity to talk with Dr. Nadja Spitzer, Marshall University College of Science assistant professor of biological science, about her research and teaching, it is no surprise that she was honored with a CAREER award.

The award allows Spitzer to build upon the work she has been doing since she arrived at Marshall in 2007. One example of that work is the Brain Expo. Spitzer and Dr. Brian Antonsen, associate professor of biological science, began the Brain Expo in 2009. Hosted on Marshall's Huntington campus, the Brain Expo is a "reverse science fair," where children visit stations that help them learn about how brains work. Children participate in hands-on activities like touching a sheep's brain, testing their memories and observing how helmets protect the brain from injury. The CAREER award allows Spitzer to take some of the Brain Expo exhibits on the road to area schools throughout the year.

"When you go to the schools, you are reaching many kids at one school in one day, making them aware of brain health," Spitzer said. "The purpose is not just to teach them about the brain, but to get them excited about science, to show them science is not just a thing you have hard tests on, but it is cool. It is exciting. It is how your body works."

College of Science undergraduates will do much of the teaching for Herd Science, the name for the traveling version of the Brain Expo, providing the children who participate with role

models who are excited about pursuing careers in science. Giving undergraduates opportunities like this to participate in science outside of the classroom is important to Spitzer. One of the aspects of the CAREER award she is happiest about is that it will support undergraduate and graduate students who will work alongside her on her research.

"Students learn about science in their classes, but it can be really abstract," she said. "Working on actual research in a lab, it all comes to life. All they learned in class is applied. You can see the light bulbs going on. You get to teach them to do things like design and run their own experiments and projects. We go to international conferences and present. For them to get a taste of that broadens their horizons a lot."

Senior Ana Garcia Ramirez, who has worked in Spitzer's lab since her freshman year, said the experience she has gotten laid the foundation for her career.

"Working in the lab has already benefited me so much in my upper-level biology classes, and I think it will help me in my career as a physician as well, because I will have the work ethic and experience of working in a scientific setting. Dr. Spitzer isn't just a principal investigator, but a mentor who is so dedicated to her students, especially us who work in the lab," Garcia Ramirez said.

Graduate student Robert Cooper has worked in Spitzer's lab for four years, two as an undergraduate and two as a graduate. He said working with Spitzer has helped him learn that even failure is a valuable part of the scientific process.

"What no one ever tells you when you first walk in a lab is that most of science is failure: experiments go bad, statistics don't show any significant trends in the data, or you accidentally mess up pretty badly and the results you get aren't usable. What's great about Dr. Spitzer is that

“The purpose is ... to show them **science** is not just a thing you have hard tests on, but it is **cool**. It is **exciting**. It is how your body works.”

she’s willing to sit down with us and show us what we did wrong, calmly, patiently. After that, she’ll help us get ourselves back up and figure out a new approach we hadn’t thought of before,” Cooper said.

Spitzer’s research focuses on silver nanoparticles. Silver has long been valued for its antimicrobial properties, but only recently have silver nanoparticles been used in consumer products, like odor-resistant socks, household appliances and children’s toys. These nanoparticles, while not considered toxic, can bypass the body’s defense systems and be absorbed into tissues, including brain tissue, where they remain and build up over time. Little is known about the long-term effects of that build-up.

“In my lab we are looking at environmental contaminants, things that are in the environment that consumers are exposed to, not at a toxic level or dangerous levels, but at low levels, and how they affect brain cells,” Spitzer said. “The contaminants are doing something. I am interested in what that something is.”

Spitzer acknowledged that the CAREER award is a tremendous honor, but she is quick to point out that she is one of many faculty in the College of Science who are making valuable scientific and educational contributions.

“I am not unique here. We have lots of faculty who do the same thing I do and are just as dedicated to working with students in their labs and acting as mentors to students,” she said. “I am certainly not the first Marshall faculty member to get an NSF grant. There are a lot of scientists here doing top-notch, competitive, world-class research, with undergraduates and master’s students. Those students are getting an experience that will help them succeed at whatever they do next. We can always use support to help us continue that work.” □

---

**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 BEST Medicine

Marshall University School of Pharmacy graduates its inaugural class on to bright futures.

**By Dawn Nolan**

Photos by Lexi Browning and Rick Haye

“Diverse.” “Driven.” “Builders.” These are just a few words used to describe the 76 students that make up Marshall University School of Pharmacy’s inaugural class.

“There are many unique features of the inaugural class,” said Dr. Kevin Yingling, dean of the School of Pharmacy. “Their backgrounds, previous careers, life journeys were far broader than more recent classes, and I think this added to a more rich and engaging class.”

“They are pioneers in that they like to start things,” added Dr. Kimberly Broedel-Zaugg, professor and chair of pharmacy practice and administration.

Marshall University’s Board of Governors approved the pharmacy program in December 2009. After a \$9 million renovation to the Robert W. Coon Education Building, located on the campus of the Huntington VA Medical Center, students were welcomed in August 2012.

The School of Pharmacy was recommended for full accreditation this spring.

“This has been a wonderful journey for the university and the school to build a dynamic, exceptional pharmacy education program,” Yingling said. “These young men and women accepted an added risk of attending a yet-to-be-accredited pharmacy school. They recognized the incredible potential of this program and invested themselves in it in order to become a practice-ready pharmacist of the future.”

Samantha Vickers, who has degrees in chemistry from Marshall and The Ohio State University, and taught in Marshall’s chemistry department, was just one of the students who took a chance on the new program.

“I’ve been around Marshall a long time, and I’ve seen that when they put their minds to something they get it done,” she said. “I talked to people, and I felt confident



Veterans Administration Secretary Robert McDonald came to visit the School of Pharmacy in September of 2015. From left, Rep. Evan Jenkins, Samantha Vickers, McDonald, Delilah Navarro, Eric Slayton and Sen. Joe Manchin III. Vickers, Navarro and Slayton graduated from the School of Pharmacy in 2016.

“ This has been a wonderful journey for the university and the school to build a dynamic, exceptional pharmacy education program. ”



Dr. Kevin Yingling, dean of the School of Pharmacy, hoods graduating pharmacist James W. Frazier.

that it was a good decision. I thought it was a great opportunity to get in, be the first class and help shape the pharmacy school.”

The pharmacy program is a “2+4,” meaning students can complete their undergraduate work in two years and pharmacy education in four. Each year, students learn one of the “4 Ds of pharmacy:” discovery, development, dissemination and delivery. The use of studio-style “flipped” classrooms, pharmacy practice, common areas and a curriculum that focuses on team-based and group learning help students become fully prepared for the next phase in their lives.

“The faculty have done an excellent job not only renovating the Coon Education Building to an active learning environment but also to create a competency-based pharmacy curriculum for practice-ready pharmacists of the future,” Yingling said. “My hope was for the students to be more fully prepared to complete their experiential education and be practice ready upon graduation, and I am very confident that they are well prepared.”

Outside of the classroom,



Members of the first class to graduate from the Marshall University School of Pharmacy waiting for commencement.

Yingling is pleased with the school's progress in the areas of research and community involvement.

"I am encouraged by the students' and faculty's participation in research, having received almost \$2 million in grant funding for various projects and students being lead authors on scholarly articles in prominent pharmacy journals," Yingling said. "I was also very optimistic about the students' and the school's engagement in improving health care in the community and the region, which has been done through activities such as the participation in harm reduction programs surrounding addiction, and that has exceeded my expectations."

