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At Back to School Night on August 23rd, I shared a bit about what it’s like to be new, what it means to belong, and why creating and protecting that welcoming environment for all students is of utmost importance as we begin a new school year. Below are a few of my thoughts from that initial talk that I would like to share with the wider Marshall community.

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At Marshall, we want our members not just to fit in but to belong. Fitting in means adapting to the situation so you look like others; belonging means being comfortable being yourself. We are committed to helping you develop a sense of belonging as a family and as a student at Marshall.

We also know great families have their differences, they have conflict; Marshall is no different. There may be times where you get angry, sad, or want to quit. Where you feel like you don’t belong. This is normal. I’ll say it again, this is normal. We know this happens and we are committed to listening and helping you and your family through the process. We value the trust and faith you have placed in our school and will strive to ensure an environment where you can develop that sense of belonging.

Sometimes we forget what it’s like to be new; sometimes we forget that even returning students struggle with belonging. I call upon all students, families and staff to open their circles and hearts to make sure everyone feels welcomed. Together we will forge new friendships in our quest to belong.

Here’s to a new year together at Marshall where we each have the opportunity and responsibility to create a place of belonging for each other.
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Dave Gunnarson,
President
Nels Ojard ’95,
Vice President
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Joe Fifield ’11
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Lai La Lunde
Joan McNamara ’76
Laura Mullen ’97
Andrea Schokker
Regina Seabrook ’92
Jamie Steckart,
Ex Officio

2020-2021
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JAMIE STECKART
SNAP SHOTS

01

4th graders learned the intricacies of coding using sticks they found on our campus trails. Hands-on learning is a staple of our middle school curriculum, and it is always interesting to see the ways students are engaging each day!

02

On March 20th we held our second virtual auction hosted by our very own Sorrel Kaspiszak and Scott Kylander-Johnson ’90. The 80’s themed trivia night, featuring a best-dressed competition, mobile bidding, and other interactive engagement, was a hit! This spring, we hope to see you back in person at our 35th annual dinner auction on March 19th, 2022.

03

May 30th marked our Fine Arts Showcase, which was the first time parents were able to walk the halls this year due to COVID-19 protocols. This event is normally held in an intimate space at Zeitgeist Cafe in Downtown Duluth, but this year we brought it to campus and displayed art pieces and played performance recordings throughout the building.

04

Before departing for home in early June, the Class of 2021 Marshall House students took to the Park Point beach house to celebrate their graduation. This was a beautiful day full of sunshine, beach games, cold water temps, and food truck bites!
A new tradition here to stay? Our first Senior Soirée was a success! In another COVID-19 pivot, prom turned into a seated dinner party for seniors. Thanks to the hard work of the senior parents and staff, a fun night full of Kahoot! games, raffle prizes, and reminiscing was had by all.

Girls’ Basketball punched their second consecutive ticket to the state tournament after winning the Section 7AA Championship over Esko 63-52. The Hilltoppers fell to Providence Academy in the State quarterfinals 94-91. Hilltopper senior forward Gianna Kneepkens ’21 tallied a career-high 67 points in the final game of her high school career, which also set the single-game scoring record in Minnesota girls’ basketball for either a tournament or regular-season game.

Speaking of state, a number of upper school students displayed their individual talents on the state stage including Merle Mrozik ’21 in 300 Hurdles (Track); Daniella Majwega ’22, Luke Moeller ’22, and Anastasia Ohlerking ’21 (Speech), and Tucker D’Allaird ’22 and Noah Scullard-Bender ’22 (Boys’ Golf).

The new playground is up thanks to our maintenance team and faculty, staff, and student volunteers! It was exciting to see part of Snyder-Durant Park, the 2021 Fund-a-Need project in honor of Karen Snyder and Lori Durant, completed before school started.

Six Hilltopper boys joined forces with the Two Harbors Agates in a football co-op this fall. A win-win for both schools, the combined numbers of Marshall and Two Harbors allowed the team to continue competing in Class 3A.

