The path that led Dr. Kevin Smith from rural West Virginia to sunny San Diego was paved with hard work and perseverance.
I'M AMBITIOUS.

I AM A DAUGHTER OF MARSHALL.

Medical student **Kadi Conn** has always had a passion for service and an interest in medicine. Thanks to the BS/MD program at the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine, she has had the opportunity to pursue her dream of becoming a physician. Kadi will graduate with her MD in 2022 as member of the inaugural BS/MD class.

[Website: jcesom.marshall.edu]
THE DAY CINDY CALLED
By Linda Holmes and Sheanna Spence
In recognition of her lifetime of commitment and service, a conference room is named in appreciation of Cindy A. Warren.

CALIFORNIA DREAMING
By Katherine Pyles
Read about a former Thundering Herd starter who was the only football player at the time to pursue a medical degree.

BEING A PATIENT MADE ME A BETTER PHYSICIAN
By Katherine Pyles
Medical school alumni share their own patient experiences that changed the way they practice medicine.

IN A CLASS OF THEIR OWN
By Katherine Pyles
The Marshall School of Medicine’s inaugural class celebrates the 40th anniversary of their graduation in 1981.

BEING FIRST
By Maurice A. Mufson, MD
Dr. Maurice Mufson, inaugural chair of internal medicine, reflects on the journey of that inaugural class in “the early days.”

GO BOLDLY
The Class of 2021 is ready to conquer anything they may face during residency. Met with pandemic-sized challenges along the way, the class had a 100% match rate and embarked on residencies in a variety of specialties.

CARRYING ON TRADITION
The Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine Alumni Association thanks alumni, faculty, staff and friends who generously purchased white coats, medical instruments and sponsorships for the Class of 2024.

ON THE COVER
Dr. Kevin S. Smith ('86), originally from West Virginia, now practices as an interventional pain and regenerative medicine specialist in California.
I recently had the pleasure of visiting with a number of alumni from our early classes during the School of Medicine’s 34th Homecoming where we celebrated a major milestone — the 40th reunion of the Class of 1981, our first class of graduates. They reminisced about the “good old days” of Quonset huts and makeshift classrooms, the close-knit bond they developed with one another and how the small class size gave them the hands-on experiences that other medical students didn’t have. Every graduate I spoke with said their training at Marshall allowed them to enter residencies far ahead of their peers. Like many other Marshall University administrators, past and present, I am so thankful the early graduates took a chance on us and created the foundation that has strengthened our school.

The Class of 1981 and every class since has made a concerted effort to leave this school better than they found it. We all know the special familial bond of a medical school class. Family has been the hallmark of the Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine since the very beginning.

However, my hope for our more recent graduates is that they remember Marshall for the opportunities it gave them to grow in their field and thrive. My desire is that they continue making their mark on the medical landscape while remembering they are a part of the Marshall family and, as such, their accomplishments become our school’s success stories.

In 2022, we usher in a new era at Marshall University. As a university, we welcome Brad D. Smith as our new president. The faculty, staff and students look forward to the opportunities his dynamic leadership style and business background will bring to Marshall and our School of Medicine. Before moving forward, we must thank President Jerome “Jerry” Gilbert for the tremendous growth we’ve experienced as an institution. Under his helm, we saw the creation of new programs like biomedical engineering and physician assistant, new pathways to professional schools like the MD Early Assurance Program and, perhaps most notably, achievement of status as an R2 research institution.

The upcoming years look bright as we continue to grow as an institution, train the medical workforce of the future and build lasting relationships with those we are lucky enough to call “alumni” and “friends.”

Warm regards,

Joseph I. Shapiro, MD
Vice President and Dean
Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine

The Class of 1981 and every class since has made a concerted effort to leave this school better than they found it.

— Joseph I. Shapiro, MD
As I stood in front of our newly-minted doctors, families and faculty at this year’s graduation and investiture ceremony to acknowledge the many accomplishments of Dr. Charles McKown, who had a hand in my decision to become a radiologist, I was truly in awe of how far our medical school has come.

I couldn’t help but think about that moment 23 years ago when I earned the privilege to be called “Dr. Cure.” Much of that day is a blur, but I do remember the feelings of joy and elation I sensed in knowing that my medical school experience had reached its conclusion and my goal of becoming a physician had been attained. Being able to share in my classmates’ successes as well only added to the excitement of that day. All of our hard work and dedication had paid off, but our journeys were really just beginning.

While each of those journeys have been quite different, those varied life experiences brought us together, taught us something, pushed us to work harder and made us a family.

As we approach the end of the School of Medicine’s 44th year and celebrate the 40th reunion for the 18 members of our first graduating class, I have to thank those trailblazers who took a chance on a tiny new medical school in Huntington, West Virginia. Their risk was certainly our reward!

The saying that the only thing constant in life is change is so true, and the positive changes we’re experiencing at the School of Medicine are inspiring. To be more representative of what our school has become, we, too, are making some changes in this year’s magazine, starting with a new title. MarshallMD is about highlighting all the wonderful things that make our school and our alumni unique. I encourage you to take an active role in your experience as alumni. Share your story to inspire others, take a trip to Huntington for homecoming, deliver a lecture, support a scholarship and use social media to stay connected with your classmates and our school.

It has been an honor to serve as your School of Medicine Alumni Association president during the past two years. The pandemic has brought a whirlwind of change to our profession, but you have continued to bring the best medical care to your patients day after day. I am beyond thankful for your commitment to the practice of medicine during this incredibly difficult time.

Go Herd!

Robert J. Cure, MD (’98)
President
Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine Alumni Association
BRAD D. SMITH NAMED 38TH PRESIDENT OF MARSHALL UNIVERSITY

Marshall University alumnus Brad D. Smith, Wing 2 Wing Foundation co-founder and former Intuit CEO, has been named the institution’s 38th president. He assumed the presidency on Jan. 1, 2022.

The decision to hire Mr. Smith was made by the Marshall University Board of Governors with a unanimous vote at its October 2021 meeting. Mr. Smith succeeds the Jerome A. Gilbert, PhD, who announced in April that he would not seek an extension of his contract.

NEW EARLY ASSURANCE PROGRAMS GIVE UNDERGRADUATE MARSHALL STUDENTS A JUMP ON MEDICAL, PHARMACY OR PHYSICAL THERAPY SCHOOL

Marshall University students committed to a career in one of these health professions. Three new “Early Assurance” programs in medicine (MD), pharmacy (PharmD) and physical therapy (DPT) are now available to Marshall University.

Through these programs, qualified students can receive a guaranteed spot in a competitive graduate program early in their undergraduate career. The programs also allow students to bypass standardized admissions tests like the MCAT, PCAT and GRE, and provide special mentoring, networking and educational enrichment opportunities.

Students must be enrolled at Marshall University before applying to an Early Assurance program. In addition, each program has its own eligibility, requirements and process for application, and there are continuing obligations once a student is accepted. The programs are open to both in- and out-of-state students.

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AWARDED PLANNING GRANT FOR NEW RURAL SURGERY RESIDENCY PROGRAM

The School of Medicine received a $750,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) to support the planning and development of West Virginia’s first rural surgery residency program.

The grant, which will be administered through the Marshall Community Health Consortium, is one of only nine grants awarded as part of the HRSA Rural Residency Planning and Development Program to help address physician workforce shortages in rural communities. This is the first time these funds have been awarded to plan a rural surgery residency program.

The Consortium will partner with Logan Regional Medical Center, which is composed of the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine, Marshall Health, Cabell Huntington Hospital, Valley Health and Holzer Health Systems, will partner with Logan Regional Medical Center to develop curriculum, recruit faculty and address the clinical and learning environment needs necessary to establish an accredited rural surgery residency program. Paulette Wehner, MD (’89), vice dean of graduate medical education, is principal investigator on the grant. Farzad Amiri, MD, associate professor, will serve as program director, and Jodi Cisco-Goff, MD (’97), assistant professor, will serve as associate program director.
MARSHALL UNIVERSITY, WVU ESTABLISH STATEWIDE INFECTION PREVENTION NETWORK

The West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources awarded grants to the schools of medicine at both Marshall University and West Virginia University to facilitate the creation of a statewide infection prevention network. Led by infectious disease experts at both institutions, each institution will receive $500,000 over two years to foster partnerships among academic medical centers and schools of public health to develop regional centers for infection prevention and control consultation and support services. The network will also build expertise in infection prevention and control throughout the state by creating training curriculums for epidemiologists and a variety of health care personnel related to infectious disease and epidemiology.

MARSHALL HEALTH RECOGNIZED AS FIRST CENTER FOR COMPREHENSIVE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS CARE IN WEST VIRGINIA

Marshall Health has earned recognition as the state’s first Center for Comprehensive Care by the National Multiple Sclerosis Society (NMSS). To earn the distinction, an organization must demonstrate coordinated, multi-disciplinary care for MS patients. According to NMSS, Marshall Health’s clinicians continually demonstrate a wealth of knowledge, experience and the important attention to detail necessary in treating people living with MS. Under the leadership of Neurology Chair Paul Ferguson, MD (’07), the Comprehensive MS Clinic housed within Marshall Neurology was founded in 2013. The clinic now serves more than 1,000 patients with this disease. Marshall Health is one of 145 comprehensive care centers designated by the NMSS nationwide.

Retiring Faculty

The School of Medicine recognizes the valuable contributions and dedication of the following faculty members who have retired since July 1, 2020.

Marie C. Veitia, PhD  Professor  10/01/86 - 6/01/21
Bonnie L. Beaver, MD  Professor  03/01/95 – 07/07/21
Richard D. Crespo, PhD  Professor  03/01/94 – 08/28/20
Mary L. Marcuzzi, MD  Assistant Professor  07/18/05 – 02/09/21
Randall W. Peterson, MD  Assistant Professor  09/01/17 – 01/31/21
PRESTIGIOUS NIH FUNDING DRIVES NEW BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH

The Research Project Grant, known as the R01, is the original and historically oldest National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant. It is also the most competitive. Two School of Medicine scientists in 2021 were awarded R01 grants for studies related to nicotine addiction and kidney research.

Brandon J. Henderson, PhD, an assistant professor of biomedical sciences, was awarded a $1.86 million five-year grant from the National Institute on Drug Abuse to study the neurobiological and neurophysiological changes that occur due to vaping nicotine in flavored products. Dr. Henderson’s research team is working to better understand how electronic nicotine delivery systems, or vaping, alter neurobiology to trigger nicotine addiction in adolescents.

Sandrine V. Pierre, PhD, an associate professor of biomedical sciences and interim director of the Marshall Institute for Interdisciplinary Research, was awarded a $1.36 million, four-year grant from the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases to study the regulatory mechanism of salt handling by the kidney and malfunction of this mechanism that compromises the body’s ability to remove salt. The new study will draw upon the renowned expertise of Marshall investigators on the signaling and scaffolding function of the Na,K-ATPase protein and its impact on cardiovascular function.

“The awarding of two R01 grants this year indicates a critical milestone in research advancements across our institution,” said Joseph I. Shapiro, MD, vice president and dean of the School of Medicine. “Not only are these accomplished faculty members engaged in meaningful research that impacts individuals across the globe, they are also creating a path forward for junior investigators at Marshall.”

IDENTIFYING COVID-19 VARIANTS IN WEST VIRGINIA

On the cutting edge of identifying the Delta variant

Researchers James Denvir, PhD, associate professor of biomedical sciences, and Donald Primerano, PhD, professor and vice chair of biomedical sciences, are part of a team including researchers at West Virginia University and the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources working to identify COVID-19 variants throughout the state. The group is now part of a larger team that received a $678,030 grant from NIH to further examine SARS-CoV-2 variants in the state.

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Since 2001, the West Virginia IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence, known as WV-INBRE, has been fueling innovations in research at the higher education institutions across our states. It has brought $70 million in research dollars to West Virginia! Gary O. Rankin, PhD, vice dean for basic sciences, has served as principal investigator since the project was renamed WV-INBRE in 2004.
The School of Medicine’s long-standing relationship with the Hershel “Woody” Williams VA Medical Center is largely grounded in the research collaborations that have evolved over four decades. Those research efforts continue with new major awards through the VA Merit Review program.

Uma Sundaram, MD, vice dean for research and graduate education at the School of Medicine, first received a VA Merit Award in 2017 for research related to the causes of malnutrition and diarrhea in inflammatory bowel disease. Diarrhea is one of the most common causes of disability of U.S. veterans serving overseas.

