



MARSHALL

Summer 2024

magazine

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MARSHALL FOR ALL

The Marshall For All program has completed its first year — and students are getting so much more than a debt-free college education.



MARSHALL UNIVERSITY
& ALUMNI

The Brad D. Smith Center for Business and Innovation is open and is already empowering students and community businesses to collaborate, meet challenges and capture opportunities of the 21st century.



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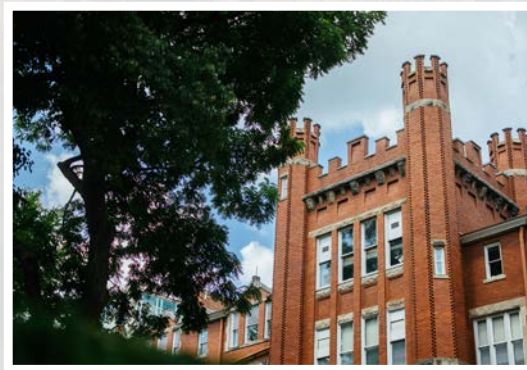
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LETTER *from* the EDITOR

It was 1998. I was a senior at Kent State University, near my hometown in northeastern Ohio, and I had come to Huntington to interview for a job as a reporter at "The Herald-Dispatch." The editor at the time, Bob Gabordi, was showing me around town. He motioned to a fire hydrant, which was painted green and white.

"That's green for Marshall University," he told me. "That tells you a little something about how important Marshall is to Huntington, when the fire hydrants are painted green."

I never verified that fact. There was no need. I accepted the job, moved to Huntington and have spent the past 26 years growing to love this area and its people, and observing evidence that verifies Marshall's role as the heartbeat of not only the surrounding region, but a much broader community. A community we know and love as the Herd.

Each member of the Herd has his or her own reasons for loving Marshall. Beyond its central function of providing education, the university gives us important work to do. It gives us support. It gives us opportunities. It gives us fun. It gives us family.

A lot of places say that they'll do those things. Marshall delivers.

It's given me opportunities, too, and as a first-time editor of "Marshall Magazine," I want to give you a heads-up about what you're going to find in this issue that might be a little different. This magazine has a wonderful history of featuring the amazing stories, developments and people who make Marshall great. We aim to continue that tradition, this time by giving you a closer look at what Marshall For All, Marshall Forever means to those in this new program after its first year. This issue will also give you some perspective on how the new Brad D. Smith Center for Business and Innovation is changing the game for students and faculty in our Lewis College of Business.

But you'll also find that we're zooming in a little bit differently. We plan to show you some faces from our Marshall family who might not necessarily have done anything recently to make the headlines. They're just out there being amazing — working hard every day, using their talents and making life better for the people within their sphere and impactful ripples that they might not



even realize. We have so many remarkable people in this Marshall family of ours. There is no possible way to showcase them all, but watch us try. We start with this issue, highlighting just a handful of students, employees and alumni who make us proud and make us smile. You'll see why.

We also plan to time-travel and share some Marshall history in each issue, starting this time with a look at Laidley Hall, a residence hall that we bid farewell to this year as the hands of time keep ticking. You know some fun times were had there. We hope this brings some happy memories to the surface for those who lived there and reminds others that Marshall has been a long, beautiful story for which we're writing the newest chapters.

We also look forward to celebrating Marshall moments. We'll share some of ours that have been captured in photos, and we ask you to send us some of yours. Each issue will feature a scrapbook section that we hope will be filled with the faces of you lovely readers and your people, your pets, your own Marshall moments. This first issue, we decided to share some photos from our team in Marketing and Communications. Next time, we hope to have received some photos from you all. Please send them to me at jean.hardiman@marshall.edu.

I cannot wait to see you.

Jean Hardiman

Jean Hardiman, Editor

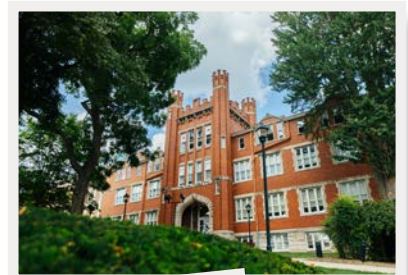


PHOTO BY BROCK BURWELL





the PATH *to* PURPOSE

Marshall For All has completed its first year and is already transforming lives.

By Dave Traube

“ ”

The experience has been **life-altering**. I have now found my **purpose**.

— JENNIFER JIMISON

Project Director, Marshall For All

When Jennifer Jimison’s husband passed away a few years ago, she was at a crossroads.

“Life changed drastically for me, and I found myself in a season of searching — searching for what my purpose was going to be,” said Jimison, now project director of the Marshall For All Program and member of the Office of Student Financial Assistance. “The experience has been life-altering. I have now found my purpose.”

Officially kicking off in August 2023, the Marshall For All Program is a radically innovative approach to the college experience. Through a combination of scholarships, grants, work opportunities and family contributions, the program allows students to earn their degree debt-free. The program began with 100 invited participants in 2023, with plans to be available for every incoming first-year residential student by 2037.

And while it’s hard to beat a debt-free education, Jimison sees the program’s real value playing out in another way — and one that doesn’t often show up in reports or fit neatly into a sales pitch: it gives students a chance.

“There are two schools of thought when it comes to what it takes for someone to be successful,” Jimison said. “The first says, ‘Here’s the expectation: I’ve shown you what to do, now you go figure it out and do it.’ But the second approach is patient. The second says it’s OK to take your time and, regardless of the outcome, I already believe you are successful. I live my life by the second one. I’m passionate that if you tell people they can succeed, they just might go out and learn how to succeed.”

Born out of a desire to grow students instead of fees, the program goes against a trend in higher education built to answer enrollment challenges by maximizing tuition dollars, leading to an alarming rise in overall student debt. A recent study by educationdata.org found that the average student loan debt growth rate “outpaces rising tuition costs by 166.9%,” leading to equal parts fear and frustration as the dream of a college education stays just that — a dream — for far too many families.



INFORMATION



Samuel Simpson is a Marshall University student in the Marshall For All program. He was admitted into the program in the fall of 2023 and is currently working in the student center at the information desk.

That sobering fact drives the intended expansion of Marshall For All, and for program participants like Mike Allie, it reminds them of how special the opportunity really is.

"The day I received my letter was possibly the greatest day of my life," said Allie, a psychology major from Winfield, West Virginia. "I spent my entire high school career stressing out and worrying. It meant everything to me when I discovered all that might disappear. I can easily say it changed my life."

Others, like Samuel Simpson, a biological sciences major from Ironton, Ohio, were excited about the prospect of a debt-free education but quickly found the program to be about more than just financial relief.

"Many opportunities, like my position as a work-study and a Marshall For All program advisor, have come to me because of this program," Simpson said. "I've gained invaluable leadership experience,

made many meaningful connections and found a resource in Jennifer (Jimison), who genuinely cares about me. I already can't wait for next year."

And as the chapter closes on the program's first year, success has shown itself in big and small ways. Many of the students in the program have academically succeeded since the beginning, with a high percentage of them finding their names — often for the first time — on lists of academic excellence. Others have faced the everyday challenges of transitioning to college expectations



versus what it took to succeed in high school. Jimison said it's that noticeable growth that stands out to her as she reflects on the program's first year.

