

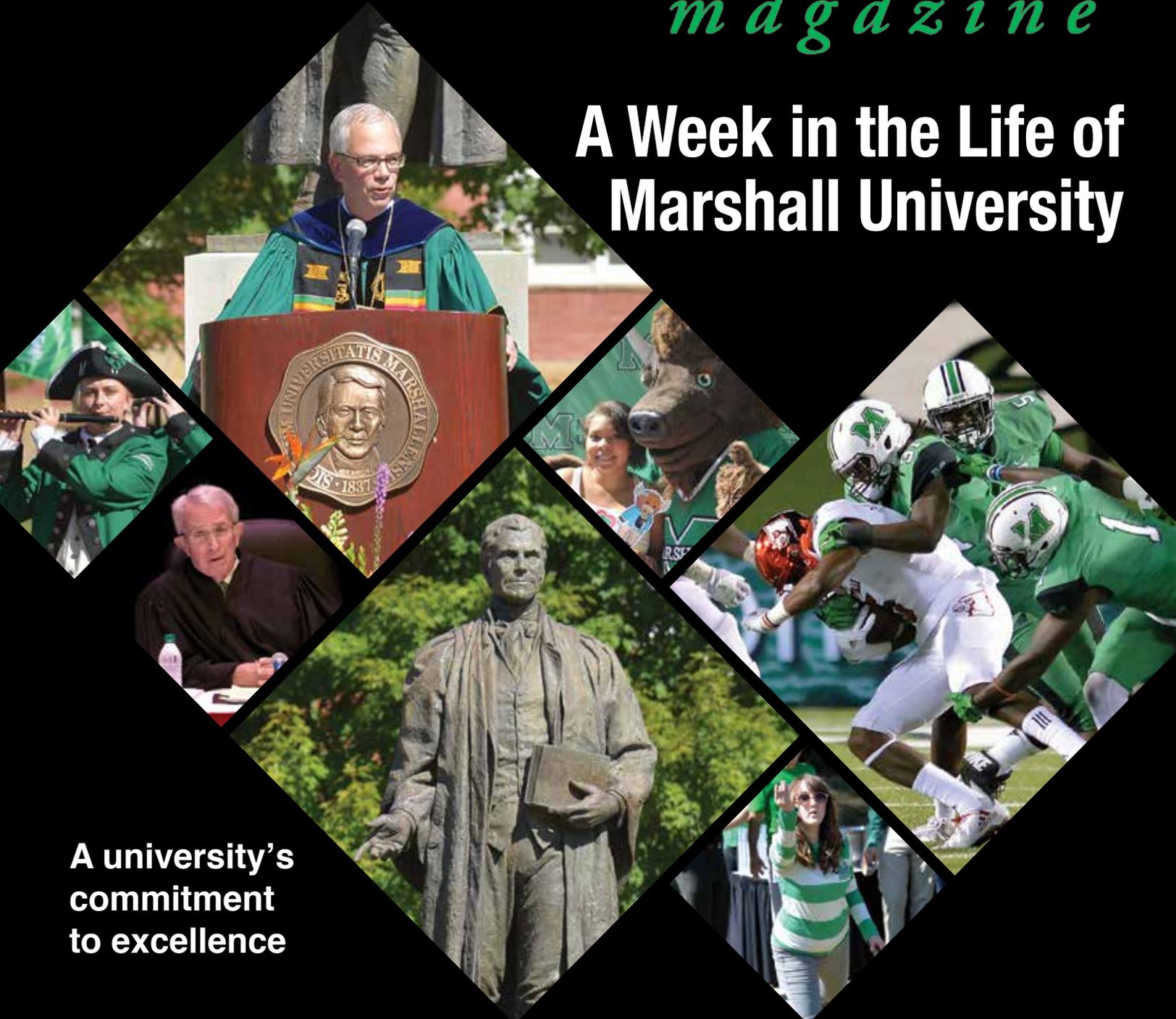
Major dreams motivate MU's baseball team



Marshall

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A Week in the Life of Marshall University



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See page 37 for ALUMNI NEWS and more

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Marshall

magazine

The official magazine of Marshall University

Winter 2017

features

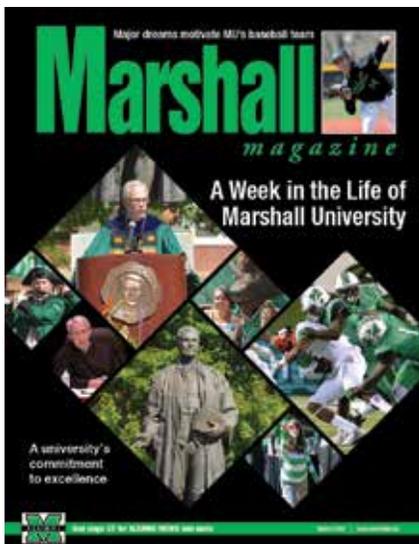
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Marshall

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on the cover

Marshall University honors the past and celebrates the future — all in one week. Photos by Rick Haye.

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Autumn with President Gilbert

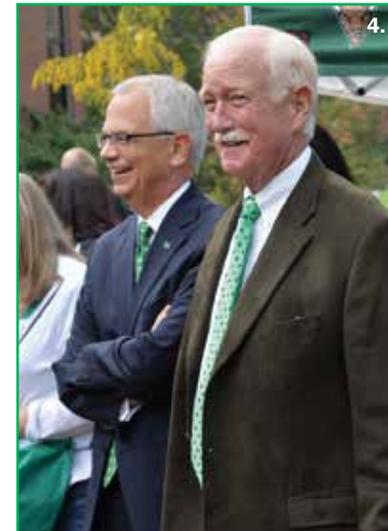


1. President Gilbert helps celebrate the debut of the "Green Machine" bus for students Sept. 9.



2. President Gilbert and a group of students lead the 4th annual Unity Walk Oct. 11.

3. President Gilbert and his wife, Leigh (in the front seat), wave to the crowd during the Homecoming parade Oct. 13.



4. President Gilbert and Homecoming Parade Grand Marshal Red Dawson share a laugh at Picnic on the Plaza Oct. 14.



5. President Gilbert presents an award to thank Sen. Bob Plymale for his work raising funds for scholarships through the 10th anniversary celebration of the We Are Marshall movie Nov. 11.



6. President Gilbert meets undergraduate students who are attending classes on the South Charleston campus at an event Dec. 6.



7. President Gilbert gets ready to light the holiday tree at Herd Holiday Dec. 6.



8. President Gilbert congratulates a new Marshall alumna at the Dec. 14 commencement ceremony.



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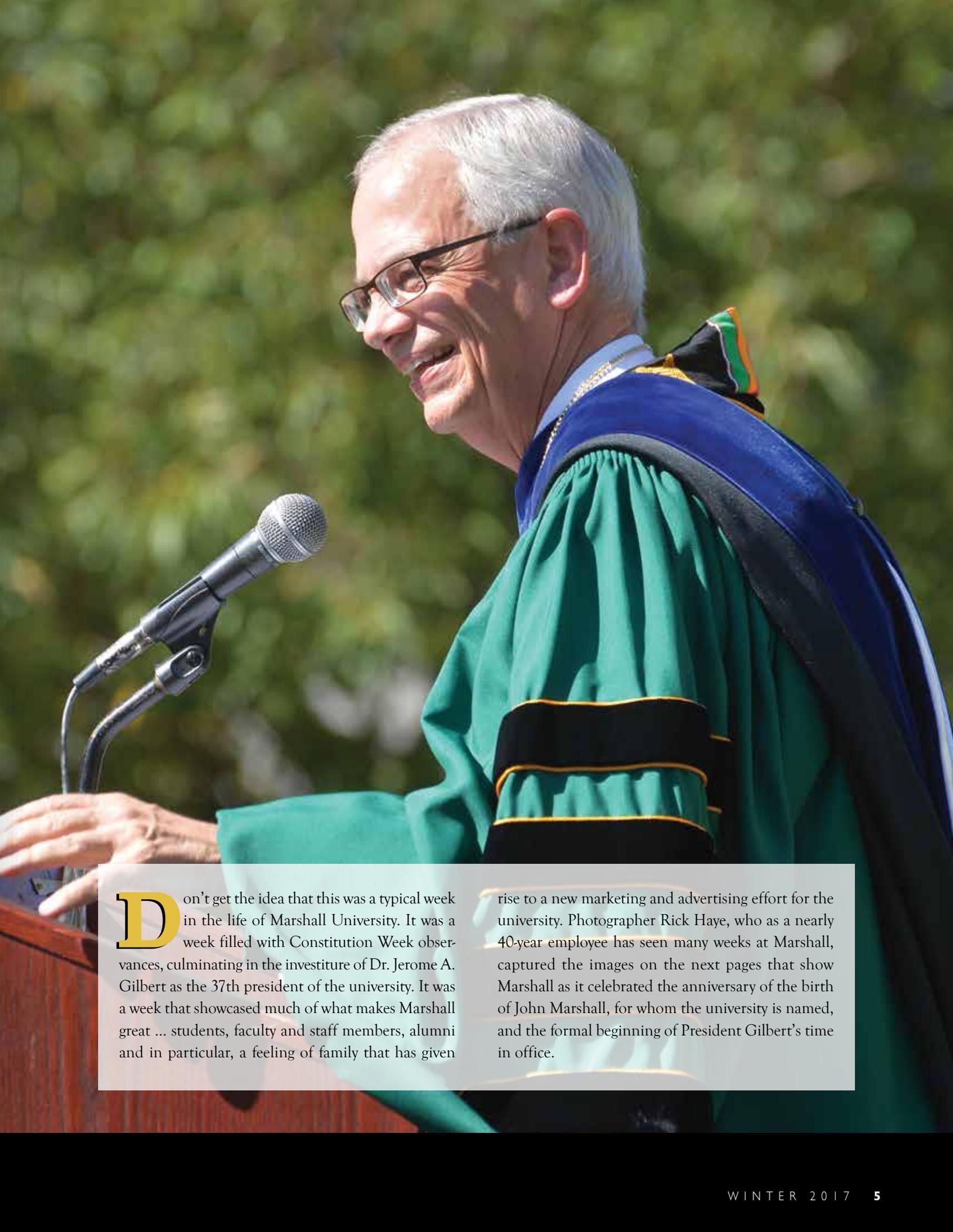
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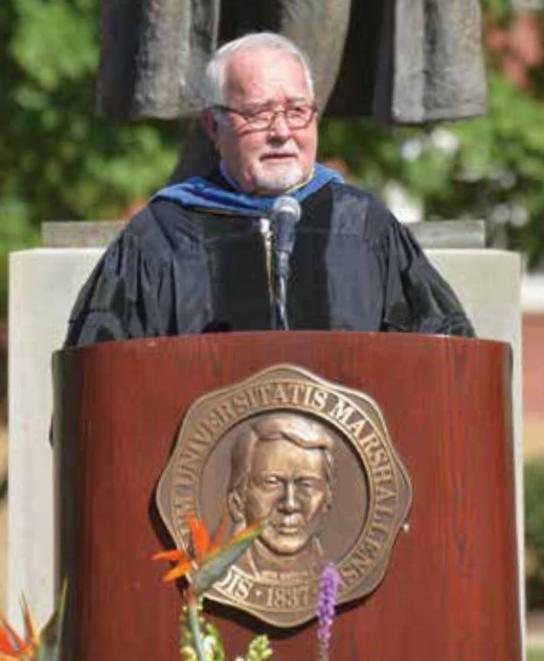
A Week in the Life of **Marshall**