Dr. Sundaram successfully renewed his VA Merit Award in 2021. Based on the outstanding score of his renewal application, Dr. Sundaram was also nominated for and received the VA Senior Clinician Scientist Investigator (SCSI) Award. This SCSI Award includes a MERIT award extension for four years, amounting to a total eight-year award. Dr. Sundaram is one of only 41 researchers across the country to hold SCSI status.

Mary-Louise Risher, PhD, an assistant professor of biomedical sciences, was awarded a four-year VA Merit Award in 2021 to identify novel non-neuronal mechanisms, specifically astrocytes, that are involved in the dysregulation of neuronal activity that occurs after binge drinking. Understanding these mechanisms in the context of synaptic dysfunction and the emergence of alcohol use disorder could lead to the development of novel treatments designed to break the cycle of chronic substance abuse and the development of cognitive dysfunction in service members and veterans.

**Accolades**

**2021 FACULTY CHOICE AWARD**

This honor is presented to the most outstanding fourth-year medical student as selected by the faculty.

Hannah R. Leport, MD, grew up outside of Point Pleasant, West Virginia, and earned her undergraduate degree from Marshall University in English: Creative Writing. Dr. Leport demonstrated leadership throughout her medical school career as president of the cardiology interest group and treasurer of the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine Chapter of the American Medical Association.

She was selected to attend the Reproductive Health Institute in Washington, DC, where she met with government leaders on reproductive health. She is the recipient of multiple merit-based scholarships including the Rural Health Scholar, an internship opportunity for fourth-year medical students who plan to pursue a career in family medicine. She is also a member of the Gold Humanism Honor Society.

Dr. Leport stayed in Huntington to pursue a family medicine residency at Marshall. After residency, she plans to practice family medicine in a rural community. She is married with two children.
2021 HONORARY ALUMNUS AWARD

This special honor is presented annually at the investiture ceremony to an individual who is not a graduate of the School of Medicine but has most exemplified distinguished service to our school and/or the medical community we serve.

During his nearly 23-year tenure as dean, Marshall University’s School of Medicine began to truly thrive and became a robust, growing institution. The school’s health science footprint more than tripled in size under his leadership. Beginning in 1998 and the decade that followed, the School of Medicine saw the completion of five new clinical, educational and research buildings with an investment of more than $120 million, including the Marshall University Medical Center, Robert C. Byrd Biotechnology Science Center, Erma Ora Byrd Clinical Center and Edwards Comprehensive Cancer Center. The new facilities helped the school respond to new educational requirements, accommodating increased faculty size and a dedicated clinical skills lab.

These new facilities sparked the development of new specialty service lines in orthopaedic surgery, neuroscience and ophthalmology, as well as new residency and fellowship training programs. Dr. McKown’s efforts catalyzed the development of a first-rate clinical and basic science faculty as well as the growth of the school’s partner teaching hospitals, Cabell Huntington Hospital, St. Mary’s Medical Center and the Hershel “Woody” Williams VA Medical Center.

While accomplishing successes in medical education and health care in the Tri-State, Dr. McKown also served as a leader for the community and has been honored with a number of awards, including the Special Community Impact Award from The Herald-Dispatch in 2009. He also served on the Greater Huntington Parks and Recreation board for 43 years.

In the midst of this strategic growth, Dr. McKown cultivated donors like Joan C. Edwards whose generosity would make a profound difference in the future of the school. Ultimately, the philanthropic support of the Edwards family would result in the renaming of the medical school to the “Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine” in 2000.

After completing one of the longest medical school deanships on record, Dr. McKown transitioned into a new role at the medical school as the Vice President of Health Sciences Advancement on July 1, 2011, and continues to support the philanthropic efforts of the school’s administration.

2021 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS AWARD

Since graduating from Marshall’s School of Medicine in 1990, C. David Adair, MD, went to the University of Florida in Jacksonville for his OB/GYN residency, followed by a maternal-fetal medicine fellowship at Wake Forest University. He spent the next 20 years in academic medicine at the University of Tennessee, where he served in a variety of leadership roles until he retired as professor emeritus in February 2020.

A lifelong learner and innovator, Dr. Adair continued to pursue other opportunities to advance biotechnologies that improve the practice of medicine. For 20 years, he has been involved in angel and venture investing and serves on the board of half a dozen startups related to medical devices and therapeutics. A health care entrepreneur himself, he worked with the partners of Solas BioVentures since 2004 and was a founding member of the firm in 2014. Then, in 2019, he graduated magna cum laude with a Master of Healthcare Administration from UT Chattanooga.

Although he is no longer actively practicing, Dr. Adair is reaching patients throughout the country with his medical devices and therapeutics. He believes physicians can be involved in more than patient care in order to make a difference.

Traditionally, the Distinguished Alumnus Award is presented during the annual Homecoming celebration. Due to COVID-19, in-person Homecoming festivities were cancelled. Therefore, we recognize the achievements of our 2020 Distinguished Alumnus in this edition of MarshallMD.
There isn’t a more beloved and recognized member of the School of Medicine family than Cindy A. Warren. She has been an integral and predominant member of Marshall University’s School of Medicine since 1977. She has devoted her career to creating a personal and seamless admissions process while building lasting relationships with each School of Medicine graduate as they began their medical school journey.

As evidenced by the more than 130 alumni and friends who collectively contributed $136,426 in her honor, Cindy has made a profound difference for all School of Medicine graduates who fondly recall “the day Cindy Warren called” and how that moment changed their lives.

For these reasons, the School of Medicine has chosen a naming as the appropriate recognition for her tireless efforts, commitment and service. A conference room on the second floor of the Marshall University Medical Center has been named in her honor. All gifts received from alumni and friends have been earmarked for the Cindy A. Warren Scholarship to support future medical students.

The Day Cindy Called

In recognition of her lifetime of commitment and service, a conference room is named in appreciation of Cindy A. Warren.

By Linda Holmes and Sheanna Spence
I was weighing my coal truck at the scale house when I was told to call my grandfather. He said, ‘Cindy Warren called and said you got into the Marshall School of Medicine.’ I rushed home and my grandfather and I headed to Huntington with my deposit in hand. It was the happiest day of my life and it represented more than just me fulfilling a dream of becoming a physician, but to those in rural West Virginia, that they, too, could do it. Cindy was with me from the start to finish of medical school. The best was all my trucking buddies immediately said I had to change my CB handle from Mugsy to Dr. Dave.

— Dr. David Adair ('90)
You may not be surprised to learn that a Son of Marshall raises bison, but you might be when you learn he’s also an ER doctor. W. Douglas Given, MD, a native of Braxton County, West Virginia, is a fourth-generation farmer as well as a physician.

Mountain State Farm, where he and his family now tend a growing “herd” of bison, has been owned by family members since the 1800s. But it wasn’t Dr. Given’s original intent to turn to farming.

Following high school, he went to Potomac State College for two years, then transferred to West Virginia University. He was an early draft pick in 1979 for the third class of the nascent Marshall University medical school. At that time, the school was located in the old C&O Hospital on Sixth Avenue. He and his classmate and later medical practice partner, the late Dave Brosius, MD (’83), lived in the brick building next door. Dr. Given recalls the many nights they spent in the anatomy lab until two or three in the morning. “When we finished, we’d go across the street and have a beer at Boney’s,” he says with a chuckle. “Because the class was so small, everybody knew each other and we tried to help each other. It was so special.”

Following his residency at Marshall, he could see that going back to Braxton County wasn’t an option, so he joined a family practice program at United Hospital Center in Clarksburg. While there, but still pining for home, he began moonlighting at Braxton Memorial Hospital in 1984. Two years later, he and Dr. Brosius set up their own family medicine practice in Gassaway.

Meanwhile, his father was raising beef cattle on the old family farm. But, after an accident at age 88 left him unable to work, he moved in with Dr. Given and his family in Gassaway and rented out the farm.

“I was getting depressed because I kept seeing this beautiful farm being run down,” Dr. Given recalls. “I started thinking that I needed to do something about it.”

So, after 16 years in Gassaway, the Givens moved back to the farm. Knowing how hard the cattle business is, Dr. Given turned to raising bison.

First, however, they had to rebuild much of the farm. At the end of June 2020 they bought their first bison — all bulls — from a breeder in Midnight, Texas. After they did well, they added more. Next came 11 cows, all pregnant, and 18 heifers. Now, a year later, the cows are calving and the herd has grown to 51 head. To hear Dr. Given talk about the bison, it’s clear he’s fallen in love with them.

“They’re big animals and they have a very big personality,” he says with a smile. Some have names, but so far none are called Marco. He’s selling them for the meat, however, with his son operating a slaughterhouse on the side. They also pasture-raise chickens and pigs.

Although Dr. Given never thought he’d be a farmer, Mountain State Farm is a family-run business. Dr. Given, his wife, Mary, and son Dan — a CPA who graduated from Marshall — do all the work.

Their other two children — both Marshall alumni — have non-farm related professions. Older daughter Mary Beth Whitford is a teacher living in Pennsylvania with her husband, Justin, and their child. Younger daughter Laura, a 2017 graduate from the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine, practices family medicine in Hamlin, West Virginia.

Because Dr. Given’s parents were also educators who sent their son to Marshall and because the university has been so important to the Given family, Doug and Mary recently established a scholarship in memory of his parents — William Henry and Marjorie Given. They also endowed the Given Family Scholarship as part of the “Adopt a Medical Student” scholarship program for the School of Medicine. Their scholarship provides support for a first-year medical student with Braxton County ties. Second preference goes to a student from either Calhoun, Clay, Lewis, Gilmer, Nicholas or Webster counties in West Virginia.

“They say every man is a debtor to his profession and I’m a debtor to Marshall,” Dr. Given says. “The med school wanted us to succeed, be good doctors and practice family medicine in rural West Virginia. I’m where I am today because of Marshall and the education I received there.”

Carter Seaton, a freelance writer and author living in Huntington, West Virginia, has received the Literary Merit Award from the West Virginia Library Association, the Marshall University College of Liberal Arts Distinguished Alumni Award, the Governor’s Award for Lifetime Achievement in the Arts and the Ella Dickey Literary Award.
Kevin S. Smith, MD ('86), has been setting goals for as long as he can remember. “My older sister was always smarter than I was, and my older brother was always bigger, faster and stronger,” said the board-certified anesthesiologist and interventional pain management specialist. “I found at an early age I had to do something to keep up.”

Dr. Smith said growing up in Logan, West Virginia, he wanted two things: to play in the NFL and to become a doctor. Both his mother and father had master’s degrees, and good grades were expected of him. His father, one of the winningest high school football coaches in the state, kept him involved in football, basketball, track and baseball.

“I stayed busy year-round — but in Logan you have to stay busy, or you’ll get into trouble,” Dr. Smith laughed. “We were a competitive family. A lot was expected of me.”

His parents emphasized values like discipline and determination.

“They taught me how to stick to a schedule and how to develop skills to meet my goals,” he said. “I learned early on about perseverance, motivation and dedication.”

His senior year of high school, Dr. Smith was offered an academic and athletic scholarship to Carnegie Mellon. He chose to attend Marshall instead.

“For me, it was an easy decision,” he explained. “First, my older brother was playing football there, and I always loved playing football with my brother. Second, Marshall gave me the opportunity to pursue my life’s goals. I thought, ‘I can play football there and have a chance at the NFL, and I can go to medical school there and become a doctor.’”

At Marshall he was a three-year starter playing cornerback for the Thundering Herd. He also earned the nickname of “Bop Dude” for the way he hit opposing players.

“I enjoyed hard and physical contact with another player,” Dr. Smith said. “Football was a great outlet for me. I could leave all my frustration and bottled-up energy from my hectic schedule on the field.”

As the only player on the team pursuing a medical career, Dr. Smith had to balance the physical demands of college football with the academic demands of a pre-med education. After a Saturday night game, he’d wake up early on Sunday to study...
Dr. Kevin Smith established the Regenerative Medicine and Biologics Institute, offering therapies that regrow and repair damaged and diseased areas of the body.
before catching the bus to Fairfield Stadium to watch film with the rest of the team.

“Every minute of my day was structured,” he said. “I’d study in the locker room before practice and on the plane traveling to games. I would wake up at 3 a.m. to study because it would finally be quiet in the athletic dorm, and frequently one of my teammates would be coming in from a night out and bring me coffee. They respected what I was doing. Those guys are still my closest friends today.”

His freshman year, he walked around campus requesting meetings with the president of the university, dean of the College of Science and dean and vice dean of the School of Medicine — basically, anyone willing to talk with him.

“I went around and asked, ‘What do I need to do to get into medical school?’” he recalled. “And they all told me what courses I needed to take and what grades I needed to get. The rest was up to me.”

