

Marshall Medicine

For alumni & friends of the Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine

Honoring
**CINDY
WARREN**

After 50 years of service to Marshall,
she carries lessons of purpose and
joy into retirement.



It's a family affair — son Alex, '26, daughter-in-law Kassie, '28, & Dr. Steve Pribanich, '91.



Current students share their appreciation.



Cindy always gets a hug from Dr. Danny Rader, '85.



Dr. Mark Hatfield, '83 class president, and Monica Hatfield join others to honor Cindy.



Dr. Clint Sutherland, '90, raises his glass as Cindy is honored with a toast to her career.



1996 classmates Drs. Jennifer Bennett Grube and Cindy Pinson celebrate with Cindy.



The Class of 2005 comes out to honor Cindy, including Drs. Ellie Hood, Betsy Herber and Nicole Grieve Varela.



Cindy Warren, the voice behind thousands of acceptance calls, retired December 2025.

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The School of Medicine is on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and X. Follow
us to keep up on what's happening.

Foreword

*"We are **empowering the future of medicine** by **elevating education, driving discovery and championing wellness** throughout Appalachia and beyond."*

This new mission embodies the heart of our work and the promise of our future. Shaped by the input of our faculty, staff and students, it continues to guide us as we celebrate our achievements and embrace the opportunities ahead.

Likewise, this issue of *MarshallMedicine* magazine uniquely reflects who we are as a School of Medicine and who we are becoming. It captures the energy, progress and purpose that define our Marshall family and the extraordinary people, like you, who make our mission possible.

Our students achieved exceptional results on national board exams; our Physician Assistant program earned re-accreditation; and we celebrated key milestones including continued accreditation of the rural general surgery residency and initial accreditation of our new anesthesiology residency, which will welcome its first residents in 2026. These successes reflect the strength of our school today — and the enduring foundation built by all those who have come before.

As we approach the School of Medicine's 50th anniversary in 2027, we are already thinking about the next 50 years and what it means to sustain our mission for generations to come.

The most visible outcome of that effort will be a new home for the School of Medicine. In the coming years, we will bring this flagship facility to life at the heart of the Health Sciences campus — building a hub for innovation, collaboration and discovery. With state-of-the-art classrooms and simulation spaces designed to connect faculty and students, the building will embody the bold aspirations of our mission to serve and the bright future of medical education at Marshall University.

As we prepare to move into this transformative space, we see tremendous opportunity to honor the people and stories that define who we are. This issue's cover story featuring Cindy Warren celebrates one such legend — whose 50-year career at Marshall University exemplifies the spirit of dedication, mentorship and service that has shaped our community. Naming opportunities within our new facility will ensure that her example, and that of so many others, continues to inspire generations to come.

Thank you for your continued engagement and support in empowering the future of medicine. Together, we are building something extraordinary.

Go Herd!



David Gozal, MD, MBA, PhD (Hon)
Vice President of Health Affairs
Dean, Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine
Marshall University



President's Page



Once you bleed **green**, it never leaves you.

That simple truth takes me back to some of my favorite memories, people and places at the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine every time I put on something green. More than 15 years later, green still reminds me of my Marshall family and the shared experiences that shaped who we are as physicians and as people.

Each of us carries forward the compassion, grit and purpose instilled during our time at the School of Medicine. Whether you're practicing in Appalachia or across the nation, your work reflects the mission and school that bind us.

I encourage you to stay connected — mentor a student, attend an alumni event or share your story to inspire the next generation of physicians. Our students draw strength from seeing what's possible through those who came before them.

As we celebrate our school's growth and look to the future, I also ask you to remember the lasting impact of giving back. Every gift — large or small — fuels scholarships, expands opportunities and keeps our mission alive for years to come.

Together, we continue to prove that Marshall Medicine is more than a degree — it's a lifelong commitment to care.

Go Herd!

Andrea M. Lauffer, MD ('10)
President
Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine Alumni Association



Linda Holmes, Dr. David Gozal, Dr. Andrea Lauffer



Dr. Andrea Lauffer delivers remarks during the 45th Annual Doctoral Investiture and Medical School Commencement May 9, 2025.



Dr. Paulette Wehner, Dr. Richard Egleton, Dr. Andrea Lauffer, Dr. Darshana Shah

What's News



New dual Doctor of Medicine programs and medical science certificate program expand student learning opportunities

Marshall University has launched the nation's first four-year dual *Doctor of Medicine and Master of Arts in Communication Studies (M.D. + M.A.)* degree program, a collaboration between the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine and the College of Liberal Arts. This innovative program integrates medical education with advanced communication training to help future physicians strengthen their ability to engage patients, peers and the public through clear, compassionate and evidence-based communication.

The School of Medicine has also collaborated with the Lewis College of Business to develop a dual *Doctor of Medicine and Master of Science in Health Informatics (M.D. + M.S.)* degree program. This innovative program integrates advanced medical education with informatics training to prepare future physicians to lead in today's data-driven, technology-enabled health care environment.

Both dual degree programs are open to students entering the School

of Medicine's M.D. program in fall 2026 as part of the Class of 2030. Additional information is available at jcesom.marshall.edu/dual-degree-programs.

Additionally, the School of Medicine launched a new post-baccalaureate *Certificate in Medical Science* in January 2026. This one-year program helps students strengthen their academic foundation to become more competitive applicants for professional careers in the health sciences, including medicine and other advanced health professions.

Marshall University launches anesthesiology residency program

The School of Medicine received initial accreditation from the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education to establish a new anesthesiology residency program in Huntington. The four-year program was approved for a full complement of 16 resident physicians who will rotate among Cabell Huntington Hospital, St. Mary's Medical Center and the Hershel "Woody" Williams VA Medical Center.

The program will participate in the 2026 National Residency Matching Program (NRMP) process, with applications accepted through the Electronic Residency Application Service. Interviews began in fall 2025. The first cohort of four residents will begin July 1, 2026. Assistant Professor Brian Ferguson, DO, will serve as director of the program.

Marshall's Physician Assistant program receives reaccreditation

The Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant Inc. (ARC-PA) granted Accreditation-Continued status to the Marshall University Physician Assistant Program

sponsored by Marshall University. The approximate date for the next validation review of the program by the ARC-PA will be July 2035.

Investing in the Next Generation of Physicians

We envision a flagship facility that reflects a commitment to fostering a modern, student-centered learning environment — one that emphasizes hands-on, team-based learning while expanding resources for students, residents and the community. The facility will feature:

- Dedicated home for the School of Medicine
- Marshall Community Health Institute
- State-of-the-art Simulation Center



Stay tuned for more details as this vision takes shape — and opportunities for you to be part of it.

Research

Marshall University researchers receive NIH R01 grants

Two Marshall University faculty members were each awarded Research Project Grants (R01), one of the most competitive grants issued by the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

Wei Li, MD, PhD, FAHA, associate professor of biomedical sciences at the School of Medicine, was awarded an R01 grant to investigate the mechanisms driving increased risk of thrombosis in patients

with heart failure and those with fluctuations in sex hormone levels. The four-year, \$1.96 million grant (1R01HL177493-01A1) will explore how a key plasma membrane protein, sodium/potassium ATPase (NKA), regulates platelet activation and contributes to blood clot formation.

Brandon Henderson, PhD, associate professor of biomedical sciences at the School of Medicine, was awarded an R01

grant to study the impact of synthetic coolants in vaping products. The five-year, \$1.85 million grant (DA060846) seeks to address critical gaps in understanding nicotine addiction. As bans on menthol in nicotine-containing products are implemented, synthetic coolants — some with chemical structures similar to menthol — are increasingly being used, raising public health concerns.

Student research renaissance builds culture of discovery

Medical student research at the School of Medicine is experiencing a revival — positioning students for success in today's competitive residency landscape. With the USMLE Step 1 exam now reported as pass/fail, research has become a key differentiator for applicants. Many top-tier residency programs expect students to have multiple publications or national presentations by the time they apply.

Spearheading this movement is Krista Denning, MD ('04), assistant dean for medical research.

"My goal is to connect students with meaningful opportunities," said Dr. Denning, who also serves as professor and chair of pathology. "We recently matched 65 first-year students with faculty mentors for summer research projects, and the students will present that research this fall at our Health Sciences Research Day. We're building new bridges between clinicians, scientists and trainees in a way that fosters collaboration like never before."

This year also marks a leap forward in data-driven clinical research with the addition of bioinformatician Trupti Joshi, MBBS, ADB, MS, PhD, professor and senior associate dean for informatics and

population analytics. Dr. Joshi's arrival in summer 2025 created opportunities through which students and other researchers may access and analyze large-scale clinical data without the burden of manual chart review — an infrastructure typically found at major research institutions. In support of these advancements, the medical school has consolidated its biomedical and clinical and translational sciences programs under streamlined leadership, aligning educational pathways with evolving research priorities.

Together, these efforts are cultivating a strong culture of discovery — one that prepares Marshall medical students to lead in both patient care and academic medicine.

Students from the School of Medicine are also sharing their research on a global stage, presenting at regional, national and international conferences across a wide range of disciplines. These presentations highlight the school's strong commitment to fostering student-led research and scholarship as an integral part of education.



A resurgence in student research is redefining what's possible at the School of Medicine.

Retiring Faculty

The School of Medicine recognizes the valuable contributions and years of service for the following faculty members who have retired since Jan. 1, 2025.

Tammy L. Bannister, MD	<i>Professor, Family & Community Health</i>	Aug. 1, 1996 – June 30, 2025
Nesreen A. BenHamed, MD	<i>Associate Professor, Internal Medicine</i>	Sept. 26, 2003 – Dec. 1, 2025
Hyla M. Harvey, MD	<i>Assistant Professor, Family & Community Health</i>	April 16, 2015 – Aug. 8, 2025

Accolades

2025 SCHOOL OF MEDICINE ALUMNA OF DISTINCTION: PAULETTE WEHNER, MD ('89)

Created by the Marshall University Alumni Association in 2012, this award is given to a School of Medicine graduate who best represents the mission of the school and brings pride to the medical school through their personal and professional life. The award is presented during the Marshall University Alumni Association annual awards banquet.

A proud 1989 graduate of the Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine, Paulette S. Wehner, MD, has dedicated her career to advancing medical education and rural health care.

Dr. Wehner currently serves her alma mater as professor and vice dean for education, playing a pivotal role in shaping the next generation of physicians, physician assistants and scientists and overseeing 28 accredited residencies and fellowships.

A champion for rural health, Dr. Wehner secured federal grants to establish the nation's first separately accredited rural surgery residency and new rural internal medicine and psychiatry programs. She was inducted into the 2023 WV Executive Health Care Hall of Fame and was among the 2021 inaugural honorees of the West Virginia Rural Health Leader Recognition Program. Nationally, she contributes her expertise to



Paulette Wehner, MD

the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education's Sponsoring Institution 2025 Task Force and continues to be a leading expert and national voice for rural health care training — expanding training opportunities and addressing critical health care shortages in underserved communities.

Dr. Wehner earned her undergraduate degree from the University of Notre Dame and her medical degree from the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine. She completed her residency and cardiology fellowship at Marshall, followed by an interventional cardiology fellowship at Charleston Area Medical Center. In 1995, she joined Marshall's faculty as director of the cardiology fellowship program. She made history as the first female interventional cardiologist and American College of Cardiology governor in West Virginia.

She and her husband, Mitch Charles, MD ('88), reside in Huntington and have two grown daughters.

2025 HONORARY ALUM: DARSHANA SHAH, PHD

Since 1987, this special honor has been 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.

For more than 20 years, Darshana Shah, PhD, has dedicated her career to advancing medical science education and enhancing faculty support and development. As professor of pathology and senior associate dean for faculty advancement at the Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine, she balances academic scholarship with leadership in professional development, consistently seeking opportunities to serve and lead within her field.

Driven by a strong commitment to faculty success, Dr. Shah spearheaded the creation of a comprehensive, multi-tiered faculty development office at Marshall in 2013. This initiative introduced tailored mentoring, teaching and leadership programs designed to support and empower medical school faculty. Earlier in her career, Dr. Shah established the Academy of Medical Educators and developed an Academic Medicine elective for fourth-year medical students, both of which were instrumental in advancing educational excellence and inspiring future educators during their time. Her commitment to mentoring and education has earned her numerous honors, including the Golden Apple Award from the American Medical Student Association. She was chosen by the Class of 2005 as the first basic science faculty member to receive the honor of hooding the graduating class. She played a foundational role in launching the School of Medicine's chapter of the Gold Humanism Honor Society.

A strong advocate for scholarly communication, Dr. Shah serves as the founding editor-in-chief of the

Marshall Journal of Medicine — West Virginia's first online, open-access, peer-reviewed medical journal — providing a platform to amplify academic voices and promote collaboration.



Darshana Shah, PhD

Dr. Shah is a dedicated scholar who consistently secures external funding to advance transformative educational initiatives. She serves as senior mentoring advisor on a five-year NIH-funded initiative advancing public health through community-engaged research. Her scholarship includes 29 peer-reviewed journal articles, six book chapters and 32 abstracts in biomedical science and medical education, along with more than 60 invited national and international presentations. She is also co-author of "Mentoring in Health Professions Education: Evidence-Informed Strategies Across the Continuum."

Her leadership extends beyond her institution. Dr. Shah has held prominent positions in regional, national and international organizations. Notably, she served as the nationally elected chair of the Association of American Medical Colleges Group on Faculty Affairs, as president of the Group for Research in Pathology Education and as a board member of the International Network for the Science of Team Science.

Through her visionary leadership, Dr. Shah has earned wide recognition for her contributions to faculty vitality, academic medicine and educational leadership. She remains a sought-after speaker on mentoring and faculty success, continuing to inspire the next generation with integrity, dedication and heart.

Through her visionary leadership, Dr. Shah has earned wide recognition for her contributions to faculty vitality, academic medicine and educational leadership.

2025 DISTINGUISHED ALUM: SHARON FREY, MD ('85)

Created in 2011, the Distinguished Alumni Award is presented to a School of Medicine alumnus/a in recognition of their contributions through demonstrated continued interest and support of the medical school and its students and/or excelling in their given specialty in the areas of medical science and education. The award is given at the annual homecoming banquet.

Sharon E. Frey, MD ('85), has built a career that has shaped global vaccine science and public health. As emerita professor of the Center for Vaccine Development, the Kinsella endowed chair in internal medicine and associate director of clinical research at Saint Louis University School of Medicine, she has led pivotal clinical trials for COVID-19, monkeypox and other emerging infectious diseases — work that has advanced health and saved lives worldwide.

Dr. Frey returned to Huntington to receive the 2025 Distinguished Alumna Award during the School of Medicine's Homecoming Weekend — a recognition that highlights her trailblazing accomplishments while honoring her enduring connection to her alma mater. While in Huntington, she also



Dr. Sharon Frey is presented with the Distinguished Alumni Award at the 2025 Reunion Banquet.

am forever indebted for the education that I have received here."

For Dr. Frey, recognition as the 2025 Distinguished Alumna is as much about roots as it is about achievements: a homecoming that celebrates where her story began and how far it has carried her.

delivered pediatric grand rounds and continuing medical education lectures, sharing her expertise with the School of Medicine community.

For all her international achievements, Dr. Frey continues to credit the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine with laying the foundation for her success.

"Marshall has shaped my career to the person that I have become," she reflected. "I was thrilled to be accepted at Marshall, and I'm thrilled to be a graduate. I

2025 FACULTY CHOICE AWARD: CORA E. MIRACLE, MD, PHD

This honor is presented by the School of Medicine Alumni Association to the most outstanding fourth-year medical student as selected by the faculty.