Broedel-Zaugg echoed that the students' participation through drug take-back days and prevention programs, Senior Fest and other activities will

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Dr. H. Glenn Anderson (left) congratulates Ellen Watts as she participates in the White Coat Ceremony in 2014.

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have a positive impact on their futures.

“They not only have the foundations of pharmacy practice, but they have been building relationships through community service,” she said. “They’ve had the opportunity to care and interact with other people and professionals. They’re well prepared. I am confident that they are ready to face the world.”

Prior to graduation, a majority of the students had already received job offers.

“The practice of pharmacy is limitless,” Broedel-Zaugg said. “Most people think of community pharmacists, but these individuals are also community activists. There are positions available in medical centers, in the fields of nuclear pharmacy, infusion, public health, military, government ... there’s so much more opportunity than just the local drug store.”

Others, like Vickers, are going on to residency placements.

“You’re going to have your challenges – growing pains – being the first class, but it was a positive experience, and I think I’m well prepared,” she said. “My advice is to get as much as you can out of the situation. Make sure you’re doing what you need to get done to be successful.”

“Our catchphrase is ‘We are Marshall. We are the future of pharmacy education.’ For the future, I want to build upon the successes that the school has demonstrated in the areas of pharmacy education and scholarship,” Yingling said. “That is what we are. That is what we do.” □

**Dawn Nolan** is a freelance writer living in Kentucky.

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### WAY BACK WEEKENDS

**July 2** | Ice Cream Celebration

**August 6** | Stories of Appalachia

**September 3** | Mountain Games

**October 1** | 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Cast Iron Cook-off

**November 5** | Hot Fuel

**December 3** | Christmas Village



Smithsonian Affiliate

# New INITIATIVES

The Marshall University community is working together to reach out to undergraduates and increase enrollment.

By Susan Tams  
Photos by Rick Hays

Among the goals President Jerome A. Gilbert set for the university upon becoming president was an ambitious increase in the number of students. The Marshall community is getting behind this goal and has created some new programs that will assist in reaching it.



Marshall University  
Academic Center



**Those seeking undergraduate degrees now have the opportunity to take courses in selected disciplines on the South Charleston campus.**



**Students on the South Charleston campus will have access to a number of amenities, including free parking, a library and a study lounge.**

For the first time, undergraduate courses in selected disciplines will be offered this fall on the South Charleston campus, which up until now has been serving only graduate students. This new program will allow students interested in selected majors – including athletic training, biology, chemistry, computer science,

engineering and nursing – to complete courses in their first two years toward an undergraduate degree in South Charleston and then transition to the Huntington campus to finish their studies.

Open houses took place in South Charleston so prospective students and their parents could see

the campus and meet with faculty members, deans and financial aid counselors. They also received information about applying to Marshall, the courses that will be offered in South Charleston and how students will be able to transition seamlessly to the Huntington campus after two years to complete their degrees.

“We’re using the tagline ‘Closer Than You Think’ for this new program in South Charleston because we think future college students in the Kanawha Valley will find it very attractive that we are now offering Marshall’s quality undergraduate courses convenient to where they live and work,” said Dr. Beth Wolfe, director of recruitment at Marshall. “For more than 20 years, Marshall has had great success with offering graduate courses in South Charleston. We are excited to see what the next 20 hold as we continue to enhance our undergraduate presence in the capital city.”

Wolfe added that students on the South Charleston campus will have access to a number of amenities and benefits, including free parking, a library and a study lounge. Merit-based and need-based financial aid



**Due to the success of the graduate courses offered in South Charleston, administrators hope the undergraduate program will have similar results.**



**Ashton Caruthers will be among the undergraduates attending Marshall's South Charleston campus this fall.**

is available for qualified students. Since there is no transfer required, students can make an easy transition to the Huntington campus for their remaining coursework.

For students interested in starting out on the Huntington campus, Marshall is offering extra enrollment incentives for out-of-state undergraduates in the visual arts and in engineering. This program will begin in a few strategically chosen markets, such as Columbus, Ohio, and Baltimore, Maryland.

“This program showcases our newest facilities, the Visual Arts Center and the Arthur Weisberg Family Applied Engineering Complex,” said Provost Gayle Ormiston. “We have a lot to offer prospective students in these fields, and we’re making a strong effort to bring these students to Marshall.”

These incentives are in addition to the “metro” tuition rates available to students who live in counties in

Ohio and Kentucky that are near Huntington. These tuition rates, which fall between West Virginia tuition rates and out-of-state rates, apply to undergraduate and graduate students in most fields.

In addition, Marshall is continuing its Alumni Legacy Scholarship program for full-time students who are children and grandchildren of Marshall alumni and who live outside of West Virginia. These students can receive a tuition scholarship waiver to offset the cost of non-resident tuition. The waiver is renewable, provided the student maintains a minimum GPA and makes sufficient academic progress.

“We can always make room in the Herd for a few more,” Wolfe said. “Expanding our reach is one way of doing just that!” □

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**Susan Tams** is executive editor of *Marshall Magazine*.

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# The Impact of Carter G. Woodson

University and community officials are working to honor the life of the father of African American history.

By Sandy York

“If a race has no history, if it has no worthwhile tradition, it becomes a negligible factor in the thought of the world, and it stands in danger of being exterminated,” wrote Dr. Carter G. Woodson in the *The Story of the Negro Retold* in 1935.

Woodson is most known as the father of black history; he was one of the first scholars to study African American history.

Many recognize February as Black History Month but few know of Woodson's influence on black history.

Burnis Morris, Carter G. Woodson Professor of Journalism and Mass Communications at Marshall, said Woodson did not believe in black history, but he believed in all history. He wanted all races, not just blacks, to know blacks had made contributions in history. He also believed if whites were aware African Americans had a great past there would be less discrimination.

“You can argue that the period we are in now is very similar to the period Woodson was in when he began

promoting black history,” Morris said. “Few people believed blacks had a history worth recognizing. Illiteracy was very high and fewer people read books. Think about today, fewer people read books, so we need to interest people again in reading and learning about the past in order to prevent the mistakes of the past.”

The statue of Carter G. Woodson on Hal Greer Boulevard has been there for more than 20 years but few people know his inspiring story.

Woodson was born in Buckingham County, Virginia, in 1875, the son of former slaves. Like many African Americans of their time, his family came to West Virginia to begin new lives working in the booming coal mining and railroad industries. The family moved to Huntington



Photo by Rick Lee.



**Burnis Morris, Dr. Carter G. Woodson Professor of Journalism and Mass Communications at MU and a Drinko Fellow, speaks at the opening ceremony for the month long observance of Dr. Carter G. Woodson's life and work. Photo by Rick Haye.**

when Woodson was in his teens, and his father was a carpenter and helped build the town, including construction of the C&O Rail Depot on Seventh Avenue.

Carter G. Woodson worked in coal mines in Fayette County, West Virginia, with his father and brother to financially support the family. During this time, Woodson was only able to devote a few months each year to his education.

While working in the West Virginia mines, Woodson listened to the stories of the everyday lives of fellow black miners and was inspired to document and teach the struggles and contributions of the African American people.