"We're constantly learning how to improve the program for the students," Jimison said. "Watching them learn to take responsibility for the process, embrace the struggle and work to get better — seeing that play out has been awesome."

But for the program to reach its potential, it'll need some help from individuals who see the power of the impact, both in the immediate lives of Marshall students and in the future, changing families and transforming a state.

Anyone who would like to contribute to the program, whether in the form of financial support, mentorship or employment possibilities, can visit www.marshall.edu/marshallforall to learn more about why giving time and resources to the future growth of the program isn't simply a donation —

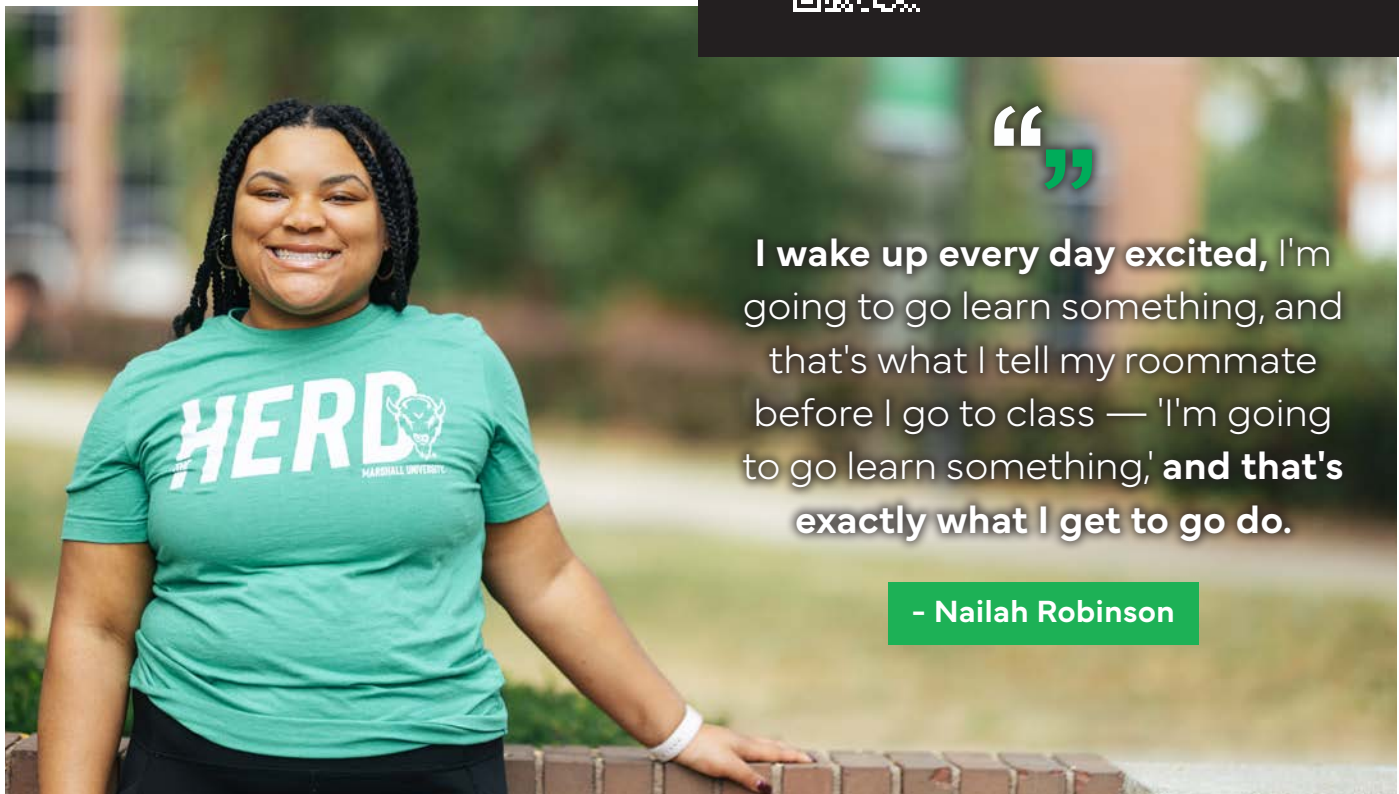
it's an investment in a generation of students with the aspiration and grit to pursue an education, and an investment in the future prosperity of the Appalachian region.

All contributions to Marshall For All are an investment in students like Nailah Robinson, a nursing student from Huntington, who still has to pinch herself at the path of opportunity that now lies before her.

"I wake up every day excited, I'm going to go learn something,' and that's what I tell my roommate before I go to class — 'I'm going to go learn something,' and that's exactly what I get to go do."



**SUPPORT THE
PROGRAM**



I wake up every day excited, I'm going to go learn something, and that's what I tell my roommate before I go to class — 'I'm going to go learn something,' and that's exactly what I get to go do.

- Nailah Robinson



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WHAT ARE YOU INVOLVED IN AT MARSHALL?

I am a part of the leadership team and praise team for Baptist Campus Ministries (BCM). We strive to “change lives that change the world.” Recently, I had the opportunity to serve in Puerto Rico through this organization.

WHY ARE YOU GLAD YOU CHOSE MARSHALL?

I am glad that I chose Marshall because it has provided me with a community as well as a place to grow in my future career. Being involved with BCM has allowed me to meet new people and build relationships with people who are in a similar place in life as me. ... I am so thankful for the family I have made through Marshall and BCM. I feel like the community at Marshall is one of the biggest reasons I have had such a positive experience.

As a future elementary teacher, I feel like my professors have challenged me and taught me how to be the best teacher I can be. They have prepared me for the challenges that come with teaching and how to deal with those challenges.

I have been able to attend Marshall through the various scholarships I have been given. I have received the Promise Scholarship, the A. Michael Perry Scholarship, the West Virginia Higher Grant and the Federal Pell Grant. As a freshman, I received the Milton Rotary Club Scholarship, which was chosen by Woody Williams.

FAVORITE EXPERIENCES AS A MARSHALL STUDENT

I have met some of my closest friends through college, and they have been the highlight of my college experience. I have enjoyed attending Marshall football games, spending time in Huntington and attending BCM activities with them.

TELL US WHAT YOU’RE PASSIONATE ABOUT

Something I am passionate about is children. As a Christian and future educator, I feel the need and desire to show students that they are loved and important. I think people often forget that there are children who don’t have loving families or people in their life to support them. As a future teacher, I have the opportunity to be that for them and to show them the love of Christ.

FUTURE PLANS

I hope to find a teaching position in an elementary school where I get a sense of community and belonging. I hope to become a great teacher and help each child know their worth and reach their full potential. I plan to live in West Virginia close to my family and friends.



KATIE LOSH

Elementary education major,
expecting to graduate in
Spring 2025

Hometown: Barboursville, WV

STUDENT *Spotlight*



PHOTO BY RICK LEE

innovation



PHOTO BY AUSTIN O'CONNOR

FOSTERING A CULTURE OF EXCELLENCE

With its new business building, Marshall aims to change the game for the university and the surrounding business community.

By Jean Hardiman

PHOTO BY BROCK BURWELL





The moment you set foot in the Brad D. Smith Center for Business and Innovation, you get the idea that business students at Marshall University are getting a next-level education.