Introduction by Susan Tams
Photos by Rick Haye



Don't get the idea that this was a typical week in the life of Marshall University. It was a week filled with Constitution Week observances, culminating in the investiture of Dr. Jerome A. Gilbert as the 37th president of the university. It was a week that showcased much of what makes Marshall great ... students, faculty and staff members, alumni and in particular, a feeling of family that has given

rise to a new marketing and advertising effort for the university. Photographer Rick Haye, who as a nearly 40-year employee has seen many weeks at Marshall, captured the images on the next pages that show Marshall as it celebrated the anniversary of the birth of John Marshall, for whom the university is named, and the formal beginning of President Gilbert's time in office.



(Top left): Dr. William Fox, dean emeritus of Mississippi State's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, gives remarks during the investiture ceremony.

(Middle left): Bernie Coston, Marshall University Foundation board member and former Herd Alumni president, provides the introduction to the investiture ceremony.

(Bottom left): John Eric Booth furnished music during the reception at the President's House. (Above): The West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals held session at Marshall September 20, 2016.

(Below) Marshall President Jerry Gilbert, wife Leigh, and Mrs. Gilbert's niece and husband, Heather and Peter Kauffman, enjoy the reception at the President's House the evening before the investiture.





(Above left): Former Governor of West Virginia and Marshall University graduate Earl Tomblin speaks at the investiture ceremony.

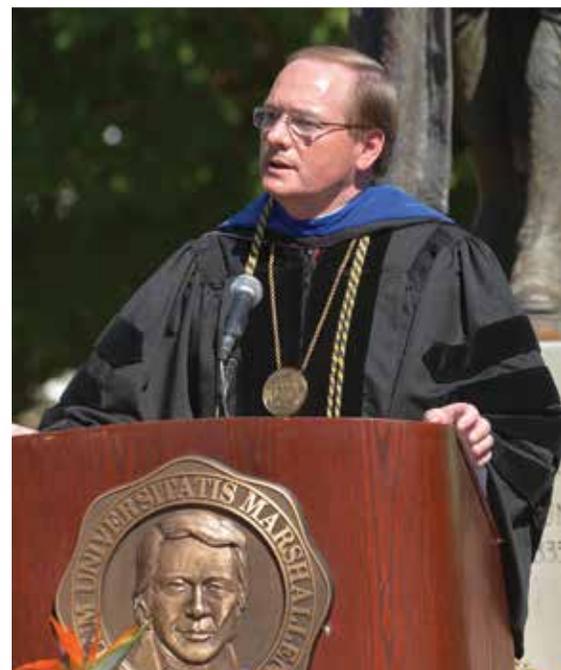
(Above right): Gary G. White, former interim president of Marshall University, welcomes guests to the investiture ceremony.

(Below): Marshall University Wind Symphony entertains guests.

(Top right): Kay H. Goodwin, former cabinet secretary of the West Virginia Department of Education and the Arts, offers greetings during the investiture ceremony.

(Middle right): Dr. Mark Keenum, president of Mississippi State University, gives remarks during the investiture ceremony.

(Bottom right): Gilbert's granddaughter, Eliza, enjoys the festivities with her father, Peter Gilbert, President and Mrs. Gilbert's son.





(Left): Associate Vice President of Intercultural Affairs Maurice Cooley; Menis E. Ketchum II, justice of the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals; and Donald Van Horn, dean of the College of Arts and Media, participate in the President's Invitational Quoits Challenge.

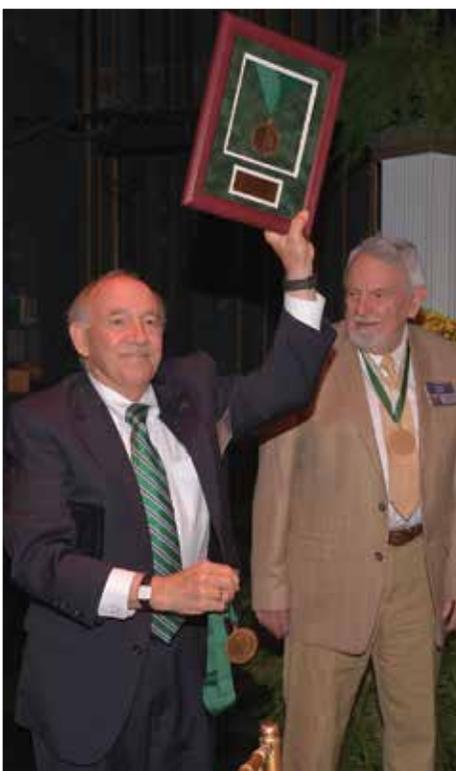
(Above) President Gilbert watches as Student Body President Matt Jarvis cuts the cake served in honor of John Marshall's birthday Sept. 23, 2016.

(Below): About 130 people gathered at the Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center for the John Marshall Birthday Dinner.





(Above) John Deaver Drinko Fellows were recognized during the John Marshall Birthday Dinner.
 (Below left): The John Marshall Fife and Drum Corps provided musical entertainment as part of John Marshall's 261st Birthday Celebration.
 (Below right) Senior Vice President of Executive Affairs Layton Cottrill (left) accepts an award of behalf of Dr. Alan Gould.
 (Right top): President Gilbert speaks during the John Marshall Birthday Dinner.
 (Right middle and bottom): Students show their appreciation during the annual Thank-A-Donor Day on September 14, 2016.





(Top left): City of Huntington Mayor Steve Williams leads the halftime performance during the Marshall vs. University of Louisville game.

(Top right): Fans striped the Joan C. Edwards Stadium green and white during the game against Louisville in September.

(Inset): Running back Tony Pittman led the Thundering Herd in rushing against Louisville.

(Bottom): *Picnic*, part of The School of Theatre's 2016-2017 season, was performed at The Francis-Booth Experimental Theatre on September 29. Photo courtesy *Herald-Dispatch*.

(Opposite): Marshall cheerleaders kept up spirits as Marshall took on Louisville.





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Flying High

Bill Noe went from a speedster in the swimming pool to a shark in the boardroom as President and COO of NetJets. Today, he has his sights set on new horizons.



By Jack Houvouras
Photos by Rick Lee and Rick Haye

When he was 4 years old, little Billy Noe was swimming with some other children at Huntington's Olympic Pool when, off in the distance, he eyed the high-diving platform hovering some 16 feet over the deep end. He decided to give it a try and marched the length of the pool, climbed the ladder, walked to the edge and hurled himself toward the water. As his body was flying through the air, whistles began screeching from down below as lifeguards tried in vain to stop him from jumping from such an imposing height. They immediately dived into the water to fish him out, but once again were too late as Billy zipped across the water and casually climbed out of the pool. That summer day at the Olympic Pool would be the first sign of the steely resolve he would use to propel himself to the highest levels of success as both an athlete and a businessman.



Bill Noe, now 52, has always been a risk taker. The former stand-out swimmer for Marshall recently stepped down after a 23-year career at NetJets, culminating with an eight-year stint as the company's president and chief operating officer. NetJets, owned by renowned billionaire Warren Buffett, has the largest fleet of private jets in the world.

Originally founded in 1964 as Executive Jet, the company implemented a unique business model starting in 1986 that changed the way some of the world's biggest movers and shakers fly. The concept is called fractional ownership. Instead of buying their own private jet, individuals purchase a share of a plane. Depending on the size of their share, they are guaranteed access to the jet for a certain number of hours each year. If an owner needs to fly somewhere, they simply call NetJets and the plane will arrive at their local airport within four hours.

"Our business was getting people on a jet, taking them where they want to go and having it be a pleasant experience," Noe explained. "It was also about giving them that 'wow'

factor. Our customers included some of the most famous and influential people in the world."

The story of how Noe made his way from the deep end of Huntington's Olympic Pool to a spacious office at the NetJets world headquarters in Columbus, Ohio, is compelling. And, like most success stories, it is a study in hard work, determination, passion and fate.



Bill Noe was born in Ashland, Kentucky, and grew up in Huntington. His father, William E. Noe Sr., was a salesman, and his mother, Francis A. Noe, a nurse anesthetist.

Following his daring leap from the high dive at the Olympic Pool that hot summer day, Noe was approached by YMCA Swim Coach Bob Shaw about joining the team. So, at the ripe age of 5, Noe began his career in the pool. He took to water like a moth to a flame and in the years that followed would set a bevy of pool, city and state records.

"I always loved the water and I loved to compete," Noe explained. "Although it's a team sport, it's all up to the individual as to how well

they perform. For me, racing the clock was everything."

By the time he was a teenager, it was not uncommon for Noe to be in the pool each day from 5:30-6:30 a.m. before school, and from 4-6 p.m. after school.

"I learned about work ethic by watching my parents," Noe said. "My dad would leave on Monday and come back on Friday. My mom would often leave for work at 4 a.m. and was the kind of person who never said no if somebody needed a shift filled. The one person I really looked up to was my father. He reminded me of John Wayne - he was tough, but he had a soft side. People loved him. You can't learn that kind of charisma."