Woodson began his studies at Huntington's Douglass School in 1895 and completed his high school education there in about a year.

He then studied literature at Berea College, and he returned to Fayette County as a teacher before coming back to Huntington to become principal at Douglass High School in 1900. Douglass High School was located across Hal Greer Boulevard from where Woodson's statue stands today.

Woodson went on to serve as dean of both West Virginia State University and Howard University. While dean at West Virginia State, he wrote the history of blacks in education in West Virginia. He documented the first black schools in each county.

Carter G. Woodson's career in education as teacher and student eventually led him around the world from the Philippines to France and Africa. Woodson received an A.B. and A.M. from the University of Chicago in 1908, and his doctorate in 1912 from Harvard University, becoming the first person of former enslaved parents to earn a doctorate in history.

"You can argue that during his time in West Virginia, he learned some things about education and about running

a black history program en route to becoming the father of black history," Morris said.

Woodson founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History in 1915, which began the modern Black History Movement, and in 1926 he inaugurated Negro History Week, which evolved into the present-day celebration of Black History Month every February.

Marshall University's John Deaver Drinko Academy and Dr. Alan Gould, its executive director, continue to honor Woodson by observing his life and legacy and his ties to the Huntington community. Huntington Mayor Steve Williams proclaimed February 5, 2016, Dr. Carter G. Woodson Day. Resolutions were passed in the West Virginia House of Delegates and Senate. Sen. Bob Plymale, D-Cabell, and Del. Sean Hornbuckle, D-Cabell, were in attendance to talk about the significance of Woodson's ties to West Virginia. A representative from Sen. Joe Manchin's office submitted a statement in the Congressional Record.

"So few people know Woodson's story," Morris said. "If they knew his story, he would be an inspiration to them and that is what's motivating Alan Gould. Alan has been trying to get the community interested in Woodson for 30 years."

Other examples of how Woodson is being remembered include the Marshall University Society of Black Scholars' creation of the Carter G. Woodson Distinguished Student Awards, which was presented to seven students in April. This was the second year for the event that began in 2014 as a Service Learning project and is now an annual event.

"One of the reasons so many of these awards and activities are taking place is because the university is attempting



**Bishop Samuel H. Moore (left), who gave the inaugural Dr. Carter G. Woodson Lecture at Marshall, receives a memento of the occasion from Dr. Alan Gould, executive director of the John Deaver Drinko Academy. Photo by Rick Haye.**



**Dr. David Trowbridge explains the Clio app at one of the Woodson events. Users of Clio can get information on their digital devices about places and events in history that have taken place in their location. Photo by Rick Haye.**

to elevate the importance of Carter G. Woodson’s contributions throughout the future,” said Maurice Cooley, associate vice president of Intercultural Affairs. “We felt as a university and as a community, we needed to come together to recognize his contributions.”

Cooley said it was the students’ decision to name the event after Woodson and to honor students that have the same characteristics as Woodson. Characteristics of award recipients include striving toward excellence in achievements,

contributing to the lives of others, contributing to the intercultural balance of society, serving others and using their knowledge to raise the knowledge of others.

Woodson believed that in order for black Americans to move forward, they had to recoup history.

Woodson wrote in *The Mis-Education of the Negro*, “History shows, then, that as a result of these unusual forces in the education of the Negro he easily learns to follow the line of least resistance rather than battle against odds for what real history has shown to be the right course.”

Cooley said it is vitally important for students to understand that where they are today originates from the contributions and the work of others who came before them.

“Life was not always like it is here today and there is still much work to do in our society,” Cooley said. “While there has been substantial progress and it has not come together on its own, some of it came about because of the work, the deeds and the contributions of specific people. Everybody must know that for the sake of us making future contributions.” □

**Sandy York** is an assistant professor in the W. Page Pitt School of Journalism and Mass Communications. She lives in Ashland with her husband and 8-year-old daughter.



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# everGreen

YOUR ALUMNI CONNECTION

## A MESSAGE FROM BENJAMIN M. SANDY

*MUAA National President, Class of '07 and '11*



Fellow Marshall Alumni,

Possibly the greatest honor I have during my term is to speak at the commencement ceremonies. On May 7, slightly more than 1,700 students earned degrees, and I'd like to welcome them to our alumni family. One thousand, seven hundred! Isn't that fantastic?

Recently, the alumni board of directors has recommitted itself to establish consistent communication with all of our regional alumni clubs. So far, the response has been tremendous. We have added 12 club presidents to the board of directors, and we're anticipating adding even more. Having the extra help will enable us to better serve the thousands of alumni across the United States.

As we meet with various club presidents, there seems to be a consistent, troubling narrative among many clubs – they need more young alumni to get involved! No matter your age, career path, or location there's always a need for your talents and involvement. We typically find that alumni clubs have the most success when they have numerous decades of graduates represented in their membership.

Within the past few months, there have been several examples of our young alumni stepping up and deciding to take on leadership roles. Sarah Kemp, class of 2007, has just been named the president of the Washington D.C. club. Now serving as club president of the New York City Club is Tori Marra, classes of 2007 and 2011. In addition, Doug Evans, classes of 2008 and 2010, has formed the Marshall University LGBT Alumni Constituency Group. On behalf of the alumni board of directors, I'd like to congratulate these outstanding alumni and would encourage all alumni who are interested in getting involved to contact us via e-mail ([alumni@marshall.edu](mailto:alumni@marshall.edu)) or send us a message on our official Facebook page.

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

## ALUMNI RELATIONS STAFF

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



# A Stroll Down Memory Lane

## *Alumni Weekend 2016*

Campus life.

There is nothing quite like it. New friends, new experiences – new everything – as future alums form an unshakable bond with their university and campus family. And this is exactly why Alumni Weekend is so special.

After graduation, people move on. They get on with their lives through jobs, homes and families. But no matter how much time passes or distance is put between alumni and their alma mater, they can take comfort in knowing that they will always be sons and daughters of Marshall.

Every spring, Marshall University takes the time to give back. And that was no exception this year as Marshall welcomed alums from across the country back to the Huntington campus for the annual Alumni Weekend festivities April 22-23, culminating with the 79th Annual Alumni Awards Banquet. In all, 17 individuals were honored during the ceremony inside the Memorial Student Center.

Highlighting the list of honorees was Lester Hicks, who was named recipient of the Marshall University Distinguished Alumnus Award, MUAA's highest honor. Other major award winners during the banquet included Michael Sellards, recipient of the Distinguished Service to Marshall University Award, and Lea Ann Parsley, recipient of the Community Achievement Award, both of whom received standing ovations upon receiving their awards.

The two-day weekend also included a dinner theatre highlighted by Marshall Theatre's production of "Romeo and Juliet." The annual Reunion Breakfast honored the 50-year and 25-year reunion classes with guest speakers President Jerome Gilbert, Aaron Goebbel and Jeff O'Malley from athletics, and a special flute quartet performance by the MU Music Department. There were also a campus trolley tour and other activities.

Check out some of the highlights from Marshall University's 2016 Alumni Weekend in the coming pages.

# Distinguished Alumnus Award

## LESTER HICKS

Lester Hicks was a football star at Marshall University immediately following the plane crash that claimed 75 people.