You see the digital sign with current stock information gliding past. You see the bright, modern atrium where students take a minute to catch up with each other, and the iCenter where they're honing the skills of design thinking.

Stepping inside the Encova Auditorium has the feel of walking into a movie theater, only with educational technology that is second to none. And take a few minutes to walk around the building, and you'll see a sleek, modern computer lab, conference rooms and nine classrooms equipped with ThinkHub Education technology that includes an instructor station and student stations that can work both collaboratively and independently.

The facility also has a finance lab that will house 12 Bloomberg terminals with all the detailed information students could want regarding wealth management — and there are plans to host a student investment fund to help them get hands-on investment training.

Simply put, the building changes the game.

"I know that I feel more excited and empowered to attend classes, collaborate and learn with the new, state-of-the-art technology in the classrooms," said Zachary Kincaid, a graduate assistant in the Lewis College of Business who is working toward his MBA. "The new technology allows the professors to better communicate and visualize the information at hand to students."

It's the result of contributions from multiple generous donors, including its namesake, Marshall President Brad D. Smith, and his wife, Alys Smith. Brad D. Smith is a 1986 graduate of Marshall's College of Business and a former CEO and executive chairman of Intuit who has invested greatly in bettering his home state.

This spring, he described the building's dedication as a "milestone moment in a series of milestone moments that are happening on our campus, in our city, across the state and honestly in the

Appalachian region. It's because it is our time. We are seeking this opportunity and we are leaning in. It is the power of we."

"The Smiths' generous transformational gift of \$25 million laid the foundation for the project, demonstrating their unwavering commitment to Marshall University's success," said Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Avinandan "Avi" Mukherjee, who was dean of the Lewis College of Business at the time. "Additionally, support from other donors, faculty, administrators and community members propelled the vision forward. Strategic planning, meticulous execution and the dedication of all involved were instrumental."

Their support made — and continues to make — the Brad D. Smith Center for Business and Innovation the forward-focused educational facility that it is.

But becoming forward-focused doesn't happen automatically. Training the business faculty to use the building's new technology was an undertaking that began in 2023, said Eric Himes, director of academic technology experiences at Marshall. It started with a demonstration early in the year, followed by hands-on training sessions that began in September, and faculty were largely very receptive to learning entirely new teaching techniques, he said.

"It's flexible enough to let them teach any way they want to," Himes said. "There are some active learning classrooms for group work. ... It's also focused on hybrid and hi-flex situations so you can attend face-to-face or attend virtually."

Whether students attend in person, attend online during the allotted class time frame or attend virtually at their convenience, there is technology in the building with flexibility to attract all kinds of students, he said.

"It's the same learning outcomes, but it may be a different assignment that you can complete within a certain time," he explained.

Susan Lanham, an associate professor in the college's Department of Accountancy & Legal Environment, is a fan of the new technology, which includes TIV collaborative software, auto-tracking camera systems, digital whiteboards,

and numerous LCD monitors, "making it more interactive and relevant to the modern workplace," she said.

Whether in the classroom or joining virtually via Microsoft Teams, students can work together seamlessly, Lanham said.

"This setup is very similar to the collaborative nature of today's work environments, which will better prepare our students for the realities of their future careers," she said.

Being able to see the professor's screen and share your own screen with the group is "really good for collaboration and projects," said Elli Barry, a junior marketing and management major, adding that walking into the new building is like walking into a whole new environment. "I feel like we're in a place that's really advanced," Barry said.

It's been truly incredible witnessing the transformation in how faculty teach, and how students learn, Lanham said.

"These technologies are not just gadgets," Lanham said. "They provide new opportunities for learning. Students are more engaged as they interact with content in ways that were unimaginable a generation ago."

Lanham was curious about how things would go when students in her Forensic and Investigative Accounting class had their first group presentations.

"It turned out they didn't need any instructions from me at all. They had absorbed everything they needed by watching me use the technology in previous lessons," she said. "They were thrilled to be able to send some of their content to the six active learning stations scattered around the room, while other pieces were displayed on the four wall-mounted LCD monitors.

"With a total of 10 viewing monitors at their disposal, the possibilities for how they could present their information were virtually limitless. It was a clear moment of realization for me, seeing firsthand how intuitive and engaging this technology could be for students, and how it allowed them to present their work in such a dynamic and interactive way."

PHOTO BY AUSTIN O'CONNOR



“ ”

It's an **exciting** time here at Marshall. Our current leadership team is **transforming our university** into something truly incredible for our students, and I'm eternally **grateful to be a part of it.**

- SUSAN LANHAM

Associate Professor, Department of Accountancy & Legal Environment

The good news for the business community is that not only will Marshall be preparing graduates who are comfortable with the latest tools, but community businesses will also have the knowledge and research that is produced at the university and be able to utilize the facility, particularly those who stay actively involved with the Lewis College of Business.

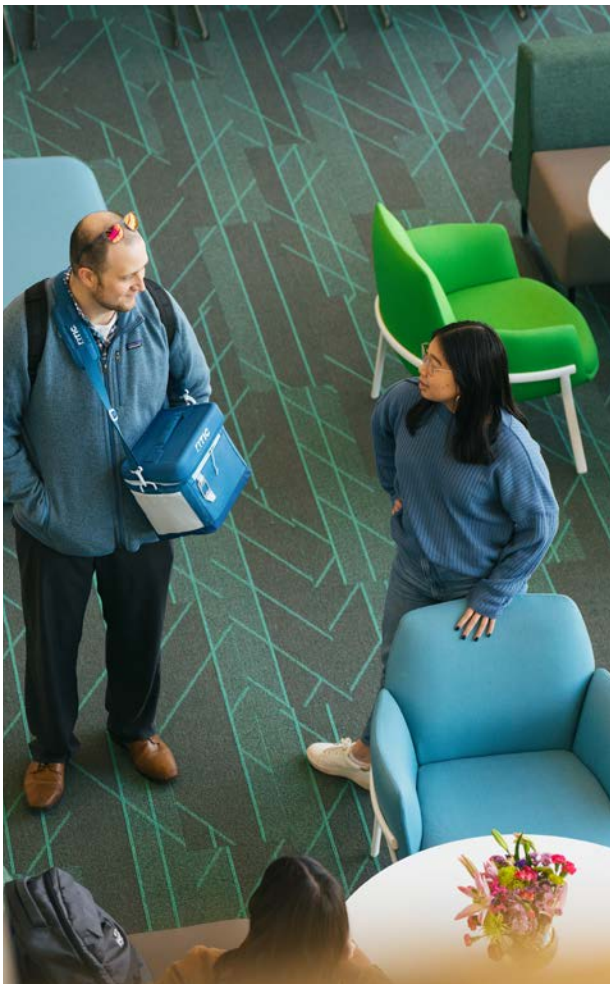
Even in its first semester, “the new building has become a hub for seminars, speaker series, conferences and other business-related events that students are able to attend,” Kincaid said. “Our new building is a forum to exchange ideas and discuss new advancements across business fields. I think that our building has become an attraction for experienced alumni, professionals and other educators to come and share their work and experiences.”

The center serves as a bridge between academia and industry, Mukherjee said.