Cora E. Miracle, MD, PhD, a native of Cincinnati, Ohio, earned her Bachelor of Science in Chemistry from the University of Cincinnati. She began her dual-degree program in 2020, completing her PhD in 2023 and her medical degree in 2025.

Throughout medical school, Dr. Miracle exemplified leadership, scholarship and service. She was awarded multiple academic scholarships, including the Dr. Thomas G. Folsom Pediatrics Award, and inducted into the prestigious Gold Humanism Honor Society. She served as a peer mentor for MD/PhD students and as the chief research executive mentor for the Research Interest Group. Her research also included the Cincinnati Children's Hospital focusing on pediatric allergic diseases. Beyond academics, she volunteered at the Huntington Cabell Wayne Animal Shelter.

Dr. Miracle is currently completing a pediatrics/research residency at Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, Ohio.



Linda S. Holmes, associate dean of development and alumni affairs, presents the Faculty Choice Award to Cora Miracle, MD, PhD.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT:

Jaineet “Jai” Chhabra, MD ('23)

By Amanda Larch Hinchman

Jaineet “Jai” Chhabra, MD, a 2023 graduate of the Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine (JCESOM), is now a family medicine resident at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV), and the first resident accepted into UNLV’s new sports medicine track. A former Huntington Prep athlete, Dr. Chhabra combines clinical training with hands-on experience as an assistant team physician at major athletic events. *MarshallMedicine* chatted with Dr. Chhabra about his journey from student-athlete to physician.

Q: Where did your interest in athletics and medicine begin?

A: Basketball was my first passion. Inspired by the *Rocky* films I watched with my family, I persisted through early health struggles and eventually found some success as a late-blooming combo guard at Huntington Prep during the final months of my senior year. However, multiple injuries impacted my trajectory, particularly during my postgrad year at the SPIRE Institute in Ohio. While starting my physical therapy that same year, I coached youth athletes, some enduring neurodevelopmental or physical challenges. This greatly contributed to why I elected to pursue the premedical route at UCLA, where I completed my bachelor’s and master’s degrees.

Q: As an assistant team physician, you’ve treated athletes at every level, from professionals and Olympians to Division I and high school competitors. How have your past experiences shaped the way you approach your current role?

A: My past experiences, coupled with local demand for youth basketball mentorship during my transition into becoming a doctor, reframed my connection to sports. Additionally, considering how my body recovered with movement-conscious exercise, I began embracing the value of biomechanics. Collaborating with Dr. Steven Leigh at Marshall’s School of Kinesiology on motion capture and perception training with recreational basketball players greatly contributed to my current research

interests. Primary care sports medicine, or non-operative orthopaedics, merges my intrigues for physiology, biodesign and public health nicely. The family medicine program at UNLV was one of few places worldwide where I could start forming the necessary infrastructure to execute this integration more expeditiously as a resident.

Q: You dedicate time to community outreach, especially in youth sports. Why do you believe it’s important to give back?

A: Personally, community engagement is not extracurricular; it’s the crux. Whether I’m running a basketball camp for kids with autism, volunteering as a team physician for under-resourced high schools or hosting reading events for local students, these initiatives represent preventive care in action. Meeting people where they are, listening and investing in their potential — this is the kind of doctor and entrepreneur I aim to be.

Q: How did your time at the JCESOM prepare you for UNLV?

A: Marshall echoes humility, integrity and service while also embracing new ideas that have the potential to advance care both in West Virginia and beyond Appalachia. Our smaller setting allowed me to pursue unique research opportunities that might have been harder to access and co-lead at larger institutions. I strove to balance scholarly acumen with the demands of a traditional clinical curriculum, and that hustle prepared me for the rigors of continuing this pace during residency. UNLV has similarly championed my efforts.

Q: Your work includes research on biomechanics and muscle recovery, as well as developing wearable technologies. How does your goal of reaching underserved communities motivate you?

A: Innovation, for me, is about increasing access. Whether it’s wearables for real-time injury tracking or studying blood flow for muscle recovery, I constantly ask, “How can we make this beneficial for everyone?” If rural or inner-city athletes or injured veterans had the same

recovery tools as pros, we’d likely see more undiscovered talent reach their potential. That belief fuels every research proposal and prototype I am currently working on.

Q: How do you envision your work evolving in the future?

A: I want to further integrate sports medicine with engineering, AI, bioinformatics and economics to develop solutions beyond traditional clinical settings. I envision a future where wearables, movement science, machine learning and outreach converge. I hope to pursue further interdisciplinary training, possibly through a PhD, to continue building on this work as a developing clinician-scientist.

IN THE WORDS OF HIS MENTORS

“Dr. Chhabra, as our first resident in the sports medicine track, has set the bar extraordinarily high. He is working hard to innovate through development of wearable technologies, improving injury management and prevention for elite athletes and ensuring whatever he develops reaches underserved communities. His research portfolio, spanning from movement science to conceptualizing the need to integrate artificial intelligence with augmentation and coupling of musculoskeletal and cardiovascular biomechanics, reflects not just intellectual depth but a commitment to impact many populations from a scholarly perspective as well.”

— Wade Gaal, MD, CAQSM, medical director of UNLV Athletics, program director of the sports medicine fellowship at the Kirk Kerkorian School of Medicine at UNLV

“Dr. Chhabra is one of my brightest and most hardworking residents and is currently one of my chief residents. He is an outstanding clinician and a wonderful teacher, and he has been great about volunteering to enhance his scope of practice. He has received national recognition for his outreach and will be the most published resident in our program’s history by graduation. He also received the top In-Training Exam score for his class this past year. Dr. Chhabra has overcome major obstacles, and the pressures of his upbringing shaped him into the fine physician and leader he is today, with a wonderful bedside manner and willingness to innovate amidst challenges.”

— David Kuykendall, MD, program director of the family medicine residency at the Kirk Kerkorian School of Medicine at UNLV



Dr. Chhabra aims to bring advanced sports medicine to underserved athletes.





MARSHALL UNIVERSITY
Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine

MISSION: ADMISSIONS

After 50 years of service to Marshall University, Cindy Warren carries lessons of purpose and joy into retirement.

By Lacie Pierson

On the precipice of adulthood, 18-year-old Cindy Warren overheard a conversation that would change the trajectory of her life and that of thousands of doctors in the years to come.

It was 1966, about three years after a flood had destroyed the Warren family's Logan County, West Virginia, home, leading them to purchase a new one on top of a mountain in their coal-driven community.

"I heard my aunt say to my mom that she couldn't believe I was putting my family in such financial hardship by going away to school," recalled Warren, who was just three weeks away from leaving Logan County to attend Marshall University when she overheard the conversation.

Instead of backing away from school or from her family, Warren set out to carve her own path through college — a path that eventually led her to provide invaluable support to thousands of doctors-in-training as assistant dean of admissions for what became the Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine.

Warren retired from her position in December 2024. She left as quietly as her colleagues would let her.

"I told them I didn't want any kind of going-away party," Warren said. "I didn't want anything. I've had my joy."





In recognition of Warren's lifetime of service, a conference room was named in her honor in 2021.

For nearly 50 years, it was Cindy Warren's voice that communicated acceptance into the School of Medicine. It's a voice so closely associated with the admissions process that Dean David Gozal, MD, MBA, PhD (Hon), made a recording of it, ensuring that Warren would continue to welcome students for years to come.

"Her legacy is part of the sense of community here, both at Marshall and in Huntington," Dr. Gozal said. "It's that sense that we're all part of a greater community with larger goals — that we are here to serve the future and the well-being of everyone."

For Warren, that sense of community grew out of her own academic and career journey.

That summer in 1966, just weeks before she was set to leave home, Warren reached out to the Logan County campus of what was, at the time, Marshall Community College. The outreach connected her with Jim Harless, director of admissions for the community college, who would go on to serve as director of admissions at Marshall University for 32 years.

Harless helped Warren secure tuition-free admission to the community college, allowing her to stay in her family's home while still attending college. In the fall of 1969, she transferred to Marshall University's Huntington campus, where she was one of the first co-directors of the Twin Towers dormitory during its opening year.

After graduation, Warren worked as a home economist for Columbia Gas in Beckley, West Virginia, before accepting an offer from her alma mater to be the director of Prichard Hall. She earned her master's degree in counseling and rehabilitation while at Marshall and later worked in a variety of positions around Huntington, including at a law office and at a counseling facility that would eventually become Prestera.

Still, she had her heart set on admissions. Warren sometimes joined Harless on recruitment visits, where she found joy in helping students navigate the barriers standing between them and college.

"I really loved admissions, but nothing ever came up," she said. In 1977, Warren enthusiastically applied for what sounded like

a dream job: director of admissions for a brand-new medical school at Marshall. She was not selected. But when the initial hire did not work out, Marshall posted a slightly different position, assistant director of admissions, which paid \$5 more per month. This time, the offer went to Warren.

During the nearly five decades that followed, Warren's expertise carried students from their entry into medical school through some of their toughest challenges, said Maurice Mufson, MD, who served as the first chairman of the Department of Internal Medicine at the School of Medicine.

"Cindy was the most effective and loved person at her job, and that's why she had 50 years — because no one could come to be as well-versed and capable as she was," said Dr. Mufson, now a professor emeritus at the School of Medicine. "She gave advice to lots of people, and her advice was always exceptionally good. She had a nice way of talking to people, explaining things. Everybody loved her."

Vice Dean for Research Gary Rankin, MD, who's been with the School of Medicine since 1978, described Warren as "the backbone for admissions."

"Anyone who had a question about, or needed help with, the admissions process was directed by all of us to Cindy, who quickly and personably handled their questions and concerns," Dr. Rankin said. "She helped thousands of students navigate the process of getting into our medical school and becoming part of the Marshall family."

It was a matter of simple necessity that Warren began to call each newly accepted student. Yet as means of communication evolved to include texts and emails, she continued to believe a phone call was the best way to share the news.

"Not many schools still actually called people, but I decided that was the right thing to do," Warren said. "It was such a fun part of what I did."

Tuesday nights were reserved for making those calls. It was

A GIFT IN HONOR OF CINDY WARREN

Join the alumni and friends who have already made their gift in honor of Warren.

Checks payable to the MU Foundation and earmarked for the Warren naming may be sent to: Linda Holmes MUMC 1600 Medical Center Dr. Huntington, WV 25701



LIFE-CHANGING CALLS FROM CINDY WARREN



Scan this QR code to hear Warren talk about the life-changing calls that defined her time at the School of Medicine.

RETIREMENT MESSAGES

Scan this QR code to watch alumni from across the decades share heartfelt stories, fond memories and words of gratitude for the countless ways Warren supported them.



CINDY WARREN'S RETIREMENT CELEBRATION



Scan this QR code to view photos from Warren's retirement celebration during Homecoming 2025.

always a special moment, she said, though she learned a few hard-earned lessons.

"I did learn along the way — do not call on April Fools' Day," Warren said.

Former medical students remember Warren for her love for admissions, her counseling expertise and her ability to push through challenges.

"She was so unconditional in her support," recalled Lisa Carchedi, MD ('00). "If you came in to talk, she would just listen to you. In medical school, it feels like everyone wants a little piece of you — they want you to study more; you're doing this and that for a grade; you're going to a lecture. Cindy didn't want anything from you. You were a person, and she heard you."

Rob Cure, MD ('98), added that Warren "had the voice of an angel."

"Once you were part of the medical school, she was everything from your mother to your camp counselor when you had issues," Dr. Cure said. "She was your big sister and your best friend to share your great times and sad times with. To say she had multiple jobs or wore many hats would be quite the understatement."

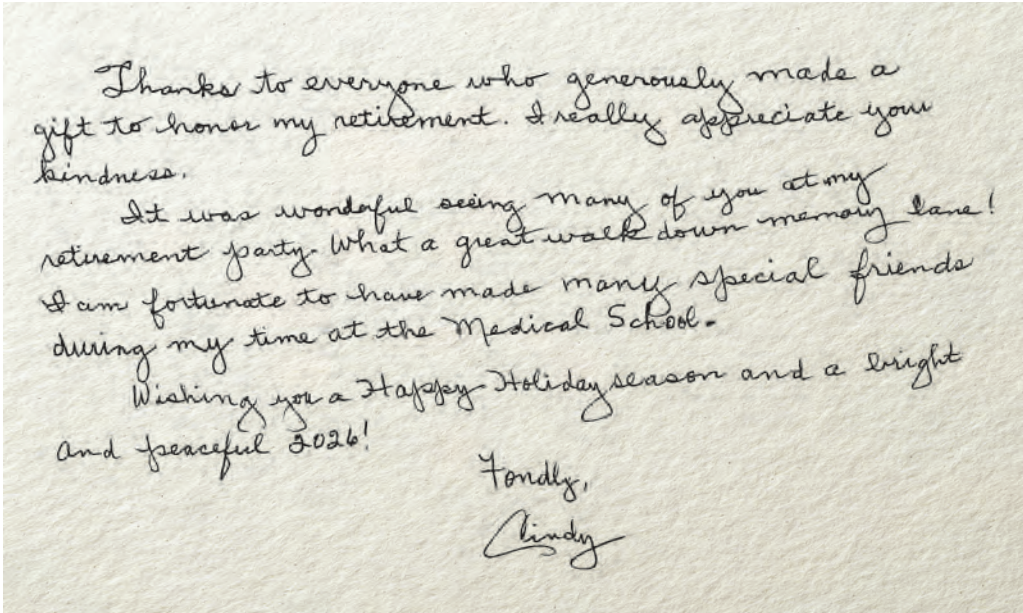
While officially retired, Warren's connection to the School of Medicine is far from over — she plans to attend Homecoming events for as long as she's able, and she fully expects that to be a long time, she said.

While she didn't mind lending her name to the Cindy A. Warren Conference Room (only because it meant more scholarship support for

students), Warren never sought the spotlight. She said her priority was always to usher students into and through the medical school process and find their purpose along the way.

That, she said, was where her joy came from — and what she hopes she left with the thousands of students she met over nearly 50 years at the School of Medicine.

"You have to be happy to wake up every morning and go to work," Warren said. "I enjoyed doing the work. But all along, it was the students — that's who I was working for."



AI & MEDICINE

From classroom instruction to bedside decision-making, AI is helping bridge the gap between innovation and patient-centered care — laying the foundation for more efficient, equitable and responsive care.

By Megan Archer

At the intersection of technology and compassion, a new chapter in medicine is being written — one in which algorithms assist in diagnosis, software improves training and data analytics help clinicians deliver more personalized care. Artificial intelligence (AI), once confined to research labs and science fiction, is now transforming education and patient care across the region.

At the Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine, efforts are underway to integrate AI across education and training programs, clinical practice and research, all with the goal of preparing a new generation of health care clinicians to work confidently alongside intelligent systems.

“We view artificial intelligence as both a transformative technology and a practical tool already reshaping medical education,” said Nitin Puri, MD, PhD, senior associate dean and chair of medical education. “For this technology to enhance human health, physicians must have a deep understanding of its capabilities, its limitations and the ethics surrounding its use.”

The school’s “two-pronged approach,” as Dr. Puri describes it, begins with using AI to enhance learning. Adaptive learning platforms identify knowledge gaps and personalize study pathways, helping students master material more efficiently, while AI-assisted case generation allows students to practice clinical reasoning in realistic simulations before they engage directly with patients.

The second prong focuses on responsible use.