Born the 12th of 14 children to sharecroppers in Reynolds, Georgia, Hicks began to hone his abilities after his family moved to Steubenville, Ohio, in his youth. There, Hicks would receive many honors while playing for his legendary coach, the late Abe Bryan, before he was recruited by another legendary coach, Jack Lengyel.

Following a stint at Ellsworth Community College in Iowa Falls, Hicks came to Huntington immediately following the crash. Under the guidance of Coach Lengyel, the 6-foot-5 defensive end, along with a band of walk-ons, freshmen and athletes from all walks of life, accepted the challenge to revive the football program.

Wearing No. 80 and going by the nickname “Praying Mantis,” Hicks helped guide the Young Thundering Herd to a record of 6-16 and was one of many who helped contribute to Marshall’s rebirth and, eventual return to prominence.

Fast forward nearly 50 years later and you will find Hicks, now a resident of Powder Springs, Georgia, taking the very values learned at Marshall and continuing to apply them in his life. Married to wife Della, whom he met here on



campus, Hicks, his son and three daughters, continue to give back to their community. Hicks is a mentor to troubled youth, teaches Sunday School, serves on his local literacy council and works to help decrease dropout rates and improve literacy.

For his efforts, Hicks has received numerous recognitions, both in athletics and in community achievement. In 2005, Marshall University named him one of its 125 Most Impactful Black Athletes during the 20th Century. In 2014, he received the prestigious Pathfinder Award from Steubenville High School. On the professional front, Hicks, a staff safety engineer with Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company for more than 30 years, was recognized by the company for changing the safety culture at the Marietta, Georgia, facility, and

has been showered with accolades and service awards.

In 2013, Hicks brought his story to life when he wrote a book titled “Against All Odds: 4th Down and Forever,” detailing the Marshall plane crash and how it inspired him to embrace a life of service. He describes his struggles, including injuries, bouts with depression and mistakes made both on and off the field, all with the hope of touching lives and inspiring others. And who wrote the introduction to the book? None other than Jack Lengyel himself.

Hicks has inspired many. He continues to give back. He was part of one of the greatest sports stories ever told in the rebuilding of the Marshall football team. And through it all, he remains humble and always willing to help others.

# Distinguished Service to Marshall Award

## MICHAEL SELLARDS

Michael Sellards is the president and CEO of St. Mary's Medical Center in Huntington. He is also the Chief Executive Office of Pallottine Health Services based in St. Louis. But Sellards is much more than his title implies — he is a doer, he is a leader, and he is a giver.

Born at the very hospital he now governs, Sellards knew from an early age that Huntington was the place that he wanted to call home. After graduating from the State University of New York in Albany in 1968, followed some years later by completion of the executive management training program at the Eli Broad Graduate School of Management at Michigan State University, he came home.

Sellards returned to the area in 1982, first as CEO of Pleasant Valley Hospital in Point Pleasant, and then to St. Mary's, where he has served as president and CEO since 2000. During that time, Sellards has been instrumental in the growth and expansion of St. Mary's Medical Center. From a new campus in Ironton, Ohio, to the Center for Education in Huntington, he has helped shape the very face of health care in the Tri-State.



But it is the amazing work he has done for Marshall University that earned him this award. As chairman of the Marshall University Board of Governors, Sellards' leadership and dedication to the university has been immeasurable. He has provided guidance and leadership for the university through time of unprecedented growth, as well as through time of hardship.

And nowhere was that more evident than in the immediate aftermath of the passing of President Stephen J. Kopp in December of 2014. During a very difficult time in our university's history, Sellards was there to help provide his leadership and guidance for Marshall. Through the grieving process and into a long and taxing search for Marshall's 37th

president, he provided a steady hand and an open mind as he served as the voice of the university throughout the presidential search process. And, following several months of searching, Marshall found that person in Dr. Jerome Gilbert late last year.

Sellards' leadership, coupled with the support of Interim President Gary White and many others in the community, helped guide Marshall through the storm and onto calmer seas where it has emerged stronger and more capable than ever before.

Sellards is many things. He is a husband to his wife, Betty. He is a father to a son, Rob, and a daughter, Jennifer. He is a grandfather, a CEO, a chairperson and an advisor. But at Marshall, he is known simply as one of us.

# Community Achievement Award

## LEA ANN PARSLEY

Lea Ann Parsley is a 1990 graduate of Marshall University from Logan, West Virginia. She was a two-sport athlete here at Marshall in basketball and track. She was twice named Marshall University Female Athlete of the Year and, later, was inducted into the Marshall Athletic Hall of Fame in 2002.

Later in her career, Parsley would take her abilities to the national stage when she earned a position on the U.S. National Skeleton Team and competed for six years on the international world cup circuit. In 1999, her second-place finish in Norway produced the first-ever women's world cup medal for the U.S. Bobsled and Skeleton Federation as she went on to earn a total of seven world cup medals.

Finally, in 2002, Parsley took her talents to the biggest stage of them all, where she earned a silver medal at the 2002 Salt Lake City Olympic Games, becoming the first female skeleton athlete to win a world cup medal for the United States. During the Olympic ceremonies, Parsley was



also one of eight athletes chosen to carry the World Trade Center flag into the Opening Ceremonies.

In addition to her athletic achievements, Parsley has served as a volunteer firefighter since 1985 in her hometown of Granville, Ohio, before earning top graduate honors from the Ohio Fire Academy as a professional firefighter cadet in 1995. She went on to be named State of Ohio Firefighter of

the Year in 1999 for her part in the rescue of a mother and daughter during a residential house fire.

Through her career, Parsley has been seated with presidents, made her rounds on national talk shows and represented her country proudly at events around the world, all while saving lives and helping others. But before all of that, she was a daughter of Marshall.



**The Unsung Hero Award was shared by husband and wife GARY and JO ANN WHITE.**





The Mid-Ohio Valley Club was awarded MUAA Club of the Year.



Justin McElroy received the College of Arts & Media Award of Distinction.



Toney Stroud was honored with the College of Information Technology and Engineering Award of Distinction.



The Nancy Pelphrey-Herd Village Scholarship went to Taniesha Sturdavent and Josh Matthews (not pictured).



The College of Business Award of Distinction went to Norman Mosrie.



The College of Liberal Arts Award of Distinction was presented to Dr. John Burke.



Trevor Starcher was presented the Cam Henderson Award.



Kathy D'Antoni was presented the College of Education Award of Distinction.



Dr. Sydnee McElroy was given the College of Science Award of Distinction.



Niakia Jones was awarded the Nate Ruffin Scholarship.



The College of Health Professions Award of Distinction was given to Diane Faulconer.



The Marshall University School of Medicine Award of Distinction was received by Dr. Joseph Evans.



## Family of Paul Dupree Baker donates memorabilia

One of the more touching moments of Alumni Weekend 2016 occurred during the Reunion Breakfast when the family of Paul Dupree Baker donated a collection of memorabilia from his time playing baseball at Marshall University in the late '40s and early '50s.

Presented by his wife, Rita Baker, of Rio Grande, Ohio, and nieces Cathy Ambridge and Joan DePingre, of Houston, Texas, the family presented a Marshall College blanket, baseball cleats, a Marshall letter, yearbook and various newspaper clippings.