“It offers a platform for innovative projects, entrepreneurial ventures and economic development initiatives,” he said. “Its strategic location within Huntington's downtown not only enhances the university's presence but also reflects Marshall's commitment to community engagement and revitalization. By leveraging this intersection between education and economic development, the center becomes more than just a building. It becomes a catalyst for positive change and growth within both the university and the broader cityscape of Huntington.”

And it's just the beginning of development along Fourth Avenue, with mixed-use properties envisioned in a continued partnership between Marshall and the entities that collaborated on the business building — the development company Fairmount Properties, PJ Dick Construction and the architectural firm Perkins Eastman. Next up: Marshall's new Institute for Cyber Security building that is planned on the corner of Fourth Avenue and Hal Greer Boulevard.

“It's an exciting time here at Marshall,” Lanham said. “Our current leadership team is transforming our university into something truly incredible for our students, and I'm eternally grateful to be a part of it.”





“ ”

I know that I feel more excited and empowered to attend classes, collaborate and learn with the new, state-of-the-art technology in the classrooms. The new technology allows the professors to better communicate and visualize the information at hand to students.

- ZACHARY KINCAID

MBA student, Lewis College of Business



HOW TO HELP

- Donations to the Brad D. Smith Center for Business and Innovation Building Fund (BDSCBI Building Fund) ensure its sustainability and enable ongoing enhancements to both facilities and programs. Contributions can fuel initiatives and maintain cutting-edge resources, Provost Mukherjee said.
- Mentorship programs provide opportunities for alumni and professionals to share expertise and industry insights, guiding students on their career paths.
- Volunteering opportunities allow active engagement with students, fostering their professional development and contributing to the community's prosperity.

FACULTY *Feature*

PHOTO BY RICK LEE



JAMES WILLIAM STAMM

Instructor, School of Music

Education and career background:

- Marshall University Class of 2018, dual degree in Guitar Performance and Theory and Composition B.F.A.
- Joined Marshall in Spring 2023, teaching Music Technology as an adjunct professor, then hired as a full-time faculty member in Fall 2023

WHAT DO YOU DO?

I like to refer to my position as the jack-of-all-music. My primary function is to educate and direct audio technologies in the School of Music. This involves directing music event productions, post-productions, archives and curricular development on audio technologies and engineering. Otherwise, I have been a pinch-hitter, teaching music theory, guitar and orchestration courses, as well as mentoring video production students on film audio production and post-production.

WHAT DO YOU HOPE IS THE IMPACT OF YOUR WORK?

The biggest impact I strive to make is to establish audio production and technologies programs and standard operating procedures for all events and studio sessions. This will provide our students with resources to record and produce music for professional development and enable our school to offer industry-centric degree programs such as audio engineering, music production and multimedia composition, among others. These are essential skills for the modern musician and, with the support of the College of Arts and Media administration, I plan to make it happen.

WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT YOUR JOB?

Generally, being surrounded by music and wonderful musicians, the camaraderie from serving our students and community and the opportunity to continue learning. Serving my students may take the cake. But overall, being a professor of music is so much more than sharing prescribed knowledge; there are genuine, cosmic and human elements of sharing music and passions that are indescribable, and I am thankful for those moments every day.

SOME FAVORITE MARSHALL MOMENTS?

As a student, I traveled with the Chamber Choir on a tour to Spain circa 2016. The cultural immersion that we experienced in the Andalusia region was humbling and life-changing. Between the music, the people, language, food, way of life, architecture, etc., I was electrified! It is a powerful experience to visit a foreign place in which everyday experiences feel new again but are ultimately tied to our human relations and needs. And sharing music is one of those great nexuses where humans can communicate and appreciate regardless of language barriers.

Our France tour this year rekindled a lot of these thoughts as I was swept up again, and this time in the beauty of the French people, their language and history, cathedrals and monarchical indulgences from before the revolution. The experience of sharing music as a foreigner, in Gothic cathedrals from the 13th-15th centuries, was just as awe-inspiring this time around. Being exposed to these types of experiences unlocks an intelligence about people and life that many don't get the chance to fathom.

When I relate my experiences as a student to my time in France as a faculty member, it's like life has come full circle. It's this feeling that all of my hard work and dedication has paid off and a new chapter in my life has officially begun. I can't express the elation in words. And to share the stage with such talented students makes me all the more proud of them as a mentor. I thank Marshall and those in the College of Arts and Media who make these trips possible. These are Marshall moments I'll keep with me forever.

BASED ON YOUR WORK, WHAT DO YOU KNOW THAT YOU WISH EVERYONE KNEW?

Stop trying to control your future. Let yourself be guided by your passions, interests and excitements. Learn to enjoy the journey as much as the destination.

Quell fears surrounding your life decisions with the intent to better yourself and those around you. Keep things light and easy, but consistent. Rome wasn't built in a day. Learn to accept your mistakes as honorably as your achievements. Above all, be kind to yourself no matter how you navigate any of the above.



STAFF *Highlight*

PHOTO BY RICK LEE



BONNIE BAILEY

Director, Student Support
Services TRIO Program

Education and career background:

- Three-time Marshall graduate, B.A. and M.A. in Mental Health Counseling, Ed.S. in Counseling
- Started as a Student Support Services Program counselor in 2005 and became the program director in 2008
- WV. Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC)
- WV. Approved Licensed Professional Supervisor (ALPS)
- Mental Health Consultant for Early Head Start and Head Start Program
- Adjunct Instructor for Counseling Program

The TRIO Program is a federally funded grant that brings \$1.7 million to Marshall to serve 200 income-eligible and first-generation undergraduate students, helping them overcome barriers to higher education, including class, social, academic and cultural challenges.

WHAT DO YOU DO?

Our program ensures that students receive personalized academic advising, career counseling and support services tailored to their needs. Services involve helping students select courses, navigate academic challenges and explore career options, and connecting them to the appropriate resources.

We help them understand and apply for financial aid, scholarships and other financial assistance. We also advocate, collaborate and network to help students utilize the services, resources and people that Marshall University provides.

I oversee the operations and implementation of the program that provides academic and support services to eligible students. I also write for our grant every five years to ensure continued funding. My role is multifaceted, with administrative and managerial responsibilities and a student caseload.

WHAT DO YOU HOPE IS THE IMPACT OF YOUR WORK?

As a first-generation college student, it has been a privilege to support and guide students in the same program I attended in college years ago.

I hope the students I have helped believe that education is not merely a means to an end, but a lifelong journey that continues to unfold in every facet of life. No matter the educational avenue, there are always opportunities to expand our knowledge and perspective.

While numbers and statistics in our program are valuable, I hope that my work's impact is not measured solely in our program achievements but recognized through the hearts of the students I have helped on their journey.

WHAT ARE YOUR FAVORITE MARSHALL MOMENTS?

My favorite Marshall moments include when former students return to visit with their family two, five, even 10 years later. It's also rewarding to see a student who has struggled and does not believe they should be here

go on to graduate and continue to graduate school; and I enjoy taking students to Washington, D.C., to advocate for funding for TRIO Programs and witnessing how the experience opens them up to new things.

While our program has a 96% retention rate and a 76% graduation rate, some of our other successes include launching Marshall University's National First-Gen Day Celebration for the past five years and assisting in creating a First-Gen website and a First-Gen Honor Society.