During his senior year of high school, Noe qualified for several events at the YMCA Nationals held in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. He placed in every race he entered and finished second in his signature event - the 200-yard Butterfly. Noe's performances at the meet capped off a stellar senior season. After fielding scholarship offers from dozens of colleges across the country, including

JUNE 7, 1986

Marshall swimmer rescues teen-ager

HUNTINGTON, W.Va. (AP) - Saving the life of a despondent teen-ager meant the world to Marshall University swim team member Billy Noe, who says he finally became tired of talking to the youth and simply "grabbed him and held him" as they bobbed in the ocean off Myrtle Beach, S.C.

Noe, 20, was vacationing in Myrtle Beach on June 4 when the incident occurred, he told the Huntington Herald-Dispatch Thursday.

"He was really going to kill himself," Noe said. "He'd written a suicide note to his parents. When I got to him he was getting ready to go under. He was coughing up water, crying. I think he was a little drunk."

Noe, a Huntington native, said he learned of the suicide attempt about 5:30 p.m.

"I was getting dressed to go out for dinner," Noe said. "A friend of mine came in and told me some guy was trying to kill himself. He said, 'Nobody can catch him.'"

"The beach was lined with people. Three guys on a raft were going to try to go after him, but they weren't even past where the waves started breaking. I ran back in the motel, jumped in my swimming trunks and went after him."

Noe said the 17-year-old apparently was trying to swim as far as he could, at which point he would drown.

"It's a lot different swimming in the ocean than swimming in the pool," Noe said. "It was weird. But I never thought about going back. I did start wondering what I was doing out there. I was so far out I couldn't see the people on the beach."

"All I could see was the lining of the motels. I wasn't nervous. I didn't get nervous until I got back and started thinking about it."

Noe said he talked to the youth about 20 minutes after catching up to him.

"Finally I got sick of treading water. I grabbed him and held him," Noe said. "A wind surfer was out there and I waved at him to come over. We were there another 20 minutes. It was 45 minutes before the Myrtle Beach Rescue Squad got there. We were out there forever."

Noe said the rescue boat took the teen-ager in.

"I think they arrested him. He was out the next day," Noe said. "I told my mom, 'This makes all the swimming in the pool worthwhile, doing something like that.'"

Ohio State and Florida, he ultimately decided to stay in Huntington and swim for Marshall's charismatic coach, Bob Saunders.

"Bill was one of the most exciting recruits we ever had in our program," Saunders said. "He was being wooed by a lot of big-time colleges, and we were afraid we wouldn't get him. Bill was so versatile that we could use him in nearly any race. He was such an easygoing kid and never caused me any problems. He is certainly one of

the greatest swimmers Huntington has ever produced."

Noe's respect for his coach was one of the main reasons he chose to swim for the Thundering Herd.

"I thought Coach Saunders was the best coach I'd ever come across, and I had a lot of good ones," Noe said. "He had the highest level of integrity, and he translated that into coaching. He garnered a lot of respect because of his loyalty to his team. If anyone tried to mess with

one of his guys, he was the first to stand up for you. You just wanted to do well for him."

Noe peaked as an athlete during his freshman year. When the time came for the biggest meet of the year, usually held at the end of the season, he shifted into another gear. As a result, records often fell.

Such was the case entering the 1983 Southern Conference Swimming Championship held at Marshall. To prepare for the big event, Noe and his teammates shaved their heads and bodies as a way to reduce their drag in the water. It worked. Noe set three pool, school and conference records while leading Marshall to the Southern Conference Championship. He also won the championship's "Most Valuable Swimmer" award.

"That is something I will never forget," Noe said. "I was very proud to be a collegiate athlete for Marshall University, and I still am."

While Noe may have been proud of his record-setting performances in 1983, he doesn't mention that as the highlight of his swimming career. Instead, he points to a moment during his junior year of college. He was at Myrtle Beach during spring break when he learned that someone was trying to commit suicide by swimming far out into the ocean. Noe ran from his motel room and jumped into the water and began racing toward the young man. After swimming a mile from shore, he finally found the teenager.

"He was about to go under," Noe recalled. "He was starting to take in water."

Noe grabbed the kid and soon thereafter a windsurfer appeared. Noe then placed the teen on the windsurfer's board, and the three waited until a rescue team arrived.

"The next day the kid came to my motel room and said, 'I just want to

thank you. I had too much to drink and was doing something stupid. I just really appreciate what you did.' I got a letter from his parents afterwards. I never saw him again. I sometimes wonder if all those years in the pool were preparation for that day."

• • • •

Noe was at a crossroads in 1987. He was a senior at Marshall but was burned out both in the swimming pool and in the classroom. Even though he was just one semester from graduating, he walked away from school and went to work for an industrial contractor.

"The offer came and I thought, 'Why not?' I really had this desire to get out and see the country, and that's what I did. It was a risky move."

As fate would have it, the owner of the company was a pilot who liked to fly in his spare time.

"One day the owner took me up in his plane and that sealed the deal for me," Noe recalled. "I decided before we landed that flying was what I wanted to do with my life."

Noe quit his job and made a beeline for Vero Beach, Florida, where he enrolled in flight school. He rented a rundown apartment near the beach that was filled with cockroaches.

"But that was OK with me," Noe said. "I was flying and absorbing everything I could about aviation. I never looked back."

In 1990, Noe traveled to Huntington to visit some friends and while there met Lisa Kidd. Much like his first time flying, Noe knew immediately that the woman was his destiny. The two were married 79 days later. Another risky move on his part?

"Not at all," Noe said. "If I had it to do over again, I wouldn't have waited so long to ask her to marry me."



Coach Bob Saunders confers with Bill Noe (center) and Craig Endert. Noe began breaking city and state swim records as a child and continued to do so while in college at Marshall. Photo courtesy Marshall University.

• • • •

After completing flight school and earning his pilot's license, Noe accepted a job as an instructor, but his long-term dream was to work for Executive Jet. However, the company (which changed its name to NetJets in 2001) required all its prospective pilots to have a minimum of 2,500 hours of flying time. Undeterred, Noe began building up hours and ultimately landed his dream job in 1993. He flew all across North America before entering the company's international program. In the span of just two years he flew all over the planet, visiting every continent except Australia and Antarctica.

By this time the Noes had started a family. First, they welcomed Nicholas, now 20, and two years later Rylee, now 18.

"I flew a lot — I was gone for 28 days at a time," Noe said. "Standing atop the Eiffel Tower or the Great Wall of China, I thought I was the most fortunate guy in the world."

I remember thinking, 'I can't believe they pay me to do this.' The only thing I didn't like is that every time I went somewhere, I'd think 'Man, I wish Lisa and the kids were here.'"

Noe's desire to spend more time with his family became a reality when the company began taking notice of his leadership qualities in 1994. He was smart, hardworking and, much like his father, immensely likable. As a result, the company began grooming him for management positions. He was promoted to chief pilot of the Gulfstream program, which meant he would be spending less time in the air and more time behind a desk. The family then relocated to Hilton Head, South Carolina, when Noe was promoted to director of operations of NetJets International. He continued to climb the corporate ladder landing more prestigious titles along the way.

"Titles really never meant that much to me," Noe said. "I was just doing my job. I see a lot of people in business trying to get to that next



Noe started as a pilot for NetJets and worked up to president and COO.

rung on the ladder. The way I look at it is you put the business and the people first. You do the best you can — and don't worry about it. Everything else will come."

Along the way Noe began acquiring the additional skills needed to succeed in the corporate world. He contacted Marshall and completed his final semester through online courses. He then enrolled in an accelerated finance course for executives at Columbia University.

In 2008, as the American economy started sinking into a recession, NetJets began to struggle. The company posted a loss of \$711 million and was in serious trouble. As a result, Warren Buffett sent in his top

lieutenant — David Sokol — to right the ship.

"It was quite a struggle to put the company back on track, and quite frankly, it couldn't have been done without Bill Noe," Sokol said. "When I started talking to all the pilots at NetJets, they all pointed to Bill as the leader they thought had the best understanding of the company. The loyalty and trust Bill commanded from the workers was paramount to the company's eventual turnaround."

In 2009, Noe was named president and chief operating officer, which meant he handled the day-

to-day operations. Eighty percent of the company's 5,000 employees reported to him.

"People didn't work for me; I worked for them," Noe said. "Our organizational chart was upside down, which put me at the bottom. We were teammates. If you make decisions about what's right for your team, it will pay off in the long run. The first thing you're going to earn is their respect, then their trust, then their loyalty."

Starting out as a pilot and working his way up through the company provided Noe with a unique perspective on how to lead.

"I didn't fly after 2005. It wasn't something I really wanted, but it was

something I needed to do to make the business better," he said.

His father's influence was apparent in how Noe interacted with customers and coworkers — he has the rare combination of strength and charm.

"My philosophy over the years has been to be honest, fair and consistent. If you have a hard decision to make, the answer is probably in one of those three little words," Noe said.

One of the highlights of Noe's career was the opportunity to work for Warren Buffett, the chairman of Berkshire Hathaway of which NetJets is a subsidiary. The billionaire from Nebraska, often referred to as the "Oracle of Omaha," is considered by many to be the most successful investor in the world today.

"Everything you've read about him is true," Noe said. "He's down to earth, immediately likable and puts everybody at ease."

Sadly, neither of Noe's parents lived long enough to see him achieve success in the business world. He lost his father in 1997 and his mother in 2003.

• • • •

It's a long journey from the deep end of the Olympic Pool to the upper echelon of corporate America, but Bill Noe has made the trek utilizing a unique set of skills. When he started at NetJets in 1993, the company had 20 planes. Today it has more than 800, with offices around the world. It also boasts an impeccable safety record. Noe said he is proud to have been a small part of the company's ascent and attributes his own success to his love of his work and a laser-like focus.

"When you find something you're passionate about, it's not work anymore," Noe explained. "My grandfather told me to find a hobby you can make a living at — and that's what I did. I also have an intense focus;

“When you find **SOMETHING** you’re **PASSIONATE** about, it’s **NOT WORK** anymore.”

once something is radar-locked in my head, that’s it. Studying always came hard to me, and I think I have ADD to some extent. But when I went to flight school, Lisa couldn’t get me to go to a movie or the beach. If I wasn’t reading something about aviation, I felt like I was missing an opportunity.”

While his work has taken him to the four corners of the world, Noe contends that the standard of living in America far exceeds anything he has seen.

“There is no better place than the United States,” he said. “We are so fortunate, and we have everything. You can’t truly appreciate our country until you see the rest of the world.”

Reflecting on his time at Marshall, Noe says his favorite part was the camaraderie he shared with the other athletes he lived with on campus.