Paul Dupree Baker was born February 11, 1925 in Ironton, Ohio. After serving in World War II, Baker returned to Ironton and began taking classes at Marshall College. While at Marshall, Baker spent four years pitching for the Herd under head coach Joe Binns from 1948-49 and coach Howard Hood from 1950-51. During the 1951 season, Marshall finished runner-up in the Ohio Valley Conference.

The items donated by the Baker family will be preserved by the Marshall University archives department before finding a home in Brad D. Smith Foundation Hall, alongside Marshall memorabilia spanning the entire history of the university, all donated by generous alums. □



## SHARE IN THE ALUMNI EXPERIENCE!

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

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



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# Alumni Clubs:

Staying Connected to Marshall No Matter Where Life Takes You

Let us present to you two scenarios.

In the first, we want you to think back, to the days, weeks and months immediately following your college graduation. Did you know what you were going to do? Did you know where you were going to go or what life had in store?

In the second scenario, imagine that you have been away from your alma mater for many years. Maybe you moved away. Maybe you live close by, but rarely get the opportunity to visit a campus. Either way, after so many years away, some of us begin to lose that connection, that joy that comes from stepping foot onto a campus, recalling your “glory years” as you grew from young adulthood into an adult.

What do both of these scenarios have in common? They are both glaring examples of the need for alumni clubs around the world.

In today’s fast-paced world, where jobs and families tend to take us further and further away from our roots, the need to stay connected is greater than ever. No one wants to lose touch with friends or their stomping grounds, but it happens. And that is exactly why alumni clubs are so important in today’s world.

**(Top) Marshall University Athletic Director Mike Hamrick speaks at the annual Mid-Ohio Valley Club banquet in April.**

Alumni clubs keep us connected. They keep us informed. They keep us active. And, most importantly, they keep us feeling that strong bond to our university.

Here at Marshall, alumni clubs are one of the top priorities for the Marshall University Alumni Association (MUAA) and new Marshall President Jerome Gilbert. Goals have been set for growing existing alumni clubs, while continuing to expand clubs into major cities throughout the country.

Currently, the MUAA maintains nearly 40 clubs in 18 states, with plans to expand into another half dozen states within the next few years. Today, some of Marshall’s strongest clubs are located in Ohio, Georgia, Florida and of course, right here in West Virginia. In all, it is the strong ties to Marshall and desire to stay connected that drives the clubs and their activities.

“From the very first day I stepped onto campus in 1965, I have been passionate about Marshall University. I was, and continue to be, an avid sports fan,” said Mike Chandler, president of the MU Big Green and Alumni Chapter of Greater Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky. “Upon earning my degree in 1968, my wife and I immediately moved to Cincinnati to begin our teaching careers. Very quickly, I advanced into administration, a career that left me little time to become active in alumni affairs. Upon our retirements, Pam and I began to travel



**Alums gather outside of a game at the University of Charlotte in October of 2015.**

to some games, before becoming season ticket holders in football and basketball.

“Eleven years ago, I decided to take part in a golf outing sponsored by the MU Big Green and Alumni Chapter of Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky. I happened to be paired with Rex Johnson, and through his encouragement, became very active with the local alumni organization. My participation with the local chapter has resulted in forming some very close friendships and relationships with a special group of people.”

With each club, the goals and purposes range from small gatherings to watch games to full-blown efforts to raise money for scholarships. For some, like the Mid-Ohio Valley Club based in Parkersburg, named 2016 MUAA Alumni Club of the Year, it is all about giving back to the community and connecting current high school students with Marshall.



**Members of the new Space Coast Club, based in Melbourne, Florida, take in a Marshall game at Florida Atlantic.**

“In 2008 I was approached by an MU alum to help rekindle the MOV Alumni Club. We started with a small, but faithful, number of members. From 20 members to now being up over 200 members, it has been amazing to watch that growth,” said Laurie Martin, president of the Mid-Ohio Valley Club. “In our fundraising efforts through the years we have raised over \$100,000. These funds have been distributed to the Vision Campaign, freshman scholarships, athletic scholarships, SOM scholarships, Arts and Media scholarships and Marching Thunder donations for the purchase of new uniforms. And we hope to keep adding scholarships and donations to other departments at Marshall.”

From established clubs like the one in Parkersburg



**Each year, members of the Greater Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky Club take part in a cruise on the Ohio River.**

to newer clubs like the one in New York City, it is a strong desire to stay connected to Marshall that drives a club to success.

“It’s very important to keep close ties with the university,” said Tori Marra, president of the New York City Club. “There is a lot of opportunity to mutually benefit from the network Marshall has and the network of alumni of NYC, or any alumni club. We have a certain piece of identity because of our attendance at Marshall. That connection doesn’t cease once we graduate. We should continue to look for opportunities to stay connected and supportive of our Marshall community.”

As part of the effort by the MUAA and Marshall University to grow its network of clubs, new procedures and policies are currently being developed to foster the expansion of new clubs and growth of existing chapters. In the coming months, a new club handbook will be

unveiled to assist new clubs in ways to reach alums in their area, grow the membership base and position each club for bigger things in the future. Already, the university has seen the fruits of this new initiative with a number of new clubs being formed in the past year.

“Washington, D.C., can be a divisive place, where everything from your political party to preferred choice of brunch beverage can cause strife. So I look for the moments of common experience to unite me with



**One of the newer alumni clubs, the Space Coast Club, based in Melbourne, Florida, has experienced tremendous growth in the past year.**

others who share the same passion,” said Sarah Kemp, president of the Washington, D.C., Club. “Marshall alumni share that passion. This is a big city with a lot of people and knowing another person from Marshall is an instant bond. I want to stay connected to Marshall to share the good news with others that this is the place



**Earlier this year Marshall President Jerome Gilbert visited the Space Coast Club, based in Melbourne, Florida.**



**With a strong alumni following in Florida, the Tampa/St. Pete Club met in July of 2015 to take in a Clearwater Threshers baseball game.**

to go have the time of your life. I made the choice, and it was the best choice ever.”

Starting a club is as simple as contacting the MUAA headquarters at (304) 696-2901 or by e-mailing alumni@marshall.edu. Persons interested in starting a club will fill out select forms and will be assisted in the contacting of alums in their area to gauge interest and drum



**The Tampa/St. Pete Club enjoying a game-watching party in September, one of the more popular activities of alumni clubs.**

up support. From there, the MUAA will actively take part in getting the club up and running.

No matter the ultimate purpose of the club, from fellowship to philanthropy, alumni clubs offer a unique bond and connection to Marshall long after your time at the university is through.

“Marshall gave me the knowledge and confidence to be where I am today,” Kemp said. “I want to connect with others who feel that same appreciation and love of the community that our time at Marshall created.”

For more information on starting an alumni club or learning about alumni clubs in your area, visit [www.herdalum.com](http://www.herdalum.com). □

# An Impossible DREAM

## The Story of Norma and Charles Carroll

By Pat Dickson

In 1949, Charlie Carroll promised his betrothed sweetheart, Norma, that he would buy her a big white house “on the hill.” It was a grandiose promise at the time, considering he didn’t have a job and no clear idea of what he was going to do once he graduated from Marshall. An impossible dream for some, but not for Charlie Carroll.

Fast-forward 67 years and the Carrolls are indeed living in a spacious and elegant big white house “on the hill.”

Their saga began when they were both business college majors at Marshall. With a love that bloomed and flourished through the decades, they are also enriching the lives of countless others today through their generosity.