Back to School Night was a blast! Students and families had a chance to find classrooms, connect with faculty, and hear from Jamie Steckart, our new Head of School, and Lydia Bacigalupo ’22, the Hilltopper Council Executive President. This year’s theme? Belonging and the role each member of the community plays in making Marshall a welcoming place to all.
NEW TRUSTEE LAURA MULLEN ’97

Laura (Salyards-Fryberger) Mullen ’97 is one of the four co-founder/owners of the Bent Paddle Brewing Co. of Duluth, MN and acts as the Vice President of Outreach + Marketing for the company. She focuses on the brewery’s marketing, media and community relations, event coordination, sustainability initiatives, and charitable efforts. Laura is married to fellow Bent Paddle Brewing Co. co-founder/owner Colin Mullen, and they have a daughter, Adella, a dog named Hilde, and many beloved Siamese cats.

Prior to opening the brewery in 2013, Laura was the owner and primary event designer of Laura Mullen Event Design in Minneapolis where she also acted as Guild Coordinator for her largest client, the Minnesota Craft Brewers Guild. Laura was born and raised in Duluth. She completed her B.A. in Behavioral Science & Law from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2001 and worked as an event planner in Savannah, Georgia and Minneapolis before starting her event design company in 2004.

Laura has a long history of volunteerism and board leadership primarily in the areas of environmental stewardship, progressive reproductive healthcare, the arts and small business associations, and was notably the first female board President of the Minnesota Craft Brewers Guild.

TOM DIENER RETIREMENT

Congratulations to Tom Diener on 34 years of teaching at Marshall School!

In recognition of Tom’s career at Marshall, his children, Sarah Diener-Schlitt ’05, Gordy Diener ’08, and Emily Diener ’11, established The Mr. Diener Fund at Marshall School. This fund provides resources to allow students, with preference given to children of current Marshall faculty and staff, the ability to access the full spectrum of programming available at Marshall. The fund honors Tom Diener, who devoted 34 years of teaching earth science and mentoring students in activities as diverse as Nordic skiing and Knowledge Bowl from 1987 to 2021. As a parent of three Marshall graduates, he saw firsthand the impact the Marshall experience had for his kids. The fund is dedicated to help ensure similar opportunities for the children of future faculty and staff.

If you would like to honor Tom’s retirement with a gift to The Mr. Diener Fund, please use the enclosed envelope and write Mr. Diener Fund on your check or on the envelope. You may also make your gift online at marshallschool.org/support-marshall/give-online. If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Berry at 218-727-7266 x113 or jennifer.berry@marshallschool.org.
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Knowing where you are when you begin a journey can make a world of difference in where you end up.

One thing that has been reinforced over the last year and a half is the importance of place and the role that plays in the development of individuals and communities. Thanks to technology and a willingness to be flexible, we could do school virtually, and we did it well: Marshall students did not miss a single day of instruction from the first day of moving class online in March 2020. While the remainder of that school year was successful overall, it also highlighted how irreplaceable time together on campus is. Interactions between students, faculty, and the curriculum itself are simply best in person, and we celebrate that strength we create together.

Beyond that, our location on the map presents incredible opportunities to engage with the natural world in meaningful ways. From the sixth grade Brewery Creek water testing projects to the ninth grade trip to Camp Menogyn (pg. 8) and beyond, students are encouraged to connect with the place in which they live. Learning to navigate through challenges and find their path in and beyond Marshall prepares students to engage with more abstract problems later in life, something Emi Lyman ’02 (pg. 10) tackles in her work.

Wherever Hilltoppers end up in life, we are proud to know that you were here.
Marshall officially welcomed Jamie Steckart to campus as the new Head of School on July 1st. A veteran teacher and experienced head of school, Jamie brings a fresh combination of global perspectives and Midwestern roots to the job. He earned his B.A. in Political Science from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and an M.A. in Outdoor Education from the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities. His prior professional positions include Director of Northwest Passage High School in Coon Rapids, MN; Principal (Chief Academic Officer) for Qatar Foundation, in Doha, Qatar; and Head of School for THINK Global School (TGS).

After six years of continuous travel with TGS, it was time to find somewhere to call home on a more permanent basis. The entire Steckart family has been abroad, and in different regions of the world: while Jamie and Charlotte, their oldest daughter, traveled with TGS, his wife Angie taught elementary school at Bonn International School in Bonn, Germany, where their son Finn and daughter Piper attended.

Marshall presented an opportunity for the family to be part of an independent school and community in a region with much to offer in quality of living, and Jamie saw Marshall as a hidden gem he was excited to share even more widely.