Dr. Smith ended his football career satisfied, but knowing he wasn’t going into the NFL. His focus shifted to weighing options for medical school. It was an important decision: if he chose to attend the Marshall University School of Medicine, he’d be the school’s first African American graduate.

“My dad sat me down and said, ‘If you go to Marshall, it will be a challenge. The pressure will be on you every day. Everything you do will be noticed,’” Dr. Smith said. “But I accepted that challenge. And I’m glad I did — my experience at Marshall led me to where I am today.”

While some students struggled adjusting to the increased workload and stress of medical school, Dr. Smith put into practice the skills he honed as a student-athlete.

“The structure and discipline I learned being in pre-med and playing football served me well,” he said. “I was just glad to be in an air-conditioned hospital, not out in 105-degree heat with a coach yelling in my face.”

Dr. Smith briefly considered a career in orthopaedics before deciding to enter anesthesiology. He completed his anesthesiology residency at the University of Louisville, where he was introduced to interventional pain management. He then decided he wanted to live in San Diego, California, and work at Anesthesia Service Medical Group (ASMG), a prestigious anesthesiology practice that in the early 1990s was the largest single-specialty physician group in the country.

There was one problem: the practice had no openings. But Dr. Smith pursued the job with his usual focus and persistence. When his calls and letters finally resulted in an interview, he was offered a position with the group. He worked with ASMG for several years.
before establishing his own practice, Integrated Pain Specialists of Southern California.

"I came to realize there was a big need for interventional pain management here," he said. "I stopped practicing anesthesiology and exclusively began practicing interventional pain management."

Recently, Dr. Smith added another area of expertise to his resume: regenerative medicine. He established the Regenerative Medicine and Biologics Institute, offering therapies that regrow and repair damaged and diseased areas of the body. His wife Tammy is the COO of both practices. Needless to say, retirement is nowhere in sight.

"I'm not slowing down; I'm just changing my focus," Dr. Smith said.

He and Tammy, also a native of Logan, established the Dr. Kevin S. and Mrs. Tammy C. Smith Endowed Scholarship in 2007 at the School of Medicine to help medical students from Logan County defray the costs of medical school. When there's not a qualified recipient from Logan County, the scholarship is awarded to a former athlete from West Virginia.

"I try to help southern West Virginia as much as I can," said Dr. Smith. "Logan needs a lot of things, and there are a lot of people who live there who do without. It's the same situation for a lot of athletes — many of them come from backgrounds that are not privileged."

The scholarship is also a way to give back to the Marshall School of Medicine.

"I owe a lot to that school," he said. "The people there guided me on what I needed to do. They gave me a foundation to build upon."

The Smiths give back to their community in San Diego as well, supporting the city's children’s hospital and other community organizations. Dr. Smith also works as a consultant and educator, traveling coast to coast to educate medical fellows and other professionals about interventional pain management.

The Smiths have one daughter, Gabriela, who graduated with an honors degree from Stanford in 2020 and now has her sights set on law school.

Looking toward the future, Dr. Smith said he's seeking ways to further invest in his home state, whether in business or education. He said he hopes to instill in young people the belief he's always had — that anything is possible.

"God gifted me with a brain and manual dexterity; and with medicine, I always felt that if there was something I wanted to do, I could do it," he said. "My wish is for more young people in southern West Virginia to have that same mindset, to know that they can achieve anything they set out to do."

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Kevin and Tammy Smith with their daughter Gabriela enjoy a vacation in Madrid, Spain.

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Katherine Pyles is a freelance writer living in Huntington, West Virginia. She is a graduate of Marshall University, where she was a member of the Society of Yeager Scholars.
Megan E. Docherty, MD (‘11), was no stranger to delivering difficult news. For the emergency medicine physician, helping patients and their families navigate complex medical decisions was all in a day’s work. She knew the importance of effective physician-patient communication; that was something she learned at the Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine.

But there’s a difference between knowing something and living it. In 2016, frequent migraines led to a life-altering cancer diagnosis for the young physician, who had just moved to Asheville, North Carolina, with her husband Forrest S. Harrison, MD (‘11), also an emergency medicine physician. In the weeks leading up to an appointment with her primary care physician, Dr. Docherty’s symptoms rapidly became worse.

“I remember going into the bathroom one morning and throwing up and telling Forrest, ‘I don’t think I can wait until the appointment,’” she recalled. The couple went to the emergency depart-
ment where they both worked, and they learned Dr. Docherty’s symptoms were caused by a brain tumor called a glioma.

“I was actually supposed to work later that day,” Dr. Docherty said. “It was surreal.”

Her treatment plan involved surgery, chemotherapy and radiation. It was successful: the tumor has had no growth since 2016, and aside from surveillance MRIs, her life is back to normal. But the experience has had a lasting impact on her life and career.

“First, I’ve learned not to hem and haw over giving difficult news,” she said. “The patient is likely already expecting something, and the waiting is very uncomfortable.”

She also came to understand that cancers and chronic illnesses are often like a full-time job for patients.

“I’ve learned to be understanding when patients don’t always follow instructions,” she said. “They’ve got a lot going on.”

The same goes for their families, said Dr. Harrison.

“When your family member is fighting for their life, all their effort is going toward their treatment,” he explained. “They don’t
have the bandwidth for insurance policies, disability benefits or the onslaught of bills and paperwork. It’s difficult and frustrating—and unfortunately, a misstep can lead to serious debt or even bankruptcy.”

Following his wife’s experience, Dr. Harrison said he takes additional time with patients and families facing cancer and chronic illnesses. He explains some of the resources available to them, as well as what they might expect from their workplace and insurance company. In addition to potentially helping patients and their families avoid financial hardship, the conversations help them feel less alone.

“When you share terrible information with somebody, a lot of times they feel like they’re the only person in the world in that moment,” Dr. Harrison said. “Taking extra time with patients and their families reminds them they’re not alone.”

Put another way, “kindness is medicine,” said Beth A. Toppins, MD (’00), an emergency medicine physician and medical director of the Cabell Huntington Hospital Emergency Department. Diagnosed with ulcerative colitis during her undergraduate studies at Marshall University, Dr. Toppins’ symptoms grew worse in medical school. Between classes and exams, she visited specialists and underwent medication trials, even requiring admission to the hospital for blood transfusions.

“I only told one of my classmates about my diagnosis, in part due to the embarrassing nature of the symptoms and in part due to the fear that if others knew, they’d somehow think I couldn’t succeed in medical school,” she explained.

That all changed when Dr. Toppins’ health declined so severely that her medical team determined a total colectomy was needed.

“I was devastated,” she said. “I wasn’t convinced that surgery was going to remedy my symptoms. But everyone was so wonderful and caring. When the time came to notify the medical school of my upcoming surgeries, they were so supportive of me. They promised to help me in any way they could.”

She credits her faith, friends and family for getting her through that difficult period, along with the support she received from the School of Medicine faculty and her classmates, some of whom were on her treatment team.

“It can be unsettling to be that open with your colleagues about what you are experiencing,” she said. “But the doctor-patient relationship is such a special,
trusting one, even when the patient also happens to
be a physician. I had to learn to trust those who had
more expertise than I did in many areas.”

When she felt depleted, she looked to others for
hope.

“I remember feeling so miserable, overwhelmed
and even scared that I looked for hope in the faces
of others,” Dr. Toppins said. “The kindness of my phy-
sicians became a medicine in itself. I try to remem-
ber that with each patient that I see — they need to
to see that you care about them before they can truly
trust you.”

Camilo A. Caceres, MD (09), said earning patients’
trust is particularly important in settings that, while
commonplace for physicians, are often highly vulner-
able for patients — something he didn’t fully realize
until he was in one of those settings himself.

Diagnosed with a genetic condition called poly-
cyctic kidney disease, Dr. Caceres’s kidney function
had been low for nearly a decade when it suddenly
dropped significantly in 2019. Having walked this
road before with his uncle, father and grandfather, he
knew that the severity of the disease meant one of
two things: dialysis or a transplant.

“Fortunately, my brother volunteered to donate
his kidney,” said Dr. Caceres, an emergency medicine
physician and medical director at West Penn Hospital
in Pittsburgh. “That was huge. I was very lucky.”

As a physician, Dr. Caceres knew what to expect
with the surgery and hospital stay. His brother didn’t.

“Going through that experience with him, I saw
firsthand how important it is not just to tell patients
what’s going to happen to them but also to explain
why it’s happening, without all the long Latin words
and abbreviations,” he said. “I think all physicians
know the importance of communication — but when your
family member is on the other side of that, and not receiv-
ing the communication they need, it gives you a different
perspective.”

During the brothers’ hospital stay following the transplant,
Dr. Caceres required a Foley catheter and his brother required
an NG tube — two devices Dr. Caceres was very familiar with
as an ER doctor. However, that didn’t make them any more
comfortable.

“I’ve ordered plenty of Foley catheters for patients; it’s an
easy solution to many medical problems. But as a patient, it’s
not an easy thing at all,” he laughed.

Dr. Caceres noted that in uncomfortable situations, the
more information you can give, the better.

“What may be a very simple explanation for someone
with a medical background can be overwhelming for a
patient. Luckily, my brother had our parents, who both have
medical backgrounds, and he had me. I had the support of my
partner Krystal, who helped make sure everything went well on
my end. Not all patients are that lucky.”

Dr. Caceres said that while he’s thankful for the lessons he
learned during his experience as a patient, enduring a medical
crisis or lengthy hospital stay isn’t required for physicians to de-
velop effective, empathetic communication skills. Oftentimes, it’s
as simple as keeping in mind the discomfort and limited medical
knowledge of patients and their families.

“It’s easy to take for granted how vulnerable of a position our
patients are put in — having to place their trust in people they
don’t know,” Dr. Caceres said. “You have to remind yourself, ‘This
isn’t just a part of my job. This is a person I’m taking care of.’”

Katherine Pyles is a freelance writer living in Huntington,
West Virginia. She is a graduate of Marshall University,
where she was a member of the Society of Yeager Scholars.
Established during the 1970s through the Teague-Cranston Act, which called for the creation of five new medical schools in conjunction with existing VA hospitals, the Marshall University School of Medicine welcomed its first class in 1978. By the time its first 18 graduates walked across the stage in 1981, Marshall’s reputation for providing high-quality, community-based medical education was well established.

“I don’t think any of us had doubts about whether the school would succeed,” said class vice president Brenda C. Smith, MD, a now-retired nephrologist. “The university was established, and all the hoops had been jumped through by the time we enrolled.”

The inaugural class was a diverse group. While some members had their sights set on a medical career from a young age, others, like Dr. Smith, came to the School of Medicine from other professions. With an undergraduate degree in mathematics and French, Dr. Smith taught briefly before deciding to enter medicine. Many of her classmates made a similar switch.

“A lot of folks in our class had previous careers,” said F. Scott Hunter, MD, who enrolled at the Marshall School of Medicine following military service as a combat corpsman in the U.S. Navy. “Some were teachers; one was a nurse anesthetist; one was working at a desk job. I’d say a very small number came right out of college. We were all extremely grateful just to be there. We all helped each other.”

His own pre-med journey was unconventional: Dr. Hunter was a college freshman when the 1970 Marshall plane crash occurred, devastating the university and community. His active military service began the following year. He served one year in Vietnam as a combat medic before coming home to resume his undergraduate studies.

“I came home knowing I was going to try my best to get into medical school, but I had my doubts,” he said. “In college I worked as an orderly at the St. Mary’s ER, and I got to know a lot of the doctors there. They were all extremely supportive; they gave me books to read and encouraged me to apply to Marshall. They were my moral support, saying, ‘Hang in there, it’s going to happen.’ Many of them became my professors.”

That supportive environment continued as the Class of 1981 began their studies.

“It was like you were joining a family,” said Emmett F. Branigan, MD, a reproductive endocrinologist. “Everybody was so enthusiastic about making it work.”

Dr. Branigan said he remembers essentially “hanging out” with the chairman of the obstetrics and gynecology department, the
Dr. Albert C. Esposito speaks to the first graduating class of the Marshall University School of Medicine at their investiture ceremony held in March 1981.

THE DOCTORAL INVESTITURE PROGRAM
HONORING
THE FIRST GRADUATING CLASS
OF
MARSHALL UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
May 8, 1981
HUNTINGTON CIVIC CENTER

Presiding: Stephen T. Pyles
Class President

Invocation: Richard A. Gilmore, Ph.D.