The Carrolls are benefactors to Marshall University through their more than \$1,000,000 gift to the Marshall University Foundation to support scholarships and other projects close to their hearts. With this major gift, the Carrolls are supporting 14 different programs across the university, including eight scholarships and six endowments. Their giving is as eclectic as their interests, from the arts to medicine to constitutional democracy, and including travel to foreign countries.

But back in their college days,



**Charles and Norma Carroll at the “big white house on the hill” that they dreamed of and in which they now live.**

Charlie admits he didn’t date much before Norma. “My time was consumed by school, classical piano, French horn, Tri-State Industrial League baseball (pitcher), fast-pitch softball (shortstop), Industrial League basketball and ‘hanging out.’”

It all began in 1949, when the two attended a camp retreat sponsored by their church. On the last day at camp they took a walk by themselves that led to their playfully wading barefoot in a small creek. Norma slipped on a slick rock and stumbled, so of course Charlie took her hand — and has never let go, figuratively speaking.

That fall, back on the Huntington campus, the two became an inseparable couple. Even in classes. Once they had a psychology class together

and the professor decided to break them up by seating alphabetically. When he came to Carey, Norma’s maiden name, then called Carroll, he threw up his hands and said, “I give up!”

Norma’s father was somewhat apprehensive about the prospects of the lovestruck swain who was wooing his only daughter. One day Mr. Carey said to her, “Honey, does that boy have any kind of a job?”

However, in October of 1950, Mr. Carey, all reservations put aside, gave Norma’s hand in marriage to Charlie in a grand ceremony, with the radiant bride resplendent in her billowing Priscilla of Boston wedding gown.

And Charlie had found a job. His first job was in the branch office of the Lumbermens Mutual Insurance Company as an underwriter. He worked in every department and division of the company, including as manager of the office. With no further challenges locally, he resigned his position to form the Carroll Insurance Agency.

Charlie Carroll has a swift, sharp wit and a droll sense of humor. He tosses off one-liners with aplomb, mostly self-deprecating zingers poking fun at himself and his supposed early aversion to work.

He was serious with just a touch of that humor when he said, “When I met Norma’s parents I really liked them, particularly her mother ... Norma provided me with purpose



**The Carrolls have a large collection of Marshall memorabilia, including a framed jersey from Doug Chapman.**

... We had an immediate attraction, but I question to this day what she saw in me.”

What Norma, the bright, focused student, saw in him was a man who excelled at everything to which he put his mind. Take music, for example. Charlie studied classical piano for 12 years and became an accomplished pianist. Then he ventured into brass, took up French horn and was named first chair in the All-State West Virginia High School Band two years running.

Then there was athletics. As a senior, he was the number-one pitcher for the Huntington High School baseball team, and as a freshman, one of two freshman players to make the traveling team. Later he took up golf, but decided it was too time-consuming and gave it up.

When he left Lumbermens to form his own agency, it was a brash move. “When I quit my job, I started a business from nothing, plus a restrictive covenant (non-compete agreement). But Norma never said ‘no’. She’s fantastic; I credit her for everything.”

Norma earned her degree in 1951, a year after Charlie earned his. Like Charlie, she too excelled in music, playing clarinet of first-chair caliber in her high school orchestra. At Marshall, before Charlie, the ebullient coed had more than her share of suitors. She loved to dance and she played a mean hand of bridge.

Later, after their son, Michael, was born and entered school, Norma was a much-sought-after volunteer by numerous groups, the dynamo they turned to when things needed to get done. And she found her accounting degree put to good use. “It seemed like all the groups wanted me to handle money,” she said. “My degree came in very handy.”

Parent-teacher groups and the family’s church, Johnson Memorial Methodist Church, were close to her heart and she held numerous offices in both. She also made time to volunteer at the pharmacy at Cabell Huntington Hospital and as gift shop buyer at the Huntington Museum of Art.

Charlie was also very active in the

church. He served several years on the Board of Trustees, as president of the men’s monthly dinner club and the men’s Sunday school Bible class; as chair of several church commissions and as a regular usher on Sunday mornings.

Professionally, he was active in both the state and local insurance associations and president for many years of the Cabell County Board of Insurance Agents.

One of the couple’s passions is Marshall athletics, particularly football, and they have racked up an amazing attendance record. From 1987 through 2004, Charlie did not miss a single football game, and Norma missed only three. In fact, Marshall is never far away, since they have a “Marshall room” in their home, with photos, plaques, mementos, awards, glassware, gifts from grateful Marshall presidents and deans, and athletic memorabilia of all kinds.

Their son, who lives in Columbia, South Carolina, continued their Marshall tradition when he was awarded a golf scholarship. He later served in the Navy, then returned to MU to earn a degree in criminal justice and perform as Marco, the school mascot.

The Carrolls have two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, so who knows, there may be some Marshall memories in the making some day for the young Carrolls as well.

“It has been a great ride,” Charlie said. “A ride far greater than the dream. Thank you, honey, for riding all the way with me.” □

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**Pat Dickson** is coordinator of media and community relations on the South Charleston campus. To read an expanded version of this story, visit [www.marshall.edu/magazine](http://www.marshall.edu/magazine) online.



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](http://www.marshall.edu/alumni).

## 1960s

**Joseph Hughes** (B.A. '88) (B.A. '64; M.A. '67) of San Francisco, California, exhibited his paintings along with those of his late grandmother, Blanche Hughes, his nephew, Justin Hughes, and his niece, Molly Hughes, in "The Hughes Heritage: Three Generations of Artists" at Stifel Fine Arts Center in Wheeling, West Virginia. Joseph Hughes also exhibited his work along with works by Picasso, Warhol, Dubuffet and others in the auction/exhibit "Old Masters, Modern and Contemporary Art" at De Vuyst Gallery in Lokeren, Belgium.

## 1970s

**Lisa Gergely** ('79) has been named by WFAF, a nonprofit public radio station, in Charlotte, North Carolina, to lead the station's underwriting department as manager of corporate underwriting. With more than 30 years' experience working in the Charlotte radio market, Gergely supervises a staff of five underwriting sales representatives who are responsible for generating station revenue through corporate program sponsorship.

Previously she was the vice president of sales and business development with Greenstone Media, a nationally syndicated women's talk radio network, and director of sales at WBT/WLNK and the Bob and Sheri Network. She has authored corporate sales and training manuals, has conducted comprehensive training for sales teams around the country and has been a speaker at industry conferences. Gergely is actively involved with industry and community boards including The Fund with the Foundation for the Carolinas and the Carolina School of Broadcasting.

## 1980s

**Bob Bentz** (M.B.A. '83) published *Relevance Raises Response: How to Engage and Acquire with Mobile Marketing* earlier this year. The text contains tips to help businesses sell more with mobile marketing and as a how-to, it covers everything mobile from the simple, such as SMS marketing, to the most complex including app development. He is president of Advanced Telecom Services, a 27-year-old interactive marketing company located in Philadelphia with other offices in Toronto, London and Prague. He is an adjunct faculty member at the University of Denver, where he teaches a graduate level course in mobile marketing.