“Our curriculum emphasizes not only how these tools can aid diagnostics, predictive analytics and decision support but also the ethical and professional considerations — such as bias, privacy and patient trust — that accompany them,” Dr. Puri said. “Our vision is to

graduate AI-literate physicians who can partner with technology to deliver better care, while preserving the critical reasoning and human connection that define the practice of medicine.”

Across Marshall Health Network, AI is already transforming care in clinical practice. Gastroenterologist Mujtaba Mohamed, MD, an assistant professor of internal medicine, has integrated AI into his practice using GI Genius, an AI-powered system that detects polyps during colonoscopies.

“We use AI daily in our colonoscopy screening procedures,” Dr. Mohamed said. “Our fellows are taught to identify polyps and classify them according to malignant potential, but this software enhances their detection rate, ultimately improving patient outcomes.”

Another advancement is the use of AI-powered clinical documentation assistants (CDAs), such as Oracle’s ambient transcription tool, which act as digital scribes and organize clinical notes in real time.

“The technology is a game-changer,” Dr. Mohamed said. “It allows our residents and medical students to perform their roles more efficiently — interviewing patients, performing exams, analyzing charts and developing care plans — without worrying about transcribing notes later.”

Still, technology must support — not replace — the fundamentals of good medicine, Dr. Mohamed emphasized.

“I always inform my residents and medical students that they must put in the work in terms of navigating the chart, interviewing the patient and performing thorough physical exams,” he said. “Once raw clinical data is collected, AI can then help bridge

gaps by citing guidelines, cross-referencing medications and supporting evidence-based decisions.”



Nitin Puri, MD, PhD, integrates AI across Marshall’s medical education and training programs.

— 66 —
AI is a powerful partner, but it can never replace the trust and connection between a physician and their patient.

— Dr. Nitin Puri



Trupti Joshi, MBBS, ADB, MS, PhD

— 66 —
There are vast unmet health care needs in the region that can significantly benefit from the incorporation of AI and data science.

— Dr. Trupti Joshi



Mujtaba Mohamed, MD

— 66 —
AI can help bridge gaps by citing guidelines, cross-referencing medications and supporting evidence-based decisions.

— Dr. Mujtaba Mohamed

Beyond technical accuracy, Dr. Mohamed said he views AI as a tool to strengthen patient relationships by minimizing mistakes and decreasing physician burnout.

“There is huge potential in specialties such as radiology and pathology where pattern recognition is predominant, as well as in interventional subspecialties where machine learning can be applied to robotic surgery and image analysis,” he said.

Extending AI’s impact from the bedside to the broader community, Trupti Joshi, MBBS, ADB, MS, PhD, senior associate dean for informatics and population analytics and director of the Translational Bioinformatics and AI Innovations Lab (TBAiL), leads research that bridges data science and health care across Appalachia.

At TBAiL, researchers use advanced AI techniques to decode biological data, predict disease risk and accelerate discovery. Their tools include G2PDeep, which links genetic and phenotypic data, and IRnet, which predicts cancer immunotherapy responses. Dr. Joshi’s team also developed WIRE (WV Immunotherapy Response Explorer), a clinician-focused platform that integrates predictions from these AI systems into a HIPAA-compliant interface.

“WIRE allows oncologists to upload patient molecular data and receive interpretable, pathway-level reports on likely immunotherapy outcomes,” Dr. Joshi said.

The projects are designed with West Virginia and rural communities in mind, she added.

“The Appalachian region has a very distinct population with a unique set of challenges,” Dr. Joshi explained. “There are vast unmet health care needs in the region that can significantly benefit from the incorporation of AI and data science.”

One example is Delphi-2M, an application that uses

AI to forecast multiple diseases using de-identified electronic health records. By mapping data specific to West Virginia, the project aims to better understand risk factors tied to obesity, smoking and cancers.

While AI offers vast promise, Dr. Joshi said, its success must be measured by its ability to improve lives in a region where chronic illness and limited access to care persist.

“Incorporating AI tools and techniques into health care platforms in Appalachia can help us quickly revolutionize our health care system and turn the tide in our favor,” she said. “We can make an impact on the Appalachian population for generations to come.”

She said AI has potential not only as a scientific tool but also as a new way of understanding health itself.

“It is as though every patient is a data hub in itself, and together they are all contributing to the overall community’s health,” Dr. Joshi said. “AI makes it easier for us to connect these dots, uncover hidden data patterns and design customized actionable items.”

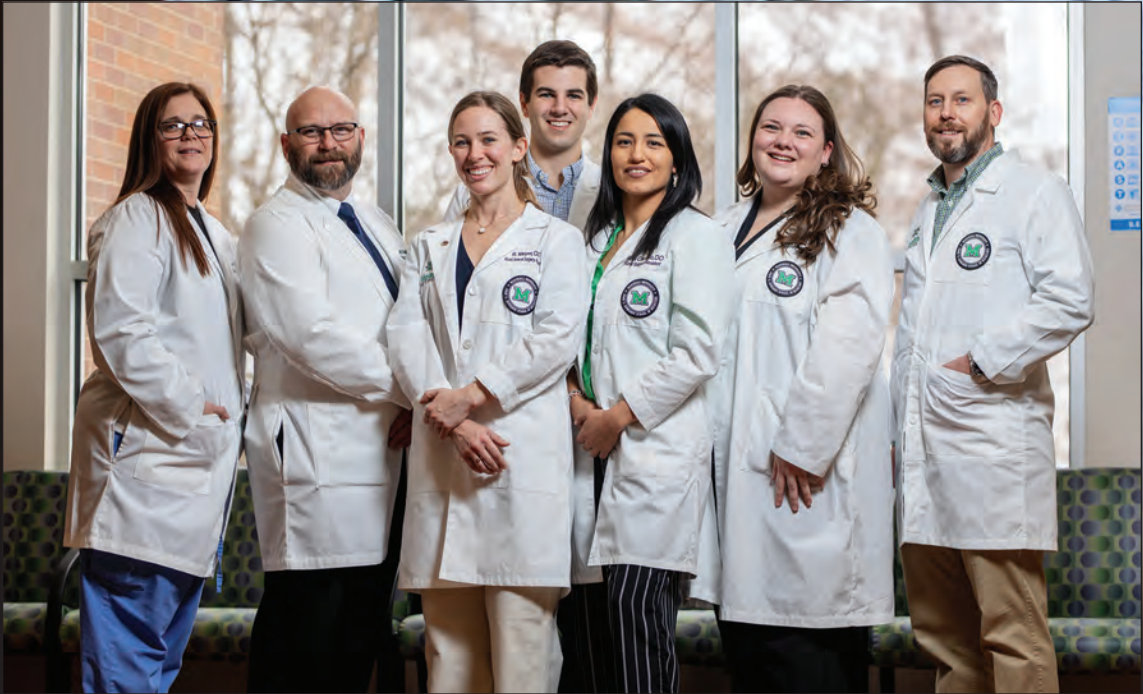
As AI continues to advance, the challenge for educators, practitioners and researchers alike is maintaining the humanity at the heart of health care. Dr. Puri emphasized that while machines can process data faster and more accurately than humans, compassion and ethical reasoning remain uniquely human strengths.

“AI is a powerful partner,” he noted, “but it can never replace the trust and connection between a physician and their patient.”

At the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine, that partnership between human and machine is taking shape — not by removing

the doctor from the room, but by empowering them to focus on what matters most: the patient.

The School of Medicine's rural general surgery residency integrates the demands of rural practice with structured training at an academic medical center to prepare residents for the full scope of rural general surgery.



Rural general surgery residents spend more than half of their training at Logan Regional Medical Center under the guidance of longtime rural surgeons Jodi Cisco-Goff, MD, (far left) and James Paugh, DO (far right).

FROM SHORTAGES to SOLUTIONS

Through new rural residency programs, the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine is expanding access to care in central Appalachia.

By Katherine Pyles

Appalachia's physician shortage is one of its greatest challenges. But at the Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine, three new rural residency programs are preparing physicians to practice — and stay — in the communities that need them most.

Marshall's rural general surgery residency, the first of its kind in the nation, launched in 2023 at Logan Regional Medical Center, about 70 miles south of Huntington. The following year, the rural psychiatry residency began at Rivers Health in Point Pleasant, West Virginia, an area long lacking psychiatric providers. The rural internal medicine residency, West Virginia's first and one of only three in the U.S., welcomed its first class in 2025 at Holzer Medical Center in Gallipolis, Ohio. Together, these programs create a pipeline of physicians trained to live and work in rural communities.

"Residents tend to stay close to where they're trained, many within about 50 miles," noted Adam Franks, MD, vice dean for rural health and professor and chair of family and community health. "If we train our residents in these rural areas, they're going to become comfortable with the surroundings, with the referral patterns, with the patients — and maybe they'll stay there."

Local support has been instrumental in getting the programs off the ground.

"I can't say enough about the physicians and administration at Rivers Health and how supportive they've been," said



Led by Suzanne Holroyd, MD, the rural psychiatry residency is working to connect more patients in Appalachia with quality mental health care.

Suzanne Holroyd, MD, director of the rural psychiatry residency and professor and chair of psychiatry and behavioral medicine.

Rural psychiatry residents rotate through internal medicine, family medicine, neurology and emergency medicine at Rivers Health before continuing their training in Huntington, where access to a wider range of specialties broadens their experience. For Point Pleasant native and second-year resident Thaddeus Martin,

MENTAL HEALTH IN THE MOUNTAIN STATE

In Appalachia, where many counties lack even a single psychiatrist, the rural psychiatry residency is finding new ways to connect patients with care.

In 2026, the program will open its own outpatient clinic in Point Pleasant, staffed entirely by third- and fourth-year residents. In the meantime, residents are already caring for patients through telehealth visits coordinated with Rivers Health providers and supervised by attending physicians in Huntington. They are also working with Rivers Health oncologists to launch a cancer support group, offering families much-needed support through difficult diagnoses.

"The challenges in Point Pleasant are much like those in Huntington, only more apparent," said second-year resident Thaddeus Martin, MD ('24). "The need for psychiatry is everywhere — but it's especially intense when there's a lack of providers and resources."

The rural psychiatry residency is further enhanced by Marshall's child and adolescent and geriatric psychiatry fellowships, as well as an academic psychiatry track for residents pursuing a career in academic medicine.

"West Virginia is such an underserved area for mental health, including and especially psychiatry," said Suzanne Holroyd, MD, director of the rural psychiatry residency. "Being able to serve people in our state who need mental health care is something we're very proud of."



During their training at Holzer Health System, rural internal medicine residents gain clinical experience under the mentorship of physicians like nephrologist Rajesh Rajan, MD.



Second-year resident Thaddeus Martin, MD, (center) returned to his hometown of Point Pleasant to train in rural psychiatry and begin serving the community that shaped him.

MD ('24), the program offered the chance to do exactly what he set out to do when he entered medical school: train as a psychiatrist and return to Mason County, West Virginia.

"I consider myself very lucky that I was coming up to start residency just as this program was getting off the ground," Dr. Martin said. "It's given me the opportunity to train where I grew up and start providing the care I always wanted to provide."

Just across the river in Ohio, Holzer

Health System is building on its existing partnership with the School of Medicine — which began with a family medicine residency established in 2015 — to welcome the inaugural class of rural internal medicine residents earlier this year.

"Residents will be able to go up to specialists and have a good, thorough conversation about treatment plans and diagnoses," said Jennifer Calafato, DO, associate program director. "And since we're such a small community, they'll have a lot



At Holzer, residents receive personalized training from Jennifer Calafato, MD.

of one-on-one time with those specialists."

In Logan, city officials are renovating downtown apartments to house Marshall's rural general surgery residents during their training at Logan Regional Medical Center. Paulette Wehner, MD, vice dean for education, emphasized the importance of providing the residents — whose training extends beyond general surgery to include rural-relevant subspecialties like urology, OB/GYN and orthopaedics — with a place to rest and recover.

"These residents may have spouses; they may have children," Dr. Wehner said. "Adequate housing is critical to meet their needs beyond the hospital walls."

These programs reflect a common goal: improving health outcomes in rural communities by training physicians where they're needed most. That commitment expanded in 2025 when Holzer joined as the second site for the rural surgery residency.

"Practicing medicine anywhere is not easy," Dr. Franks said. "But practicing medicine in an area that doesn't have the connectivity sometimes to get patients to specialists or to the proper care, or where you're treating patients who lack the basic human needs that we take for granted — it's really a testament to the heart that the people here at Marshall have for rural populations."

RURAL HEALTH AT THE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Marshall's rural residencies are part of a broader push to expand access to care in rural communities. For decades, Marshall has led the way with mobile outreach, telemedicine and community clinics, as well as incentive programs that provide financial assistance to medical students committed to rural practice.

"The United States is expected to face a shortage of 86,000 primary care providers over the next 12 years, and a vulnerable population like a rural area is always going to come out on the bad side of a limited resource," said Adam Franks, MD, vice dean for rural health and professor and chair of family and community health. "We have an incredible opportunity as a medical school to harness the brains, will and ingenuity of our faculty and students to help the people of rural West Virginia and central Appalachia."

One of the longest-running examples of this is the family medicine residency's rural health track, established in 1993. Around 75% of its graduates have remained in West Virginia, Dr. Franks said, extending care across eight counties.

"I hope our alumni feel pride in what Marshall is doing for our state and this region," he said. "Our successes in rural health are every Marshall graduate's success."

Life Cycle of a Medical Student

On the road to residency, every decision counts. Today's students are navigating Match season in ways that look much different from years past.

By Angela Henderson-Bentley

Medical school is a journey of growth, discovery and endurance. From the thrill of acceptance and the pride of donning a white coat to the long nights of study and endless clinical responsibilities, each step leads to one defining moment: Match Day. The Match marks a medical student's transition into residency — an exciting yet stressful milestone.

"It's high stakes and high drama," said Jay Shepherd, MD ('07), associate professor and chair of anesthesiology at the School of Medicine, which earned initial accreditation for a new anesthesiology residency in 2025. "I've heard it described as college admissions meets the NFL draft."

The Match, or National Resident Matching Program®, uses an algorithm to match medical students with residency programs based on mutual rankings. Students compile their rankings in the spring after interviewing during the fall and winter.

"The unknown is the big thing," said Alec Phelps, fourth-year medical student and president of the Class of 2026. "I'm a local West Virginia boy from Milton. Thinking about moving away is nerve-wracking."

A recent addition to the Match process is program signaling, which lets students indicate interest in specific programs when applying. However, each specialty has only a limited number of signals available.

"You have to be strategic," explained Marie Frazier, MD ('01), MSFS, associate dean for academic affairs. "If you don't match with a program's academic requirements, then signaling that program is a waste of a signal."

The Match process has come a long way since the 1980s, when Karen Bledsoe was associate dean for external affairs at the School of Medicine. The students' ranked lists had to be mailed in December for the March Match, and Bledsoe recalls the "horrific" scramble to get applications submitted.

"It was all due by fax, and there were so many people trying

to reach the same fax numbers at the same time," she said. "We called it fax gridlock."

Today, the process is more digital — and more demanding. According to Shelly Campbell-Monroe, PhD, MPH, senior associate dean for admissions, advising and student life, the criteria that residency programs consider have evolved significantly, especially since Step 1 of the United States Medical Licensing Examination became pass/fail. Research now plays a larger role for many specialties, she said.

"There's definitely an emphasis on research, though how much depends on the specialty," she said. "For example, orthopaedics has a very specific research requirement, while others may weigh different factors more heavily."