“A lot of people join a fraternity when they go to college. But when you’re in athletics, you have a fraternity automatically. We all lived in Hodges Hall and bunked together,” Noe explained. “The camaraderie we had was special. I also liked Marshall because the class sizes were small – the university was close knit. I learned so much both in and out of the classroom. I think that’s what the college experience is all about.”

One of the many friends Noe made while at Marshall was Brad Smith, a fellow student from Kenova,

West Virginia, who also went on to find success in the business world as the CEO of software giant Intuit.

“Bill and I go way back. We were at Marshall together, took martial arts classes together and became fast friends,” Smith said. “I always admired Bill because he was constantly improving himself and he had a great deal of courage. He never backed down from anything and was always willing to take on the biggest challenge. What’s more, he encouraged those around him to try things they didn’t think were possible.”

Smith said it doesn’t surprise him at all that Noe has risen so high in the corporate world.

“Bill is to be admired because he is a self-made man. He has a tremendous work ethic and possesses strong values. It’s easy to see why the workers at NetJets admired him because he started out as a pilot and worked his way up through the organization. Because of that, he had empathy for every employee, he valued their contributions to the company and he cared about their well being. And that’s what it takes to be a world-class leader.”

As for what the future holds for Noe, he isn’t certain.

“I’m going to take a break,” he said with a smile. “When you give 100 percent of yourself to a job for twenty plus years it takes a toll on you. Our youngest child just went off

to college, so Lisa and I are empty nesters now. I want to spend more time with her, travel and rest. But, I’m not someone who can sit still for too long. I’m sure I’ll be exploring some new horizons in the not too distant future.” □

Jack Houvouras is the publisher of *Marshall Magazine*.

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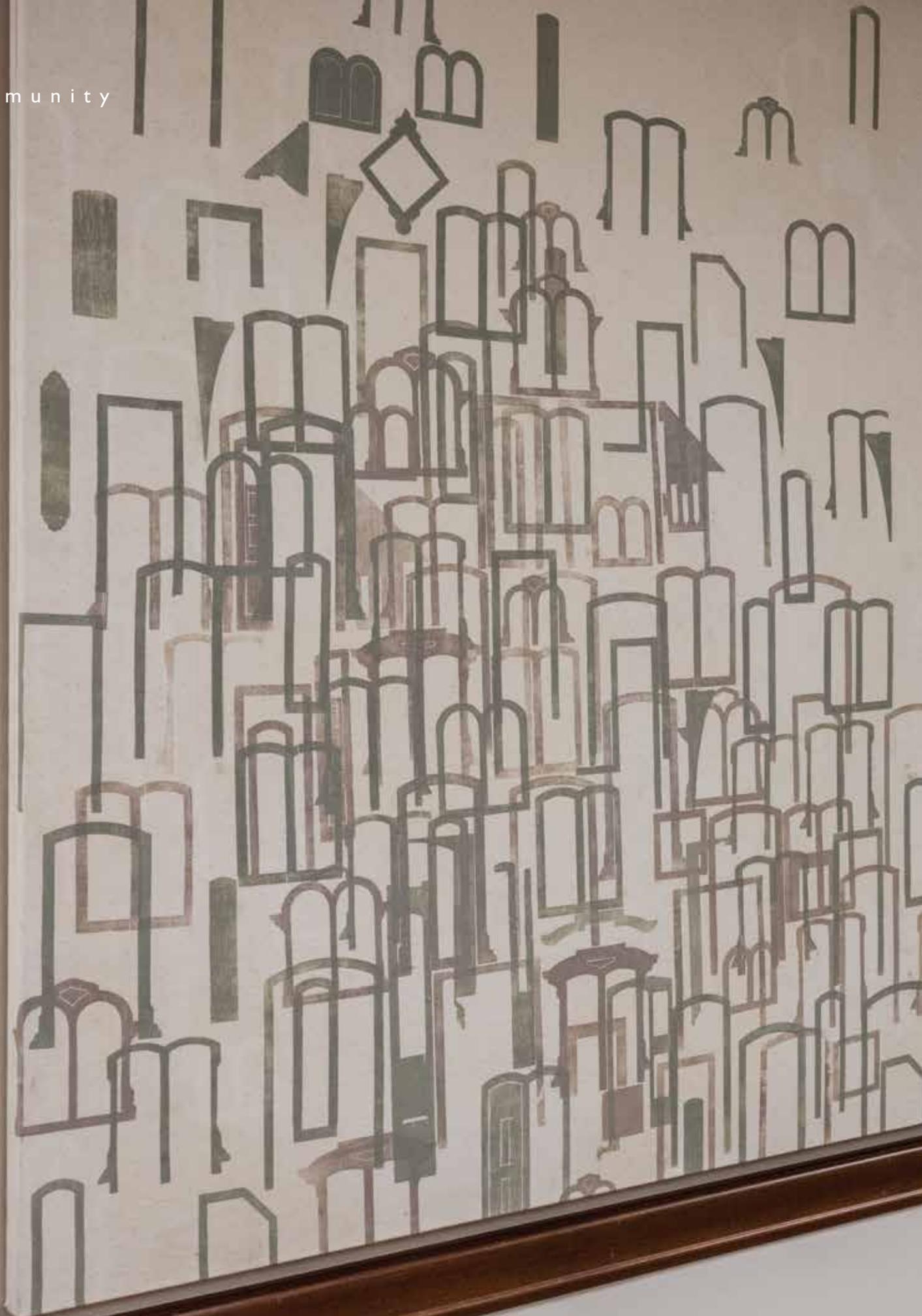
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In a unique public-private partnership, Marshall University artists are bringing cutting-edge artwork to the once conservative walls of a local law firm.

By Jack Houvouras
Photos by Rick Lee



Step inside any law office in America today and you will most likely find a recurring theme – dark wood desks, rich leather chairs, beige walls and portraits of attorneys from a bygone era. Conservative in every way. But when it came time to decorate their offices, the partners at Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough, LLP decided to take a unique approach. The national law firm, with offices in 16 different cities across the country, decided to contact local museums and galleries and lease some of their artwork.

Enter Huntington, West Virginia, and Marshall University. After Nelson Mullins opened an office in downtown Huntington in 2009 and grew from three employees to 40 in a span of just four years, it was time to expand and redecorate. Charlene Pieper, the law firm’s facilities coordinator based out of Columbia, South Carolina, saw a chance to do something unprecedented – work with a local university and its artists.

“Charlene was bound and determined to involve Marshall University in its decorating plans,” recalled Sandra Reed, director of the School of Art and Design. “She contacted us at least once a week before the Visual Arts Center was even open. It became a passion project for her. She really adopted both Marshall and Huntington.”

Reed also worked closely with Marc Williams, the



The Huntington office of Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough, LLP, leases artwork created by students and faculty at Marshall University’s School of Art and Design.



Sandra Reed, director of the School of Art and Design, consults with sculptor Steve Hughart, B.F.A. Visual Art.

ARTISTS at the university got a chance to **SHOWCASE** their work in an upscale office setting, and the firm received modern, **ORIGINAL ARTWORK.**



Artists in the School of Art and Design not only lend the art, they also hang and install the pieces throughout the law firm.

managing partner of Nelson Mullin's Huntington office. In 2014, the two signed an agreement that said the law firm would pay the art department a fee to have its students and faculty lend and hang their artwork throughout its sprawling offices. The deal was a win-win. Artists at the university got a chance to showcase their work in an upscale office setting, and the firm received modern, original artwork. What's more, if the lawyers at Nelson Mullins really liked a particular piece, they had the option to purchase it.

"The money Nelson Mullins pays us is not a nominal fee," Reed explained. "In fact, it represents 10 percent of our annual operating budget. Those funds support faculty and student professional development, such as travel to participate in conferences, workshops and residencies."

For Williams, a former Marshall student body president in 1981-1982, the chance to help his alma mater and adorn his office walls with a wide array of art was a welcome opportunity.

"We truly enjoy the entire process. We get to meet with students and faculty, hear about their vision, review their work and make our selections," Williams said. "It's special when you have the opportunity to help hard-working students and faculty while, at the same time, learn more about the world of art."

The pieces on display at Nelson Mullins cover a wide gamut including oil paintings, photography, sculpture, graphic design,



Managing partner Marc Williams was integral in creating the partnership between Nelson Mullins and the College of Arts and Media — School of Art and Design.



Nelson Mullins attorneys Melissa Foster Bird and John Zickefoose enjoy the original artwork displayed throughout their office.



The pieces on display at Nelson Mullins cover a wide gamut including oil paintings, photography, sculpture, graphic design, tapestry and mixed media.



tapestry and mixed media. Williams noted that there are two reasons why the partnership is particularly meaningful to him and his partners in Huntington.

“Number one, it helps Marshall, which is very important to us. And two, we get the chance to display a wide variety of pieces that you wouldn’t find in any other law office in the country – the art is cutting-edge and created by some remarkably talented students and faculty.”

Reed says the entire art community at Marshall is benefiting from their relationship with Nelson Mullins and admires the law firm’s vision and willingness to take chances.

“We are in the third year of our agreement and each year they get a little more daring with their art selections,” Reed says with a smile. “In an era of state budget deficits, Nelson Mullins gives the artists at Marshall University a safety net for continued creative growth. And that means the world to our students.”

To learn more about Marshall’s art leasing program, contact Sandra Reed at the Visual Arts Center. E-mail reedsa@marshall.edu or call 304-696-5451. □

Jack Houvouras is the publisher of *Marshall Magazine*.

With All Due RESPECT

CEDRIC GATHINGS MAKES SURE STUDENTS' VOICES ARE HEARD.

By Jean Hardiman

Photos by Rick Lee

It was the aftermath of a contentious presidential election. Emotions were high. No doubt, lively conversations were going on throughout the Tri-State, the nation, even the world. There's no telling how many callous remarks were made in those hours, from all sides of the political realm.

One of them — a tweet written by a Marshall University student and dispersed to countless others via social media — got quite a bit of attention locally.

It was about Donald Trump and it seemed to endorse inappropriate groping. Whatever the student's true intention — whether simply to amuse or not — it was a remark that presented challenges and a great deal of discussion on Marshall's campus. If said at a small gathering, the comment may have only caused eyes to roll or launched a private conversation about respect. Instead, it led to a storm on social media, phone calls, hastily organized meetings and a carefully prepared press statement issued by the university.