Introduction of the Class: Robert W. Coon, M.D.
Vice President for Health Sciences and Dean of the School of Medicine

The CHARGE: L. Walter Fox, M.D.
President West Virginia State Medical Association

Class History: Brenda C. Smith
Class Vice President

Special Acknowledgments: The Retiring Faculty

Presentation of Awards: The Class - The Faculty

Pledge to the Service of Humanity: Albert C. Esposito, M.D. and The Graduating Class

Recognition - Suite A

Page One
late David Charles, MD. In fact, the one-on-one mentorship he received from Dr. Charles paved the way for his and many of his classmates’ successful OB/Gyn careers. Nine of the 18 members of the inaugural class chose to enter obstetrics and gynecology, in large part due to Dr. Charles’s dedication and charisma.

“Most medical students only get minor exposure to actually doing medicine,” said Dr. Branigan. “That wasn’t the case for us. I remember scrubbing in on a heart bypass surgery — what medical student gets to do that? I got to do forceps deliveries with the chairman of the OB department. All that exposure and interaction really set up the rest of my career.”

Dr. Branigan said with all the growth the medical school has experienced over the past 40 years, he’s happy to see that the hands-on approach to medical education has remained unchanged.

“I feel a little bit like a proud parent — maybe it’s because I’m in the fertility business,” he laughed. “I take a lot of pride in Marshall and what it has accomplished.”

Among the faculty and staff, there was a genuine desire for the Class of 1981 to be successful, said Patrick C. “Pat” Bonasso, MD, a practicing obstetrician/gynecologist.

“I got the impression from the get-go that Marshall was a different type of medical school, with down-to-earth people from top to bottom,” he said. “We had one-on-one time with our professors — sometimes even more than that, with two professors helping a single student. The emphasis was on primary care, especially in rural areas; they’d take us around southern West Virginia to show us where primary care physicians were desperately needed. The professors wanted us to succeed; they wanted us to do good things in our careers.”

Dr. Bonasso’s sense of pride in the Marshall School of Medicine is unique: he was the school’s very first graduate.

“I didn’t realize it until we were lined up to go across the stage,” he laughed. “They lined us up by last name, and there weren’t any As in our class.”

For some members of the Class of ’81, the School of Medicine’s growth throughout these 40 years has exceeded all expectations.

“Marshall has certainly surpassed what I expected,” said Dr. Smith. “Looking back to the building where we started, and seeing all the excellent labs and new facilities at the medical school today — I just think it’s wonderful what has happened these past 40 years.”

“We started in an old railroad hospital,” said Dr. Bonasso. “Now, the hospitals in Huntington are top-notch. They have all the

A Look Back at 1981

JAN 20 - Ronald Wilson Reagan is inaugurated as the 40th president of the United States. His term of office lasts eight years.

JAN 21 - The first DMC DeLorean, a rear-engine, two-door, two-passenger sports car is produced. Easily recognizable by its side-opening doors, the car never meets with mass success and production ends in late December 1982.

APR 12 - The first reusable spacecraft, Space Shuttle Columbia, is launched on its maiden voyage from NASA’s Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

MAY 12 - Raiders of the Lost Ark is released. Directed by Steven Spielberg and starring Harrison Ford, it is the highest-grossing film of the year.

JAN 21 - The first DMC DeLorean, a rear-engine, two-door, two-passenger sports car is produced. Easily recognizable by its side-opening doors, the car never meets with mass success and production ends in late December 1982.
Most medical students only get minor exposure to actually doing medicine. That wasn’t the case for us. I remember scrubbing in on a heart bypass surgery — what medical student gets to do that?

— Emmett F. Branigan, MD

specialties and subspecialties and get referrals from all over. The School of Medicine can compete with any school in the region.”

Others say the School of Medicine’s achievement comes as no surprise: it simply builds on the legacy the school established in its earliest years.

“A lot of people worked very, very hard behind the scenes to get the funding that was needed and hire the faculty that would bring the medical school to where it is today,” said Dr. Hunter. “I can’t overstate how generous and dedicated the faculty and staff were during our time there. The impact they had is immeasurable.”

Other members of the Class of ‘81 are Dennis M. Burton, MD; the late Harry G. Camper, MD; the late Galen E. Castle, MD; C. Dwight Groves, MD; Leslie N. Heddeleston, MD; Sandra J. Joseph, MD; Douglas C. McCorkle, MD; Stephen F. Morris, MD; Stephen T. Pyles, MD; Nina K. Smith, MD; Stephen C. Smith, MD; John F. Toney, MD; Robert E. Turner, MD; and Keith H. Wharton, MD. As the members of the inaugural class reflect on their experiences, there’s a common theme: gratitude.

“In medical school, there was a tremendous amount of material to learn. I kept thinking, ‘Why don’t they teach us what we need to know?’ Dr. Smith said. “A few years later, I realized that since medicine changes so rapidly, they did not know what we would need to know. But they provided us with a solid foundation that we could build on. I have been grateful for that foundation for the past 40 years.”

Multiply that some twenty-fold for each class since 2011, and it’s clear the program has made a remarkable impact on communities far and wide. It’s given students a chance they might not otherwise have and has added diversity to the medical profession.

Carter Taylor Seaton is a freelance writer living in Huntington, West Virginia.
The year was 1977 and the team from the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME)—the certifying organization—had completed another review of all educational elements of Marshall University’s new School of Medicine. Their reviews always elicited more than a modicum of tension. Our expectations for approval of the School of Medicine seemed higher than after all their previous visits. The members of the LCME team alerted the administration and faculty members of their plan to report their findings in the fall. No date was specified, but all of us—both students and faculty—who had “hitched our wagon to the School of Medicine’s star” hoped that the LCME approved the school and authorized enrollment of the first class. They did and then-dean Robert Coon, MD, and his staff and faculty boldly celebrated, judiciously.

However, the LCME report arrived too late to enroll the first class in fall 1977. Dean Coon solved this momentary obstacle by arranging for the first class—the Class of 1981—to start the second week of January 1978. They continued their first year through August, so by September 1978, they were on time to begin their second year. The 24 students who comprised the first class were selected before the LCME team issued their approval of the School of Medicine. They waited for the formal announcement of admission to Marshall’s new medical school. The slight delay in the start of their first year mattered not, as it amounted to a miniscule amount of time compared to a lifetime as a physician. Besides, the class was excited to begin their careers as physicians.

The members of the Class of 1981 and all the scientists and physicians who joined the faculty at Marshall were “academic pioneers.” Even though the medical school initially obtained several years of funding through the U.S. Veterans Administration (VA), and the State of West Virginia agreed to provide financial support after the VA funding ended, no national or state institution or certifying organization guaranteed success—or could guarantee success—of the Marshall University School of Medicine. The medical students were dependent on the faculty, and faculty were dependent on one other. The faculty members who joined Marshall very early possessed extensive experience on the faculties of established medical schools throughout the country. They viewed appointment to the fledgling school as an opportunity to develop an exciting new four-year curriculum, mentor a small number of medical students on a one-to-one basis and for professorial advancement.

As the New Year began, a time for celebrating the Class of 1981, my wife, Deedee, and I invited all the members of the Class of 1981 and all the basic science and clinical faculty members to a party at our home on 12th Avenue just before the start of the first classes. I vividly remember that Saturday night, January 7, 1978. Several chairs who accepted appointment at the School of Medicine in 1975, 1976 or 1977, also attended, including Ruth Harris, MD, chair of pediatrics; George Hill, MD, chair of surgery; Eugene Aserinsky, PhD, chair of physiology; and Fred Lotspeich, PhD, chair of biochemistry. At this time very few faculty members had been recruited by chairs of the basic sciences and clinical departments, so that only a few were present. The main floor of our house was packed, but it was a wonderful start to our long-awaited medical school adventure at Marshall.

The Class of 1981 started their initial courses the following week at the newly-built medical school building on the campus of the Hershel “Woody” Williams VA Medical Center, several miles west of the city. The chair and at least one or two faculty members in each basic science department devoted most of their time to organizing their courses and presenting the lectures and laboratories.

It was a trying experience for the medical students—and maybe more so for the faculty—but not without rewards when the class scored well on tests. The second year began very soon after the class completed the first year, a no less a trying experience for all. However, when you are a member of the inaugural class in a new school of medicine, you go all-out. It was the Class of 1981’s nature to prove that they could successfully meet the challenge of four years of medical school and be the class responsible for the School of Medicine’s formal approval from the LCME.

And so, here we are 40 years after those special members of the Class of 1981 took the first steps for the 2,000 others who have followed and made way for the successful foundation that has made our School of Medicine what it is today.

Dr. Maurice Mufson, professor and chair emeritus, served as inaugural chair of the Department of Medicine at the Marshall School of Medicine from 1976 to 2000. He is also an infectious disease specialist and noted researcher.
Go Boldly

CLASS OF 2021 INVESTITURE

On April 30, 2021, the School of Medicine reimagined the time-honored tradition of graduation and investiture, complete with masking requirements, socially distancing and limited seating, in order to safely celebrate the Class of 2021. Now, this class of 75 new physicians is ready to embrace all that residency has for them.

The Class of 2021

Dr. David E. Bartlett accepts his degree from President Jerome A. Gilbert at the 2021 School of Medicine Investiture.

Dr. Nickolas Bacon became the first MD/PhD graduate of the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine.

CLASS STATS

- 100% Match Rate
- First MD/PhD graduate in School of Medicine history
- 8 graduates with a 4.0 GPA
- Endowed a $25,000 class scholarship in 2019

CLASS OF 2021 MATCH DAY

Drs. Meagen Carter, Carly Clark and Hannah Datz celebrate their matches together.

Dr. Ifeoluwatomi Fuwape is all smiles about her pathology match to Duke.

Dr. Nicholas Newell and family celebrate their move to Rancho Mirage, California.
### Residency Matches for the Class of 2021

<table>
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<th>State</th>
<th>City</th>
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Zachary L. Casto  Dayton  Family Medicine at Wright State University
Daniel T. Crow  Gallipolis  Family Medicine at Marshall Community Health Consortium
Hannah R. Datz  Columbus  Pediatrics-Medical Genetics at Nationwide Children’s Hospital
Harsha S. Iyer  Columbus  Family Medicine at The Ohio State University Medical Center
Jonathan W. Ray  Columbus  General Surgery at OhioHealth/Riverside Methodist
Drake A. Seccurro  Cincinnati  Internal Medicine at University of Cincinnati Medical Center

OKLAHOMA
Jordan N. Dever  Tulsa  Family Medicine at In His Image

PENNSYLVANIA
Mercy O. Babatope  Pittsburgh  Internal Medicine at Allegheny General Hospital
Samuel P. Dungan  Hershey  Internal Medicine at Penn State Health/Hershey Medical Center
William A. Hayes  Hershey  Obstetrics-Gynecology at Penn State Health/Hershey Medical Center
Allison C. Thompson  Wynnewood  Obstetrics-Gynecology at Lankenau Medicine Center

RHODE ISLAND
Christine Z. Yu  Providence  Pathology at Brown University/Rhode Island Hospital

SOUTH CAROLINA
Halley J. Alberts  Columbia  Emergency Medicine at Prisma Health/University of South Carolina
Matthew J. Cincotta  Charleston  Obstetrics-Gynecology at Medical University of South Carolina
Cooper P. Henderson  Greer  Psychiatry at Prisma Health/University of South Carolina
Dylan S. Weaver  Greenville  Emergency Medicine at Vidant Medical Center/East Carolina University
Samuel C. Wood  Columbia  Orthopaedic Surgery at Prisma Health/University of South Carolina

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Steven A. Taylor, MD  
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Joshua A. Boggs, MD  
David D. Francke, MD  
Nathan S. Hill, MD  
Andrea M. Lauffer, MD  
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* Alumni  
# Deceased
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(53 members, 15% participation)  
Smitha Vilasagar, MD  
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CLASS OF 2008  
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(43 members, 9% participation)  
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(43 members, 1 deceased, 1.7% participation)  
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(51 members, 2 deceased, 12% participation)  
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Amy L. Gar mestani, MD  
Christine L. Gilkerson, MD  
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Ryan R. Cicenas, MD  
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Jerry A. Daque, MD  
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(47 members, 1 deceased, 24% participation)  
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Indira D. Gautam, MD  
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Devon A. King, MD  
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(44 members, 20% participation)  
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(52 members, 1 deceased, 27% participation)  
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(45 members, 1 deceased, 14% participation)  
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Jennifer L. Bennett Grube, MD  
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Molly R. Mathews, MD  
Joseph C. Shanklin, MD  
Ellen A. Thompson, MD

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(47 members, 2 deceased, 18% participation)  
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E. Robert Marks III, MD  
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Amy B. Pearson, MD  
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Preena E. Purewal-Reier, MD  
Richard E. Ryncarz, MD

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(49 members, 3 deceased, 15% participation)  
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E. Fritz Braunlich, MD  
A. Betts Carpenter-Reed, MD  
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John A. Turley, MD  
Myra L. Wil kerson, MD  
Patricia J. Wilson, MD

CLASS OF 1993  
(47 members, 3 deceased, 25% participation)  
Adam M. Franks, MD  
Frank E. Fumich, MD  
Indira D. Gautam, MD  
Robert B. Gray, MD  
Eric C. Jones, MD  
Sharmila M. Matcheswalla Jones, MD  
Devon A. King, MD  
Aaron M. McGuffin, MD  
Nancy B. Norton, MD  
Bryan D. Springer, MD  
Sharon L. Steinman, MD

CLASS OF 1992  
(46 members, 2 deceased, 14% participation)  
Jodi M. Cisco-Goff, MD  
Charles W. Clements II, MD  
Sean C. DiCristofaro, MD  
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Jerome Puryear Jr., MD  
Sandra L. Skar, MD  
Jeffrey T. Smok, MD

ALUMNI  
* Alumni  
# Deceased
## Many Thanks

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</tbody>
</table>

GIVE BACK. GIVE NOW.