BASED ON YOUR WORK, WHAT DO YOU KNOW THAT YOU WISH EVERYONE KNEW?

Three things: One is that the wizard behind the curtain is the community of departments and folks on campus who help us serve our students better. I am very blessed to have their support of our program and students.

Two: I have witnessed students achieve more success through their diligent efforts to earn rewards such as scholarships, waivers, etc., rather than relying solely on handouts before they do the work. Working to get paid produces better results than paying before working.

And three: I hope all students understand that four years is better than 40. This means that the struggles students experience in their college years will end, and their education will help them prosper. But quitting school can make you struggle for years to come.



SQUIRREL!

We think **squirrels** are part of the Marshall family, too. Whether you step onto campus daily or whether it's been a while, we know you've seen a few of these little friends that share our beautiful trees. Here's a quick closeup, like you might catch on your way to the library or the student center. Hope it gives you a smile.



PHOTO BY BROCK BURWELL



MARCH 1, 2024

INAUGURAL GAME

JACK COOK FIELD





student spotlight



A SEASON TO REMEMBER

By Clark Davis

“IF YOU BUILD IT, THEY WILL COME.”

Iowa farmer Ray Kinsella heard that instantly quotable line through a voice from above in the classic 1989 film, “Field of Dreams.” Build a baseball field in the cornfields on his Iowa farm, he was told, and ghostly members of the 1919 Chicago White Sox would return to play ball.

Kinsella built it and, wouldn’t you know, they came.

Jack Cook Field, the brand-new home of Marshall Baseball, is also something to behold but, unlike “Field of Dreams,” its players are real and the field wasn’t one man’s dream — it was a community’s labor of love. Still, it brought the players.

For some current team members, like catcher Owen Ayers of Sarasota, Florida, the construction of Jack Cook Field helped sell him on a home away from home in Huntington. Ayers transferred to Marshall in 2023 from State College of Florida.

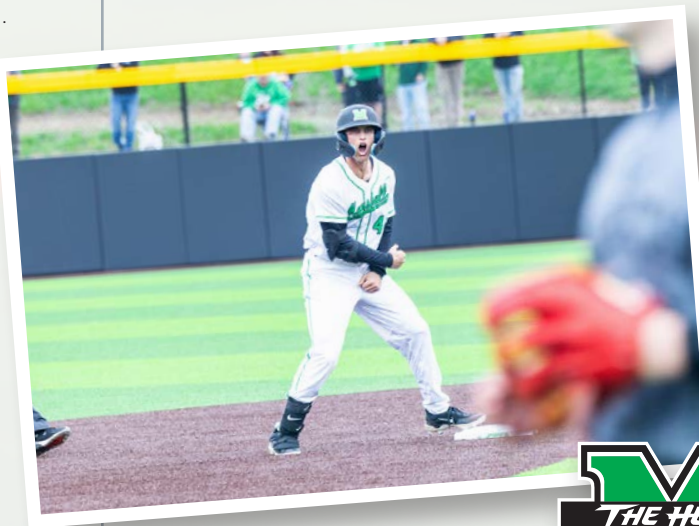
“I got to be a part of history as the first team playing at Jack Cook Field,” Ayers said. “It’s been such a blessing to experience. Being far away from home and going somewhere you don’t know anyone can be tough, but it has ended up being great for me.”

While earning his degree in health sciences in April has signaled the end of his short time on campus, Ayers has made the most of opportunities in the new stadium. The senior enjoyed a career breakout season, hitting nearly .300 while being a steady clubhouse presence for manager Greg Beals.

Earning the title of team captain, Ayers leaves having broken Marshall’s single-season doubles record in 2023 and again in 2024 — and was named Newcomer of the Year in 2023.

Beyond the excitement of playing in a new stadium, Ayers said this season will be marked by the people he’s met at Marshall — not only welcoming a stranger, but helping him leave feeling like he’s part of a family.

“I am fortunate to have amazing coaches and teammates who are there for me and for each other,” Ayers said. “The athletic trainer Bryan Booth, who is unbelievably good at what he does, and the strength coaches who make us mentally and physically stronger have helped me immensely. I’ve met many people who will continue to impact my life positively.”



Like any season, this past season was full of highs and lows for Ayers and the entire team. But just like the grit it took to build Jack Cook Field and prepare for the season, success is often found in the struggle.

"Baseball has taught me so many things, on and off the field," Ayers said. "I've learned how to deal with failure, the amount of hard work and preparation necessary to be successful and what it takes to be a leader — both on a team and in life. No matter what happens in the future, I plan to take the lessons and experiences I've gained and use them to be my best at whatever comes my way."

And just like the leap of faith Ray Kinsella took to build his field of dreams, Ayers' leap landed him in Huntington — a move that led him to help open Marshall's field of dreams and etch his name in the record books along the way.



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JACK COOK FIELD

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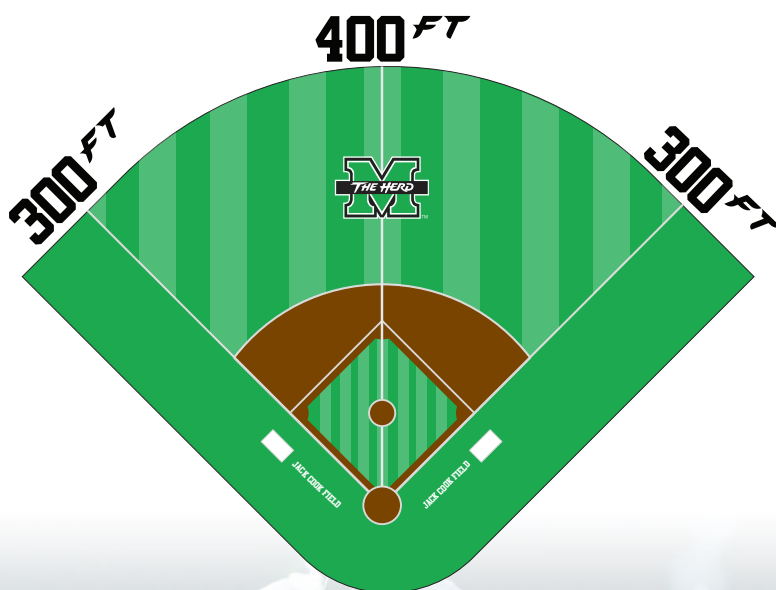


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LIVE, WORK, PLAY AND STAY IN THE MOUNTAIN STATE

By Kasey Stevens

A new, two-year program designed to help graduates launch their careers while staying in state aims to transform West Virginia's future workforce.

First Ascent, a joint initiative between Marshall University and West Virginia University, is open to recent graduates interested in pursuing hybrid or remote work while staying close to home.

"Connecting graduates with dynamic remote and hybrid career opportunities allows our graduates to build their career and their community at the same time, right here in West Virginia," said Jessica Stidham, assistant director for First Ascent. "Where First Ascent really shines is the opportunity it offers for members to move beyond traditional career trajectories in a way that intertwines personal and professional growth with positive community impact. First Ascent encourages grads to network with seasoned professionals and build work-life balance through outdoor recreation, and helps them find their place in the Mountain State. This program provides the building blocks for emerging community leaders through service and connection."