In turn, it highlighted the challenges that universities face these days, trying to both monitor and maintain an atmosphere of respect among its students and community, when social media makes it so easy to disseminate divisive words.

"It's clear that many people are expressing strong feelings on social

media this morning without fully thinking it through or considering the ramifications of the language they are using," Marshall University President Jerome A. Gilbert said in the press statement that was released Wednesday, Nov. 9, 2016. "I condemn, in no uncertain terms, the language in the tweet attributed to one of our students. By suggesting an action that is inconsistent with our university's core values — in direct opposition to the Marshall University Creed and everything the Marshall family stands for — it does not represent behavior we expect from our students. Language like this can only be viewed as threatening and offensive not only to women but to all members of our community."

From that point, it was a matter of moving forward, said Cedric Gathings, vice president for student affairs at Marshall. Gathings' position at Marshall is actually a new one, intended to expand the university's emphasis on building relationships with students.

He was previously assistant vice

president for multicultural affairs at Mississippi State University and joined Marshall in July to oversee the Office of Student Affairs, which covers a lot of programs, including a counseling center, student government, military and veterans affairs, disability and health services and student conduct.

Gathings has said he sees his position as a chance to build unity. That largely involves listening and making sure the voices of students — and others who are working hard on their behalf — are heard. And that's exactly what he and the division did in November after the election.

The Office of Student Affairs met and discussed ways to protect the integrity of all students, including offering more opportunities for students to get trained in social media etiquette and best practices moving forward. The office also made counselors available, offering a safe space for students who wanted to vent or talk about their concerns following the election.

"I didn't see this as a challenge, but as an opportunity to talk with students about being respectful," Gathings said.



Cedric Gathings is the new vice president for student affairs at Marshall.



Marshall President Jerome Gilbert and Cedric Gathings joined other senior administrators from the university to help with a Habitat for Humanity project in Huntington on July 15, 2016.

“We have a great group of students here who see social media as a good way to communicate, and overall, they’re very respectful.”

The office organized a meeting for Marshall community members to share what was on their minds after the election, said Carla Lapelle, associate dean of student affairs.

“I did organize a program for students to talk about the election, but that was a result of a few students coming forward with questions about immigration status and race relations, given some of the comments throughout the campaign,” Lapelle said. The meeting drew fewer students than they’d hoped, but more faculty

and staff than they were expecting, she said, adding that it sparked an excellent conversation.

“We were able to address immigration concerns as best we could, since we aren’t sure of what the future holds,” she said. “We were able to educate about the whole election process and reasons people vote as they do, and aspects of how the government works. Besides their questions, our participants had some very insightful comments. It was a great 90 minutes.”

In regards to students’ reactions to the questionable tweet, Student Body President Matt Jarvis said Marshall University has a diverse group of students who had diverse opinions

about it. Some thought it was an example of freedom of speech, and others were understandably offended. He believes they’re all fortunate to have faculty, staff and administrators who recognize learning opportunities when they see them.

The use of social media is at its best when there is careful thought and consideration by all its users.

“We all have to learn that some people have different views than we do,” Jarvis said. “People are going to say things that we don’t agree with or trust or want to put faith in. That’s the world we’re in.... As for the majority of students, I was proud of how they handled themselves. They were

respectful and mindful... and remembered that even if we disagree, we should respect each other's opinions."

Social media is not going away, Gathings said. It's often used to share helpful information as well. And it is such a big responsibility to make sure that it is monitored and used properly that some companies hire people for strictly that purpose, he said.

Indeed, society at large is still working out the issues related to civil dialogue on social media, said Ginny Painter, Marshall's senior vice president for communications and marketing.

"Colleges and universities are no different, and in fact, are often on the front lines," she said. "The internet and social media have escalated the speed at which we, as an institution, have to address issues. If we pause or sit back to see what happens, a situation can get out of control quickly and irreparably damage our image. On the other hand, if we over-react or act

without all the facts, it can damage a young person's reputation and affect their future. It's very serious stuff.

"I don't think students are always aware of the consequences of dashing off 140 characters in the heat of the moment," she added. "People often don't understand that everyone is entitled to free speech but aren't immune to the consequences that may come from what they say. The backlash can be very damaging, and saying, 'I'm sorry,' isn't always enough once it's out there."

Every situation has to be handled individually, Painter said, as all instances are different and there is no standard blueprint that can be followed in responding to each case.

"Generally, before responding, we take into consideration the right to free speech, provisions in our student Code of Conduct and the standards detailed in the Marshall University Creed," she said. "Ultimately, though,

we have to help our students understand that words matter, that words have consequences – sometimes well beyond that which was intended. I think that's a good lesson for all of us, particularly in the age of social media."

It's just another role that the university can play in preparing students for a bright future.

"My hope," Painter said, "is that if we set clear expectations, equip our students with the tools they need to model responsible social media behavior and think critically, and are consistent with how we handle these situations, our university culture will become a model as it relates to civil discourse." □

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



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MAJOR

A major leaguer returns to Huntington to catch up with the Thundering Herd baseball program and inspire a new generation of players to follow their dreams.

ING HERD™



Dreams ◆

By Keith Morehouse

Photos by Rick Hays and Marilyn Testerman-Hays



Thundering Herd pitcher/third baseman Tyler Ratliff brings experience to the lineup.

It wasn't exactly the October Cincinnati Reds pitcher Dan Straily had envisioned. His season had just ended and instead of continuing his first year in Cincinnati with a play-off run, Straily was driving from Cincinnati to Huntington with his wife, Amanda, to show her his old college town. He hadn't been back to Marshall since he left in 2009, so there was plenty to see, a lot to reminisce about and a Herd baseball practice he wanted to observe at the Kennedy Center.

"Huntington and Marshall University were really good to me," Straily said of why he wanted to swing by campus. "I hope I can be a motivation to all the guys out there that chase this dream.

I still chase it all the time.

I'm fortunate to have been

playing in the majors for quite a while now, and I don't take that for granted."

Straily did his part in 2016 to help the Reds' efforts. He led the staff in wins (14), starts (31) and strikeouts (162) while posting a 14-8 record. Those are pretty good numbers for a guy who was drafted in the 24th round of the Major League Baseball draft. You have to have more than just talent to make it to the "Bigs" as the 723rd pick in the draft.

Soaking in Straily's visit to Huntington under a beautiful blue sky was Herd Coach Jeff Waggoner. For a college

baseball coach, an alum in the majors can be your best recruiting tool. And standing on the pitching mound at 6 feet 2 inches tall and 220 pounds, Straily was real proof to the current Herd players that hard work matters in this sport. They were listening to his pitch, loud and clear.

"I think it's more important to our players that we can see guys make it to the highest level." Waggoner said. "We've got 30 plus kids from Marshall playing pro ball, and just to hear another voice say, 'You can do this,' is great. Dan didn't have special tools other than a mindset that he was going to make it. And our current players want to continue that proud tradition of determination. They know how tough it is to be the most northern team in Conference USA, and they know we need new facilities to compete in this conference."

Marshall's baseball program had a season in 2016 that kept major league alums like Dan Straily and



Marshall baseball players dream of making it in the big leagues like pitcher Dan Straily who is now with the Miami Marlins. Courtesy of The Cincinnati Reds.

2013 first round draft pick Aaron Blair keenly interested in what was going on in Huntington.

- 34 wins and 21 C-USA wins, the most ever in school history
- Four players drafted in MLB draft, one signed as a free agent
- Won 11 C-USA games in a row
- Coach Jeff Waggoner named the Keith LeClair C-USA Coach of the Year
- First baseman Tommy Lane named C-USA Newcomer of the Year and named to the All C-USA First Team
- Pitcher Chase Boster and outfielder D.J. Gee named to the All C-USA First Team

It was also a year of what might have been. By Jeff Waggoner's calculations, the Herd was one or two wins away from a berth in the NCAA Tournament. But was it the best year ever under Waggoner?

"Starting pitching and bullpen were maybe the strongest," Waggoner said. "We had a good



Joshua Shapiro was named C-USA Pitcher of the Week among other honors during his freshman season in 2016.

offense. It definitely was by record and the most wins in conference.

You'd probably have to say that."

But Waggoner and the Herd now turn the page to 2017.

They lost those five players to the professionals. Still, Waggoner and the Herd press on. He builds a program that's still behind in the count because it plays its non-conference home games at the Kennedy Center on Route 2 and their home conference games at Appalachian Power Park in Charleston. It's not a level playing field in Conference USA for the nomadic Herd, but

the program is not making excuses for its lack of a full-time home field.

This season, 14 players from last year's roster return. Heavy contributors like pitcher/third baseman Tyler Ratliff, shortstop Leo Valenti, first baseman Tommy Lane and outfielder Cory Garrastazu, among others, will bring experience to the Thundering Herd lineup.

"We're not gonna sneak up on anyone," Waggoner said. "We want to help the conference stay at the top and we want to be a part of that. Teams like Rice, Florida Atlantic, Southern Miss – we want to keep it a strong conference."

And to keep those professional players stopping by to visit. □

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



Head Coach Jeff Waggoner pushed the Thundering Herd to a record season in 2016.

Workforce *Ready*

The Office of Career Services and the Student Resource Center
join forces to create the Office of Career Education.

Marshall University is committed to the success of its students — from the day they arrive on campus until after they have graduated and entered the workforce. The recent merger of the Office of Career Services and the Student Resource Center to form the Office of Career Education assists students in realizing their own intellectual flexibility early enough in college to make a difference in their academic success now and their professional success later.

Merging academic planning with career education helps students see the multiple paths they can take, which will lead them to a career they want. For example, a student who struggles with the chemistry requirements for a biology degree could combine a communications major with a minor in biology and discover a broad range of professional opportunities, including popular science writing, health care consulting or public relations for an endangered species research center.

“What students often don’t see is that one major can lead to many different careers, and many different majors can lead to a single career,” said Dr. Sherri Smith, associate vice president for academic affairs and dean of undergraduate studies. “Once you start to bring together academic and career planning and say ‘there are doors opening for you rather than a door closing,’ it transforms the student’s perspective.”

The Student Resource Center originally was designed



The Office of Career Services offered guidance and assistance to students preparing to enter the workforce.

to help students find all the information they need in one location, rather than going from office to office. In addition, the SRC staff advised undecided students, who are usually freshmen and sophomores. Career Services provided a range of services, from career exploration to resume development, used most by juniors and seniors preparing to transition from college to the workplace. The idea of combining the two offices arose from institutional

By Molly McClennen
Photos by Rick Lee



Dr. Sherri Smith (right), associate vice president for academic affairs and dean of undergraduate studies, and Denise Hogsett, director of career education, worked to create the new Office of Career Education.

efforts to improve student retention and degree completion rates.