Gifts may be made in memory of beloved classmates, faculty, family and friends. Visit jcesom.marshall.edu to learn more.

Of the 1,944 School of Medicine living graduates representing the classes of 1981-2020, there were 313 donors for an overall participation of 16%.
New Scholarships

2021 SCHOOL OF MEDICINE SCHOLARSHIP CAMPAIGN

Listed in alphabetical order are the new scholarships created to benefit Marshall medical students during the past year. Academic and need-based scholarships ensure that Marshall attracts the most promising students from West Virginia and all corners of the country.

DR. CHERYL L. COOK & KYLE & JO ANN COOK SCHOLARSHIP

Long-time Ashland, Kentucky, pediatrician Cheryl L. Cook, MD ('85), and her parents, Kyle and Jo Ann Cook, have established a new scholarship to assist qualified medical students in relieving some of the financial burden that comes with medical school.

Cook grew up in Huntington and following medical school, she completed her pediatric residency at Nationwide Children’s Hospital in Columbus, Ohio. She returned to the region to practice at Tri-State Pediatrics in Ashland, Kentucky, for 32 years. Kyle and Jo Ann (Halstead) Cook grew up in the Beckley, West Virginia, area. Kyle retired from AT&T as business manager for West Virginia and western Pennsylvania. Jo Ann retired from the Huntington office of former Congressman Nick J. Rahall.

This scholarship is designated for first-year medical students, with first preference given to students from Cabell County; second preference given to students from Raleigh County, West Virginia; and third preference given to students from Boyd, Carter, Elliott, Greenup and Lawrence counties in Kentucky.

GIGANTELLI FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP

A newly established scholarship by James W. Gigantelli, MD, and his wife, Lori, reflects their dedication to wellness of both body and mind, as well as values committed to making beneficial choices in diet, exercise and lifestyle.

The Gigantellis relocated to West Virginia in 2019 from Nebraska when Dr. Gigantelli was appointed chair of the department of ophthalmology at the School of Medicine. He is a fellowship-trained, board-certified ophthalmologist specializing in oculofacial plastic surgery and leads a growing scope of ophthalmology services within Marshall Health in both Huntington and Charleston. Lori is a dietitian, an avid runner, a member of several local running groups and practices yoga.

The Gigantellis established a scholarship through the “Adopt a Medical Student” program, through which a donor “adopts” and supports a student throughout the duration of their four years in medical school. The scholarship is designated for an entering medical student who understands the value of a lifelong commitment to beneficial health choices, including diet, exercise and lifestyle.

DR. MARC HETTLINGER SCHOLARSHIP

A Huntington businessman, who asked to remain anonymous, established a new scholarship in honor of his primary care physician, Marc Hettlinger, MD.

Hettlinger, a native of Cabell County, West Virginia, completed his medical degree at the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine in 2009, serving as class president, followed by his internal medicine residency, also at Marshall. Hettlinger joined the School of Medicine faculty in March 2015.

The scholarship is designated for an entering first-year medical student with first preference given to students from Cabell County; second preference to a resident of Cabell County, West Virginia, and third preference is to a student from one of the metro counties of Gallia, Jackson, Lawrence, Meigs, Pike and Scioto counties in Ohio or Boyd, Carter, Elliott, Floyd, Greenup, Johnson, Lawrence, Martin and Pike counties in Kentucky.
**New Scholarships**

**DR. SCOTT E. MOORE SCHOLARSHIP**

Scott E. Moore, MD ('04), and his wife, Rebecca, have established an endowed scholarship to assist aspiring physicians from the southern coalfields of West Virginia. Moore is a native of Matewan, West Virginia, and a graduate of Matewan High School and Alice Lloyd College in Pippa Passes, Kentucky. He completed his residency at the University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School in Worcester, Massachusetts, and is a diagnostic radiologist in Ashland, Kentucky.

The Dr. Scott E. Moore Scholarship is designated for entering first-year medical students from Mingo County, West Virginia. Second preference will be given to students from the surrounding counties of Lincoln, Logan, McDowell or Wayne.

**PHILLIPS FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP**

For Danny M. Phillips, MD ('87), the journey to medical school started in 1972 with the Marion County Rescue Squad, and was solidified from 1973 to 1976 during his service in the U.S. Army. Now, he and his wife, Sandy, are giving back with a new endowed scholarship for veterans and first responders.

After medical school and an emergency medicine residency at Akron General Medical Center in Ohio, Dr. Phillips served as an ER physician and flight surgeon until he and Sandy, a former ICU nurse turned chief financial officer, and another fellow physician started their own urgent care group in the Raleigh-Durham area of North Carolina. The practice, MedAccess Urgent Care, flourished to include four urgent care centers, until they sold the business in 2017.

This scholarship is designated for entering, first-year medical students, with first preference given to students from Pocahontas County, West Virginia, and second preference to students from Bath County, Virginia. Third preference is given to students from the eastern West Virginia counties of Greenbrier, Nicholas, Pendleton, Randolph and Webster.

**RICHARDSON FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP**

Dr. Samuel R. ('83) and Mrs. Julie E. Davis have established an endowed scholarship in memory of his mother, Mary Wilson Richardson, and his mother’s family.

Following two years in the U.S. Army from 1964 to 1966 and a 10-year career in the aviation industry based in Daytona Beach, Florida, from 1967 to 1977, Dr. Davis completed his undergraduate work at Marshall University.

He graduated from the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine in 1983, followed by a radiology residency at Ohio Valley Medical Center in Wheeling, West Virginia. He practiced for more than 32 years at Montgomery General Hospital in Montgomery, West Virginia, before retiring in January 2020.

This scholarship is designated for first-year medical students, with first preference given to students from Pocahontas County, West Virginia, and second preference to students from Bath County, Virginia. Third preference is given to students from the eastern West Virginia counties of Greenbrier, Nicholas, Pendleton, Randolph and Webster.

**JOSEPH I. SHAPIRO, MD, SCHOLARSHIP**

A physician at the School of Medicine, who prefers to remain anonymous, established an endowed scholarship in honor of Dean Joseph I. Shapiro, MD, in “the spirit of gratitude for his excellent leadership, vision and enduring commitment,” said the donor.

Dr. Shapiro, a board-certified nephrologist with more than 30 years of clinical, teaching and research experience, was appointed dean of the School of Medicine in 2012. Since that time, he has grown the School of Medicine in every facet of its mission—enhanced medical education and training, improved access to primary and specialty care, and increased research dollars and scholarly activity.

The scholarship is designated for an entering first-year medical students with financial need.
SINGH FAMILY SCHOLARSHIPS

Satbir Singh, MD (’94), and his wife, Shalu K. Singh, MD, established three endowed scholarships for medical students. Each scholarship supports future physicians in a student population important to the Singhs.

Dr. Satbir Singh is a urologist in Wheeling, West Virginia. Dr. Shalu Singh is a neurologist in Steubenville, Ohio, and Weirton, West Virginia. The couple’s obvious passion for West Virginia’s panhandle is rooted in the communities where they’ve spent the past 30 years practicing medicine. The Singhs are also passionate about helping underrepresented minorities and women pursue careers in medicine.

Their three scholarship funds support first-year medical students who are from Brooke County, West Virginia, where Satbir grew up, or Jefferson County, Ohio, where Shalu practices; students who are members of racial and ethnic populations underrepresented in medicine; and female students.

DR. JOSEPH W. WERTHAMMER SCHOLARSHIP

An endowed scholarship was established by an anonymous physician in honor of his mentor, Joseph W. Werthammer, MD, a longtime neonatologist and physician leader at the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine. In 1981, Dr. Werthammer and Dr. Gilbert Ratcliff established the NICU at Cabell Huntington Hospital. Dr. Werthammer has served in various leadership roles, including chair of pediatrics and chief medical officer. He now serves as professor of pediatrics and senior associate dean of clinical affairs and special advisor to the dean, and continues to care for infants in the NICU at what is now Hoops Family Children’s Hospital at Cabell Huntington Hospital.

The scholarship is designated for entering first-year medical students from Boone, Lincoln, Logan, McDowell, Mingo, Wayne or Wyoming counties in West Virginia.

DR. JOHN B. WALDEN SCHOLARSHIP

A third-generation family physician from Lincoln County, West Virginia, John B. Walden, MD, served the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine and the community for nearly four decades. His knowledge of rural medicine and international health extended to the many medical students and residents he trained through the Department of Family and Community Health over the years.

In memory of Dr. Walden, who passed away on Jan. 23, 2020, his children, Ilanna M. Garzon and Eric G. Walden, have established a new scholarship at the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine dedicated to supporting West Virginia students. The John B. Walden Memorial Scholarship is designated for first-year medical students, with first preference given to students from Lincoln County and second preference to students from Cabell County, West Virginia.

DR. CHARLES L. AND MRS. KATHLEEN H. YARBROUGH SCHOLARSHIP

A new scholarship at the School of Medicine honors long-time Huntington dermatologist and Department of Dermatology chair, Charles L. Yarbrough, MD, and is wife Kathleen. Dr. Yarbrough graduated from the Medical College of Virginia and completed a residency in dermatology at Emory University. In 2014, after more than 40 years in private practice and 37 years as a volunteer faculty member, Dr. Yarbrough joined the clinical faculty at the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine full time to establish a department of dermatology and serve as its inaugural chair.

This scholarship is designated for entering first-year medical students with demonstrated financial need.
2020-2021 SCHOOL OF MEDICINE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Thank you to the generous alumni, families, faculty, friends and patients who provided scholarship support to the following Marshall medical students during the 2020-2021 academic year. We honor your dedication to the future of medicine.

JAMES F. & JOAN C. EDWARDS SCHOLARSHIP

Class of 2023 — Garima Agarwal, John Brown, James Curry, Nicholas Dolan, Daniel Haught, Haseeb Jafary, Shelby Naegle, Steven Tun
Class of 2024 — Dontreyl Holsey; Abigail Samson

I am tremendously grateful for all of the opportunities that the School of Medicine has given me. I will always treasure these opportunities and scholarships. I hope to show the same kindness and generosity to other medical students in the future.