"People think the Midwest is 'flyover country,' but Minnesota and Wisconsin are two of the most innovative states in terms of education in the entire country. It is always an honor to be in the Midwest as a faculty member of a learning entity that values innovation, that values children and families, and that values teaching and learning," Jamie said. "I love Lake Superior. I love the community. I love the values of the Midwest. It is truly an honor for my family and I to come to Marshall as the next Head of School."

One of the first things everyone wants to know? The goals and plans a new leader has for an institution. Instead of a three-step plan or a laundry list of tasks to complete, Jamie looks at it differently: "I consider a Head of School to be one of two things: They can be a carpenter or they can be a gardener. A carpenter has a plan of what they want to accomplish, and they set out to build that plan; a gardener creates an ecosystem for plants to thrive. At this stage in my career, I'm more of a gardener; I think taking a gardening approach to any kind of organization is a much healthier start."

Student voice and choice is a concept that guides Jamie's educational philosophy on the ground: "I really value student choice and voice in real, authentic ways, and that's a priority for me. Listening to kids is is huge. That idea of motivating kids with carrots and sticks just, you know, just doesn't work for me. Really finding out what kids want to do and achieve takes a lot of time and a lot of listening."

During the initial interview process, a question came up about how much Jamie was planning to try recreating the school he just left. "There's no way I can recreate THINK Global School at Marshall School," he said. "Are there some things that school does well that we could do? Absolutely. But if something new is a good fit, we find a way that works for Marshall. This is how you embrace that 'gardener philosophy.' For example, this ecosystem in the Upper Midwest is known for being able to grow blueberries. There's not a lot of ecosystems in the United States that can grow blueberries, but this Upper Great Lakes region has an ecosystem that allows berry production. And we do that well. We're not trying to grow pineapples here right now. So if a school is an ecosystem, what you try to implement really depends on what the ecosystem will allow us to do."
NEW HEAD OF SCHOOL

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BY TONY LOCKHART

Tom Diener, who taught Earth Science at Marshall School for 34 years until his retirement in June, remembers the idea that has become a cornerstone of the freshman experience: A shared activity for the entire class that would “blaze a mark and leave a tattoo in the memory” of each student. Along with Terry Schoer, a thirty-year veteran teacher, they designed a MORE (Marshall Outdoor and Recreation Experience) trip centered on the Boundary Waters.

Now renamed the Fryberger Outdoor Experiences after legendary Marshall supporter Jerry Fryberger, the 9th grade trip to the Boundary Waters has become a cornerstone of the first-year experience at Marshall.

Each September, at the very start of the school year, students ride yellow school buses up the Gunflint Trail to YMCA Camp Menogyn for an experience that students draw upon for the next four years—and remember long after that. Menogyn is a loose translation of an Anishinaabe term that means “full of growth,” and the primary goal of the experience is to offer just that—a chance to grow together as a class. Heather Fishel, the Upper School Principal, describes the four goals of the 9th grade trip as “providing a common experience for the entire class [which is] especially important when 25% of the 9th grade is often students new to Marshall. It creates opportunities for students to work with and meet other students who they don’t know well, participate in an activity where teamwork is essential to success, and experience one of our national treasures—the Boundary Waters Canoe Area.”

Once off the bus, students are organized into trail groups of seven or eight with whom they will spend the next several days. The groups are deliberately mixed so that students have an opportunity to extend old friendships as well as to make new connections. Then it is time to cross the lake, because there are no “roads” to Menogyn and the only way to reach the camp is by boat. The first afternoon is spent practicing skills that will be required for the multi-day trip into the wilderness. Some skills—like paddling, portaging, and campcraft—are specific to the canoe trip. Groups will learn how to be safe, even taking a “tip test” in the cold waters of West Bearskin...
Lake to understand what to do if the canoe fills with water on their trip. They practice paddle strokes on the dock before trying them on the water. They pitch tents on the volleyball field before having to set them up on a wilderness campsite. Other skills—like teamwork, cooperation, and being “all in”—will be important to the success of the class over their entire time together. It takes teamwork to portage a heavy canoe and cooperation to keep a canoe moving forward and straight-ahead. Current senior Laramie Prell ’22 remembers that “I was in a group with all new people, and at first I was upset. But it turned out to be fun and cool.” Her classmate Sam Aamodt ’22 agrees, “It can be hard to get to know new people, but carrying canoes and paddling together is a good way to bond.”