Smith said they also discovered that students who were “pre-majors” had lower-than-desired retention rates. These students meet the academic qualifications to be admitted to Marshall, but not the admissions requirements for the program in which they want to major. Without intervention, too many of these students become stuck, taking classes in hopes of being admitted to their program but not making progress toward their degree.

“We recognized that we need to provide a different kind of educational experience to these students that helps them look beyond their intended major. Merging the SRC and Career Services to become the Office of Career Education helps us do that,” said Smith. “Many students are not thinking about the connection between their academic work and what they will do after they graduate. We conjectured that, if we could get them to think that way, we might be able to help more of these students graduate.”

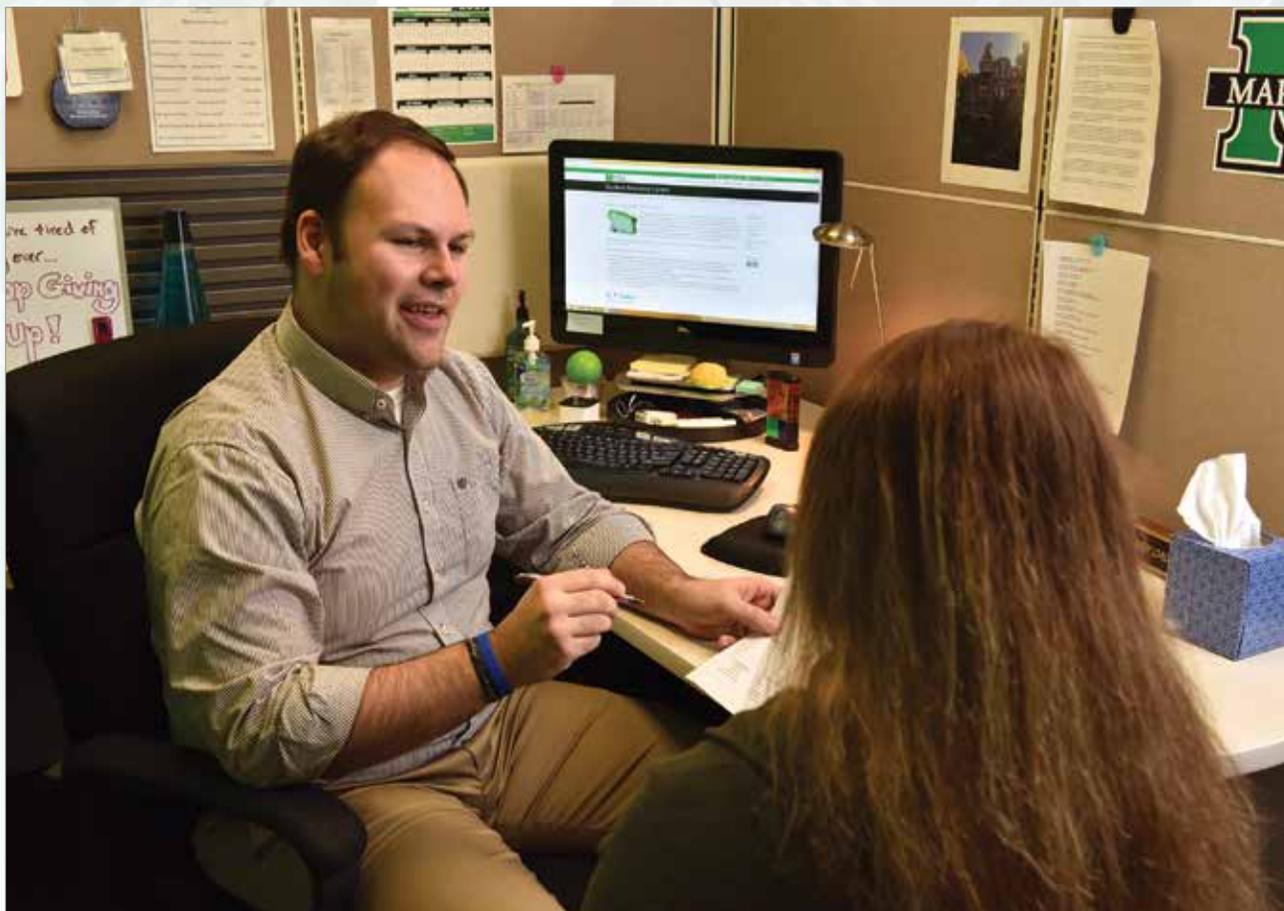
Career Education consultants have several assessment

tools they use to help students reflect on their aptitudes, interests, values and beliefs. After completing these assessments, students have a guided discussion with staff about how the results can inform their major and career choices.

“We are not here to change anyone’s mind,” Denise Hogsett, director of career education, said. “We are in the business of doing what is best for the student, helping them think about where they see themselves and how they can get there. If, after self-reflection, they see that they cannot get there, then we can help guide them toward a change.”

Rather than waiting for students to seek out their services, the new Office of Career Education will embed learning about careers in the academic curriculum during the first two years of college. Freshmen will participate in a new program called First-Year Discovery, which helps them understand how major clusters and career clusters relate to one another. Only after students begin to thrive in a best-fit major will they participate in Sophomore Focus, to learn more about the expectations of an associated career cluster.

“When students feel like they have made a good decision



Denny Daugherty (left), major exploration consultant in the SRC, uses assessment tools and guided discussions to help students determine their major and vocational options.

about their major, it is like the weight of the world is lifted off their shoulders. Then they see a purpose for what they are doing and can get the most out of their time at Marshall,” said Hogsett.

Job shadowing is an important part of both First-Year Discovery and Sophomore Focus. Hogsett said sometimes students have an idea of what they think it will be like to work in a particular industry, but the reality does not match their expectations. Finding that out early through experiences like job shadowing prevents freshmen from pursuing a major that does not lead to a desirable career.

On the other hand, job shadowing at the sophomore level “helps students augment their education by engaging in co-curricular experiences that prepare professionals to be adaptive problem-solvers,” Smith said. With a better understanding of what is expected in a particular career path, students work with Career Education staff to develop a plan to seek out those experiences while in college. For example, a student who shadows a lawyer may then decide to join the speech and debate team. The process results in students who have found a career path that is

right for them and who not only have a degree but also have had experiences to prepare them for that career and make them stand out on the job market.

The Office of Career Education is reaching out to local employers and alumni who would be willing to host students for a day of job shadowing. Providing those experiences is an important way alumni and the community can support Marshall’s academic mission.

“Career education enables students to avoid the some-college, lots-of-debt, no-degree trap,” Smith said. “Today one can use virtually any degree to pursue virtually any career, but many students don’t understand this. A rich curriculum in career education helps students see how all the pieces of the collegiate experience connect to one another. We now see career education at the center of student success.”

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



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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:

Throughout this issue there are articles highlighting one of Marshall University's greatest assets – our alumni. Each year we celebrate our alumni's accomplishments at the annual alumni award banquet during Alumni Weekend (April 21-22, 2017). Each award given is a significant honor, as every honoree must have incredible achievements in their careers to even be considered. I would encourage you to visit our website (www.herdalum.com) to learn about all the events during the weekend.

Do you know if you are an "active" alumni? And no, I'm not asking when was the last time you played a round of golf. An active alumni is an alumni who has made a contribution of their choice to the Marshall University Foundation within the last year. Alumni who have active status receive special membership benefits and their contributions can help fund causes such as scholarships.

There are several ways to make a contribution, but the easiest way is through the Marshall Foundation website (www.marshall.edu/foundation). However, if that's not a good option for you, please call 304-696-6264 for information on other methods. Once you're on the website, look for the "give now" link and then follow the instructions. Regardless of the size of your contribution, your generosity can have a huge impact.

Lastly, within the last few months, several new alumni clubs have started up. If you're wondering if there's an alumni club near you, I would once again encourage you to visit our website (www.herdalum.com) and click "clubs" from the links near the top of the page). There are so many passionate Marshall alumni across the country and it's exciting to consider the possibility of future success.

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

HOMECOMING THUNDERING '20s!

Galas, Gatsby and Flappers Galore — Thundering '20s invade Marshall!

It was a scene straight out *The Great Gatsby*, with plenty of flappers, zoot suits and unique slang to go around as the Thundering '20s roared onto the Huntington campus during Homecoming 2016.

Students, faculty/staff and alumni came together to celebrate a full week of 1920s-themed activities leading up to the Thundering Herd's 27-21 victory over Florida Atlantic on Saturday, Oct. 15, at Joan C. Edwards Stadium. The win moved Marshall to an impressive 14-3 record in Homecoming games since 2000.

Among the highlights of Homecoming 2016 were the annual Homecoming parade and bonfire,

Picnic on the Plaza, Unity Walk, campus office decorating competition, Alum Run and a huge gathering of Herd alumni at the annual Alumni Tailgate. Red Dawson oversaw the week-long celebration as Grand Marshal.

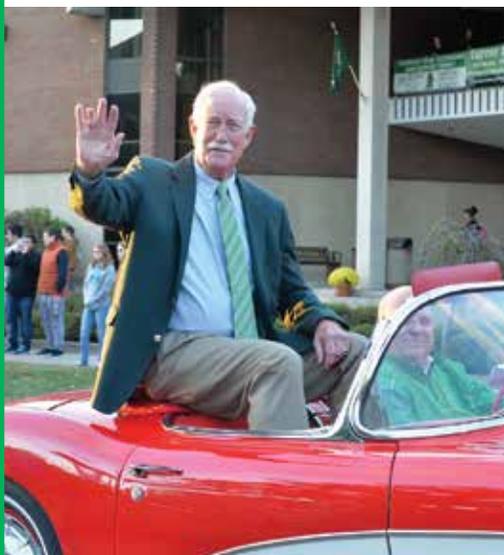
Morgan Zerkle, a senior exercise science major from Milton, who is also a member of the Herd softball team, was named Miss Marshall during halftime festivities, while Killian Ellis, a senior exercise physiology major from Parkersburg, was voted Mr. Marshall.