**Pamela K. Owens** (B.A. '86) has a new book, *The New ABC's of Life for Children and Adults* (ABC's Ministries, 2016). This publication is a follow-up to her first book, *The ABC's of Life for Children and Adults*. The new book is a revised and expanded edition of the collection of short stories, essays and poems promoting Christian concepts that were shared in her first book. In addition to lyrics of a collection of songs written by the author, who writes under the name of Pamela K. Orgeron, it also includes poems written by her late father, Henry Owens, and mother, Patricia Sturgill Owens.

## 2000s

**Eliot Parker** (B.A. '03, M.A. '05) recently published his third fiction novel, *Fragile Brilliance*, a mystery/thriller set in Charleston, West Virginia. In February, 2016, the novel received the Bronze Award from the National Literary Habitat Foundation for mystery/thriller writing. Parker's other two novels were *Making Arrangements*, and *Breakdown at Clear River*.

## Ron D. Stollings

(M.D. 1982)

Ron D. Stollings (M.D. '82), is one of eight people to have been awarded the American Medical Association's (AMA) 2016 Nathan Davis Award for Outstanding Government Service.

Stollings, who is board-certified in internal medicine and practices in Madison, W.Va., has served in the West Virginia Legislature since 2006. He represents Boone, Lincoln, Logan, and parts of Mingo and Wayne counties and currently serves on four legislative committees, including Health and Human Resources and Finance.

Stollings previously served as chair of the Committee on Health and Human Resources and chair of the Committee on Confirmations, as well as chair of the Corridor G Regional Development Authority. He is a former member of the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission, past president of the West Virginia State Medical Association and past president of the Madison Rotary Club.

In 2012, Stollings received the Distinguished Alumnus Award from the School of Medicine Alumni Association. He has also been recognized with an Award of Distinction from the Marshall University Alumni Association, the 2012 Distinguished Community Health Champion Award from the West Virginia Primary Care Association and the Inaugural Oral Health Champion Award from the West Virginia Oral Health Coalition, among others.

## Richard L. Slater

(B.A. 1990)

Richard L. Slater (B.A. '90), has been named the chairman of Vision Shared, a nonprofit organization which was created in 2000 as a public-private partnership. Vision Shared's goal is to bring together business, labor, government and other diverse interests to develop a strategy that will sustain West Virginia and make the state more economically competitive.

"I am very honored to be elected by the Board of Trustees as the Chairman of Vision Shared," Slater said. "Our organization is committed to strengthen the economy, transform communities, promote progressive government

and improve the quality of life for West Virginians. As we move forward, I am excited about the opportunities before us and building on the successes we've had to date."

He has been actively involved with Marshall over the years, currently serving on the Board of Directors of the Marshall University Foundation Inc. He is a past chairman of the MU College of Business and in 2011 was honored as a Marshall University Distinguished Alumnus. In 2009 Slater was named the Business Professional of the Year by Marshall's chapter of Beta Alpha Psi, the honor society



Richard L. Slater

for Accounting, Finance and Management Information Systems students. He also was integral to establishing the Dixon Hughes Goodman SmartRoom in Corbly Hall in 1012.

# Mark Your Calendar!

## HOMECOMING 2016 Saturday, October 15

Plan on joining the Marshall University Alumni Association for Homecoming 2016 with a full week of activities, culminating with Homecoming on Saturday, October 15.

Join us for the famous PICNIC ON THE PLAZA on Friday, October 14, on the Memorial Student Center Plaza and take part in a full day of activities on Saturday, October 15, leading up to the HOMECOMING GAME against Florida Atlantic.

For more information on Homecoming 2016, visit us at [www.herdalum.com](http://www.herdalum.com) for complete details.



**DR. HAROLD BLANCO NAZOA** (M.A. '91, '00), associate professor and instructional technology developer in the College of Education and Professional Development at Marshall and a two-time MU graduate, died March 25, 2016.



A native of Caracas, Venezuela, he came to the United States in 1982 to pursue a college education. He earned a

B.S. in biology and chemistry from Davis and Elkins College in 1987, then followed that with his two master's degrees from Marshall, one in family and consumer sciences in 1991 and another in secondary education in 2000. He earned a Ph.D. in instructional technology from Ohio University in 2007.

In a feature article about him that appeared in an October 2005 *We Are...Marshall* newsletter for faculty and staff, Blanco related with humor how he originally came to the U.S. and particularly West Virginia. Born into a family of educators—his father was a professor at two Venezuelan universities—he was a good but reluctant student. Not particularly interested in attending college, but urged by his father to select one, he chose to come to the U.S., thinking the family would be unable to send him. But they did, and he looked for a college in an area where few people spoke Spanish, which he believed would force him to learn English. A helpful U.S. Embassy employee guided him to Davis and Elkins. He arrived in Elkins in the midst of a three-foot snowfall, and never having seen snow before, he said he thought, "What have I done!"

Blanco was the recipient of numerous honors and awards. He received the Teaching Achievement Award from Ohio University, the original Tutor of the Year Award from Marshall's H.E.L.P. program, and the Academic Achievement Award from Marshall. He was also honored as a Southern Regional Educational Board (SREB) Scholar. He was a member of numerous professional associations and groups, including the International Technology Education Association, the Upward Bound (TRiO) program, the Kappa Omicron

Nu Honor Society, the Sigma Delta Phi Honor Society, and the Learning Disability Association of America.

Married to Carrie-Meghan Quick, he is also survived by two children, Armella Blanco and Laureano Blanco, as well as four siblings and their families. Donations in his memory may be made to a college fund created for his son, Laureano, at City National Bank 900 Third Avenue, Huntington, WV 25703.

**ROBERT W. COON, M.D.**, former dean of the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine and vice president for



health sciences, passed away Saturday, Dec. 12, 2015 in Burlington, Vermont. He was 96.

Coon was appointed dean of the medical school in 1976, which had been created just two years earlier.

Characterized by many as the father of Marshall's medical school, Coon, a native of Montana, was remembered as visionary. He was appointed acting dean in January 1976 following the departure of Robert C. Parlett and was named dean the following July. He remained in the position until he retired in 1985.

The Robert W. Coon Education Building at the VA Medical Center in Spring Valley bears his name. The facility is shared by the School of Medicine and the School of Pharmacy.

In lieu of flowers, the family has requested gifts to the Marshall University Foundation for the School of Medicine scholarship campaign, attention Linda Holmes, 1600 Medical Center Drive, Huntington, WV 25701.

**ANN NEWMAN HAGER** (B.A. '66, M.A. '71), of Hamlin, West Virginia, passed away Sept. 26, 2015. Raised in Eleanor, West Virginia, she was a 1949 graduate of Poca High School. A member of Hamlin Baptist Church for over 50 years, she was also a longtime member of Beta Sigma Phi Sorority. With a lifetime love of reading and education, she was a teacher at both Duval High School and Lincoln County Vocational School, having received both her degrees from Marshall in education. She is survived by two sons, Philip Hager IV and Mark Hager, six grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

**DANNY N. HYBERT** (B.A. '71), died in Parkersburg, West Virginia, Sept. 6, 2015. After graduating from Spencer High School in 1966, he furthered his education and received four college degrees. He was also a Certified Welding Inspector and briefly taught Concealed Carry. His early employment included Tri-State Roofing, Ideal Corrugated Box, Sheltered Workshop (SW Resources) and Williamstown Fabricators, and he was named Safety Director for Farr Manufacturing, then Kanawha Manufacturing and Quail Ridge Construction in Charleston. In addition, he was an adjunct instructor at West Virginia University-Parkersburg for over 20 years, in the math and welding departments. He is survived by his wife of 47 years, Sara, and daughter Micalyn Harris.