It is on the morning of the second day that the real magic begins. Beginning right after breakfast, groups pack up their equipment and leave for a three-day trip in the BWCA wilderness. According to 9th Grade Dean Karen Stiles, “It is a pivotal experience upon which students build lasting relationships, positive class culture, and enduring memories.” While travelling together, new friendships and bonds will develop between students. They might see wildlife, sometimes small like a mink and sometimes as large as a moose. They will cook their own food, sleep together in tents or under the open stars, and watch the sunset over the trees, all the while getting to better know the classmates they are paddling with, and glimpsing a life away from technology.

In the view of senior Luke Moeller ’22, “While nature isn’t new to those of us who have grown up around Duluth, it is often fragmented. The feeling in the BWCA of being able to go for miles through wilderness is incredible.” Each student comes away with a different highlight of their trip. For some it could be the beauty of a favorite lake, or the satisfaction of completing a difficult portage. It might be catching a fish, or swimming in a wilderness waterfall. “However,” Stiles asserts, “the value of the experience extends beyond what students do to how they achieve the adventure together.” Senior Zak Etterson ’22 agrees. “It works for bringing people together. I have some close friends just because of Menogyn. We still talk and tell stories about our trip.” After three days the groups return to Menogyn for reunions with friends and stories of their adventures. Camping gear is cleaned and put away in lockers. Groups clean up with a traditional sauna and swim, followed by a banquet dinner. Then it is time for a trip back across the lake to load the buses and return to the school year with new, shared experiences that will help the class work together over the next four years. It is not surprising that in the 30 years since the first trip, stories of the 9th grade trip have been a part of virtually every student speaker’s remarks at graduation.

Head of School Jamie Steckart, who accompanied the class this fall, sums up the experience succinctly: “Menogyn is a ‘remember-when’ moment that should be encouraged and savored with students. These experiences become the building blocks of positive relationships with their classmates and adults who care about them.”
It may look like Emi Lyman ’02 took an unexpected turn when she became a software engineer, but by the time she landed that role, her experiences and interests naturally coalesced.

Emi joined Marshall in 7th grade, after attending Congdon and Nettleton Magnet schools, and it was not the easiest adjustment. “I have to say it felt like my childhood hit a brick wall,” Emi remembered. “I wasn’t used to that level of academic rigor and it took me 7th and 8th grades to get used to that level of homework workload. I think that was both a positive and negative in my life. I am still incredibly good at time management and I’m very efficient at getting things done. However, I think that there wasn’t a ton of space for reflection about who I was becoming as a person while I was at Marshall.”

Post-high school, Emi studied Spanish and art for her undergraduate degree and went on to Cranbrook Academy of Art for a Master of Fine Art degree. Her first big job following grad school was installing art at the Walker Art Center. “I got to touch and move and install all the big fancy artworks like Chuck Close’s self portrait and Yves Klein’s giant blue rectangles. I loved that job. It was always different and challenging and I learned contemporary art history in a very different and deep way,” she said. “But I saw it perhaps wasn’t a career that I wanted to be in for 40 years, so I went to night school for computer programming.”

Emi discovered it was instantly easier to get hired with her Associate of Applied Science degree in Interactive Media. Starting out, she worked as a consultant, going from company to company and learning about front-end web development. In 2016, she joined Target full time and now works as the Lead Software Engineer on the Enterprise User Interface team, which happens to be a job
and team that she had a significant part in creating. It did not take long before Emi began to make her mark on Target's internal system.

“Most companies I had worked for prior to Target had their own in-house-built User Interface (UI) systems. These are also known as UI frameworks or Design Systems. Having a good UI system is like having a rubber stamp or clone tool. Users can copy and paste code, which results in the entire application looking more uniform and also speeds up the engineering process. The team is able to kick out more software features faster because they aren’t starting from nothing,” Emi explained. “Well, lo and behold, when I was first hired, Target didn’t have one of these UI systems. I saw this as a huge opportunity for both the company and for my career, so I made one.”