She added that community service remains a key piece of the puzzle.

"Programs want to see applicants involved in some type of service, especially within the communities where they trained," Dr. Campbell-Monroe said. "At Marshall, we're looking for individuals who want to practice in rural areas — people who want to stay in West Virginia and serve our communities."

While the balance of what matters most — grades, research, leadership or service — varies by specialty, together those experiences shape the well-rounded candidates programs are seeking, she said.

For Dr. Shepherd and the School of Medicine's new anesthesiology residency, this year's Match has been a revealing look at how complex and consequential the process is from the program's side.

"Our current mission is to identify and match the best candidates possible while also looking for interest and connections to our school and area," Dr. Shepherd said. "It's exciting — it's the result of a tremendous amount of work by multiple people to establish this program."

Our current mission is to identify and match the best candidates possible while also looking for interest and connections to our school and area.

— Jay Shepherd, MD ('07), associate professor and chair of anesthesiology

1980s

"Since we were the first class, we had no one ahead of us to tell us what to expect. We only had our professors to guide us. We received our matches



via the mail — no internet or email back then. The matches went to the director of the program, and we were given our matches in a meeting."

— Brenda Smith, MD ('81)

1990s

"Back then, everything about the Match process was personal — you bought your own stationery and coordinated your thank-you notes to match. It was a way to show who you were. As someone who interviews students now, I kind of miss that."



— Mitch Shaver, MD ('90), pictured with his son Adam Shaver, MD ('19)



Student Alec Phelps, MS4, (left) credits his mentor Jay Shepherd, MD ('07), for helping him navigate the challenges of the Match.

Match Day, the culmination of the Match process, is held each year on the third Friday in March at medical schools nationwide.

"It's memorable for students and their families, but it also gives us joy," said Dr. Campbell-Monroe, noting that the match rate for School of Medicine students was 100% in 2024 and 99% in 2023. "It marks the transition into the next phase of training — the point where students can finally take everything they've learned and put it into practice."

Across the country, Match Day happens simultaneously, usually at noon. At Marshall, the day includes a formal ceremony, lunch and family celebrations.

"All the students gather, we do a countdown and then they open their envelopes to find out where they'll be doing their

residency training," Dr. Campbell-Monroe said. "It's an incredibly emotional moment — one of the biggest days of their lives. The excitement in the room is contagious."

Phelps noted that while the Match process has been challenging, it hasn't come as a surprise, thanks to the guidance he's received from alumni and older students. The School of Medicine actively cultivates these relationships, creating an informal mentorship community that connects current students with those who've already navigated the process.

That network becomes especially meaningful during the Match, said Dr. Shepherd, who serves as Phelps' mentor.

"I hope that any alumni contemplating increasing their availability to mentor others will find it as rewarding as I do," Dr. Shepherd said.

2000s

"You spent a lot of time and a lot of money traveling for interviews — I interviewed at 14 programs, and I drove or flew to all of them. While Zoom makes it easier for students today, I'm grateful I got to experience the interview process in person. Visiting those places helped me see where I could build a life and a career."
— Jerome Aya-Ay, MD ('04)



2010s

"For the Class of 2020, Match Day happened just as the world was shutting down. I spent Match Day at home with my parents, husband and sister — we opened the email together and saw that I had matched at my first choice. The rest of the day was filled with phone calls and messages with classmates. It was hard not being together in person, but we found creative ways to celebrate virtually."
— Preeya Shah-Adkins, MD ('20)



Go Boldly

CLASS OF 2025 GRADUATION & INVESTITURE

On May 9, 2025, the School of Medicine held its 45th Annual Doctoral Investiture and Medical School Commencement. During the ceremony, Marshall University President Brad D. Smith and School of Medicine Dean David Gozal, MD, MBA, PhD (Hon), conferred 67 Doctor of Medicine (MD) degrees and 1 Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree in biomedical research.



Scan the QR code to view more photos from Match Day 2025.

Match Day 2025



Scan the QR code to view more photos from Match Day 2025.

Match Day

RESIDENCY MATCHES FOR THE DOCTOR OF MEDICINE CLASS OF 2025

Members of the MD class matched to residency training programs at locations including the University of North Carolina, Duke University, The Ohio State University, Nationwide Children’s Hospital, Florida State University, Penn State Hershey Medical Center, University of Florida College of Medicine and Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center. Twenty-seven students will remain in West Virginia to complete their residency training.

COLORADO		
David R. Taylor	Lone Tree	Internal Medicine at HealthONE
FLORIDA		
M. Sophia Anton	Tampa	Transitional Year at University of Kentucky, Bowling Green, Kentucky, followed by Radiology-Diagnostic at University of South Florida
Dontreyl F. Holsey	Cape Coral	Internal Medicine at Florida State University
GEORGIA		
Justin B. West	Atlanta	Obstetrics-Gynecology at Morehouse School of Medicine
KENTUCKY		
Jacy D. Baxter	Lexington	Otolaryngology at University of Kentucky Medical Center
Richard F. Ford Jr.	Lexington	Anesthesiology at University of Kentucky Medical Center
Amy S. Gregory	Lexington	Medicine-Preliminary at Marshall University, Huntington, West Virginia, followed by Radiology-Diagnostic at University of Kentucky Medical Center
Hannah E. Hudson	Louisville	Emergency Medicine at University of Louisville
Rebecca A. Lee	Lexington	Medicine-Preliminary at Marshall University, Huntington, West Virginia, followed by Radiology-Diagnostic at University of Kentucky Medical Center
Madeleine S. Marks	Lexington	Pediatrics at University of Kentucky Medical Center
Nicole M. A. Oliashirazi	Lexington	Pediatrics at University of Kentucky Medical Center
C. Nathaniel Porter	Lexington	Pathology at University of Kentucky Medical Center
Michael E. Smith	Louisville	Internal Medicine at University of Louisville
MARYLAND		
Calyb A. King	Baltimore	General Surgery at University of Maryland Medical Center

MICHIGAN		
Chuchitra Thanigaivasan	Detroit	Pediatrics at Authority Health GME
NEW YORK		
Zoha H. Durrani	Buffalo	Anesthesiology at University at Buffalo School of Medicine
NORTH CAROLINA		
Ean H. Bills	Chapel Hill	Internal Medicine at University of North Carolina Hospitals
Matthew R. Eastham	Winston-Salem	Neurology at Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center
Amber L. Keaton	Charlotte	Pediatrics at Carolinas Medical Center
Kendalyn F. McDaniel	Winston-Salem	Obstetrics-Gynecology at Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center
Faith E. Miller	Greenville	Family Medicine at East Carolina University/ECU Health Medical Center
Jonathan E. Petty	Durham	Child Neurology at Duke University Medical Center
Kennedy P. Snavely	Durham	Medicine-Preliminary at Marshall University, Huntington, West Virginia, followed by Radiology-Diagnostic at Duke University Medical Center
NORTH DAKOTA		
Marlena A. Pigliacampi	Fargo	Orthopaedic Surgery at University of North Dakota
OHIO		
Ryan M. Churma	Columbus	Anesthesiology/Clinical Base Year at The Ohio State University Medical Center
Jessica R. Crislip	Columbus	Family Medicine at The Ohio State University/Rardin Family Practice Center
Joshua B. Davis	Gallipolis	Family Medicine at Marshall Community Health Consortium
Cora E. Miracle, PhD	Columbus	Pediatrics/Research at Nationwide Children’s Hospital
Preeya J. Modi	Cincinnati	Neurology at University of Cincinnati Medical Center

Chase A. Stevens	Cleveland	Anesthesiology at Case Western Reserve University/University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center
PENNSYLVANIA		
Brandon T. Angalich	Pittsburgh	Anesthesiology at University of Pittsburgh Medical Center
Stanley S. Czahoroski	Pittsburgh	Medicine-Preliminary followed by Radiology-Diagnostic at Allegheny General Hospital
Leah A. Hahn	Bloomsburg	Transitional Year followed by Dermatology at Geisinger Health System
Danny J. Holbert	Washington	Family Medicine at University of Pittsburgh Medical Center/ Washington Hospital
Paige A. Kisling	Monroeville	Family Medicine at Forbes Family Medicine
Olivia V. Lim	Danville	Transitional Year at Geisinger Health System
Jacob D. Loggins	Bloomsburg	Transitional Year at University of Kentucky Medical Center, Lexington, Kentucky, followed by Radiology-Diagnostic at Geisinger Health System
Michael V. Mueller	Hershey	Anesthesiology at Penn State/ Hershey Medical Center
TENNESSEE		
Samuel B. Suite	Knoxville	Anesthesiology at University of Tennessee Graduate School of Medicine
VIRGINIA		
Marissa N. Alvarez	Charlottesville	Pediatrics at University of Virginia
Samuel E. Crow	Charlottesville	Internal Medicine at University of Virginia
Stephen H. Holley	Salem	Psychiatry at LewisGale Medical Center
SOUTH CAROLINA		
Coy E. R. Smith	Myrtle Beach	Internal Medicine at Grand Strand Regional Medical Center
TEXAS		
Charles R. Byrum	Tyler	Anesthesiology at University of Texas Health Science Center
Tylar P. Seckman	Houston	Neurology at University of Texas
WEST VIRGINIA		
Alex J. Ashley	Huntington	Neurology at Marshall University
Allison C. Beverlin	Huntington	Internal Medicine at Marshall University
Nicholas S. Casingal	Morgantown	Transitional Year followed by Radiology-Diagnostic at West Virginia University
Ryann N. Conley	Huntington	Neurology at Marshall University

Saaman M. Ghodsi	Morgantown	Neurological Surgery at West Virginia University
Roland E. Hamrick	Charleston	General Surgery at Charleston Area Medical Center
Kylie G. Johnson	Huntington	Obstetrics-Gynecology at Marshall University
Vinitha A. Joseph	Huntington	Obstetrics-Gynecology at Marshall University
Selena Khanna	Huntington	Internal Medicine at Marshall University
John H. Kinney	Morgantown	Anesthesiology at West Virginia University
Rachel E. Maddox	Huntington	Medicine-Pediatrics at Marshall University
Zachary L. McConnell	Huntington	Internal Medicine at Marshall University
Erin L. McGrady	Huntington	Neurology at Marshall University
Megan R. Morral	Morgantown	Transitional Year followed by Radiology-Diagnostic at West Virginia University
Tania T. Nguyen	Morgantown	Internal Medicine at West Virginia University
Mohammad M. A. Noor	Huntington	Medicine-Preliminary at Marshall University
John W. Pickstone	Huntington	Family Medicine at Marshall University
Rachel E. Price	Huntington	Obstetrics-Gynecology at Marshall University
Jennifer M. Qasim	Huntington	Internal Medicine at Marshall University
Stephen D. Richbart	Huntington	Internal Medicine at Marshall University
Benjamin J. Thompson	Wheeling	Family Medicine at Wheeling Hospital
Erick H. Trent	Morgantown	Internal Medicine at West Virginia University
Aishwarya S. Vijay	Huntington	General Surgery at Marshall University

2025 BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH GRADUATE

Doctor of Philosophy

Sarah E. Evans, PhD, Biomedical Research
Mentor: Hongwei Yu, PhD
Dissertation: In Vivo Evaluation of Novel Nanoparticles and Repurposed Pharmaceuticals to Combat Antimicrobial Resistance

Many Thanks

2024-2025 PHILANTHROPY REPORT

On behalf of the entire Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine family, I want to personally extend our heartfelt gratitude for your generosity and unwavering support. Your contributions are vital to our mission of educating future physicians and health care providers who will make a meaningful impact in communities both near and far.

The faculty, staff and students are deeply thankful that you have chosen to include the School of Medicine in your personal philanthropy, and we sincerely hope you will continue to support us in the future. Your support has enabled us to provide essential resources, deliver cutting-edge medical care, advance groundbreaking research and strengthen medical education for the next generation of health care professionals.

Because of you, we are creating limitless possibilities for the future of the School of Medicine. We want you to know how much we appreciate your generosity and the profound difference not only in our institution but in the lives of those we serve. You are more than a donor — you are a cherished member of our School of Medicine family.

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As with any list of this type, errors or omissions can be made. If that is the case, please accept our apology and report the error to Linda Holmes at 304-691-1711 or holmes@marshall.edu.

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Bryan D. Springer, MD
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Paul D. Akers II, MD
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Jodi M. Cisco-Goff, MD
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Jeffrey L. Frakes, MD
Joseph L. Joyce, MD
B. Danielle King, MD
Matt W. Lambert, MD
Nimish K. Mehta, MD
Bobby L. Miller, MD
Jay T. Naegele, MD
Jerome Puryear Jr., MD
Sandra L. Skar, MD
Jeffrey T. Smok, MD
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CLASS OF 1996

(45 members, 1 deceased, 14% participation)
Gary D. Cremeans, MD
Jennifer L. Bennett Grube, MD
M. Ann Kuhn, MD
Molly R. Mathews, MD
Joseph W. Poe, MD
Paula F. Taylor, MD

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David M. Hunt, MD
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Kevin J. Oh, MD
Stephen M. Pickstone, MD
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Jacqueline R. Ray, MD
Elizabeth A. Roberson, MD
Richard E. Ryncarz, MD

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Lee C. Haikal, MD
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Michael L. Meadows, MD
Benita P. Pickstone, MD
Satbir D. Singh, MD
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Shane A. Bowen, MD
Philip J. Ferkler, MD
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Jeffrey S. Holmes, MD
Mary B. Jenkins, MD
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Gary J. Petty, MD
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Jeffrey N. Thaxton, MD

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Deborah H. Gillispie, MD
Anthony M. Grieco, MD
Bradley D. Henry, MD
Joel T. Hummer, MD
Jack L. Kinder Jr., MD
Joan B. Lehmann, MD
Eric A. Moran, MD
Steven Pribanich III, MD
Charlotte A. Rhee, MD
Friday G. Simpson, MD
Steven C. Southern, MD

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(37 members, 3 deceased, 31% participation)
Jayne A. Barr, MD
R. Todd Chambers, MD
Mark A. DeMoss, MD
Eric S. Eanes, MD
Paul J. Grandinetti, MD
Greta V. Guyer, MD
Terry L. Hummer, MD
John D. Roth, MD
Daniel W. Russell, MD
Siraj U. Siddiqi, MD
Debra I. Stoner, MD

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Pamela A. Cyrus, MD
Michael W. Gibbs, MD
Karen E. Clark Gerbo, MD
Sandra K. Marshall, MD
Valerie L. Richey-Klein, MD
Gary D. Stoner, MD
Debra J. Stultz, MD
Paulette S. Wehner, MD
W. Matthew Zban, MD

CLASS OF 1988

(42 members, 2 deceased, 33% participation)
Joseph P. Assaley, MD
Richard E. Cain, MD
Ignacio Cardenas, MD
P. Mitch Charles, MD
Carolyn A. Cline, MD
J. Douglas Kirk, MD
Joan A. Lynch, MD
James C. McCabe, MD
James M. Mears, MD
James F. O'Neal, MD
Allison L. Ross, MD
Mitsuko P. Shannon, MD
Sheryl L. Stephens, MD

CLASS OF 1987

(40 members, 30% participation)
Charles Bukovinsky, MD
Shawn W. Coffman, MD
Nancy B. Graham, MD
Darlene Y. Gruetter, MD
Christopher E. Hayner, MD
James T. Holbrook, MD
Manuel E. Molina, MD
Danny M. Phillips, MD
Yaacov R. Pushkin, MD
Mark F. Sheridan, MD
Gary R. Youmans, MD
Jeanne M. Zekan, MD

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Elaine L. Flanders, MD
M. Jeanne Gorham, MD
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Joanne M. Lebow, MD
Kenneth F. McNeil, MD
Scott E. Miller, MD
Donna J. Slayton, MD
Elizabeth L. Spangler, MD
Donald H. Trainor Jr., MD
Larry W. Watson, MD
Marc A. Workman, MD
Elaine M. Young, MD

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Michael J. Nerenberg, MD
Geno V. Romano, MD
Helen R. Thornton, MD
Kevin J. Willis, MD

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Evelyn R. Banks, MD
Timothy D. Canterbury, MD
Robert A. Hess, MD
C. Douglas Phillips, MD
Ezra B. Riber, MD
Susan A. Terry, MD
Donnah S. Wolodkin Whitaker, MD
Jeffery W. Whightsel, MD
Christopher J. Whitten, MD

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Sandra L. Tabor Boyle, MD
Karen N. Dansby, MD
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James W. Endicott, MD
W. Douglas Given, MD
Bijan J. Goodarzi, MD
Garrie J. Haas Jr., MD
R. Mark Hatfield, MD
Reginald J. McClung, MD
Hobart K. Richey, MD
William S. Sheils Jr., MD
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Robert W. Keefover, MD
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Ron D. Stollings, MD
Thomas B. Styer, MD

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(18 members, 2 deceased, 31% participation)
F. Scott Hunter, MD
Brenda C. Smith, MD
Nina K. Smith, MD
Stephen C. Smith, MD
John F. Toney, MD

Of the 2,084 living graduates from the School of Medicine representing the classes of 1981 through 2021 and the class of 2024, 341 graduates made a gift, yielding a 16% overall participation rate.