The innovative program includes professional mentorship and development, access to coworking spaces, outdoor recreation and community engagement opportunities. Each participant also has the opportunity to receive a Remote Worker Certificate through a focused, four-week program designed to equip them for success in remote and hybrid work environments.

Members of the First Ascent program choose to live, work and play in one of six West Virginia communities: the Eastern Panhandle, Greater Elkins, the Greenbrier Valley, the Huntington area, the Morgantown area or the New River Gorge.

Interested candidates are encouraged to apply in the last year of their degree program, but candidates can also be alumni who graduated within the past two years.

For more information or to apply, visit <https://firstascentwv.com>.



FOOTBALL Schedule












 <p>H STONY BROOK Joan C. Edwards Stadium Huntington, W.Va.</p>	<p>Aug 31 (Sat)</p>	 <p>H GEORGIA STATE Joan C. Edwards Stadium Huntington, W.Va.</p>	<p>Oct 17 (Thu)</p>
 <p>VIRGINIA TECH Blacksburg, Va.</p>	<p>Sep 7 (Sat)</p>	 <p>H ULM Joan C. Edwards Stadium Huntington, W.Va.</p>	<p>Nov 2 (Sat)</p>
 <p>OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY Columbus, Ohio</p>	<p>Sep 21 (Sat)</p>	 <p>SOUTHERN MISS Hattiesburg, Miss.</p>	<p>Nov 9 (Sat)</p>
 <p>H WESTERN MICHIGAN Joan C. Edwards Stadium Huntington, W.Va.</p>	<p>Sep 28 (Sat)</p>	 <p>H COASTAL CAROLINA Joan C. Edwards Stadium Huntington, W.Va.</p>	<p>Nov 16 (Sat)</p>
 <p>H APP STATE Joan C. Edwards Stadium Huntington, W.Va.</p>	<p>Oct 5 (Sat) HOMECOMING</p>	 <p>OLD DOMINION Norfolk, Va.</p>	<p>Nov 23 (Sat)</p>
 <p>GEORGIA SOUTHERN Statesboro, Ga.</p>	<p>Oct 12 (Sat)</p>	 <p>JMU Harrisonburg, Va.</p>	<p>Nov 30 (Sat)</p>







PHOTO BY MORGAN NAPIER

PHOTOS BY RICK LEE



DR. MARIA
GINDHART

DR. ROB
QUICKE

A WORTHY **MISSION**

Two new leaders in Marshall's College of Arts and Media are excited about Marshall's commitment to students and are putting plans into action.

By Jean Hardiman

The two new leaders in Marshall's College of Arts and Media come from different places both geographically and in terms of interests. But they both ended up at Marshall University and both had the same thing to say about the Marshall experience so far.

"I love the spirit. I wish I looked better in green," said Dr. Maria Gindhart, dean of the College of Arts and Media since last summer, who came to Marshall after serving as the associate dean of the College of the Arts at Georgia State University in Atlanta.

Dr. Rob Quicke, the new director of the college's W. Page Pitt School of Journalism and Mass Communications, was looking for a new chapter after serving as chair of the communication department at William Paterson University, a smaller institution in New Jersey, having been there 17 years.

"Out of all the places I was interviewing, Marshall University stood out because the warmth on campus was genuine," said Quicke, who is from England and graduated from Oxford University, the University of London and Regent University in Virginia. "I really felt palpable school spirit here, which I didn't at the other places I was interviewing. Plus, I already knew about Marshall's brilliant reputation because WMUL-FM would win awards nationally and I would keep running into Dr. Charles Bailey at national conferences, as he and his students would win armfuls of trophies. Everything I've experienced since I came here has only confirmed that initial impression that Marshall is genuinely special."

Both new leaders have spent their first year getting to know Marshall and establishing plans on how to help the talented faculty and students already here make the university even better.

Gindhart began her career as a professor of art history and said she never had plans to become a university administrator.

"I planned to teach and do research. But I did a lot

of service- and administrative-type roles, and a lot of people don't really want any of that. For whatever reason, I kind of enjoyed it and was kind of good at it," said the Virginia native, who graduated from Bowdoin College in Maine and the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. "As much as possible, I would like to free people up to do things that they want to do. I'm here to make things as good as possible for all the students, faculty and staff."

She also wants to strengthen the arts and communication fields by helping the students in those programs.

"I think of arts, media and humanities all in a bundle and I think to some degree, they're under attack in this country," she said. "There is a place for everything. I want scientists and a well-trained doctor when I need a doctor, but I think the arts and media hold people together, and they can be incorporated into wellness. You can achieve wellness not just through medication, diet and exercising, but also through having creative outlets and being able to go to performances."

At Marshall, one thing she'd like to do to enhance the student experience is cross-populate students in the different disciplines and get them into different spaces. The College of Arts and Media is home to the schools of Art & Design, Journalism, Music, and Theatre and Dance. The schools already collaborate some, she said, but she would like to see it happen more, which would help unify the college as well as give students more hands-on experience.

"For example, a graphic design class is doing posters for the theatre season, and those can be advertised through our journalism students," Gindhart said. "Unifying and cross-collaboration, there are lots of opportunities."

She'd also like to initiate a program to provide microgrants to students.

"In the arts, you have the extra costs: you want to do a special capstone project, but you don't

have the right kind of camera, or you need super big canvases or something like that," she said. "Sometimes you've cobbled tuition together, but you can't get over the finish line for those smaller amounts of money. I would love to do more to help with that here."

Quicke brings a wealth of radio and journalism experience to Marshall, having started in England in professional radio as well as producing material and story packages and interviews for the BBC and commercial radio.

"You could say I'm a radio guy at heart," he said. "But I've done a lot of journalism as well. I have taught journalism as a guest lecturer at the Asian College of Journalism in Chennai, India, for the last 25 years. I have taught and lectured all over the world. That's partly because I founded World College Radio Day, a global event with over 1,000 participating university and college radio stations in 57 countries (www.collegeradio.org)."

He hopes to increase enrollment in Marshall's journalism school.

"We've made good progress in the last year," Quicke said. "We've got a brand-new podcasting studio that we have built and launched. We have a new TV and video production major. And we're making common-sense curriculum changes such as merging advertising and public relations into one major, which just makes sense. So already, things have been moving at a very fast pace. Positive changes."

What he likes most about Marshall, he said, are the people.

"The authenticity of the people who work here is remarkable," Quicke said. "We have a worthy mission, and there is a sense we are all in this together."

Gindhart said she's thrilled to be at a university where faculty and administrators are invested in students' lives.

"This is a place that gets a lot of first-generation students, a lot of Pell grants," she said. "Here, we have some of the best and brightest, but they don't necessarily have the means. With President Smith's Marshall For All, Marshall Forever program, I'm coming to someplace that says, 'We're going to keep tuition as reasonable as possible and we are going to find a way — not for it to be free, but we recognize the need for an education to be debt-free, especially for students from West Virginia, Appalachia and the Tri-State region.' It's inspiring."

She also likes the idea of "finding your herd."

"If you're living your passion, either through your major or your activities, you're going to find your people, your herd," she said. "It genuinely is your Marshall moment and your Marshall family. And there is a real dedication to teaching. Faculty across the board, they know their students. They're going to go the extra mile for their students. They're invested in them, and it doesn't end when they graduate."