At first, she said, it was just her team using the system, but before long, with the support of a great manager, they worked to market it to other teams. “We made it into an ‘inner-source’ offering at Target, meaning that any engineer at Target could contribute code and make the system better,” Emi said. “I realized very quickly that if engineers contributed to the project, they became advocates for it. So, I continued to reach out to teams that had components that I thought would benefit engineering as a whole. We got huge amounts of contribution from all over the company, from both Minneapolis and our offshore location, Bangalore, India. I managed it and made sure we had great code and consistency. I was kind of like the librarian: Authors give you books, but you get to curate which ones you offer as well as how they are organized.”

As she curated the contributed code and managed her team, it became clear that the value of this project was greater than the sum of its parts. According to Emi, “This is where [Paul] Wellstone’s philosophy of, ‘when we all do better, we all do better’ is perfectly embodied. Because the UI system was dynamic and users saw they could contribute to it and own parts of it, it was quickly adopted by other teams. It was also an easy sell to leadership because it made teams faster. We reached out to our accessibility team and got them to audit it for screen readers, and baked in accessibility features into the components. We reached out to User Experience and they modified the designs of the components to be beautiful and consistent. This is where so many parts of my background come together that it feels almost uncanny: Science, art, work efficiency, and diversity are all coming together to make this UI system awesome.”

Reflecting on her experience as a woman in the tech industry, Emi has realized that representation is even more important than she thought prior to jumping into a tech role. “As girl growing up in the 80s and 90s, we were told, ‘you can do and be anything.’ When I actually got into the industry, it was apparent that that was never the truth,” she shared. “I couldn’t visualize where my career would go, because I rarely saw women in technical leadership, and I never saw queer women. It was really difficult on my mental health at times. I was often the only female engineer; I often experienced microaggressions or plain old aggression. It was apparent that I was not welcome. I got lucky and had some amazing men as mentors, and I’m stubborn, so I just kept going. My goal for my career is to pull others up with me and to do everything that I can to change the environment for the next group of people coming into tech. They must feel welcome in tech because we need them to help us solve the problems of the future.”

Even as the general population grows increasingly diverse, the tech industry remains relatively homogeneous, and that is not something Emi overlooks. “Last I looked, women in tech made up around 25% of all engineers, and Hispanic and Black engineers of any gender made up around 5% combined,” she explained. “We know that the American population is 50% women, our Black population is around 14% and our Hispanic population is around 18%. We all use tech. It is so incredibly important that the spectrum of people who are using tech are the ones making tech. Otherwise, we will miss entire demographics that deserve to be well-served by the tech we create.”

Seeking diversity and representation is no small task, but Emi sees opportunities for anybody to engage in this work. “The rad thing is, most of us who have marginalized identities also have non-marginalized identities. So, see if you can use your non-marginalized identities to make change,” she said. “For example, I’m a queer woman, but I’m also white, so I can be a person who amplifies the voices of people of color. I’m able-bodied, so I can also advocate for better accessibility. Where our non-marginalization lies, is where our power to influence change is.”

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**MY GOAL FOR MY CAREER IS TO PULL OTHERS UP WITH ME**
By Kim Kosmatka

The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted Marshall’s “normal” during the 2020-2021 school year, and that was especially true and disappointing for participants in the Marshall School drama program. After a fall without a play, and a winter without the one-act competition, students were ready for a spring show. COVID protocols meant on-stage, live performances for an audience were out of the question.

Drama Director Jonathan Manchester teamed up with Wherehouse Productions and Greysolon by Blackwoods to give students a unique theater experience. Thomas Lane ’22 and Joe Perry-Spears ’22 have worked behind the scenes for Marshall’s stage productions since they were in 8th and 9th grades, respectively. As juniors last year, the two found themselves immersed in something they had never done before. Not only did the students record The Importance of Being Earnest for a film audience, they did so outside of their comfortable school environment. Rather than use Marshall’s Fregeau Auditorium for the set, students performed and filmed in two downtown Duluth locations. “We shot two of the three acts at Greysolon, and the other one we filmed at Zeitgeist. That’s the one that was green screened,” said Lane. “Greysolon was really nice to film in, but the ballroom
The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted Marshall’s “normal” during the 2020-2021 school year, and that was especially true and disappointing for participants in the Marshall School drama program. After a fall without a play, and a winter without the one-act competition, students were ready for a spring show. COVID protocols meant on-stage, live performances for an audience were out of the question.