Other big winners during Homecoming 2016 were Marshall Family Medicine, which won best



overall office during the office decorating competition; Marshall Commons Hall Council and Delta Zeta, winners of the annual Thunder Cup competition for student organizations, and Delta Zeta and Alpha Sigma Phi, winners of the parade float competition.

Relive more of the excitement from Homecoming 2016 online at HerdAlum.com. □







Alumni Weekend!

April 21-22, 2017

Mark your calendar for a weekend full of fun and fellowship as the MARSHALL UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION presents ALUMNI WEEKEND the weekend of APRIL 21-22, 2017. The university community will celebrate as alumni from around the country return to Marshall's Huntington campus for a weekend full of activities.

You will have the opportunity to renew old friendships, make new friends, remember your days at Marshall and witness the amazing changes here on the Huntington campus.



Make plans to join us today and be sure to visit us at www.herdalum.com for special discounts and complete details for Alumni Weekend 2017!

SHARE IN THE ALUMNI EXPERIENCE!

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

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



Marshall University Alumni Association

www.herdalum.com





2018 Alumni Award Nominations

Deadline for submissions is January 1, 2018.

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

The Awards Committee makes its decision based on nominations received on or before January 1, 2018. Nominations received after that date will be considered for 2019.

CATEGORIES:

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

Alumnus/Alumna Community Achievement: Given to alumni for success in their particular field of endeavor and personal contribution to their respective communities. (A Marshall alumnus/alumna is any former student who has received academic credit at Marshall University and whose class has graduated.)

Distinguished Service: Given for loyal and unselfish service to Marshall. This award is NOT limited to Marshall alumni.

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

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

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

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

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

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

* All categories may not be awarded each year!

I hereby nominate the following person for: _____

Nominee's Name: _____

Nominee's Address: _____

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

Nominee's E-mail: _____

My Name: _____

My Address: _____

My Phone: _____

My E-mail: _____

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



NEVER FORGET

A SPECIAL WEEKEND AT
MARSHALL UNIVERSITY

Each year, on a cool, brisk afternoon in November, the Memorial Fountain is silenced on campus, acting as a reminder of all that was lost on Nov. 14, 1970.

On that day, 75 members of the Marshall University family were lost in the now infamous plane crash that sparked one of the most remarkable stories ever told. A story of resilience. A story of hope. A story of never giving up.

While November is always revered here on campus, this year took on a new meaning with several special events leading up to the 46th Memorial Fountain Ceremony on Monday, Nov. 14.

Kicking off the weekend was a special showing of *We Are Marshall* to celebrate the 10-year anniversary of the film's release. Family members of the 75, members of the Young Thundering Herd, plus hundreds of students, dignitaries and guests from the Huntington community gathered for a reception at the Frederick, followed by a special showing of the film at the Keith-Albee, complete with a green carpet entrance.

The following day, the Thundering Herd football team took to the field in special helmets donning both a 75 and a special throwback logo on the side honoring the 1971 Young Thundering Herd football team. Marshall won the game, 42-17, over Middle Tennessee State.

Finally, hundreds gathered on the Memorial Student Center Plaza on Monday, Nov. 14, to honor the 75 during the 46th Memorial Service at the fountain. Speakers included Marshall President Jerome Gilbert, Athletic Director Mike Hamrick, Head Football Coach Doc Holliday, Alumni Director Matt Hayes, Student Body President Matthew Jarvis and keynote speaker Dennis Foley, who had been a member of the team before the crash. □



Former US Ambassador Donates Papers of Grandfather, C.H. Freeman, to Marshall Special Collections

Former U.S. Ambassador Mark Erwin was in Huntington in December to promote his book, *The Powers*. While in town, he met with administrators from the Marshall University Foundation and Special Collections to donate a collection of papers from his late grandfather, Charles H. Freeman.

“My first mentor was my grandfather, who died 25 years before I was born,” Erwin said. “I studied his life and was inspired by him. I want to pass those ideas and thoughts on to younger people. In a way, sharing these papers is a way of paying it forward.”

Erwin said he hopes others can read his grandfather’s journals and papers and study his business journey.

“As with all our collections of manuscripts and papers unique to Marshall and Huntington’s history, they give our students and faculty an insight as to what was happening during that time,” Dr. Monica Brooks, associate vice president of libraries and online learning, said. “These collections are important because they give us a context as to what helped shape our community and its people.”

In 1901, Freeman was the lawyer of William C. Yawkey, the wealthiest man in Michigan. Freeman was asked to travel to West Virginia to assess the value of land offered to Yawkey.

“He rode in a wagon from Charleston at the time,” Erwin said. “He noticed a stream was on fire. He was told ‘that’s that oil stuff that comes up from the ground, occasionally lightning strikes and it catches fire. It eventually goes out.’”

Freeman recognized this as an opportunity, and together they formed Yawkey and Freeman Coal Company and Big Creek Development Company. In 1906, the site became one of the greatest oil fields of its time. In 1910, Freeman

married his assistant, a former school teacher from Mason County, and they moved to the up-and-coming city of Huntington, Erwin said.

“They spent \$85,000 to build the Freeman Estate, located on 8th Street Hill,” Erwin said. “At that time, people would normally spend \$2,000 to build a home. The estate is now part of the National Register.

“The estate was also called Park Hill Farm because as a hobby, he raised cattle and chickens. He planted 6,000 different kinds of bushes and plants in his garden. Although he died at age 66, he was an interesting and eclectic man, kind of a renaissance man. He had a library of thousands of books.”

Growing up, Erwin spent summers at the family estate and took summer courses at Marshall College now Marshall University.

“I remember an English composition course I took one summer,” Erwin said. “The assignment was to find a great quote and write a paper about it. I went to my grandmother and asked her for help with a quote. At 85 years old she recited from memory a quote by Calvin Coolidge about persistence. It’s in my book, *The Powers*, and I’ve used it throughout my life:

Nothing in the world can take the place of Persistence. Talent will not; nothing is more common than unsuccessful men with talent. Genius will not; unrewarded genius is almost a proverb. Education will not; the world is full of educated derelicts. Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent. The slogan ‘Press On’ has solved and always will solve the problems of the human race.

—Calvin Coolidge



Amb. Mark Erwin (seated at left), and his wife, Joan (seated at right), presented the papers of C.H. Freeman, Mark Erwin's grandfather, to the Marshall University Libraries' Special Collections. Standing behind the Erwins are Dr. Monica Brooks, associate vice president of libraries and online learning, and Nat DeBruin, head archivist.

“My grandfather was a very generous man. He gave to Marshall College and many area charities. Unfortunately, the family fortune didn't survive to my generation. After my grandfather's death, my grandmother and her three daughters, including my mother, lived in the family estate. They were a generation of spenders, not earners.”

The estate was sold and restored in the 1970s after his grandmother's death. After the restoration, it was added to the National Register of Historic Places, Erwin said.

“Perhaps this was fortunate for me,” Erwin said in his blog. “Had the fortune been passed on, I may not have

been inspired to develop my own skills, ambition and grand vision to restore our family fortune.”

University archivists are looking forward to adding the donation to their current collection.

“The Freeman materials that we have provide insight into the day-to-day operations of the family business,” Nat DeBruin, head archivist for Marshall University Archives and Special Collections, said. “The current Freeman collection is very small and the bulk of it contains correspondence between family members. We are curious to see what additional materials Ambassador Erwin has provided.” □

Gary Ray Receives Lifetime Achievement Award from National Space Club

Gary D. Ray (B.E.S. '67), who worked for NASA at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida for most of his career, received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Florida division of the National Space Club in September.



Originally from Huntington, Ray began his career at the Space Center as a mechanical engineer. He was an operational propulsion engineer, hypergolics, for the Command/Service Module for the Apollo, Skylab and ASTP Programs.

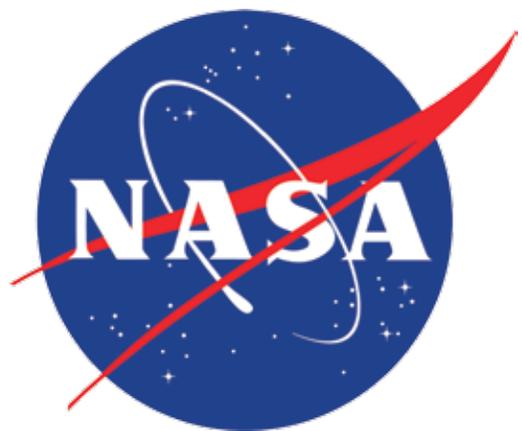
In 1976, he joined the Space Center's design engineering team as a project engineer for the design, fabrication/construction/installation for the facilities and ground systems/equipment for Space Shuttle Launch Pads 39A and 39B. He planned and managed all requirements, cost, schedule and integration for both facilities, and research and development for ground systems/equipment.

Later, in the 1980s, he served as lead project engineer for projects at Vandenberg Air Force Base and Easter Island, working closely with the Chilean government in the latter case.

Ray received several awards before retiring from NASA in 1999, including two NASA Exceptional Service Medals in 1990 and 1996, a NASA Exceptional Achievement Medal for outstanding team leadership in 1996 and an Astronaut Silver Snoopy Award in 1979.

After his retirement from NASA, he participated in a cooperative arrangement between the Kennedy Space Center and the Brevard County Public School System, which resulted in a wired computer network that allowed internet connectivity and e-mail for the staff. For this he was presented with the Brevard Public Schools Award of Excellence.

Ray and his wife, Evelyn, live in Cocoa, Florida, near their three daughters, five grandchildren and two great grandchildren. □



Alumni Weekend Reservation Form 2017

Name _____ MU Class Year _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

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

Your Guest(s) _____ MU Class Year _____

Event Tickets

	No. of Tickets	Price per Person	Amount
<input type="checkbox"/> Please make me an active member of the Marshall University Alumni Association. I have designated my gift to the right and included the amount in my total.			
FRIDAY, APRIL 21 Dinner Theatre. Join us for dinner and the MU Theatre production of <i>Guys and Dolls</i> at the Joan C. Edwards Playhouse. Tickets include a themed dinner, coffee and conversation with the director, and play. <i>Dinner — 6 p.m. / Showtime — 7:30 p.m.</i>		\$35/person \$60/couple	
SATURDAY, APRIL 22 Reunion Breakfast. Open to all MU alumni. Enjoy a delicious breakfast and catch up with classmates and friends as we recognize the Class of 1967 "Golden Class," Class of 1992 "Silver Class," and "Grand Class" in the John Marshall Room (Memorial Student Center). <i>Breakfast — 9 a.m.</i>		\$10/person	
80th Annual Alumni Awards Banquet. Celebrate the achievements of Marshall's finest as we honor our distinguished alumni and friends in the Don Morris Room (Memorial Student Center). <i>Dinner — 6:30 p.m.</i>		\$75/person \$140/couple \$500/table of 8	
		Ticket Total	
		TOTAL ENCLOSED	

CHECK ENCLOSED. Please make checks payable to MUAA and mail this completed form to:

Marshall University Alumni Relations
Alumni Weekend Reservations
One John Marshall Drive
Huntington, WV 25755-6200

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Alumni Relations at
(304) 696-3134

MOVING MOUNTAINS ON #GIVING TUESDAY™

11.29.2016

When the tragic June flooding swept parts of West Virginia, the response to help those in need was immediate. At the Marshall University Foundation and Alumni Association, the desire to help was no different and they promptly decided to “move mountains.” The Student Disaster Relief Fund was promoted to support Marshall students’ return to campus in the fall. It was clear – this fund would be the endorsed designation for gifts on #GivingTuesday.