— Amrita Valluri, Class of 2022
Huntington, West Virginia

JOAN C. EDWARDS CHARITABLE FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

Class of 2021

Class of 2022
Taylor Adkins, Jordan Aikens, Melissa Ashman, Nana Bosomtwe, Kade Bradley, Anin Brooks, Madisen Burns, Joel Canner, Heather Carr, John Castilo, Andrew Cottrill, Deena Dahshan, Vladimir Danailov, Mason Dial, Kadiyatu Fofana, Nathaniel Gallagher, David Gallegos, Logan Godfrey, Allison Graziani, Wai Fung Hau, Emily Hendricks, Jacob Hesson, Collin Huth, Muhammad Jafary, Jay Jensen, Alexandra Kielover, Jacob Kilgore, Cierra King, Jake Kuzbel, Tori Leader, Alexis Lester, Erin Light, Chad Meadows, Maya Menking-Colby, Richard Mensah, Japi Miller, Grace Montgomery, Garrett Muckleroy, Kaustav Mukherjee, Emma Nellhaus, Emily Norris, Jessica Roth, Hannah Rowe, Dana Sharma, Mitchell Shelton, Brian Snaod, Justin Sprading, Ava Tennant, Amrita Valluri, Catherine Waldron, Hunter White

Class of 2023

Class of 2024
Myshak Abdi, Heba Boustany, Caroline Briggs, Tristan Burgess, Taylor Burke, Caleb Clark, Zoha Durrani, Faith Ferguson, John Goelnter, Danny Holbert, Dontreyl Holsey, Landon Irwin, Shane Kagen, Lady Kesler, Oliver Li, Madeleine Marks, Thomas McIntosh, Justin Merritt, Zachary Mitchell, Danielle Roth, Ishita Sharma, Liam Skiffington, Alyssa Stricklen, Jessica Tall, Kathryn Taylor, Benjamin Thompson, Madison Wall, Jessica Wellman

DID YOU KNOW?
The Marshall School of Medicine awarded $3.5 million in medical student scholarships during 2020-21 thanks to generous donors.
## CLASS OF 2021

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<td>Carly Clark</td>
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## CLASS OF 2022

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### RECIPIENTS

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<td>Garima Agarwal</td>
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<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Guy C. Nangle</td>
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<td>BrickStreet; David C. Griffin, MD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Wright</td>
<td>Gregory D. VanMeter Memorial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jenna Zuzolo</td>
<td>Dawsey Family</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

People donating their time, money and energy into the next generation of doctors is a great way, not only to support individuals, but also the future of health care.

— Lilyan Starkey, Class of 2023

Parkersburg, West Virginia
Student scholarships mean everything. Medical school is a financial burden for a lot of people and having alumni and others donate money to decrease that burden means everything. The pressure of medical school is hard enough, so having help allows us to focus on the academics.

— Zach Mitchell, Class of 2024
Barboursville, West Virginia
With their white coat ceremony postponed due to COVID-19, students in the Class of 2024 received their medical instruments and other supplies during a drive-thru orientation event.

CLASS OF 2024 WHITE COAT & MEDICAL INSTRUMENTS

The Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine Alumni Association thanks the 109 School of Medicine alumni, faculty, staff and friends who generously purchased white coats, medical instruments and sponsorships for the Class of 2024. The names of the donors and student recipients are listed on the following pages.

CLASS STATS

- 80 students
- 86% from West Virginia
- 89% were science majors
- 11 legacies
- 2 married couples
- 2 sets of siblings

Our SPECIAL THANKS go to DRS. JOSEPH B. and OMAYMA T. TOUMA and family for generously providing stethoscopes to each student since 2006.

Carrying on Tradition...

So many of these students entering the first-year class are familiar to me. Sponsoring their white coat and/or instruments is just my way of saying “Welcome! Job well done!”

— Peter Chirico, MD
Professor & Chair of Radiology
Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine

With their white coat ceremony postponed due to COVID-19, students in the Class of 2024 received their medical instruments and other supplies during a drive-thru orientation event.
### White Coats

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ALUMNI &amp; FRIENDS</th>
<th>CLASS YEAR</th>
<th>SOM STUDENT</th>
<th>ALUMNI &amp; FRIENDS</th>
<th>CLASS YEAR</th>
<th>SOM STUDENT</th>
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<tr>
<td>Gargi Bajpayee, MD</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Jessica G. Tall</td>
<td>Dr. Eric W. &amp; Mrs. Kristin L. Irwin</td>
<td>2002</td>
<td>Landon E. Irwin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lisa Bajpayee, MD</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Hania M. Woomer</td>
<td>Mr. James L. &amp; Mrs. Selena M. Johe</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ella K. Cooper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jennifer L. Bennett Grube, MD</td>
<td>1996</td>
<td>Tania T. Nguyen</td>
<td>Joseph L. Joyce, MD</td>
<td>1997</td>
<td>Graham L. Sutherland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kathryn J. Blair, MD</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Mackenzie J. Bergeron</td>
<td>Michael E. Kilkenny, MD</td>
<td>1982</td>
<td>Justin C. Merritt</td>
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<td>2001</td>
<td>Zachary C. Wright</td>
<td>Devin A. King, MD</td>
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<td>Darin K. Bowers, MD</td>
<td>1987</td>
<td>Oliver Q. Li</td>
<td>Joseph M. King, MD</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Thomas R. McIntosh</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lisa G. Burke, MD</td>
<td>1993</td>
<td>Taylor M. Burke</td>
<td>Dr. E. Robert &amp; Mrs. Toni Marks</td>
<td>1995</td>
<td>Madeleine S. Marks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lisa R. Carchedi, MD</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>Lauren B. Clower</td>
<td>David L. Martin Jr., MD</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Willie M. Kimler</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christopher W. Carey, MD</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Joel T. Walker</td>
<td>James C. McCabe, MD</td>
<td>1988</td>
<td>Andrew J. McAward</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Charles W. &amp; Mrs. Norma C. Carroll</td>
<td></td>
<td>Austin L. Loop</td>
<td>Aaron M. McGuffin, MD</td>
<td>1999</td>
<td>Abigail Samson</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Dr. James M. &amp; Mrs. Sherri B. Mears</td>
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<td>Madison J. Wall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Philip L. Casingal, MD</td>
<td>1992</td>
<td>Shane R. Kagen</td>
<td>Dr. Bobby L. &amp; Mr. Eric K. Hardin Miller</td>
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<td>L.E. Grace Kesler</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peter A. Chirico, MD</td>
<td>1997</td>
<td>Alec D. Konrad</td>
<td>Mario R. Morenas, MD</td>
<td>1995</td>
<td>Liam R. Skiffington</td>
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<td>Jodi M. Cisco-Goff, MD</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Emily L. King</td>
<td>Justin M. Nolte, MD</td>
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<td>Gerald A. Dague, MD</td>
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<td>John C. Goellner</td>
<td>Pratiksha Patel Vaghela, MD</td>
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<td>Raymumd M. Dala, MD</td>
<td>1999</td>
<td>Dontrey Holshey</td>
<td>C. Douglas Phillips, MD</td>
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<td>Drs. Forrest S. Harrison &amp; Megan E. Docherty</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Karagan A. Mulhall</td>
<td>Steven Pribanich III, MD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joseph E. Evans, MD</td>
<td>1982</td>
<td>Joshua Wyner</td>
<td>Leela V. Raju, MD</td>
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<td>Adrian S. Garstmen, MD</td>
<td>2001</td>
<td>Andrew S. Ferguson</td>
<td>Jacqueline M. Ray, MD</td>
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<td>Amy L. Garstmen, MD</td>
<td>2001</td>
<td>Faith E. Ferguson</td>
<td>Charlotte A. Rheee, MD</td>
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<td>Dr. Jeffrey T. &amp; Mrs. Mary S. Gee</td>
<td>1996</td>
<td>Juan Carlos</td>
<td>Dr. Thomas J. &amp; Mrs. Aimee R. Rittinger</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Joshua D. &amp; Mrs. Rachael Gibson</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Hernandez-Pelcastre</td>
<td>Dr. John D. &amp; Mrs. Lisa K. Roth</td>
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<td>Rupinder Gill, MD</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>S. Blass Morrone</td>
<td>Dr. Mark F. &amp; Mrs. Janet L. Sheridan</td>
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<td>Dr. Deborah H. &amp; Mr. James M. Gillspie</td>
<td>1991</td>
<td>Chase F. Gillspie</td>
<td>Joseph T. Simmons, MD</td>
<td>2020</td>
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<td>David C. Griffin, MD</td>
<td>1990</td>
<td>Dylan L. Smith</td>
<td>Brenda C. Smith, MD</td>
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<td>Mary Beth Harler, MD</td>
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<td>M. Madeline Perdoncin</td>
<td>Abigail E. Smith, MD</td>
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<td>Curtis W. Harrison Jr., MD</td>
<td>1998</td>
<td>Joshua M.D. Keefer</td>
<td>Kevan V. Stewart, MD</td>
<td>2010</td>
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<td>Dr. R. Mark &amp; Mrs. Monica J.W. Hatfield</td>
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<td>Wylie M. Faw V</td>
<td>Mark A. Studeny, MD</td>
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<td>Christina A. Hensley, MD</td>
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<td>Jonathan A. Hess, MD</td>
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<td>Nathan S. Hill, MD</td>
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<td>Drema K. Hunt, MD</td>
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### Medical Instruments

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Medical Instruments

ALUMNI & FRIENDS                   CLASS YEAR                   SOM STUDENT
Peter A. Chirico, MD               Faculty                   Alec D. Konrad
Lauren E. Cline, MD                2012                      Sydney R. Dangott
Robert J. Cure, MD                1998                      Zachary B. Mitchell
Pamela A. Cyrus, MD               1989                      Emily L. King
Gerald A. Dague, MD              2000                      John C. Goellner
Raymund M. Dala, MD              1999                      Dantrel Holsey
Harry H. Dinsmore Jr., MD         1991                      Dylan D. Jayasuriya
Drs. Forrest S. Harrison &        2011                      Karagan A. Mulhall
Megan E. Docherty
Joseph E. Evans, MD                1982                      Joshua Wyner
Adrian S. Garvemasteni, MD         2001                      Andrew S. Ferguson
Amy L. Garvemasteni, MD           2001                      Faith E. Ferguson
Dr. Jeffry T. & Mrs. Mary S. Gee  1996                      Juan Carlos
Dr. Joshua D. &                   2007                      Hernandez-Pelcastre
Mrs. Rachael Gibson
Rupinder Gill, MD                 2004                      Ishita Sharma
Dr. Deborah H. &                  1991                      Chase F. Gilliesie
Mr. James M. Gilliesie
Dr. Rose A. &                     1982                      Jared T. Mattingly
Mr. Barry A. Goodwin
Robert B. Gray, MD                1999                      Brett T. Johnson
David C. Griffin, MD              1990                      Dylan L. Smith
Mary Beth Harler, MD              1993                      Madeleine Perdoncin
Curtis W. Harrison Jr., MD        1998                      Joshua M.D. Keefer
Dr. R. Mark &                     1983                      Wylie M. Faw V
Mrs. Monica J.W. Hatfield
Christopher E. Hayner, MD         1987                      Matthew W. Werhoff Jr.
Tracy L. Hendershot, MD           2008                      Alex J. Ashley
Robert A. Hess, MD               1984                      Seth R. Bergeron
Jonathan A. Hess, MD              2012                      Tristan J. Burgess
Nathan S. Hill, MD               2010                      Jeremy T. Eckels
Drema K. Hunt, MD                1992                      Kristiana V.
Dr. Eric W. & Mrs. Kristin L. Irwin 2002                      Sklioutouskaya-Lopez
Shannon N. James, MD             2013                      Landon E. Irwin
Joseph J. Joyce, MD               1997                      Jessica D. Wellman
Charles M. Justice, MD           2013                      Graham L. Sutherland
Michael E. Kilkenny, MD           1982                      Joel T. Walker
Devin A. King, MD                1999                      Justin C. Merritt
Joseph M. King, MD               2007                      Benjamin J. Thompson
Melissa D. Lester, DO            Faculty                   Thomas R. McIntosh
Melissa D. Lester, MD             2012                      Morgan B. Elmore
Mary E. Smyrnioudis, MD           2010                      Stephen C. Smith, MD
Sandra L. Skar, MD                2011                      Brenda C. Smith, MD
David L. Martin Jr., MD           2005                      Abigail E. Smith, MD
Drs. Alexander H. &              2015                      Mary E. Smyrnioudis, MD
Dr. Mark F. &                    1987                      Kevan V. Stewart, MD
Mrs. Janet L. Sheridan
Tina M. Sias, MD                  1992                      Mark A. Studeny, MD
Dr. Stephen M. &                 1995/1994                   Paula F. Taylor, MD
Mrs. Rose A. &                   1992                      Freddie W. Vaughan II, MD
Mr. Barry A. Goodwin
Robert B. Gray, MD                1999                      Alice A. Walz, M.D.
Seth R. Bergen                   2010                      Kevin J. Willis, MD
Tristan J. Burgess               2015                      1985                      Andrew M. Yanok
"Medical Instruments"