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Lane said he has always had an interest in film, so being involved with this production was a good challenge for him. “We had to film the entire thing. It was very difficult to do this, especially as only one actor could have their mask off at a time,” he said. “We were constantly trying to dodge the masks and get camera shots that didn’t include them in the background.”

“We were able to get past the masks through shooting and editing tricks,” added Perry-Spears. “Editing took me 12-13 hours total using Premiere Pro [video editing software]. We put together a full-length film in a few weeks, and that was outstanding!”

Both students agree the collaboration to pull off the spring performance was really special. “There were a lot of difficulties and it would’ve been really easy to stop or do things in a different way that might have made things easier but made the show not as enjoyable.” said Lane. “However, everybody really wanted it to be the best that it could be, so we got it done.”

The Importance of Being Earnest premiered on Marshall’s Fregeau Auditorium screen May 21, 2021, and also played on the school YouTube channel for a short run.
Back on the links to support Hilltopper Athletics, alumni and friends had a blast at our Marshall School Golf Outing this September! The unofficial kickoff to Homecoming Week was held at Enger Park Golf Course and raised support for our athletic teams. A huge thank you to all our golfers and sponsors—you made the afternoon a hole-in-one in our book!
The Hilltopper Honors Awards honor alumni who have excelled in their personal achievements, professional lives, or in service to society, and whose accomplishments have brought credit to the school.

The 2021 Hilltopper Honors Awards ceremony was on Wednesday, September 22nd in the Fregeau Auditorium. The award committee was pleased to induct five alumni to the hall of fame this year. You can nominate future awardees by visiting the alumni website or by contacting Jasen Wise, Director of Alumni Relations, at alumni@marshallschool.org or 218.727.7266 x112.

MISHA KAHN ’07

Misha graduated from the Rhode Island School of Design in 2011 with a B.F.A. in Furniture Design and has been creating category-defying works since his early days in the art room. In 2008, Misha’s work was included in 20 under 20 at the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN. Misha was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship at the Bezalel Academy of Art and Design in Tel Aviv in 2011, and his work, in addition to numerous international exhibitions, is in the permanent collection of museums such as the Corning Museum of Glass, NY; Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX, and Speed Museum of Art, Louisville, KY. Misha lives and works in Brooklyn, NY.
ELIZABETH (BARRY) SANDZA ’69

Elizabeth (Betsy) graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1973 with a B.S. in Journalism and an M.A. in Journalism from Northwestern University in 1974 before deciding to pursue a career in law. She earned her J.D. at Temple University School of Law in 1979 and became the 75th female lawyer admitted to the Delaware Bar and only the 5th female attorney to serve as a Delaware Deputy Attorney General in the Criminal Division.

A recognized and celebrated lawyer, Betsy regularly counsels U.S. corporations regarding the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, regulations of the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC), and international banking anti-terrorism and anti-money laundering regulations. She also has served as counsel to U.S. advocates for foreign governments and served for fifteen years as corporate secretary and general counsel to the board of directors of the Southern Africa Enterprise Development Fund, a $100 million equity fund created by the U.S. government that invested in small and medium-sized companies in eleven Sub-Saharan countries. In addition, she served on the Advisory Board of the South Africa Washington International Program, an NGO that brings together promising young South African leaders of diverse backgrounds and exposes them to government and business in the United States.

Closer to home in Washington, D.C., Betsy was elected an Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner in 2008 and 2010. She and her husband, Richard, have raised four children together and now team up in the office to run The Sandza Law Firm. Betsy is an avid runner who has completed six marathons, and she enjoys skiing.

PETER LOKEN ’99

Peter earned his B.A. in Psychology from Macalester College and his Master’s in Education from Framingham State University before moving to Saipan, the largest of the Northern Mariana Islands, a U.S. commonwealth in the Western Pacific. He works as a General Education Elementary Teacher and was selected as both the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Teacher of the Year and the Pacific Island Teacher of the Year in 2013. In 2016, Peter received the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching, or PAEMST, for his outstanding contributions in teaching or mentoring in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, or STEM. His other awards for teaching include the Lowell Milken Center for Unsung Heroes Fellow and the International Discovery Award.