A purely social media-based event that began in 2012, #GivingTuesday is dedicated to philanthropy and community voluntarism. In 2015, Huntington Mayor Steve Williams presented the Marshall University Foundation with a proclamation declaring the Tuesday after Cyber Monday would be #GivingTuesday in Huntington.



Members of Marshall University Foundation’s Board shared words of appreciation for their time at Marshall, as well as why they give.

On Nov. 29, the designated date for #GivingTuesday 2016, over 50 donors moved mountains for our deserving students.

“Loyal Marshall Alumni and friends stepped up to help expand the university’s Student Relief Fund on #GivingTuesday. I am honored to say we raised thousands of dollars to assist Marshall students in their time of need,” said Griffin Talbott, program director of the annual fund.

A limited edition bobblehead of the John Marshall statue will be sent to donors who made a \$100 contribution on Nov. 29.

Marshall University Foundation Board members, students and staff shared messages of gratitude for donors and explained why they give. To view these messages, visit www.facebook.com/marshallfoundation.



The John Marshall Statue holds the John Marshall bobblehead.

“This scholarship, that I personally received, really was a miracle because my back was against the wall, and it provided the money that I needed to further my education. Without it, I really don’t know how I would have continued my education. It truly was a miracle.”
— Michael Lomax, a nursing student from Man, West Virginia, expresses his gratitude for his scholarship donor.





Marshall University Alumni Association Board of Directors Nomination Form

The Alumni Association is now accepting nominations for 10 of its 30 elected positions on the Board of Directors. The term of office is three years beginning July 1, 2017.

Qualifications:

- Must be an active member of the Alumni Association through an annual gift to the Marshall University Foundation Inc.
- Be energetic and enthusiastic in support of the university and concerned with its growth and potential.
- Be available to attend three on-campus board meetings during the year, and be willing to assist in his/her home area in promoting Marshall and the Alumni Association.
- Nominations must be received by April 1, 2017 to the Office of Alumni Relations
- Attach nominee's curriculum vitae/resume.

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

Nominator's Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

E-mail Address _____

Reasons for Nomination _____

Nominee's Name _____

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

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

E-mail Address _____

Employer _____ Position _____

Business Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Years served on Board (*list dates if previously served*) _____

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

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

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

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

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



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.

1970s

Joy McComas (B.A. '73) studied lowland rain forest and montane cloud forests in the summer of 2016, while investigating the biotic, physical and cultural forces that affect tropical biodiversity in Costa Rica. A retired teacher, she lives in South Point, Ohio, and took the graduate course in pursuit of her master's degree from Miami University's Global Field Program.

Jeff Sandy (B.B.A. '79) has been appointed to the cabinet of Gov. Jim Justice (B.B.A. '74, M.B.A. '76) as secretary of the West Virginia Department of Military Affairs and Public Safety. Sandy and his wife, Renee, have three children who are also graduates of Marshall.

Dr. Cathy Sepko (M.A. '77), a member of the North Greenville University faculty since 1996, was honored upon her retirement as the commencement speaker at the university's December commencement and with an honorary Doctor of Christian Leadership degree.

1980s

Shelly Pereira (B.B.A. '83), has been elected to the board of directors of the Executive Women's Golf Association. She lives in Gloucester, Virginia.

Patricia Seifert (B.A. '83) has been named an "Ohio Super Lawyer." She works for Tucker Ellis LLP, a full-service law firm of more than 220 attorneys with locations in Chicago, Cleveland, Columbus, Denver, Houston, Los Angeles, San Francisco and St. Louis.

1990s

Brian Besten (M.B.A. '97), who lives in Bridgeport, West Virginia, is the chief financial officer of the Louis A. Johnson VA Medical Center in Clarksburg, West Virginia.

John Brannen (B.A. '97) is coach of the basketball team at Northern Kentucky University.

Chris Ellis (B.S. '95) of Fayetteville, West Virginia, is owner of Ellis Communications, a public relations agency serving the outdoor industry.

Dr. R. Scott Stultz (B.B.A. '92, M.B.A. '97) earned his doctorate in accounting from Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia, in August 2016. His dissertation examined the comparative efficacy of Christian-based socially responsible investment funds.

Troy Taylor (B.B.A. '93) is chairman and CEO of Tampa's Coca-Cola Beverages Florida, the fifth-largest



Troy Taylor

independent Coca-Cola bottler in the country.

Lisa A. Tignor (B.A. '90) won Best West Virginia Animation at the 2016 West Virginia Filmmakers Festival. The award was for her short film, *Favorite Crayon*, which is about how crayons sabotage each other in order to be a little girl's favorite. Tignor wrote and directed the film. The retro, stop-motion animation style was chosen in a nod to the Christmas specials of Rankin/Bass, which she says she still loves and watches each year.



Jara Howard (B.A. '11) and **Jason Spears** (R.B.A. '02) have been sworn in as family court judges in Cabell County, West Virginia.

2000s

Michael Bertsch (M.A. '02) is the director of football media relations at the University of Notre Dame.

Beth Davenport (M.A.T. '02) is teaching music at Poca Elementary School in Poca, West Virginia.

Andrew Guz (B.B.A. '03) has been named chief executive of the Lakewood Ranch Medical Center in Lakewood Ranch, Pennsylvania.



Andrew Guz

Dr. Jill Justice (B.A. '07) is president of the Greenbrier Resort.

Kelli Lewis (B.A. '04, M.A.J. '06) is associate director of advancement and stewardship at Marietta College in Marietta, Ohio.

Zach Martin (B.B.A. '03) is now vice president of sales — North America for Big Truck Rental, LLC, in Tampa, Florida.

Chris Shires (B.A. '01) has been appointed executive director of the Gilmore Car Museum in Hickory Corners, Michigan.

2010s

Brian Anania (B.B.A. '14) has joined the tax department of Gibbons & Kawash, an accounting firm in Charleston, West Virginia.



Brian Anania

Chelsea Painter (B.A. '11) has joined Hall, Render Killian, Heath and Lyman, a national health law firm with more than 200 attorneys, in its Dallas, Texas, office. She focuses her practice on litigation and regulatory matters for a broad range of health care clients, including hospital systems, physician practices and other health-related businesses.



Chelsea Painter

In particular, she assists clients with risk management, medical malpractice defense and other health care-related litigation.

Emily Parsons (B.B.A. '15) has joined the small business accounting department at Gibbons & Kawash, an accounting firm in Charleston, West Virginia.

Chad Schofield (R.B.A. '14) is in his first year of coaching for the Cleveland Gladiators arena football team.

Dr. Autumn Starcher (B.S. '11) is the new West Virginia University Extension Service 4-H Youth Development agent for Cabell County, West Virginia.

Natalie Thompson (B.S. '10) has been named the executive director of the Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition in Huntington.

in memoriam

PATRICIA A. QUEEN CHAPMAN (B.B.A. '56) died in October of 2015. She was preceded in death by her husband, James E. Chapman, also an alumnus of Marshall.



ROBERT O. ERRETT Jr. (B.B.A. '73) died November 28, 2016. He was well known, particularly in the sport of archery, as a distributor and manufacturer of hunting and sporting goods.



ELIZABETH G. REUSCHLEIN STARR (B.A. '43), died October 4, 2016, in Madison, Wisconsin.





A MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE OF ALUMNI RELATIONS

THE POWER OF GIVING

Greetings, Fellow Alumni and Friends of Marshall University:

Welcome to 2017!

As trite as it is to mention, it is hard to believe another year has come and gone, and here we are, once again, standing at the doorstep to a new year. What will 2017 hold? Only time will tell.

But while the future is far from certain, if we are being honest, there is no reason to think anything but positive thoughts for the year ahead. Why? Because if 2017 is anything like what we saw in the year prior, we are in for a treat.

What we saw in 2016 was a year of growth and of giving.

First, let's talk about growth. Through a concentrated effort by the MU Office of Alumni Relations and MUAA national board of directors, we are seeing incredible growth among our many alumni clubs around the country. From brand-new clubs in Florida, Pennsylvania, California, Ohio – even Hawaii – to older clubs discovering new life, it is a welcome sight to see alums all across the nation organize and come together in the name of Marshall.

Whether that gathering is to catch a game, promote community service or to raise money for scholarships, growth within our club network means great things for Marshall University and its students.

Next, is the giving. From financial contributions to community outreach, the outpouring of support by the Marshall University community in 2016 was not only meaningful, it was inspirational.

Two great examples of that generosity lie in the Herd for the Homeless and #GivingTuesday events. During Herd for the Homeless, alumni from across the country donated both financially and through gifts of winter clothing, while local community members to the tune of several hundred members of the Marshall family – from President Gilbert to athletes to medical students – came together to provide a hot meal, food bags and winter clothing to area homeless. This event is the first step in what we all hope will turn into a national incentive for alums to get involved in their communities and give back.

Equally as impressive, thousands of dollars were raised in 2016 during #GivingTuesday and through other events to provide financial assistance for students impacted by the devastating West Virginia floods that took place during the spring.

It was a heartwarming and humbling experience to be a part of both events – and these were just some of the many examples of the giving nature of the Marshall community.

So as we enter the new year, take this time to tell those you care about how much you love them, think positive, and always try to, in some little way, make the world a better place.

Until next time, have a great year friends, Godspeed and GO HERD!

Best Regards,
Rob, Matt and Larry





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