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LIVING YOUR MARSHALL *Moment*





history

A moment in Marshall history

By Melanie Chapman Whitt



Laidley Hall

Ask any Marshall alum what they remember most about their time on campus, and dorm life will likely come in at the top of the list. A student's first home away from home. The place where they are grounded while away, focusing on their education. Where new friends are found and memories are made that last a lifetime.

But college campuses are ever-evolving, a life force of change and growth with each new season. This spring, Laidley Hall, one of the oldest buildings on Marshall University's campus, came down. A sign of time gone by, but also of new things to come.

Built in 1937, the building was named after John Laidley, a local lawyer, member of the Virginia House of Delegates and founding trustee of Marshall Academy. He hosted a meeting at his home with residents from the community of Guyandotte, which was then part of Virginia, and farmers nearby to discuss how to provide better educational facilities for their children. Marshall Academy was born, named after Laidley's late friend and Chief Justice of the United States, John Marshall.

Shortly after construction of the new dormitory was completed, the historic 1937 flood in Huntington invaded its lower floor. The disaster for the downtown Huntington area prompted the Corps of Engineers to build the Huntington flood wall, which is still in use today.

For decades, Laidley was a girls-only dormitory with a designated "housemother," with male students living in a similarly constructed dorm named Hodges Hall nearby, separated by a cafeteria the two shared. Hodges Hall was demolished in May 2013. The old cafeteria, known at the time for its murals in the dining hall, eventually became the Community College building, followed by the INTO office building and most recently, the home of the Center for Student Success, the Intercultural Center and the English Language Institute.

Laidley Hall was decommissioned at the end of the 2015-16 academic year, a decision made by the university based on underutilized campus space. In March, 84 years after the building went up, the process began to take it down. The future for that part of campus is yet to be determined, but green space for students will occupy it before any other decisions are made.

Regardless of what happens with the space, memories of those happy times live on in the hearts of those who experienced them. Here are a few.

As an only child, it was an exhilarating experience to be part of such a large group of girls — almost like a slumber party every night! I had a good room for the party raids. Everyone would run in there and hang out the window.

- CHARLOTTE CHAPMAN,
freshman '69

I remember ordering pizza bread from Gino's pizza truck, getting phone calls from the pay phone in the hallway and the corner room on the second floor where we watched soap operas after class. Guys were only allowed inside during the open house. No pants were allowed in classes or even the cafeteria, except weekends.

- LYNN TINCHER INGMIRE,
lived in Laidley in 1964-65



There was support and camaraderie. Laidley had a wonderful orientation, and the front desk knew everyone by their name. It became my home away from home.

- PATTY HARDEN FOT,
freshman '69



The Greater Annapolis Area Alumni Chapter poses for a photo with President Brad D. Smith at the State of the University address in Washington, D.C., on July 26, 2023.

HOW TO CONNECT TO YOUR

MARSHALL FAMILY

By Taylor Stuck

You've done it. You've completed your degree, shaken President Brad D. Smith's hand and turned the tassel on your cap. You've spent at least four years on campus — making new friends, exploring your passions and solidifying who you are — and now it is time to start your new path. It can be scary to leave the comfort of your Marshall family, even if you are just moving to the other side of town.

Or maybe some years have slid by since you bid farewell to your alma mater and you're considering ways to reconnect to your Marshall family. The good news is, no matter where you land after graduation or how long it has been since you graduated, your Marshall family is never far away thanks to the Marshall University Alumni Association and the alumni chapters positioned around the globe.

"My first mission when I assumed this position in the fall of 2022 was to rebuild our alumni chapters around the world," said Matt James, vice president of alumni relations. "It is no surprise that the pandemic was detrimental to many programs but especially difficult for our alumni chapters. We now have 25 alumni and affinity chapters, including one in China, and we are actively working with alumni to develop more chapters."

So, what are the benefits of joining an alumni chapter?

"There are so many great benefits of joining an alumni chapter," said Megan Barbour, president of the Greater Annapolis Area Alumni Chapter and two-time graduate of Marshall. "You develop connections that can lead to job opportunities or career growth, mentorship opportunities, volunteering opportunities or lifelong friendships.

"You also find in an alumni chapter a group of amazing individuals who had completely different experiences while at Marshall yet have so much commonality at the same time. After all, Marshall for all, Marshall forever."

Volunteering

A cornerstone of all alumni chapters is volunteerism. Chapters extend the reach of Marshall's Community Cares Week beyond Huntington by organizing service projects in their local communities. In 2023, the Raleigh-Durham Chapter provided travel kits to its local USO, and the Greater Annapolis Area Chapter helped get its community pool ready for the season, spreading the name of Marshall through service. This year, the China Alumni Chapter kicked off with a service project in Shanghai.



Chapters also make direct impacts on students by providing scholarships, fundraising through events and other promotions.

"Being a part of the chapter as it reached its goal of raising enough funds to offer a scholarship has been the most rewarding part of being involved in a chapter so far," Barbour said. "Having relied on scholarships myself to be able to afford to attend school, it feels really good to be a part of a group that is making sure financial support through scholarships is available to future students."

Tim Cyrus, a past president of the Southern Coalfields Alumni and Big Green Chapter in Beckley and 1983 graduate, said he loves that his group gives back to its community through a scholarship for first-generation college students.

"There is no better way to create relationships than supporting the university that we all hold so dear," he said. "We owe it to everyone to give the gift of education through Marshall."

Mentorship

Joining a chapter will also provide you the opportunity to give back to students through a new mentorship program. Mentors will be paired with seniors, providing them with first-hand knowledge and advice for their future careers, along with helping the seniors network and find internships and/or job opportunities. Directed by the Office of Career Education, mentors can be located anywhere in the world.

The chapters also provide mentorship to young alumni who join. The Greater Huntington Chapter participated in commencement for the first time this year, welcoming fresh alumni to their new chapter.

"We have the opportunity of providing mentoring or career advice as they move into one of the most crucial stages of their lives," said Jill Jackson, president of the chapter.

Connections

No matter how you choose to get involved, alumni chapters connect you to the university and the thousands of people who know just how special Marshall is.

Cyrus and his wife became involved with the Southern Coalfields Alumni and Big Green Chapter eight years ago when another chapter member saw them repping the Herd during football season.

"Two things come to mind (when I think of the most rewarding aspect of being involved), and they are the friendships we have developed and the commitment the group has to Marshall," he said. "I love our group and the fact everyone feels a strong bond to Marshall."

Barbour got to work on creating the Greater Annapolis Area Chapter after moving to the area and meeting several alumni.

"When you live several hours away from home, you appreciate having a network of alumni to connect with — whether it be for career growth, volunteering, or even coming together to cheer on the Herd."

Jackson re-launched the Greater Huntington Chapter after joining the Alumni Association Board of Directors and realizing there was no chapter in Marshall's own backyard.

"To me, the most rewarding part of having the chapter has to be the excitement and the commitment I am getting from so many Tri-State Marshall fans," she said.

As a graduate of Marshall, you are already a member of the Alumni Association. To find a chapter near you, visit www.formarshallu.org/get-involved/alumni-chapters. No chapter near you? Interested in leading the charge to change that? Contact us at alumni@marshall.edu.