**TAMMY DENESE HUFFMAN** ('96), of South Charleston, died Feb. 25, 2016. Her hobbies were collecting Fenton and Waterford glass, watching Marshall and WVU sports, and going to the beach. A graduate of South Charleston High School in the class of 1977, she was an employee of Columbia Gas Transmission. She is survived by her parents, Other and Retta Huffman of South Charleston, two brothers, three sisters, several nieces and nephews, grand-nieces and great-nephews, and one great-great-nephew.

**FRAN JACKSON** (B.A. '86, M.A. '98), a welcoming face in the Center for African American Students who also was the president of the Marshall Black Alumni Association, died Aug. 29, 2015.

Active in the Marshall University Alumni Association, she was a two-time graduate of Marshall with a B.A. degree in Business Education and an M.S. in Adult Education. She came to the center shortly after graduation and remained on the job for 28 years. She was heavily involved in the numerous activities and programs of the Center for African American Students, including the welcoming activities for new and returning students, the annual Outstanding Black High School Students Weekend, the Diversity Breakfast, Soul food Feast, Women of Color celebration and Donning of the Kente graduation ceremony, among others. One of her favorite tasks was planning and coordinating activities held at Homecoming and throughout the year.

She also taught orientation classes and served as an advisor for two student groups, Marshall's Theta Omega chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, and the Black United Students social organization.

**W. DANNY RAY II**, a faculty member and a Marshall alumnus, died March 2, 2016.



Ray was an instructor in the Department of Communication Studies and coached the university's award-winning "Thundering Word" Speech and Debate Team.

Just the weekend before his death, the team competed in the 2016 West Virginia

Intercollegiate Forensics Association (WVIFA) tournament – winning the state title for the sixth consecutive time. The "Thundering Word" brought home first-place awards in Combined Sweepstakes and Individual Events Sweepstakes, as well as second place in Debate Sweepstakes.

Ray joined the faculty in August 2010 and taught classes including Intercollegiate Debate, Fundamentals of Speech Communication and Special Topics in Forensic Competition. He also was serving as the president of the West Virginia International Forensic Association at the time of his passing.

**IRENE MAYENSCHNEIN SIMMONS** (B.A. '41), passed away on June 22, 2015, in Amherst, Massachusetts, four days after her 96th birthday.

She attended what was then Marshall College, where she graduated in 1941 cum laude. She was a member and president of the Delta Sigma Epsilon sorority; a member of the Panhellenic Council, member of the Student Court; and a member of Kappa Delta Pi, the International Honor Society in Education.

After graduation, she worked as a teacher in Nitro, West Virginia, where she met and married her husband, Gordon.

She was very active with many community organizations throughout her life. In later years, following her husband's death in 1987, she led an active life in Florida, devoting her time as the treasurer of the local chapter of the American Association of University Women and was a member of Common Cause. She is survived by her three children, four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. □

# Journalism alumnus wins PULITZER PRIZE

**A** Marshall University alumnus has received the 2016 Pulitzer Prize in Editorial Writing. Huntington native John Hackworth, editor of the Sun Newspapers in Charlotte Harbor, Florida, received the award for a series of editorials calling for an investigation into the death of an inmate at Charlotte Correctional Institute.

A veteran journalist who has been with the Sun for 20 years, Hackworth graduated from Marshall in 1971 with a bachelor's degree in journalism. He previously worked for Knight-Ridder in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, the *Ashland Daily Independent* in Ashland, Kentucky, and *The Herald-Dispatch* in Huntington.

The Pulitzer Prize Board awarded the prize to Hackworth "for fierce, indignant editorials that demanded truth and change after the deadly assault of an

inmate by corrections officers." They said his editorials "fanned the flames with locals who were stunned by the apparent lack of concern by authorities over this brutal death."

To read Hackworth's award-winning columns, visit [www.pulitzer.org/winners/john-hackworth-sun-newspapers](http://www.pulitzer.org/winners/john-hackworth-sun-newspapers).

Another Marshall alumnus and former *Daily Independent* reporter, Julia Keller, captured the Pulitzer Prize for feature writing in 2005. Keller won the award for her three-part series on a 10-second tornado that ripped through Utica, Illinois. The Pulitzer Prize Board described Keller's account of the tornado, which was published in December 2004, as "gripping" and "meticulously constructed." She graduated from Marshall with a bachelor's degree in 1976 and a master's degree in 1981 – both in English. □



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## A MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE OF ALUMNI RELATIONS

### HERD ALUMS: THE UNTOLD STORY

Greetings, Fellow Alumni and Friends of Marshall University:

Another year, another fantastic Alumni Weekend!

If you were unable to join us in April, we welcomed back to the Huntington campus alumni of all ages and all walks of life. Some returned to celebrate their golden or silver reunions. Some came back just to take part in the festivities. And some, well, some just wanted to feel close to Marshall again. That, friends, is the joy of working in alumni relations – watching the joyful reactions of alums returning to the university for the first time in a long time.

But another thing stood out at this year's Alumni Weekend festivities. It's something we all know, but tend to take for granted, and that is the level of talent that this university produces. Yes, Marshall is like a lot of universities, producing national award winners, titans of industry and world-renowned athletes, but it is the stories behind the scenes that truly make Marshall University special.

Consider, for example, the story of Lester Hicks, our 2016 recipient of the Distinguished Alumnus award – the MUAA's highest honor. Lester's story is one of perseverance and survival, all with Marshall at the heart of his tale. He came to this university in the midst of tragedy following the 1970 plane crash, and overcame injuries and bouts with depression to excel on and off the field. Today, Lester continues to give back to his community by mentoring troubled youth through his story of overcoming adversity. And, even today, Lester credits Marshall for everything.

And he is just the tip of the iceberg. At our annual awards banquet alone, we welcomed a silver medal-winning Olympic athlete who also has saved lives as a firefighter, a husband-and-wife duo – one a video game critic and the other a doctor – with a joint podcast heard by hundreds of thousands of people around the world, plus business leaders, physicians, writers and, of course, future leaders recognized through our many scholarship programs. And away from Huntington, during that very same weekend, we received word of a new Pulitzer Prize winner to come from our Thundering Herd family.

Most among our university community likely know about Chad Pennington, Brad Smith, Soupy Sales and many others, all extraordinary people and outstanding ambassadors for our university, but around the world there are so many people doing so many amazing things all with one thing in common – they all proudly call themselves sons and daughters of Marshall.

To all of our 2016 award recipients, we would like to say congratulations and thank you for taking the time to be a part of our weekend. And to those reading this right now, we know there are so many untold stories out there of the amazing things Marshall alumni are doing. So we ask you, if you know of an alum that deserves recognition or needs to have his or her story told, let us know! All it takes is a quick phone call to the Brad D. Smith Foundation Hall or an e-mail to [alumni@marshall.edu](mailto:alumni@marshall.edu) and we will help get that story told.

Until next time, fellow alumni, Godspeed and GO HERD!

Best Regards,  
Rob, Matt and Larry





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