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* Alumni
Deceased

New Scholarships



2025 SCHOOL OF MEDICINE SCHOLARSHIP & ENDOWMENT CAMPAIGN

Listed in alphabetical order are the new scholarships and an endowment created throughout the past year to benefit Marshall medical students. Academic and need-based scholarships ensure that Marshall attracts the most promising students to serve as the future of health care.

DR. SHARON E. FREY SCHOLARSHIP

Dr. Sharon E. Frey, '85, established a one-time expendable scholarship to provide financial support for a first-year medical student. The first recipient is Mustafah R. Qureshi, Class of 2029.



Dr. Sharon Frey

DR. MOLLY J. ROBINSON MATHEWS SCHOLARSHIP

The Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine established the Dr. Molly J. Robinson Mathews Scholarship through the generosity of Mrs. Mary Lou Robinson, in honor of her daughter.



From left: Mary Lou Robinson, who established both scholarships; Melanie Johnson, inaugural recipient of the Dr. Don & Mrs. Mary Lou Robinson Scholarship; Carina Raya, inaugural recipient of the Dr. Molly J. Robinson Mathews Scholarship; Dr. Molly Robinson Mathews.

recipient of the scholarship, Carina Raya, a first-year medical student from Eliot, Maine, during the school's annual reunion banquet on Sept. 12. Raya earned her undergraduate degree from the University of New England and her M.P.H. from George Washington University.

A 1996 graduate of the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine, Molly J. Robinson Mathews, MD, has built a distinguished career in pediatrics, emergency medicine and medical leadership. She completed a combined residency in pediatrics and emer-

gency medicine at Indiana University, where she co-founded a pediatric clinic for victims of domestic violence that became a teaching facility. Over the years, she has served as an attending physician, clinical instructor and mentor to residents and physician assistants, while also leading hospital committees on child protection and quality assurance.

Dr. Mathews has also participated in international medical missions to Peru and the Amazon River Basin and worked with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Geneva, Switzerland. She currently serves as a medical director with Anthem Inc. in Mooresville, North Carolina.

"Our family's connection to Marshall runs deep, and this scholarship is a way to honor Molly's dedication to medicine while also giving back to a place that has meant so much to us," said Mary Lou Robinson. "Molly has always combined her compassion for patients with a commitment to service, and it is my hope that this scholarship will support future physicians who share that same spirit of caring and excellence."

Dr. Mathews' father, the late Dr. Donald S. Robinson, was founding chair of the Department of Pharmacology at the School of Medicine, helping shape its early academic foundation.

"With her mother's generosity and her father's pioneering leadership, this scholarship reflects both a family legacy and a commitment to supporting the next generation of talented physicians, like Carina," said Linda S. Holmes, associate dean for development and alumni affairs at the School of Medicine.

DR. RODEEN RAHBAR SCHOLARSHIP

The Dr. Rodeen Rahbar Scholarship has been established at the Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine by alumnus Rodeen Rahbar, MD, to support incoming medical students from West Virginia, prioritizing support for those from Wheeling or Ohio County, West Virginia, followed by students from Fairmont or Marion County, and then any West Virginia resident.



Dr. Rodeen Rahbar



“As a first-generation medical student, the path I am about to go down is entirely unknown, full of surprises and many challenges. Receiving this scholarship is such an honor and a genuine financial relief for me, and I want you to know just how much this generosity means to me.”

— Abigail Browning, Class of 2029



CLASS OF 2026

RECIPIENTS	SCHOLARSHIPS
Raza Ahmed	JCESOM Class of 2002
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Alexys Bolden	Larry & Cheryl Tweel
Madison Bowles	JCESOM Class of 1990
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Samuel Casto	Dr. Myra Wilkerson
Lily Cessna	JCESOM Class of 1985
Jaclyn Choate	Ratcliff Family; Margaret “Peggy” Theis
Benjamin Clark	Walter E. Duling
Jacob Clark	Edward J. & Marie Aliff Clay; JCESOM Class of 1983
Lauren Clower	Dr. Henry Hatfield
Jovon Cobbs	Dr. J. Puryear Diversity; Radiology Graduates’
Nicholas Coker	Fred & Louise Janssen; Sekar Family
Vincent Coleman	JCESOM Class of 1984
Dominic Collins	Walter E. Duling; Parkersburg Area Community Foundation
Skylar Cooper	Encova; JCESOM Class of 2004; Kowalski Family
Alexander Dague	Dr. Emily Seidler

CLASS OF 2025

RECIPIENTS	SCHOLARSHIPS
Jacob Loggins	Drs. Glenn & Jennifer Brammer
Rachel Maddox	Dr. Frederick J. & Agnes Marie Hoitash; Wayne County Expendable
Erin McGrady	The Health Plan
Cora Miracle	Dr. Thomas Folsom Pediatrics
Megan Morral	Dr. Clark D. Adkins; Dr. Peter Chirico; Bertha & Lake Polan
Michael Mueller	Darby Family; Dr. & Mrs. Charles Yarbrough
Tania Nguyen	Charles R. & Mary Burris McCollister Memorial
Nicole Oliashirazi	Meadows’ Pediatric
Marlena Pigliacampi	John R. “Dick” Maloney, MD; Marshall Orthopaedics Fourth Year
Cheston Porter	Dr. Charles & Mrs. Mary Anton Jr.
Rachel Price	Blackwell Family; Marshall Orthopaedics Fourth Year; Marshall OB/GYN Fourth Year
Paul Shaver	C. Hensley & R.W. Thomas
Michael Smith	Dr. R.J. Wilkinson Memorial
Kennedy Snavelly	John & Donna Underwood
Chase Stevens	Darby Family
Samuel Suite	Richardson Family
Chuchitra Thanigaivasan	Prichard Medical School
Aishwarya Vijay	Dr. Elizabeth Dovec
Justin West	Herschel Howard Sargent; Mary R. Shapiro

CLASS OF 2026

RECIPIENTS	SCHOLARSHIPS
Eric Lewandowski	JCESOM Class of 2017
Esther Masayi	Dr. Jerry Gilbert
Rita Mattar	Kevin W. Yingling, MD
Anna Mayo	Sean & Beth Hammers
Ashton McDonald	Dr. Susann L. Lovejoy Memorial; Sekar Family
Alyssa Milbee	Encova; Faith Fry Memorial



“I never thought that I would be in this position to even be in medical school, let alone receive a scholarship. It makes it a lot more meaningful.”

— Kevin Bao, Class of 2028



RECIPIENTS	SCHOLARSHIPS
Mackenzie Miller	W.B. “Bart” & Doris Andrews
Thomas Mosman	Dr. Ezra B. Riber
Tristan Patton	Wilson Family
Annabella Pauley	JCESOM Class of 2022; Kinder & Henry; Oliashirazi Family
Jake Peterson	Dr. & Ms. Thomas J. Holbrook Memorial
Alec Phelps	Encova
Kara Piechowski	Walter E. Duling; JCESOM Class of 1988
Steven Pribanich	Kathleen M. O’Hanlon
Madelyn Ross	Paul R. Durst, MD
Kristen Sanders	Encova
Emily Saurborn	Encova; JCESOM Class of 1991
Sophia Shank	JCESOM Class of 2006; Marshall University Alumni MOV Bison Club
Erin Shaver	JCESOM Class of 2006
Marvin Simpkins	Mahmood Heydarian, MD
Brianna Singer	Linda G. Brown, MD; Ernest M. Walker, MD, Memorial
Colton Smith	Alpha Natural Resources; John Cooke Family
William Snider	David A. Brosius Memorial; JCESOM Class of 1997
Claire Soucier	JCESOM Class of 1996
Katherine Steele	AT&T
Toni Stickley	JCESOM Class of 1989
Amanda Sugrue	E. Pauline Harrell Memorial
Akshay Suresh	Dr. John & Lisa Roth
Adolfo Torres	Bernice Dorsey Douthat & Lyell V. Douthat
Nkechi Uradu	Dr. Rinard Z. & Margaret Ann Gibson Hart; Jerry & Margaret Hodge; W. Carl Kappes
Anderson White	Drs. Andrew & Pat Schindzielorz; Sekar Family
Steven Wu	Encova
Emily Yablonsky	Cabell County Medical Society Alliance; JCESOM Class of 1999

CLASS OF 2027

RECIPIENTS	SCHOLARSHIPS
Oludamilola Adeshina	Dr. Maurice & Diane Mufson Expendable
Jessica Adkins	Harrah Family; Charles B. & Margaret Lewis
Catherine Allen	JCESOM Class of 2014
Chance Anderson	David A. Brosius Memorial; Dr. Michael & Kari Cooper
Cedric Annan	Encova; JCESOM Class of 2018
Matthew Bane	Radiology Graduates’
Lauren Baumgartner	Aaron McGuffin, MD, Community
Rosheka Beckford	Eagle Distributing
Saige Boris	Dr. Charles McKown Jr.
Joseph Burchett	W.B. “Bart” & Doris Andrews
Kayla Coffman	Clyde Albert Burgess, MD
Casey Crawford	JCESOM Class of 2016
Brad Cremeans	Milton & Betty Ferguson; Brent A. Marsteller
Aakriti Damai	Dr. Shayne Gue; Dr. Gretchen Oley Family

RECIPIENTS	SCHOLARSHIPS
Nathan DeTemple	Dr. Charles McKown Jr.
Sarah Eaglen	Encova
Tyler Eirich	Joseph I. Shapiro, MD
Benjamin Finkenbine	AT&T
Rebecca Garan	Dr. Charles McKown Jr.
Julia Grandinetti	Nadar Family Foundation
Audrey Grigore	Dr. Dorothy Hicks
Jacob Hackett	Radiology Graduates’
Gabrielle Hammers	Fox Family
Rebecca Hicks	Encova; Fred & Louise Janssen
Hannah Hilbelink	Fred & Louise Janssen
Kasonja Hill	Robert C. Bailey Memorial
Sean Hill	Drs. Sanjeev Sharma & Barbara Lahr
Brayden Jett	Herbert & Aileen Youmans
Abigail Keeton	School of Medicine Memorial
Joshua Kelley	Drs. Subhash & Rashmi Kumar
Iram Kingson	HIMG Founders

CLASS OF 2027			
RECIPIENTS		SCHOLARSHIPS	
Jonathan Lipovich Hannah Maier		Encova; Goode Family Encova; Kenneth Sr. & Hazel Guyer; Drs. Mitch Charles & Paulette Wehner	
Olivia McCoy Sydney McSweeney		Darshana & Tushar Shah Dr. Louis R. Molina; Garee & Mary Ransbottom; Bernard & Pansy Wellington	
Mitchell Nelson Anh Nguyen Ethan Niebergall Uchechi Nnaka Jonathan Noble Sneh Patel Gabrielle Potter Taha Rana Yasin Sadeghian		Kowalski Family; Dr. Kevin & Tammy Smith JCESOM Class of 2007 Evans Family; Watson Family JCESOM Class of 2003 Goodwin Family JCESOM Alumni JCESOM Class of 1992 Mr. & Mrs. Guy C. Nangle Encova; Harrah Family	

CLASS OF 2028			
RECIPIENTS		SCHOLARSHIPS	
Layla Abbud Akbar Ali Andrea Alimario Nawar Attal Jemima Ayilaran Kevin Bao Robert Carter Joel Casingal Trace Clark Jessica Copley Kaitlyn Foltz Naga Gannavaram Dylan Gray Isabella Griffiths		Anthony M. Alberico, MD Encova; JCESOM Class of 2001 Charles B. & Margaret Lewis; Drs. Singh Charles B. & Margaret Lewis Encova; Garrie J. & Madeline D. Haas JCESOM Class of 2005 Daniel & Teresa Cowell Memorial JCESOM Class of 2024 Dr. & Mrs. Charles Reynolds Charles & Norma Carroll Dr. Amy & Col. James Conley Dr. & Mrs. Mark Sheridan Sylvia & Milton Marshall Memorial Huntington Clinical Foundation; Dr. Charlotte Rhee	
Haley Harkins Samuel Harris Shawna Harvey Andrew Huffman Meghan Johnson Wesley Kafka Malik Khan Zachary Lathwell Alyssa Lobb Jacob Morgan Karli Morrison Emma Myers Badraldeen Rashrash Shilajeet Ray Wade Ritchie Malina Serrano Naomi Shah Fahema Shaik William Stone		Charlie Lewis Stone & Coleman Drs. Singh Encova JCESOM Class of 1986 Dr. M. Ann Kuhn Hess Family WV Medical Association Alliance Encova; Dawsey Family JCESOM Class of 2001 Dr. Scott E. Moore James J. Schneider Given Family Drs. Singh Ruth E. Butler George E. Reger Family Marshall Health Encova; JCESOM Class of 1995 Dr. Bobby & Eric Hardin Miller	



“Medical school has been a challenging journey, and support like this makes a real difference not just financially but emotionally. Your generosity reminds me that I am not in this journey alone, and it motivates me to keep pushing forward with purpose and determination. I hope to honor my donor’s legacy not only by becoming a compassionate physician but also by giving back to future students one day, as they have done for me.”

— Sofia Rashid, Class of 2028

Carrying on Tradition

MD WHITE COAT & MEDICAL INSTRUMENTS

The Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine thanks the more than 120 alumni, faculty, staff and friends who generously purchased white coats, instruments and sponsorships for the Class of 2029. The names of the donors and student recipients are listed on the following pages.



Welcome to the Class of 2029: A new class of future physicians is welcomed into the ranks at the annual White Coat Ceremony.

Our SPECIAL THANKS go to Drs. Joseph B. and Omayma T. Touma for providing TOP-OF-THE-LINE stethoscopes for every student and Dr. Ali and Mrs. Corinna Oliashirazi for their support of this milestone event.