Class of 2021

Sponsors

ALUMNI & FRIENDS                   CLASS YEAR                   SOM STUDENT
Clark D. Adkins, MD               1989                      Shayne M. Gue, MD
Joseph P. Assayle, MD             1988                      Mary Beth Harler, MD
Lisa Bajpayee, MD                 2012                      Timothy S. Hart, MD
Leon B. Briggs, MD                1991                      Dr. R. Mark &
Jay R. Bronder, MD                2015                      "Mrs. Monica J.W. Hatfield"
William R. Brooks Jr., MD         1986                      James T. Holbrook, MD
Peter A. Chirico, MD              Faculty                   Susanna A. Kapoulas, MD
Cheryl L. Cook, MD                1985                      Joan B. Lehmann, MD
Drs. Ronald deAndrade Jr. &       1983/1982                   James W. Matthews, MD
Kim M. Jordan
Harry H. Dinsmore Jr., MD         1991                      Kenneth F. McNeil, MD
W. Douglas Given, MD              1983                      Lea Ann Moricle, MD
Christopher S. Goode, MD          2002                      Jay T. Naegele, MD
Dr. L. Lane &                    2006/2007                   Kathleen M. O’Hanlon, MD
Janell A. Chandler Mace
Dr. E. Robert & Mrs. Toni Marks   1995                      Madeleine S. Marks
David L. Martin Jr., MD           2005                      Willie M. Kimler
James C. McCabe, MD              1988                      Andrew J. McAward
Aaron M. McGuffin, MD             1999                      Abigail Samson
Dr. James M. &                    1988                      Madison J. Wall
Mrs. Sherri B. Mears
Dr. Kelly E. & Kristina B. Melvin 2005                      Heba Boustany
Dr. Bobby L. &                   1997                      Caleb A. Clark
Mr. Eric K. Hardin Miller
Mallory N. Morris, MD             2018                      Kelsey A. Matusic
Justin M. Nolte, MD               2007                      Tyler D. Bayliss
Drs. Michael L. & Nancy B. Horton 1999                      Lauren E. Hanna
Leah A. Pack Ranken               2006                      L.J.E. Grace Kesler
Pratiksha Patel Vaghela, MD       2010                      Lakshmi V. Sundaram
C. Douglas Phillips, MD           1984                      Dominic J. Raymond III
Benita Petri Pickstone
Steven Pribanich III, MD          1991                      Levi Nolan
Leela V. Raju, MD                 2003                      Ashwaryaya S. Vijay
Charlotte A. Rhee, MD            1991                      Kassandra A. Flores
Dr. Thomas J. &                   1999                      Alyssa M. Rittinger
Mrs. Aimee R. Rittinger
Dr. John D. & Mrs. Lisa K. Roth   1990                      Danielle F. Roth
Richard E. Ryncarz, MD            1995                      Lian R. Skiffington
Dr. Mark F. &                    1987                      Nicholas Tate
Mrs. Jane L. Sheridan
Tina M. Sias, MD                  1992                      Ella K. Cooper
Drs. Alexander H. &              2015                      David R. Taylor
Sarah E. W. Scolum
Benjamin J. Thompson
Dr. Eric W. & Mrs. Kristin L. Irwin 2002                      Dr. Robert L. &
Shannon N. James, MD             2013                      Lea Ann Moricle, MD
Joseph J. Joyce, MD               1997                      Dr. James M. &
Charles M. Justice, MD            2013                      Mrs. Sherri B. Mears
Michael E. Kilkenny, MD           1982                      Dr. James M. &
Devin A. King, MD                1999                      Mrs. Teresa B. Mears
Joseph M. King, MD               2007                      Dr. James M. &
Melissa D.ester, DO              Faculty                   Mrs. Teresa B. Mears
Melissa D.ester, MD              2012                      2008
Mary E. Smyrnioudis, MD           2010                      Mary E. Smyrnioudis, MD
Kevan V. Stewart, MD              2009                      Mary E. Smyrnioudis, MD
Mark A. Studeny, MD               1986                      Mark A. Studeny, MD
Paula F. Taylor, MD               1996                      Stephanie T. Taylor
Freddie W. Vaughan II, MD         2014                      Thaddeus D. Martin
Alice A. Walz, M.D.               2011                      Karim A. Abdelgaber
Drs. Price S. & Erin M. Ward      2012                      Kevin J. Willis, MD
"Sponsors"

ALUMNI & FRIENDS                   CLASS YEAR                   SOM STUDENT
Julia L. Pasquale, MD            2003
Drs. James R. & Alison S. Patterson 1998
Danny M. Phillips, MD            1987
Steven Pribanich III, MD         1991
Charlotte L. Rhee, MD            1991
Hobart K. Richey, MD             1983
Geno V. Romano, MD               1985
Joseph C. Shanklin, MD           1996
Tina M. Sias, MD                  1992
Mary E. Smyrnioudis, MD          2009
Sandra L. Skar, MD               1997
Kathryn M. E. Taylor
Freddie W. Vaughan II, MD         2014
Alice A. Walz, M.D.              2011
Kevin J. Willis, MD              1985
"Sponsors"
Kevin W. Yingling, CEO for Mountain Health Network, was named chief executive officer (CEO) for Mountain Health Network, and president of Cabell Huntington Hospital and St. Mary’s Medical Center, Aug 9, 2021. He has served as president of both hospital medical staffs, as well as serving on the Cabell Huntington Hospital board of directors and as first chair of the Mountain Health board of directors.

As a member of the medical community for more than 35 years, Yingling has practiced general internal medicine, served as chair of the department of internal medicine and has taught at both the MUSOM and School of Pharmacy.

As holder of a registered pharmacy degree (RPh) from West Virginia University, Yingling was instrumental in establishing the Marshall University School of Pharmacy and serves on the board of managers for Marshall Pharmacy and chair of the Cabell-Huntington Health Department Board of Health.

Yingling and his wife, Mary Alice, have four children and eight grandchildren.
Class Notes

provides cancer care for adults, offering treatment options including chemotherapy, targeted therapy and immunotherapy, and has a clinical interest in hospice and palliative care.

Charles W. Clements II, ’97, has served local active duty, reserve and civilian Coast Guard personnel as the primary care physician for their Huntington Safety Unit for more than 17 years. In December 2020, the U.S. Coast Guard presented him with a public service commendation. Clements, a retired lieutenant colonel of the U.S. Army, is a family medicine physician at Marshall Health and a professor in the department of family and community health at the MUSOM.

Bobby L. Miller, ’97, was selected as one of 15 professional members of the Liaison Committee for Medical Education (LCME), the accrediting body for medical schools in the U.S. and Canada, to serve a three-year term beginning July 1, 2020. Miller, a practicing neonatologist with Marshall Health, has taken a leading role in the accreditation process at the MUSOM since his appointment as vice dean of medical education in 2013 and has successfully overseen two accreditation site visits at Marshall.

Aaron M. McGuffin, ’99, published a poem, “If Billy Collins were a doctor,” in the Spring 2021 edition of The Pharos, a publication of the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society. McGuffin is a pediatrician and medical educator at West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine in Lewisburg.

Zachary H. Hansen, ’04, is a medical director of Marshall Health’s division of addiction sciences and an assistant professor with the School of Medicine. He also continues his role as medical director of medication assisted treatment (MAT) at the Provider Response Organization for Addiction Care and Treatment (PROACT).

Erica L. Smith, ’08, practiced as a general OB-GYN in northwestern Utah since graduation and completion of her residency in 2012. In July 2021, she started a maternal fetal medicine fellowship at the University of Florida.

Sarah K. Flaherty, ’10, is chief of emergency services at University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, McKeesport, Pennsylvania.

Andrea M. Lauffer, ’10, assistant professor of medicine and pediatrics at the MUSOM, was named the 2021 Advocate of the Year for the West Virginia Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). She helped plan and coordinate the West Virginia AAP virtual child health advocacy conference in March 2021 and serves as chief health officer for Cabell County Schools. Lauffer is also an internal medicine and pediatric hospitalist.

Beatrice L. Grasu, ’11, is an orthopedic surgeon with The Centers for Advanced Orthopaedics — Ortho Maryland, specializing in the treatment of conditions affecting the hand and upper extremities. She and her husband, David Donn, have two children, Liliana and Aiden.


John E. Loudermilk, ’10, has joined a private family practice clinic in Fort Walton Beach, Florida.


Andrea Lauffer

Andrea Lauffer

Evelyn Olive Rupp

Bobby L. Miller

Bobby Miller

Charles Clements

Charles Clements

Erica Smith

Erica Smith

Beatrice L. Grasu

Beatrice L. Grasu

“RJ” Jankowski

“RJ” Jankowski

James Daniel Gerlach

James Daniel Gerlach

Jennifer L. Gerlach

Sarah K. Flaherty

Sarah K. Flaherty

John E. Loudermilk

John E. Loudermilk

David P. Rupp

David P. Rupp

Katherine J. Steele

Katherine J. Steele
Courtney L. Kiser McLean, ’11,

and her husband, Scott, welcomed a daughter, Maisie, on July 6, 2021. Maisie joins her older twin siblings, Cora and Desmond. McLean is an assistant professor of pediatrics and a neonatologist at University of Nebraska Medical Center and Children’s Hospital & Medical Center in Omaha, Nebraska.

Julie A. Wesp, ’11, and her husband, Kris Rajanna, welcomed a son, Rocky Wilder, on Nov. 22, 2020. Julie and her husband are both general surgeons in Sante Fe, New Mexico.

Betsy A. Dovec, ’12, is national director of the Advent Health Weight Loss and Bariatric Surgery Institute in Orlando. Her roles are to start a bariatric practice at the “mothership” in Orlando; unify the existing bariatric surgery programs across the country; and start a scalable, virtual, comprehensive medical weight loss program.

Jessica M. Nelson Greco, ’12, is a pediatric urologist at The Ohio State University Nationwide Children’s Hospital. She and her husband, Christian Greco, MD, have two daughters, Lily and Rose.


Krista T. Wagoner, ’12, and her husband, Nick Stutzman, welcomed a son, Everett, in August 2020. Wagoner is an OB-GYN at the Medical University of South Carolina and serves as director of the student OB-GYN clerkship. She is also an assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology.

Johnny G. Walker, ’12, practices family medicine at Access Health in Beckley, West Virginia. In September 2020 he was promoted to associate program director of Access Health Teaching Health Center Family Medicine Residency program, where he is also faculty preceptor.

Chris M. Bates, ’13, and his wife, Miranda, welcomed a daughter, London, on June 13, 2021. He is a plastic surgeon with Ponte Vedra Plastic Surgery in Florida. They also have a son, Brody.

Matthew Q. Christiansen, ’13, was named to The State Journal’s 2021 Generation Next, 40 Under 40. The 40 Under 40 recognizes young West Virginians succeeding in business, education, government and various other professions.

Megan T. Bartley Luciano, ’13, after practicing pedi-atric hospital medicine for five years, elected to change specialties. She matched into Hospital for Women and Babies in Orlando. She recently received the Exemplary Physician Colleague Award from Allied Health Executive and Nurse Executive Council and was named Health Information Management Physician of the Quarter. She is also now a fellow of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

Justin M. Pacor, ’13, and wife, Renee, welcomed their first child, James Isaiah, on Sept. 3, 2021. Dr. Pacor is senior resident physician in the department of medicine at Yale School of Medicine, New Haven, Connecticut. Upon completion of his residency, he will be starting his cardiology fellowship at Brown University, pursuing an interest in preventive cardiology and medical informatics.

Amanda N. Schlak Stark, ’13, is a hospitalist for OB-GYN patients at Winnie Palmer Hospital for Women and Babies in Orlando. Courtsom. marshall.edu 49
radiation oncology at Virginia Commonwealth University Massey Center in Richmond, Virginia. She and her husband, Michael, reside in Richmond and welcomed their second child this fall.

Josh F. Hendrix, ’14

and his wife, Sukanya, welcomed Collin Arjun on Sept. 3, 2021. Hendrix is an ophthalmologist with Professional Eye Associates in Dalton, Georgia. The proud grandmother is Dr. Mitali Baksi, ’91.


Alex H. Slocum and Sarah E. Slocum, both ’15, moved to New Hampshire. Alex joined Atlantic Plastic Surgery Center & Medi-Spa in Portsmouth. Sarah joined Dartmouth Hitchcock’s Department of Psychiatry, with her clinical effort at New Hampshire State Hospital.

Meaghan A. Tranovich, ’15,

joined the Adena Orthopedic and Spine Institute in Chillicothe, Ohio, as an orthopedic surgeon and is fellowship trained in sports medicine.

Matthew W. Boyer, ’16,

completed his fellowship at NYU Langone Health in June 2021. In July he moved to Philadelphia and started as an addiction psychiatrist at Rogers Behavioral Health. His clinic is working to expand treatment of substance use disorders in the area.

Matthew Boyer


Logan Azalea Burner

Mohammad A. Halaibeh, ’16, will be starting an interventional radiology fellowship at New York University. He and his wife, Amani al-Hazaymeh, have two children, Aboud, 3, and Martoon, 1.