ALUMNI CHAPTER PHOTO

1. Larry Foster (left) and Doug Leeber (right) pose for a photo with Teavon Davis, the 2023 recipient of the Southern Coalfields Scholarship, and Nicole Asamo, a Yeager Scholar, at Woodrow Wilson High Schools scholarship presentation on May 9, 2023.
2. Members of the Southern Coalfields Alumni and Big Green Chapter participate in a trunk-or-treat during Halloween 2023.
3. Megan Barbour is the president of the Greater Annapolis Area Alumni Chapter and a two-time Marshall graduate.
4. Jill Jackson (lower center) poses for a photo with other members of the Greater Huntington Alumni Chapter at a volleyball event organized by the chapter that brought local high school players to campus to watch a match.

5. Jill Jackson holds a paint brush in a bathroom of Buskirk Hall during the inaugural Community Cares Week in 2022.
6. Members of the Southern Coalfields Alumni and Big Green Chapter pose for a photo with a check after a fundraiser for the chapter's scholarship.
7. A large group of Herd faithful pose for a photo at the Greater Huntington Alumni Chapter's kick-off event in 2023.



ALUM Spotlight

EMMA MEADOWS

2023 | B.S. Cyber Forensics & Security

Current job

I'm a digital forensics examiner for the West Virginia Fusion Center, which supports law enforcement. I analyze digital evidence for their digital forensics lab under their Narcotics Intelligence Unit.

Why are you glad you chose Marshall?

I'm glad I chose Marshall because of all the opportunities that were in reach for me. I had so many incredible experiences during my time as a student. I'm also appreciative of the connections that Marshall has. I was hired immediately post-graduation in my field (digital forensics) because of the great relationship that Marshall and the West Virginia Fusion Center had, as I was a part of their internship program as a student.

I was so incredibly fortunate to have received the Juanita Carpenter Sammons Scholarship from the Cyber Forensics and Security (CFS) department. This is a scholarship that is awarded to a digital forensics student.

Favorite experiences as a Marshall student

Most of my favorite experiences at Marshall come from my time in various cyber security clubs like Women in Cybersecurity and the Collegiate Cyber Defense Club (CCDC). I met a lot of great people and learned so much. I think one of my favorite experiences was competing in the National Cyber League with the CCDC. In the Spring 2023 season, our team placed 13th overall. It was really rewarding to see our team go so far.

Special honors/ opportunities while at Marshall

I was president of Women in Cyber (2023), which was awarded the "Most Outstanding New Student Organization" for 2023.

I also attended Locked Shields 2023, organized by the NATO Cooperative Cyber Defense Center of Excellence. I was part of the USA's team, specifically the Digital Forensics Incident Response Team.

Tell us about your career passion.

I'm passionate for investigations. At Marshall, I was a part of the Open Source Intelligence Exchange (OSIX) program where we used open source intelligence to help fight human trafficking. My time in OSIX really made me realize my passion for aiding in investigations and making a positive difference with my skillset. I don't think some people realize how relevant digital evidence is. Almost every case today has some sort of digital evidence involved. Before coming to Marshall, I didn't even know there were programs specifically for digital forensic examiners.

marshall alum

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ALUM Spotlight

JOSH MEREDITH

2013 | B.F.A., Theatre Performance

Current job

Over the past five years, I've had the privilege of serving as the Chief of Staff for Lady Gaga's Born This Way Foundation. While I've shifted away from the professional theater scene for now, I still draw upon the professional training and storytelling prowess I cultivated at Marshall to share my journey of growing up as a queer youth in Appalachia, grappling with anxiety and depression.

How did your time at Marshall prepare you for your future endeavors?

During my tenure at Marshall University, I not only acquired the skills to bring various narratives and characters to life, but also learned the art of harnessing the power of my own story. I honed a diverse range of skills, on and offstage, to enhance my craft and gained an invaluable comprehension of the industry that laid the foundation for my professional career. But above all, my training at Marshall helped me better understand and celebrate the talents and qualities that made me a unique artist and person.

What supports helped you choose and stay at Marshall?

I was a Promise Scholar, which was definitely influential in my decision to attend Marshall. I also received the Mary Poindexter Williams Scholarship Award in 2010 while in the theatre department, which was a lovely honor.

What ties do you still have to your alma mater?

I am grateful for the community I found within the department. Many of my fellow classmates have become lifelong friends, forming a chosen family that has continued to support me both personally and professionally to this day. I'm also forever moved by the kindness and thoughtfulness of each and every professor and staff member I encountered during my tenure. I'm still connected to many to this day and know I can always count on them for continued guidance and support — even a decade after graduation.

Tell us about your career passion

My goal is to let other young people know that they are not alone. With a mission to build a kinder, braver world, I feel honored to be part of the Born This Way Foundation, working to provide resources that support the mental health of young people.

Special recognition

I was recently honored to receive the Award of Distinction from the College of Arts and Media as part of the Alumni Award Banquet in April.



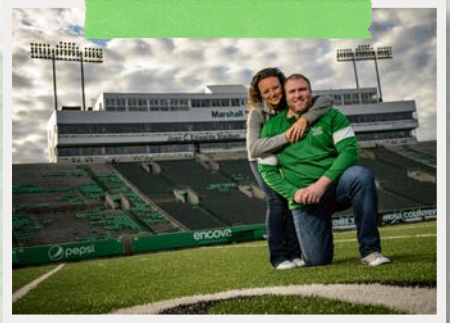
MARSHALL



James McComas



Audrey Hampton & Mia Stevens



Melanie & Alex Whitt



Allen & Leah Payne



The Davis Family



Drew Denney



Renee & Bryson Denney



Victoria Blickenstaff
Steven Schmidt & Gracie Queen

FAMILY SCRAPBOOK

UNIVERSITY



Celeste & Jean Hardiman



Chelsea Hardiman



Austin O'Connor



Mia Stevens



Zach & Kasey Stevens



The Traube Family



*We love our Marshall family.
To submit your photos, email
jean.hardiman@marshall.edu*

LETTER *from* the PRESIDENT

It is such an exciting time — an incredible collection of memorable moments — right now at Marshall. From the first pitch at Jack Cook Field to the groundbreaking ceremony of our state-of-the-art Institute for Cyber Security, we are seeing accomplishments that will serve the Herd family for generations.

Looking back over the past few months, a word repeatedly comes to my mind. Gratitude. I'm grateful for the students who adopt us as their home away from home — often bravely as the first in their families to go to college. I'm grateful for our faculty and staff — the heartbeat of our campus. These folks show up every day not just for a career but to a calling, dedicating time and talent to make a real difference in the lives of students.

And I also have gratitude for you. Whether you attended Marshall, have supported us financially or simply enjoy cheering for the Thundering Herd on game day, Marshall people are special people.

It's my honor to serve you and Marshall University. I hope to see you around campus soon.

Go Herd!

Brad D. Smith

Brad D. Smith, President





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The sports medicine team at Marshall Health and the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine partners with the Thundering Herd's certified athletic training staff to provide our student-athletes the gold standard in care. Our experts support athletes across all sports to ensure they are ready for the next level of competition.

Through this partnership, Marshall has created an environment enriched by athlete-centered medicine, including quality medical care, student-athlete health and well being.



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