(Left) The class recites The Physician's Oath, pledging to uphold the highest ethical standards. (Right) Friends share in the excitement of the day.



2029 MD CLASS STATS

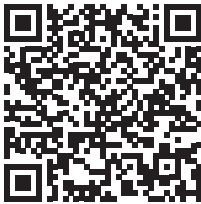
The Class of 2029 includes students from a variety of backgrounds and represents 37 undergraduate colleges and universities across the country. Other interesting statistics about the class include:

- 57% are from West Virginia.
- 98% were science majors.
- 10% entered with graduate degrees, including one Doctor of Pharmacy graduate.
- 11% entered from Marshall's BS/MD program, a pathway for high-performing West Virginia students to finish both their Bachelor of Science and Doctor of Medicine in seven years.
- 9% entered from Marshall's MD Early Assurance program, which provides a clear pathway to medical school for both instate and out-of-state high-achieving undergraduate students at Marshall.



Students receive the traditional white coat — a powerful symbol of trust, compassion and professionalism.

Scan the QR code to view more photos from the MD White Coat Ceremony.



White Coats: MD Class of 2029

ALUMNI & FRIENDS	CLASS YEAR	SOM STUDENT
Donna R. Adams, MD	2001	Alexa N. Hensley
Dr. M. Jason & Mrs. Julie Akers	2003	Emily B. Akers
Evelyn R. Banks, MD	1984	Sofia F. Triplett
Lou Gene Bartram, MD	1983	Nguyen D.D. Tran
R. Daniel Bledsoe, MD	2001	Mandeep S. Shergill
Ms. Sheila J. Branscome	Family	Nathanial J. Branscome
William R. Brooks Jr., MD	1986	Muhammad A. Dahshan
Lisa R. Carchedi, MD	2000	Abdul R. Awan
Drs. P. Mitch Charles & Paulette S. Wehner	1988/1989	Emilie S. Charles
Peter A. Chirico, MD	Faculty	Hannah K. Allen
Peter A. Chirico, MD	Faculty	Victoria G. Maynor
Rick J. Compton, MD	1994	Nicholas W. Scarl
Amy L. Conley, MD	1998	Adam M. Madore
Cheryl L. Cook, MD	1985	Ragan N. Adkins
Gary D. Cremeans II, MD	1996	Braden T. Ross
Robert J. Cure, MD	1998	Brooklyn C. Johnson
Matthew C. Delph, MD	2009	Kierstyn E. Doss
Harry H. Dinsmore Jr., MD (in memory of Harry H. Dinsmore Sr.)	1991	Kaitlyn M. Snider
Dr. Joseph W. & Mrs. Susan M. Dransfeld	1991	John W. Dransfeld
Brian S. Dunlap, MD	2004	Ethan T. Honaker
Joseph E. Evans, MD	1982	Nicholas S. Fisher
Dr. Adam M. & Mrs. Emily K. Franks	1999	Abigail F. Browning
Drs. Adrian S. & Amy L. Garmestani	2001	Isabella T. Gharib
Christine L. Gilkerson, MD	2001	Madeline Mozafari
David Gozal, MD	Dean	Ubay Keblawi
Dr. Nancy B. & Mr. P. Nolan Graham	1987	Melanie C. Johnson
Robert B. Gray, MD	1999	Elijah P. Hanning
Mohammad A. Halaibeh, MD	2016	Jared D. Kolarcik-Schmitt
Drs. Forrest S. Harrison & Megan E. Docherty	2011	Ishani R. Ranjan
Dr. Curtis W. & Mrs. Lisa G. Harrison Jr.	1998	Gavin B. Nease
Tracy L. Hendershot, MD	2008	Hunter C. Pool
Bradley D. Henry, MD	1991	Patrick J.R. Silver
Jonathan A. Hess, MD	2012	Anastasia A. Seville
Robert A. Hess, MD	1984	Hattie E. Sergeant
James T. Holbrook, MD	1987	Neil A. Patel
Dr. David J. & Mrs. Melissa M. Hunt	1995	Jenna N. Burgess
Eric W. Irwin, MD	2002	Nigel A. Walsh
Shannon N. James, MD	2013	Elaina Blickenstaff
Joseph L. Joyce, MD	1997	Robert A. Doyle
C. Matthew Justice, MD	2013	Myra L. Cuffee

ALUMNI & FRIENDS	CLASS YEAR	SOM STUDENT
Devin A. King, MD	1999	Noora S. Rajjoub
Joseph M. King, MD	2007	Jack B. Edgemon
Dr. Paula K. & Mr. Stephen G. Larsen	1994	Rachael L. Bare
Joan B. Lehmann, MD	1991	Stephanie J. O'Palko
Bina R. Malapur, MD	2018	Srija Pamujula
Sandra K. Marshall, MD	1989	Luke A. Williams
Reginald J. McClung, MD	1983	Bryn A. Schoonover
Nimish K. Mehta, MD	1997	Faith L. Bramlett
Drs. Kelly E. & Kristina B. Melvin	2005	Adel All-Sabbaugh
Mario R. Morenas, MD	1995	Kush S. Desai
Eric A. Morgan, MD	1991	Omar B. Sabbagh
J. Jeff Mullins, MD	2010	Alexandria P. Chapman
Michael J. Nerenberg, MD	1985	Aislyn T. Courts
C. Douglas Phillips, MD	1984	Kathleen T. Mai
Drs. Stephen M. & Benita M. Petri Pickstone	1995/1994	Michael D. Pickstone
Drs. Danny R. & Nicole M. Pizzino	2008	Olivia C. Noel
Leslie P. Ranken, MD	2006	Hailey M. Cox
Drs. Gary O. Rankin & Monica A. Valentovic	Faculty	M. Brooke Vaughn
Dr. Jacqueline R. & Mr. John B. Ray	1995	Sarah K. Maddox
Hobart K. Richey, MD	1983	Mustafah R. Qureshi
Val L. Richey-Klein, MD	1989	Cassidy B. Griffey
Richard E. Ryncarz, MD	1995	Hassan A. Dahshan
Mitsuko P. Shannon, MD	1988	Sophia K. Boyle
Mr. Andrew & Mrs. Pamela Sharon	Friends	Kenaan A.A. Elbash
Melinda J. Sharon, MD	2023	Sara Hondardoost
Brandon S. Shiflett, MD	2015	Luke R. Ochsenbein
Friday G. Simpson, MD	1991	Michelle M. Wunder
Raj Singh, MD	2018	Jamil Aboushaar
Drs. Alexander H. & Sarah E. Slocum	2015	Carina C. Raya
Stephen C. Smith, MD	1981	Madisyn J. Johnson
Rachael W. Starcher, MD	2018	Allie S. Douglas
Thomas B. Styer, MD	1982	Gideon U. Udoh
Steven A. Taylor, MD	2010	Patrick G. Bay
Drs. Paul V. & Brittany L. Viscuse	2016	Noah P. Sherman
Dr. William E. & Mrs. B. Lynn Walker	Family	Kolbey A. Walker
Drs. Price S. & Erin M. Ward	2012	Mitchell R. Gleason
Larry W. Watson, MD	1986	Christopher W. Schmidt
Kimberly N. Weaver, MD	2014	Kellen E. Wood
Julie A. Wesp, MD	2011	Kelsey A. Crawford
Ian N. Wilhelm, MD	2012	Garrett D. Shields
Marc A. Workman, MD	1986	Dylan A. Tayengco
Jeanne M. Zekan, MD	1987	Brooke M. Ooten

Medical Instruments: MD Class of 2029

ALUMNI & FRIENDS	CLASS YEAR	SOM STUDENT
Donna R. Adams, MD	2001	Alexa N. Hensley
Dr. M. Jason & Mrs. Julie Akers	2003	Emily B. Akers
Evelyn R. Banks, MD	1984	Sofia F. Triplett
Lou Gene Bartram, MD	1983	Nguyen D.D. Tran
Naveen Bellam, MD	2011	Alexandria P. Chapman
R. Daniel Bledsoe, MD	2001	Mandeep S. Shergill

ALUMNI & FRIENDS	CLASS YEAR	SOM STUDENT
Ms. Sheila J. Branscome	Family	Nathanial J. Branscome
Jay R. Bronder, MD	2015	Neil A. Patel
William R. Brooks Jr., MD	1986	Muhammad A. Dahshan
Lisa R. Carchedi, MD	2000	Abdul R. Awan
Drs. P. Mitch Charles & Paulette S. Wehner	1988/1989	Emilie S. Charles
Peter A. Chirico, MD	Faculty	Victoria G. Maynor

Medical Instruments: MD Class of 2029

ALUMNI & FRIENDS	CLASS YEAR	SOM STUDENT
Peter A. Chirico, MD	Faculty	Hannah K. Allen
Rick J. Compton, MD	1994	Nicholas W. Scarl
Amy L. Conley, MD	1998	Adam M. Madore
Gary D. Cremeans II, MD	1996	Braden T. Ross
Robert J. Cure, MD	1998	Brooklyn C. Johnson
Samuel R. Davis, MD	1983	Kelsey A. Crawford
Matthew C. Delph, MD	2009	Kierstyn E. Doss
Dr. Joseph W. & Mrs. Susan M. Dransfeld	1991	John W. Dransfeld
Brian S. Dunlap, MD	2004	Ethan T. Honaker
Joseph E. Evans, MD	1982	Nicholas S. Fisher
Dr. Adam M. & Mrs. Emily K. Franks	1999	Abigail F. Browning
Marie D. Frazier, MD	2001	Sarah K. Maddox
Drs. Adrian S. & Amy L. Garmestani	2001	Isabella T. Gharib
Christine L. Gilkerson, MD	2001	Madeline Mozafari
David Gozal, MD	Dean	Ubay Keblawi
Robert B. Gray, MD	1999	Elijah P. Hanning
Mohammad A. Halaibeh, MD	2016	Jared D. Kolarcik-Schmitt
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Dr. David J. & Mrs. Melissa M. Hunt	1995	Jenna N. Burgess
Eric W. Irwin, MD	2002	Nigel A. Walsh
Shannon N. James, MD	2013	Elaina Blickenstaff
Joseph L. Joyce, MD	1997	Robert A. Doyle
C. Matthew Justice, MD	2013	Myra L. Cuffee
Devin A. King, MD	1999	Noora S. Rajjoub
Joseph M. King, MD	2007	Jack B. Edgemon
Dr. Paula K. & Mr. Stephen G. Larsen	1994	Rachael L. Bare
Joan B. Lehmann, MD	1991	Stephanie J. O'Palko
Bina R. Malapur, MD	2018	Srija Pamujula
Sandra K. Marshall, MD	1989	Luke A. Williams

ALUMNI & FRIENDS	CLASS YEAR	SOM STUDENT
Reginald J. McClung, MD	1983	Bryn A. Schoonover
Courtney L. McLean, MD	2011	Ragan N. Adkins
Michael L. Meadows, MD	1994	Sara Hondardoost
Nimish K. Mehta, MD	1997	Faith L. Bramlett
Drs. Kelly E. & Kristina B. Melvin	2005	Adel All-Sabbaugh
Mario R. Morenas, MD	1995	Kush S. Desai
Eric A. Morgan, MD	1991	Omar B. Sabbagh
Michael J. Nerenberg, MD	1985	Aislyn T. Courts
C. Douglas Phillips, MD	1984	Kathleen T. Mai
Drs. Stephen M. & Benita M. Petri Pickstone	1995/1994	Michael D. Pickstone
Drs. Danny R. & Nicole M. Pizzino	2008	Olivia C. Noel
Leela V. Raju, MD	2003	Sophia K. Boyle
Leslie P. Ranken, MD	2006	Hailey M. Cox
Drs. Gary O. Rankin & Monica A. Valentovic	Faculty	M. Brooke Vaughn
Hobart K. Richey, MD	1983	Mustafah R. Qureshi
Richard E. Ryncarz, MD	1995	Hassan A. Dahshan
Brandon S. Shiflett, MD	2015	Luke R. Ochsenbein
Tina M. Sias, MD	1992	Cassidy B. Griffey
Siraj U. Siddiqi, MD	1990	Kenaan A.A. Elbash
Friday G. Simpson, MD	1991	Michelle M. Wunder
Raj Singh, MD	2018	Jamil Aboushaar
Drs. Alexander H. & Sarah E. Slocum	2015	Carina C. Raya
Stephen C. Smith, MD	1981	Madisyn J. Johnson
Rachael W. Starcher, MD	2018	Allie S. Douglas
Thomas B. Styer, MD	1982	Gideon U. Udoh
Steven A. Taylor, MD	2010	Patrick G. Bay
Ellen A. Thompson, MD	1996	Melanie C. Johnson
Beth A. Toppins, MD	2000	Kaitlyn M. Snider
Drs. Paul V. & Brittany L. Viscuse	2016	Noah P. Sherman
Dr. William E. & Mrs. B. Lynn Walker	Family	Kolbey A. Walker
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Kimberly N. Weaver, MD	2014	Kellen E. Wood
Ian N. Wilhelm, MD	2012	Garrett D. Shields
Marc A. Workman, MD	1986	Dylan A. Tayengco
Jeanne M. Zekan, MD	1987	Brooke M. Ooten

Sponsors: Class of 2029

ALUMNI & FRIENDS	CLASS YEAR	ALUMNI & FRIENDS	CLASS YEAR	ALUMNI & FRIENDS	CLASS YEAR
Ms. Melissa Adkins (in honor of Brooklyn C. Johnson)	Friend	Marie D. Frazier, MD	2001	Tina M. Sias, MD	1992
Mrs. Tonya Allen	Family	Shea M. Goodrich, MD	2011	Siraj U. Siddiqi, MD	1990
Naveen Bellam, MD	2011	David Gozal, MD	Dean	Sandra L. Skar, MD	1997
F. Brian Brautigan, MD (in memory of Gene Skiffington)	1995	Dr. Curtis W. & Mrs. Lisa G. Harrison Jr.	1998	Nina K. Smith, MD	1981
Jay R. Bronder, MD	2015	Becki S. Hill, MD	1994	Mary E. Smyrnioudis, MD	2009
Christopher W. Carey, MD	2011	Courtney L. McLean, MD	2011	Misty K. Strow, MD	2000
Vincent Casingal, MD	Friend	Michael L. Meadows, MD	1994	Ellen A. Thompson, MD	1996
Samuel R. Davis, MD	1983	Craig A. Robinson, MD	2012	Beth A. Toppins, MD	2000
Harry H. Dinsmore Jr., MD (in memory of Harry H. Dinsmore Sr.)	1991	Drs. David P. Rupp & Katherine J. Steele	2010/2013	Ms. Valerie Washington	Friend
		Richard E. Ryncarz, MD	1995	Larry W. Watson, MD	1986
				Julie A. Wesp, MD	2011
				Kevin J. Willis, MD	1985

Physician Assistant White Coat Ceremony

The School of Medicine celebrated its fifth class of physician assistant students with a White Coat Ceremony on June 20, 2025. During the event, 28 members of the Class of 2027 received their white coats and recited the Physician Assistant Professional Oath, marking the completion of their first semester.



White Coat Sponsors

- Anonymous
Mrs. Ginger R. Boles, PA-C
Mrs. M. Denise Chambers, PA-C
Mrs. Anne Davis, in honor of
Kierstin Davis
Dr. Stephen M. & Mrs. Kimberly K.
Elksnis, in honor of Alexis Elksnis
Drs. David Feldman & Barbara
Schreibman, in honor of Zachary
Feldman
- Mrs. Janet J. Freedman, in honor
of Julia K. Freedman, PA ('24)
Dr. David Gozal
Mrs. Tara Hall, in honor of Lexi Hall
Lisa Lewis
Marshall Family Medicine
Dr. Hillary N. Porter
Mr. Steve A. Spurlock
Mrs. Lesley Thomas, in honor of
Alexis Hall



Scan the QR code to view
more photos from the PA
White Coat Ceremony.