Peter believes it is important to helping others, whenever you can, wherever you are. When he’s not busy teaching, he enjoys reading, swimming, and
**BRENDAN FLAHERTY ’82**

Brendan studied at University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, University of Minnesota-Duluth, and University of Wisconsin-Superior to earn his Bachelor’s degree in Education and his Master’s Degree in Education and Administration. His career as an athlete includes hockey, football, and track, and he returned to Marshall in 1996 to coach the Boys’ Hockey team. During his tenure as coach, Brendan led the team to seven state tournament appearances, where they claimed second place in State in 2006, 2007, 2008 and third place in State in 2005. He won the 3M Excellence in Coaching Award in 2006 and 2009 and the Minnesota Section Head Coach of the Year in 1996, 2005, and 2007. As the Executive Director of Mars Arena, Brendan was also awarded the James Padgett Memorial Award from the Minnesota Ice Arenas Manager’s Association for The Achievement of Excellence in Ice Arena Management and Operations in 2018. Outside of coaching and running the arena, Brendan was active, running Grandma’s full marathons and competing in inline skating full marathons. Spending time with family and friends was a priority.

Brendan’s coaching career came to an abrupt end in April 2018 with a cancer diagnosis that changed his life. He passed away in June 2021. When asked how he would have felt about his nomination to the Hall of Fame, his daughter Morgan shared: “My dad would have been honored. He took great pride in how he coached and the relationships he formed with the young athletes at Marshall and the program that he had built. The school was lucky to have him for 22 years.”

**ANNA RINGSRED-BEAVERS ’03**

Anna graduated from the University of Calgary with a B.S. in Chemical Engineering and from the University of British Columbia with an M.S. in Renewable Energy Systems. During her time at Marshall, she was a multi-sport athlete, participating in basketball, soccer, track and field, and cross-country running, all while she set her intentions on speedskating. Anna was a member of the U.S. National Speedskating Team from July 2007 to August 2014, when she ultimately represented the United States at the 2014 Sochi Olympics in Long Track Speedskating.

After her retirement from speedskating, Anna has pursued a career as a Chemical Engineer and Senior Policy Analyst for the Government of British Columbia. She and her husband, Tad Beavers, reside in Victoria, British Columbia, and enjoy hiking, backpacking, and backcountry skiing. She believes that “If there is still a chance, never give up.”
ALUMNI ON THE PITCH

This fall, a large portion of our coaches are Hilltopper alumni, and we are so happy to have them back on campus in this capacity. The Girls' Soccer team is lucky to have Gordon Kerns '01 back for his eleventh season, and he is joined this year by Emily Korsch '02 as a fellow coach. We caught up with Gordon and Emily for a few minutes to see what their experiences have been like.
Why did you decide to coach at Marshall this season?

EK: I just moved back to Duluth after several years in St. Louis, MO. I’ve always wanted to get involved in youth sports, but didn’t pursue any connections in St. Louis. A few weeks after moving back to Duluth, I went to Caribou Coffee and happened to run into my friend Gordon, who mentioned that Marshall was looking for a new Girls’ Soccer coach. I felt the coincidence could not be ignored and sent in my application.

I have wanted to get involved in coaching girls’ sports because the team experience was extremely helpful for me growing up. I think it is so easy for young people to get overwhelmed with influential messaging on how to look, how to act, and what to buy to be considered “good” or “successful” or “popular.” I think having consistent role models in a coaching staff, in a school, or in teammates themselves that reinforce a “being yourself is always the best option” message is an antidote to getting overwhelmed. This is the message I would like my coaching to convey – that being yourself, and contributing your best self to a team effort, is our ultimate goal.

What is it like coaching at your alma mater?

EK: So fun! It is a bit surreal to be back on campus, especially since so many things have been changed—in a great way—since I was a student. But I feel like the teachers and staff at Marshall have a great perspective that education is more than books and homework—it is development of a whole person. I am excited to help contribute to part of this mission through athletics.

GK: It’s great! I can still wear my old black and gold!

What would you say to encourage fellow alumni to stay connected or reconnect with Marshall?

EK: Apart from an occasional Annual Fund donation, I have not been very involved with Marshall until moving back to Duluth. And that is what worked for me and allowed me to join the coaching staff now with maximum enthusiasm. So I would recommend connecting at your own pace and be ready to enjoy the rewards when it works for your lifestyle.

GK: I think it can be easy to graduate high school and never look back. I am fortunate to have had opportunities to reconnect with the Marshall community and reestablish that continuity. Whatever your experience was, Marshall is a part of who you are. Plus, we can play soccer on the football field now!