David M. Modlin, ’16, is finishing his surgery residency at Eisenhower Army Medical Center in Fort Gordon, Georgia, and will be doing a plastic and reconstructive surgery fellowship at Lahey Clinic in Boston in 2022. Following, he will serve as a military plastic surgeon in the U.S. Army. He and his wife, Shannon, welcomed their first child, Harrison Edward, on Oct. 14, 2020.

Justin Chuang, ’17, and his wife, Nisha Shrespha, welcomed a son Aden Michael, on May 17, 2021. Chuang is doing an internal medicine residency at the University of Toledo (Ohio) and plans to apply for a gastroenterology fellowship following his residency.

Justin Chuang, Nisha Shrespha and son, Aden Michael Chuang

Carissa Elkins and Mason Tyler

Carissa M. Elkins, ’17, and Mason Tyler, MD, were married on May 22, 2021. She is a family medicine physician at Mary Rutan Hospital, Jackson Center Family Care and Indian Lake Clinics in Bellefontaine, Ohio.

Evan J. Madden, ’17, and his wife, Cecelia, welcomed a son, Josiah James, on Dec. 27, 2020. Josiah joins his sister, Lillian “Lilly” Rae. Madden is a hospitalist at Self Regional Healthcare in Greenwood, South Carolina.

Benjamin A. Perrin, ’17

was named the January 2021 Resident of the Month at the MUSOM. He completed a year of obstetrics and gynecology training at Marshall prior to transitioning to family medicine. Having completed his residency in June 2021, Perrin plans to remain in the Huntington area to practice emergency medicine.

Matthew D. Thompson, ’17

is an ophthalmologist with

Carissa Elkins and Mason Tyler

Evan J. Madden, ’17, and Josiah and Lilly Madden

Benjamin A. Perrin, ’17

Dr. Tammy Bannister and Benjamin Perrin

Matthew D. Thompson, ’17
West Virginia Eye Consultants, and is on the staff of Pleasant Valley Hospital, in Point Pleasant, West Virginia.

Michelle M. Worthy, ’17, an internal medicine-pediatrics resident, was selected as Resident of the Month for April 2021. She joined the MUSOM medicine-pediatrics faculty as an assistant professor.

Joseph AbuRahma, ’18, is completing an anesthesiology residency at the University of Florida Shands Hospital in Gainesville. In 2022, he will be doing a fellowship in adult cardio anesthesiology, also at the University of Florida. His wife, Rachael J. Hager, ’18, completed a family medicine residency at Shands Hospital and is on the faculty at University of Florida. The two were married on Sept. 20, 2021.

Lacey D. Chambers, ’18, is a pediatric hospitalist in the newly expanded hospitalist program at Colquitt Regional Medical Center in Moultrie, Georgia.

Luke W. Finley, ’18, completed his family medicine residency at Marshall and has joined Family Care in Charleston, West Virginia.

His wife, Sandy, is a nurse practitioner with Marshall Orthopaedics. They reside in Hurricane with their daughter.

Zach D. Hunter, ’18, and his wife, Lauren, welcomed a son, Hollis Earl, on July 14, 2021.
Dr. Hunter started a two-year pediatric emergency medicine fellowship in July at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

Joseph E. Klaus, ’18, is currently finishing an anesthesiology residency at Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore. He will start an obstetric anesthesiology fellowship at Brigham and Women’s Hospital - Harvard Medical School in 2022.

Makenzie E. Hatfield Kresch, ’18, and her husband, Steven, welcomed a son, Coleman William, on Sept. 7, 2021. They are also the parents of Marcus and Merrigan.

Brandon S. Merritt, ’18, has joined Valley Health - Hurricane (West Virginia), as a family physician. He is fluent in Spanish and brings his multilingual skills to patients to ensure healthcare needs are met for all members of the community.

M. Ganga Navada, ’18, starts a neurocritical care fellowship at the Medical College of South Carolina in 2022. She is currently completing her neurology residency at the Medical University of South Carolina.

Rachael W. Starcher, ’18, is doing a fellowship in pulmonology/critical care at the University of Minnesota.

Alex R. Vance and Melissa C. Saab, both ’18, were married on Oct. 18, 2020. They welcomed a daughter, Anagail Ruth, on May 22, 2021. Both finished their family medicine residencies at Christ Hospital.

M. Ganga Navada

Congratulations to our graduates who received promotions or tenure at MUSOM!

Family & Community Health
Tammy L. Bannister, Class of 1994 ■ Professor
James B. Becker, Class of 1993 ■ Professor
David P. Rupp, Class of 2010 ■ Associate Professor

Neurology
Paul Ferguson, Class of 2007 ■ Professor

Obstetrics & Gynecology
Amy “Ally” Roy, Class of 2013 ■ Assistant Professor

Pathology
Krista L. Denning, Class of 2004 ■ Professor

Pediatrics
Susan L. Flesher, Class of 2007 ■ Professor
Marie D. Frazier, Class of 2001 ■ Professor

Psychiatry
Kelly E. Melvin, Class of 2005 ■ Tenure

Alex Vance and Melissa Saab

Anagail Ruth Vance

in Cincinnati, Ohio. Vance has joined Christ Hospital and Saab began a geriatric fellowship on Oct. 1.
**ALUMNI**

**Jeffrey B. Betts, MD ’91**  
Cincinnati, Ohio  
Dr. Betts passed away June 21, 2021, at the age of 55. He was valedictorian of his high school and attended the U.S. Air Force Academy before coming to medical school at Marshall. He was a radiologist on staff at Duke Hospital in North Carolina and a pediatric radiologist at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital, Cincinnati, Ohio. He carried the Olympic Torch in 2002 and ran seven national marathons. He loved to travel all over the world and visited 29 countries and all 50 states. He is survived by two daughters and his mother.

**Garry W. Burkholder, MD ’04**  
Hurricane, West Virginia  
Dr. Burkholder passed away June 2, 2021, at the age of 53. Before attending medical school, he served six years in the U.S. Marine Corps, earning two Bronze Stars during his combat tours. Following residency, he worked as a hospitalist at Cabell Huntington Hospital. He is survived by his wife, a son and twin daughters.

**Gregory D. Chaney, MD ’90**  
Hurricane, West Virginia  
Dr. Chaney passed away June 24, 2021, at the age of 56. He owned a private practice for 25 years. He is survived by his wife, daughter, son, stepdaughter and five grandchildren.

**Thomas B. Maloney, MD ’84**  
Fort Mitchell, Kentucky  
Dr. Maloney passed away July 29, 2021, while fulfilling his longtime dream of swimming across the San Francisco Bay. He was 66. Dr. Maloney completed his pediatric residency at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital and joined the pediatrics team at Group Health Associates in the Western Hills neighborhood of Cincinnati in 1989. He loved adventure, happily taking the Anderson Ferry to and from work most days. Each family he cared for had his personal cell phone number. Dr. Maloney loved adventure, and some of his happiest times were spent outdoors and on trips with his family, especially trips to Ireland, Alaska and Maine. He is survived by his wife, three children and three grandchildren.

**Tracy L. (Gibb) Weimer, MD ’00**  
Morgantown, West Virginia  
Dr. Weimer passed away July 5, 2021, at the age of 59. Dr. Weimer moved to West Virginia to complete her PhD in Pharmacology. After earning her medical degree from Marshall, she completed her residency in neurology at West Virginia University (WVU). Dr. Weimer was an associate professor at WVU and director of the Epilepsy Monitoring Unit, which has since been named in her memory. Dr. Weimer is survived by her mother, her husband and two sons.

**FACULTY**

**Franklin D. Shuler, MD, PhD,** professor and vice chair of research in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, passed away Jan. 5, 2021. He was an educator, researcher and orthopaedic trauma surgeon.

For more than four years, Dr. Shuler fought HLH, a rare autoimmune disease. Dr. Shuler was the first student to graduate from West Virginia University (WVU) with a combined MD/PhD with honors in 1996. He completed his orthopaedic trauma residency at UPMC in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Dr. Shuler joined the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine in 2011 to advance the research mission of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, authoring many papers and articles for medical journals. He did that incredibly well, but his impact to the department, the school of medicine, and our community was far greater and more significant. He is survived by his parents and two children. He was 53 years old.

**William M. Cocke Jr., MD,** retired professor in the Department of Surgery and chief of plastic and reconstructive surgery, passed away Nov. 19, 2021, at the age of 87. Prior to joining the Marshall faculty in 1992, Dr. Cocke developed plastic surgery programs at Vanderbilt University, the University of California-Davis and Texas A&M University. Dr. Cocke remained on the faculty at Marshall until his retirement in 2014. His legacy lives on at Marshall through the William Cocke, MD, Mentorship Award, established in 2015 for the graduating chief resident who exemplifies excellence in leadership in general surgery.

**Kenneth E. Guyer, PhD,** retired associate professor in the Department of Biochemistry and Microbiology, passed away Dec. 4, 2021, at the age of 87. He joined the School of Medicine in 1975 as an inaugural member of the faculty and continued teaching medical students for 37 years until his retirement in 2012. His family described him as a “consummate student and teacher” who loved to read and have long discussions. He is survived by his wife Dr. Barbara P. Guyer and two daughters, Greta V. Guyer, MD (’90), and Jennifer Guyer Heiner.

**MEMORIAL GIFTS**

Memorial gifts may be made in memory of beloved classmates, faculty, family and friends. Visit [jcesom.marshall.edu](http://jcesom.marshall.edu) to learn more.
Homecoming 2021

The School of Medicine welcomed alumni and their families back to Huntington for its 34th annual homecoming celebration Oct. 8-9, 2021.

1. Four members of the Class of 1986 enjoy reminiscing. From left, Drs. Kevin Smith, Ken McNeil, Mark Studeny and Steve Milhoan.
2. Drs. Cindy Pinson and Jack Trainor II represent the Class of 1996.
3-5. Medical students and alumni gather to hear lectures from alumni on a variety of relevant topics. Left, Dr. Kevin Smith (’86). Middle, Dr. Shane Wells (’06). Right, Dr. John Toney (’81).
6. Drs. Gary Petty (’92), Tom Styer (’82) and Kim Burgess (’92) chat in Admissions.
7. Dr. Pat Bonasso (’81) enjoys one of the many Homecoming events of 2021.
8. The Class of 1981 celebrates 40 years.
9. The Class of 2011 celebrates its 10th reunion with fellow alumni and family.
10. Dr. Rob Cure (’98) (left), Dr. Joseph Shapiro (second from right) and Linda Holmes (right) present Dr. Kevin Smith (’86) with the 2021 Distinguished Alumnus Award.
Homecoming 2021 was a milestone occasion, marking the 40th reunion of the school’s first graduating class, the Class of 1981.

We were the trail blazers and set the path for all those who followed. Physicians were needed in West Virginia, and I never felt there wouldn’t be a school of medicine. Now, here we are 40 years later, celebrating the Class of 1981.

— Patrick C. Bonasso, MD
alphabetically the first physician to graduate from MUSOM
No matter where you are, we hope you always consider Marshall University home.
Mr. James F. and Mrs. Joan C. Edwards
Mr. Charles W. and Mrs. Norma C. Carroll
Dr. Albert C. and Mrs. Bettye Esposito
Henry Harmon Estate
Margaret Phillips Estate
Dr. Amy A. Vaughan ('92) and Mr. Chris Keaton
Dr. Bijan J. Goodarzi ('83)
Dr. C. Dwight Groves ('81)

[YOUR NAME HERE]

Leave your own lasting legacy on the future of medicine with a planned gift to the Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine. By considering the School of Medicine in your estate planning like the individuals above and others like them, your generosity will span generations of physicians to come. This means you will help us train the brightest physicians destined to provide the best possible care for patients throughout this century and beyond.

To find out how to include the Marshall School of Medicine in your legacy, visit us online at jcesom.marshall.edu/giving or contact the Office of Development at 304-691-1711.
Luke E. Hamm
President of the Class of 2023

You hear people say, ‘it takes a village to get someone through medical school.’ I like to say that my Marshall family is a crucial part of my village. They are my Herd.

- A West Virginia native who earned his undergraduate from Marshall.
- Seven years of military service as a medic in the Army National Guard. Luke credits the discipline and endurance he learned in his military service with preparing him for medical school.
- Husband to Taylor and first-time dad in 2021, welcoming Ezekiel.
- Avid outdoorsman, including spearfishing and waterfowl hunting as his top two outdoor activities.
- Motivated to become a physician and have the unique privilege of helping people with some of the greatest challenges they will face.

Scholarship gifts help students like Luke become the next generation of physicians.