Class Notes

1980s



Steve Smith

Steve C. Smith, '81, has announced his retirement in April 2026 from the Huntington Internal Medicine Group (HIMG), where he has practiced since July 1999. His retirement marks the culmination of a 41-year career in internal medicine. Before joining HIMG, Dr. Smith spent 15 years in private practice in Teays Valley, West Virginia.

Paulette S. Wehner, '89, vice dean for education at the MUSOM, received the West Virginia Rural Health Association's Individual Excellence in Rural Health Award at its November conference. She also accepted the Organizational Excellence in Rural Health Award on behalf of the Marshall Community Health Consortium. Both honors recognize leadership in expanding rural physician training through rural residency programs.

1990s



Myra Wilkerson

Myra L. Wilkerson, '94, was honored with the prestigious 2025 CAP Public

Service Award Established in Honor of Frank C. Coleman, MD, FCAP, by the College of American Pathologists (CAP) Board of Governors. This award recognizes her visionary leadership in implementing a systemwide laboratory medicine operation that improved efficiency and expanded access to laboratory services for rural communities.

Jeffry T. Gee, '96, class president, works 26 weeks a year in Connellsville, Pennsylvania, and one week a month at his private practice, East River Psychiatry LLC in Bluefield, Virginia.

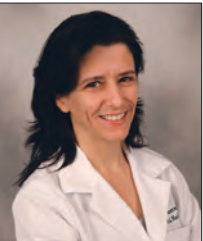
Mary Jo Martin, '98, serves as vice chair of admissions and chair of the STARK (Ethics in Patients Referrals Act) committee at the Meritus School of Osteopathic Medicine in Hagerstown, Maryland, where she oversees student accommodations and teaches student pathology. Dr. Martin adds that she is very grateful for the Marshall University HELP Program.

Aaron M. McGuffin, '99, was promoted in 2024 to director of national boards at the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine. He also received the rank of full professor with tenure. Dr. McGuffin is a past president and board member of the Marshall School of Medicine Alumni Association.

2000s

Christine L. Gilkerson, '01, is director of clinical efficiency and patient flow at St. Mary's Medical Center. She previously served as associate dean of admissions and chair of the admissions committee. She retains her role as faculty in

the Department of Internal Medicine at the MUSOM.



Christine Gilkerson

William C. Wallace, '01, was named medical director of perioperative services for Marshall Health Network (MHN). In this role, Wallace leads evidence-based perioperative management services across MHN facilities. He is an associate professor in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery and medical director of the Joint Replacement Center at the MUSOM.



William Wallace

Christopher S. Goode, '02, is executive vice president and chief clinical integration officer for the West Virginia University Health System. He oversees systemwide initiatives to improve care coordination and patient access. He will continue to serve as chair of the WVU Department of Emergency Medicine. Dr.



Christopher Goode

Goode endowed the Goode Family Scholarship in 2019.



James Campbell

James R. Campbell II, '03, is president of the CAMC Institute for Academic Medicine, leading the institute's strategic direction and operations. He also supports Vandalia Health's academic initiatives. Vandalia Health was formed through the merger of the Charleston Area Medical Center, Davis and Mon Health systems.



Jeremy Fuller (left) was inducted into the Sports Medicine Hall of Fame.

Jeremy D. Fuller, '03, a Marshall athletic team doctor, was inducted into the Marshall University Sports Medicine Hall of Fame in April 2025. He was presented for induction by athletic team physician **Dr. Andy Gilliland, '07**. Also inducted were Dr. John Jasko and Jim Butler, DDS.

Krista L. Denning, '04, is assistant dean for student research at the MUSOM, mentoring medical students and promoting interdisciplinary research. Dr. Denning also serves as professor and chair of pathology and

Class Notes

served as the MUSOM Alumni Association president from 2018-2020.



Krista Denning

Andrea D. Marcum Vallejos, '06, vice president of health informatics and chief medical information officer (CMIO) of Valley Health Systems Inc., was elected to the Epic Obstetrics Specialty steering board, a national advisory board that works to improve electronic health record (EHR) workflows and tools for obstetric care. Her two-year term began July 2025.



Andrea Marcum Vallejos

Laurel A. Hensley Fedor, '07, of Ogden, Utah, recently completed a fellowship in integrative medicine through the University of Arizona's Andrew Weil Center for Integrative Medicine and is starting an integrative internal medicine consulting business.

Susan L. Flesher, '07, is senior associate dean of admissions at the MUSOM. Previously she served as chair of pediatrics from 2021-2025, where she developed a departmental strategic plan, launched two accredited fellowships, expanded the reach of Marshall Pediatrics and implemented incentives for scholarly activity.



Susan Flesher

Philip A. Galapon, '08, is medical director for Wexford Health Sources Inc., one of the nation's leading correctional health care companies. Clinical teams provide care to underserved patients in prisons, jails, juvenile detention centers, mental health facilities and other institutions across the country. Dr. Galapon oversees clinical operations across West Virginia.

Tracy L. Hendershot, '08, was elected to the board of directors for the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP). He previously represented West Virginia as a delegate to the AAFP Congress of Delegates. Based in Elizabeth, West Virginia, he practices with WVU Medicine in Mineral Wells. Dr. Hendershot also received the "Family Doc" of the Year Award from the academy.



Tracy Hendershot with AAFP board member Dr. Jay Lee

Preeti D. Subhedar, '09, recently joined Hackensack Meridian Health in Edison, New Jersey, as the central regional chief of breast surgical oncology. She previously was a breast surgeon with Optum in New York and Emory University School of Medicine in Atlanta, Georgia.

2010s

Shea M. Goodrich, '11, was recently awarded the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine Primary Care Outstanding Preceptor Award for the Southwestern Region. Dr. Goodrich has been with Valley Health Systems since 2014.



Bretton Powell

Bretton L. Powell, '11, an internal medicine specialist trained in primary, hospital and critical care, has joined the practice of renowned internist Dr. Paul Long on Hilton Head Island. Dr. Powell will eventually take over the practice, which focuses on preventive medicine, chronic disease management and overall wellness.



Andrew Guidry

Andrew T. Guidry, '12, is with Southeast Georgia Physician Associates — Neurology at the Brunswick Campus. After completing his neurology residency at Emory University School of Medicine in Atlanta, he pursued advanced fellowship training in sports neurology at the Sandra and Malcolm Berman Brain & Spine Institute in Baltimore, Maryland.



Lauren Thompson (right) receives her Fellow of the Month plaque from Dr. Rebecca Barnett (left).

Lauren M. Thompson, '12, was named the MUSOM's June 2025 Fellow of the Month. Dr. Thompson, the inaugural MUSOM fellow in neonatal-perinatal medicine, completed her fellowship and joins Marshall Health Network as a neonatologist in the NICU at Hoops Family Children's Hospital and assistant professor of pediatrics at the MUSOM.



Baby Cora

Krista T. Wagoner, '12, associate professor of OB/GYN at the Medical University of South Carolina, husband Nick Stutzman and children Everett (5) and Ellis (3) welcomed little sister Cora Aug. 31, 2025.

Supria Batra, '13, joined CardioCare in Chevy Chase, Maryland, as a heart failure and transplant cardiologist. She also serves as adjunct faculty at the George



Supria Batra

Washington School of Medicine & Health Sciences.



Jacob Kilgore

Jacob T. Kilgore, '13, associate professor of pediatrics at the MUSOM, was appointed chief quality officer for Marshall Health Network. He was also named the 2025 Advocate of the Year by the West Virginia Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (WVAAP). Dr. Kilgore also serves as medical director of Hoops Family Children's Hospital at Cabell Huntington Hospital.



Ally Roy

Amy "Ally" A. Roy, '13, assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology at the MUSOM, recently graduated from the 2024 Association of Professors in Gynecology and Obstetrics (APGO) Academic Scholars and Leaders Program. The 15-month program, taught by nationally recognized educators, selects up to 25 OB/GYN faculty each year for its highly competitive curriculum, which strengthens their teaching, administrative and leadership skills.

Stephen A. Roy, '13, now serves as director of the internal medicine residency program at the MUSOM. He previously served as the assistant director of the internal

medicine program and director of the internal medicine rural residency program.



Stephen Roy

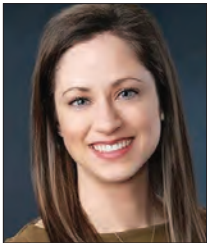
Amanda N. Stark, '13, is an assistant professor for the VCU Department of Radiation Oncology at Massey Comprehensive Cancer Institute, where she specializes in pediatric radiation oncology. She and her husband, Michael, live in Richmond, Virginia, with their two children.

Nikita G. Khetan-Singh, '14, is a pediatrician at McGovern Medical School Department of Pediatrics in Houston, Texas. She and her husband, Karan, welcomed their son, Abhi Vedh, on Feb. 20, 2024.



Abhi Vedh Singh

Audrey M. Dean, '16, has joined Ivan D. Flint Dermatology in Salt Lake City. Following her dermatology residency, she served as a staff physician at Geisinger Medical Center in Pennsylvania.



Audrey Dean

Joseph C. Hart, '16, is serving as medical director for the Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) programs in Louisiana, Pennsylvania and Virginia with Merakey, a leading mental health provider.

Matt M. Snyder, '16, class president, and his wife, Holly, welcomed a son, Crew Hollis, on Oct. 11, 2024. He joins brother, Wells, and sister, Tilly. They reside in Chicago where Dr. Snyder is completing a cardiothoracic surgery fellowship at Northwestern University.



Tilly, Wells and Crew Snyder

Victoria Watson, '16, was selected as an April resident of the month. Following time in neurosurgery, she began an internal medicine residency. She will complete her residency in June and plans to pursue a neurocritical care fellowship.

Morgan C. Stickler, '17, is residency director for the family medicine residency program at the MUSOM, where she spearheads curriculum development, resident wellness initiatives and community outreach. She previously served as associate director.



Morgan Stickler

Aaron A. Heaberlin, '17, joined WVU Medicine Children's Primary Care. He previously practiced pediatrics in Brighton, Colorado, at Premier Pediatrics LLC.



Ryann Justice

D. Ryann Justice, '17, completed his pediatric residency at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, with an additional fellowship year in newborn intensive care at Children's Hospital of Richmond. He is working with a private pediatric group, The Children's Health Center in Middletown, New Jersey. He previously worked in private practice in the Washington, D.C., area.

Thomas J. Melvin, '17, and wife, Jena, welcomed their daughter, Nora, on Feb. 1, 2025. Dr. Melvin is a thoracic surgeon at UPMC in Pittsburgh. He practices at UPMC Esophageal and Lung Surgery Institute, and he is affiliated with UPMC St. Margaret, UPMC Magee-Womens Hospital and UPMC East.

Mayo M. Dayo, '18, joined Penn State Health as an assistant professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology in the Division of Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility. She completed her OB/GYN residency at Kaiser Permanente in Oakland, California, and her reproductive endocrinology and infertility fellowship at the University of California, San Diego.

Class Notes

Harry W. Burke, '19, completed his anesthesiology residency at the University of Pittsburgh and pain medicine fellowship at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. He now serves as associate program director for pain medicine at Johns Hopkins.



Bina Malapur and Saumik Tiwary

Bina R. Malapur, '19, completed her endocrinology fellowship at South Illinois University and now practices at Stanford Medicine Partners Endocrinology in Campbell, California. She married Saumik Tiwary on March 2, 2025.

2020s

Rebecca L. Barnes, '20, completed her neurology residency at the MUSOM and a fellowship in multiple sclerosis and neuroimmunology at Riverside Methodist Hospital in Columbus, Ohio. She joined WVU Medicine as a neurologist with the WVU Rockefeller Neuroscience Institute.



Rebecca Barnes

L. Dalton Border, '20, and his wife, Sarah, welcomed a son, Andy, on Aug. 30, 2024.



Dalton, Andy and Sarah Border

Evan J. Childers, '20, begins a one-year fellowship in July 2026 at Ponte Vedra Plastic Surgery in Ponte Vedra, Florida, joining **Dr. Chris Bates, '13**.



Evan Childers

James C. Gainer, '20, completed his orthopaedic surgery residency at the University of Louisville in June 2025. He has a one-year fellowship in adult reconstruction at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine. He and his wife, Catie, have four children.

Jonathan E. Hanson, '20, completed his clinical neurophysiology fellowship at the University at Buffalo. He started as a neurohospitalist at United Hospital Center (UHC) in Bridgeport, West Virginia, in July 2025.

Greg S. Hill and Jordan L. Hill, both '20, have relocated to Augusta, Georgia, where Dr. Greg Hill is fulfilling his four-year U.S. Army requirement as an ENT. Dr. Jordan Hill has joined Medical Associates Plus as one of its pediatricians. They have one son, Harlan.

Allison M. Hines, '20, completed her pediatric

neurology residency at Case Western Reserve University, where she is doing an epilepsy fellowship. Upon completion, she will join Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital in Cleveland.

Corey S. Moore, '20, is director of emergency ultrasound at East Carolina University in Greenville, North Carolina.

Jordan L. Preston, '20, is a general neurologist at Allegheny Health Network's Jefferson Hospital in Jefferson Hills, Pennsylvania.

Alexandrine "Alex" Ratnani, '20, completed her pediatric residency at University of Virginia and is now in her final year of a neonatology fellowship at UVA. She also serves as the head pediatric fellow for the 2025-2026 academic year.

Reagan M. Stafford, '20, completed her general surgery residency at University of Kentucky and has begun a fellowship in vascular surgery at UK.

Benjamin M. Williams, '20, has taken over an established practice, Integrated Dermatology, of Yuma, Arizona. He is one of only 10 physicians in the U.S. licensed to practice medicine in 40 states.



Benjamin Williams

Jonathan S. Winalski, '20, completed his general surgery residency at Lenox Hill Hospital in New York City. He is now doing a two-year trauma/critical care and acute care surgery fellowship at the

University of Massachusetts Baystate.

Nickolas A. Bacon, MD/Phd, '21, internist with Mercy Hospital Jefferson in Festus, Missouri, is engaged to Jessica Doshi.



Nickolas Bacon and Jessica Doshi

David E. Bartlett, '21, class president, has matched for a neuroradiology fellowship at Duke University, starting July 2026. He has accepted a position with Mecklenburg Radiology Associates in Charlotte, North Carolina, beginning in July 2027. Dr. Bartlett and his wife, Cindy, welcomed daughter, Claire, on Nov. 3, 2024, joining older sister, Lia, who is in preschool.



David and Cindy Bartlett with Lia (left) and Claire

Meagen M. Carter, '21, completed her OB/GYN residency at the Naval Medical Center in Portsmouth, Virginia. Following her intern year at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, she was reassigned to Portsmouth by the U.S. Navy. Upon graduation, she will begin a staff tour in Okinawa, Japan.

Sydney M. Graham, '21, completed her four-year OB/GYN residency at Ochsner

Clinic Foundation in New Orleans and has joined Ochsner Health's OB/GYN department. She and her husband, Hayden Bashinski, welcomed a son, Roy Marin, on Aug. 26, 2025.



Sydney Graham

Caitlin M. Mulvihill Hanna, '21, and her husband, George, welcomed a daughter, Charlotte Hope, on March 25, 2025. Dr. Hanna completed her emergency medicine residency at CAMC and is currently practicing in Hagerstown, Maryland, with Meritus Health.



Baby Charlotte

Tony A. Hayes, '21, and his wife, Andrea, welcomed a daughter, Hallie Rose, on Aug. 25, 2025.



Amy Smith

Amy L. Smith, '21, has joined Marshall Health Network as a general OB/GYN and an assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology at the MUSOM after completing her residency in OB/GYN at the MUSOM.

Callie H. Watanabe, '21, after completing her residency in 2024, received orders to serve as a family medicine physician at the Naval Hospital in Guam. She is currently a Lieutenant (O-3) and is up for a promotion to Lieutenant Commander (O-4).

Amber R. Wright, '21, completed her OB/GYN residency at the MUSOM and is now practicing with Valley Health Systems Inc., at A Woman's Place and the Coal Grove, Ohio, locations.



Heather and Derek Carr with daughter, Lyla

Heather Carr, '22, and her husband, Derek, welcomed a daughter, Lyla, on June 16, 2024. Dr. Carr joined Madison Pediatric Associates in Richmond, Kentucky.



Hannah and Levi Casto with son, Ezra

Hannah Casto, '22, and her husband, Levi, welcomed their son, Ezra Scott, on June 1, 2025. Dr. Casto completed her pediatric residency at Vidant Medicine/East Carolina in North Carolina and has joined Valley Health Systems Inc., specializing in outpatient pediatrics and newborn care at Valley Health East Huntington.

Trenton D. Hayes, '22, practices primary care full time with Southern West Virginia Health

Systems at Lincoln Primary Care Center and Madison Medical Center. He also covers family medicine hospital service at Cabell Huntington Hospital several times a year, lectures MUSOM family medicine residents and precepts residents at Lincoln Primary Care Center. Dr. Hayes was named the MUSOM Outstanding Resident Teacher of the Year in 2024.



Trenton D. Hayes

A. Paige Lester, '22, completed her pediatrics residency at Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, Ohio. In July 2025, she started a two-year pediatric hospital medicine fellowship at UNC Children's Hospital in Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

Kaustav Mukherjee, '22, completed his family medicine residency at Access Health in Beckley, West Virginia, and began a palliative care fellowship at the University of Iowa, Iowa City, in July 2025.

Emma M. Nellhaus, '22, was named Resident of the Month for January 2025 at the MUSOM. She recently received the Resident Clinician of the Year for Clinical Care Award. Dr.



Emma Nellhaus (left) receives her Resident of the Month plaque from Dr. Ally Roy (right).

Nellhaus is finishing her third year of the OB/GYN residency program and plans to pursue a maternal-fetal medicine fellowship.

Ava K. Tennant, '22, finished her pediatric residency at the University of Virginia in June 2025, then started her career in general pediatrics at UVA in July. She and her fiancé, Dr. Ben Johnson, will be married in Charlottesville on June 6, 2026.

Luke E. Hamm, '23, class president, and his wife, Taylor, welcomed a daughter, Anya, on Dec. 6, 2024. She joins brother, Ezekiel, and sister, Aria. Dr. Hamm is completing an emergency medicine residency at OhioHealth Riverside Methodist Hospital in Columbus, Ohio.

Thomas D. Wright, '23, was named Resident of the Month for April 2025 at the MUSOM. He completes his internal medicine residency in June 2026 and plans to pursue a hematology and oncology fellowship.

In Memoriam

ALUMNI

Katherine Rector Bennett, MD ('16)

Dr. Katherine Bennett passed away on Sept. 13, 2025, after a battle with cancer; she was 40. She earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from Barnard College and completed a Certificate of Premedical Science at Columbia University, followed by medical school and her family medicine residency at Marshall University. After residency, Dr. Bennett and her husband, Foster, relocated to Macclenny, Florida, where she served as a family practice physician with The Dopson Family Medical Center for six years. She was known for her clinical skill, strong work ethic and commitment to providing patient-centered care to the Baker County community. She is survived by her husband and was preceded in death by her son, Rhett.

Mary Sandra Copley, MD ('90)

Dr. Sandra Copley passed away on Jan. 26, 2025, at the age of 77. A 1990 graduate of the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine and a retired physician, Dr. Copley excelled academically, graduating second in her medical school class. She went on to build a meaningful career defined by compassion, clinical dedication and service to others — qualities recognized in 2020 with the Marquis Who's Who Distinguished Humanitarian Award. Known for her gentle nature and commitment to care, she also shared her talents outside of medicine, playing piano for the First Presbyterian Church

of Kenova for many years. A Huntington native, she is survived by her daughters, Tracie Tarpley and Sandra Stevens, her grandson and two great-grandchildren.

Kathleen E. Lucas, MD ('84)

Dr. Kathleen Lucas passed away on Aug. 3, 2025, in Los Angeles, California, at the age of 73. After earning her bachelor's degree in medical technology from West Virginia University, she pursued her lifelong goal of becoming a physician. She was graduated from the Marshall University School of Medicine in 1984, where she was one of only three women in her class. While raising two young sons as a single mother, she completed her medical degree and went on to establish Lucas Pediatrics in Greensboro, North Carolina. Over nearly four decades, she became a trusted and well-respected community pediatrician, with a particular dedication to caring for children with complex medical needs. Her commitment to global health led her to Nepal in 1984, where she spent six months providing medical services to women in rural villages. She is survived by her sons, Matthew and Jason, and four grandchildren.

Cheryl R. Shafer, MD ('92)

Dr. Cheryl Shafer of Elkview, West Virginia, passed away on March 17, 2025. Dr. Shafer, a 1992 graduate of the School of Medicine, dedicated her career in internal medicine to serving her community with professionalism and compassion. She most recently worked as a consultant and previously held positions with Molina Healthcare, Humana

and WellCare Health Plans. She is survived by her mother and stepfather and her son, Jameson Shafer.

Dean H. Woodard, MD ('85)

Dr. Dean Woodard, 71, of Marion, Virginia, passed away on Oct. 28, 2025. Dr. Woodard built a long, impactful career in emergency and urgent care medicine. He founded multiple urgent care clinics over more than three decades, beginning with Emergicare in Harrisonburg, Virginia, in 1991, followed by four additional clinics across Virginia. His work extended internationally through medical service trips to India, Pakistan and Haiti, where he provided care in resource-limited settings and supported local health efforts. Colleagues knew him as a dedicated, skilled physician driven by a deep commitment to accessible, compassionate care. Dr. Woodard is survived by his five children and 10 grandchildren.

FACULTY

Bruce A. Ratcliff, MD

Dr. Bruce Ratcliff of Huntington, West Virginia, passed away on June 1, 2025. A Huntington native, Dr. Ratcliff graduated from Washington and Lee University and the University of Virginia School of Medicine. He completed an internship at the University of Kentucky Medical Center, followed by an OB/GYN residency at the University of Virginia. He later served two years in the U.S. Army, providing obstetrical and gynecologic care at Fort McPherson in Atlanta. Dr. Ratcliff returned home in 1973 to join his father in private practice. Known for his steady guidance and commitment to training future physicians, he played a formative role in shaping generations of OB/GYN residents during his nine-year tenure as a professor of obstetrics and gynecology with the Marshall School of Medicine. In recognition of his contributions to teaching and mentorship, Cabell Huntington Hospital named the residents' room in his honor. He is survived by his wife, Ann; his children, Bruce Jr., Todd, Jonathan and Ann; and six grandchildren.

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Near and Far



"There's nothing better than reconnecting with our alumni across the country and seeing how they're changing lives through medicine."

— Linda Holmes, associate dean for development and alumni affairs

1. Linda Holmes and members of our marketing team headed to New Orleans to attend the Association of American Medical Colleges Conference for Institutional Advancement — and made the most of their trip by catching up with alums Marcia Walker, MD ('03); Kristen Payne, MD ('13); and Teresa Vives, MD ('91).
2. John Neville, Hank Preston, Jim Becker, Jeff Holmes and Shane Bowen from the Class of '93 enjoy a Marshall football game.
3. Spotted at the University of Virginia's pediatric residency graduation for Ava Tennant, MD ('22), are Jenna Zuzolo, MD ('23); Alexandria Ratnani, MD ('20); Dr. Tennant; and Brittany Walls, MD ('16).
4. Marshall friends reunite for a weekend in Sonoma. Back row (L to R): Adam Sweeney, MD ('11); Jennifer Gerlach, MD ('11); Jenn Meador; Megan Docherty, MD ('11); Andy Whitley; Michelle Beitzel Burch, MD ('11); Jessica Brown, MD ('11); Courtney Kiser McLean, MD ('11); Megan Lee, MD; Scott McLean, MD ('11). Front row: Danielle Whitley, MD ('11); Tristan Meador, MD ('11).



A Decade of Distinction: **STANDING OUT** in **OUR FIELD**

2025 marked the 10th anniversary of Standing Out in Our Field, the Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine's largest and most impactful scholarship fundraiser.

By Dawn Nolan

An atmosphere of fellowship and philanthropy filled the Barboursville Soccer Complex on Aug. 23, 2025, as more than 500 students, alumni, faculty, staff and community members gathered for the 10th Standing Out in Our Field event in support of the Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine.

"The idea behind Standing Out in Our Field is to bring together two important aspects of the medical school," said David Gozal, MD, MBA, PhD (Hon),



Chef Steven Nakano, MD ('15), and his wife, Hanna, worked with Linda Holmes to turn Standing Out in Our Field into the large-scale event it is today.





Dean Dr. David Gozal joins attendees at Standing Out in Our Field 2023, part of a decade-long tradition that raises support for future physicians.

vice president for health affairs and dean of the School of Medicine at Marshall University. "First, we want the community to be engaged with the medical school and to participate in raising the next generations of physicians for West Virginia and the world. We also want to

recognize them for their contributions to the medical school, its students and its mission. And second, as a corollary of that community engagement, we want to reduce, to the best of our ability, the debt incurred by our medical students during their medical school training."

This year's Las Vegas-themed outdoor event raised approximately \$120,000 for the School of Medicine's scholarship endowment fund. Including previous years, Standing Out in Our Field has raised more than \$1 million for the fund and

has directly benefited hundreds of future physicians.

"Medical students can graduate with anywhere from \$160,000 to \$200,000 or more in debt," said Linda Holmes, associate dean for development and alumni affairs. "So, whatever we can do to provide scholarships to reduce their debt will allow them to start on a firmer foundation once they finish their residencies and/or fellowships."

Standing Out in Our Field originated as the brainchild of Holmes and Chef Steven Nakano, MD ('15).

"I had this unique background in cooking; and historically, I had done these kinds of dinners where you would auction off a meal with an institutional leader or department chair," Dr. Nakano said. "The original idea for Standing Out in Our Field was to auction a dinner with then-Dean Joseph Shapiro for you and your friends that would be catered by the medical students."

However, Dr. Nakano credited Holmes with turning the idea into a reality.

"I voiced that concept to Linda, and everything after that was 100% her," he said. "I just said this little thing that triggered something in her head, and she turned it into this massive event."

Food remains central to the event. Previous themes include "Boots & Bling," "Margaritaville" and "A Night in Havana." For this year's theme, "Viva Las Vegas," Cabell Huntington Hospital Executive Chef Don Sallada created a Sin City-inspired menu, featuring "High Roller Appetizers," "Vegas Strip Salads" and "Casino Breads & Spreads," as well as "Family-Style Big Wins," "Jackpot from the Grill" and "Casino Dessert Delights."

As in years past, medical students volunteered as waitstaff.

"That's what makes it really unique," Holmes said.

From its inaugural event in 2014 through 2019, Standing Out in Our Field was hosted at the Proctorville farm of Dr. Bobby Miller ('97) (pictured right) and Eric Hardin-Miller. After a two-year pause during the COVID-19 pandemic, the event returned in full force in 2022 with a move to Barbourville Park.

"We probably had 100 people at the first event, and we have grown to nearly 500 guests since then," Holmes said. "We've established this date in August, so people can mark their calendars and look forward to it. Dr. Miller gave us our start, and we are forever appreciative of that. Then,



for the last few years, we've had the incredible support of Barbourville Mayor Chris Tatum and Brandi Beasley, the director of the Barbourville CVB."

Andrea Lauffer, MD ('10), president of the School of Medicine Alumni Association, co-chaired this year's event with her husband, Caleb Huff, MD ('13).

"Each year we see more and more people, and not just within our own medical school but also community members who are attending and becoming more engaged with the event, which is amazing," Dr. Lauffer said. "It's truly a community effort. Our hope is that those numbers continue to increase, because it will only further benefit our medical student scholarships and help give more students a world-class education here at Marshall."

As the School of Medicine looks to the future, this decade-long tradition continues to shape the next generation of physicians.

"Ten years isn't just a milestone — it's a legacy honoring a decade of generosity, community and support for our medical students," Holmes said. "Standing Out in Our Field has grown into a tradition with a powerful purpose: raising essential scholarship funds that help future physicians follow their calling by easing the burden of financial barriers. Year after year, this event proves that when we come together, we don't just celebrate — we change lives. I look forward to many more years of Standing Out in Our Field."



Alumni and husband-wife duo Caleb Huff, MD ('13), and Andrea Lauffer, MD ('10), co-chaired Standing Out in Our Field 10.

Standing Out in Our Field 10

More than 500 guests enjoyed the “Viva Las Vegas”-themed event Aug. 23, 2025, at the Barboursville Soccer Complex, raising more than \$120,000 for the School of Medicine’s student scholarship endowment.

save the date Standing Out in Our Field 11
Aug. 22, 2026



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AUGUST 23, 2025



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Homecoming 2025

SEPTEMBER 12 - SEPTEMBER 13, 2025



The doctors were in.

Homecoming 2025, held Sept. 12-13, 2025, brought alumni, students, faculty and friends together to celebrate shared milestones, memories and the impact of the Marshall medical school family.



1. Dr. Susan Frey, '85, shares her expertise during the learning session.
2. Dr. Chad Smith, '00, presents during homecoming lectures at his 25-year reunion.
3. Joining the homecoming activities are Drs. Rhonda Ross, '94, Cathy Judge Swaney, '94, and Eva Brown-Czerkowski, '93.
4. Dr. John Snidow, '85, shares a laugh with classmates.
5. Class president Dr. Eric Eanes, Dr. Jayne Barr, Dr. John Roth and Dr. Clint Sutherland represent the Class of '90.



FIND MORE PHOTOS
Scan the QR code to view more photos from Homecoming 2025.



6. The lovely doctors from the Class of 2000: Drs. Amber Kuhl, Misty Strow, Amy Lochow, Lisa Carchedi and Melissa Porter.
7. Drs. Kevin Oh, Jackie Ray and Dick Ryncarz celebrate their 30-year reunion.
8. 40-year honorees Drs. Danny Rader, Chuck McCormick, class president Jim Viglianco, Helen Thornton, Stephanie Skolik, Kevin Willis, Sharon Frey, Geno Romano, Sara Rochester and John Snidow.
9. Drs. Brandon Shiflett and Sarah Johnson, both Class of '15, celebrate their 10-year reunion.
10. Can it be 20 years? Celebrating their milestone are Drs. Ben Miller, Wes Tuel, D.J. Martin, Joe Conroy, Van Adams and Nicole Grieve Varela.

save the date **School of Medicine Homecoming & Reunion Weekend**
Sept. 11-12, 2026

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