What’s one of your favorite sports memories from your time at Marshall?

EK: During my first year, the Girls’ Soccer team made it into the section finals and lost. While the loss certainly isn’t my favorite memory, it stands out because of how much I looked up to the upper class students on the team, and how much the entire team worked hard to try and win that game for them. During my senior year, we hosted a lot of team spaghetti dinners and I really enjoyed spending time with my teammates not during practice or school!

GK: I have many great memories from participating in sports, but two experiences stand out: the ’98 boys soccer team getting to the state final at the Metrodome, and the ’99 girls basketball team making it to state for the first time. Both teams had exchange students on them that were living with my family at the time, so it was an amazing experience.
NEWS & NOTES

70'S

Michelle (Corbin) Shields ’72 writes, “My mother, Patricia (Wallin) Corbin ’41, celebrated her 98th birthday with all of her 10 children who also graduated from Duluth Cathedral. Here is a photo of us together.”

Judith McKeever ’78 writes, “I will be starting my 42nd year September 2021 as a paraprofessional with Duluth Public Schools.”

Kevin Michelizzi ’79 says, “I went to Russian Crimea in March 2020 (pre-pandemic) and loved it so much I took up residency and moved my family. We are currently building a home here, on the seaside.”

00’S

Adam Conrad ’00 writes, “I am married with four children. Recently relocated (4 years ago) to Northern Minnesota. I continue to support hockey through coaching and serving as an active member with GRAHA in Grand Rapids. My favorite pastimes include enjoying the lake with my family, hunting, fishing and chasing my kids around at all their sporting events! Glad to be back in Minnesota, looking forward to a Hilltopper Reunion!”

Claire Wasmund ’01 says, “Since my move to Los Angeles in 2006, I have been successfully working in film and television. I’ve produced on hit Fox shows like Hell’s Kitchen, MasterChef, and Gordon Ramsay’s 24 Hours to Hell and Back, just to name a few. My next shows will be streaming on Netflix, Disney+ and Peacock, and feature hosts like Keke Palmer and Amy Poehler. In January 2020 I married Fernando Noor surrounded by family and friends.”

Christopher Bowman ’02 shares that he is “an appellate and commercial litigation attorney at Madigan, Dahl & Harlan, PA in Minneapolis, MN. The Vice Chair of the Minnesota State Bar Association’s Appellate Practice Section, Chris has written briefs on behalf of individuals, Fortune 500 Companies, the Sierra Club (in opposition to the PolyMet Mine in northern Minnesota), the State Bar Association on matters of civil procedure and civil rights, and on behalf of the State of Minnesota in relation to criminal prosecutions. He has been named a Minnesota Rising Star each of the last four years.”

Josh Peterson ’02 joined St. Lake's Orthopedics & Sports Medicine team. Peterson earned his Master's of Physician Assistant Studies at Marquette University, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He also completed an Emergency Medicine Fellowship at Aurora Sinai Medical Center in Milwaukee. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in biology from Lawrence University in Appleton, Wisconsin. He is board certified as a physician assistant by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants. Peterson decided medicine was the right path for him after a childhood surgical procedure changed his life. Since then, it has been his desire to provide others with the same charity and compassion he received.

IN MEMORIAM

Mary Frances (Ditson) Wilcox ’42
Dorothy (Chapinski) Gagne ’48
Dolores Pogolorec ’49
David Roden ’58
LeRoy Andrews ’59
Pamela (Disch) Mackey ’61
Donna (Kaneski) Tusken ’62
Kathleen (Duffy) Sahlberg ’67
Gary Kelleher ’73
Brendan Flaherty ’82
Charles Flaig ’83
Michael Rundell ’86
“We just love Grandparents Day!”
David and Gloria Bouschor are enthusiastic supporters of Marshall and the proud grandparents of a current Marshall student and a recent Marshall graduate. Each year they look forward to joining their granddaughter at Marshall on Grandparents Day. Through that experience, they have witnessed firsthand how Marshall students develop the skills and confidence necessary to take them wherever they want to go.

Education has always been important to the Bouschors. David grew up in West Duluth, went away to college and law school, but returned to Duluth to practice law, eventually becoming a Minnesota district judge. Gloria grew up in a small town in Michigan where, she said, “Most girls didn’t finish school past eighth grade.” But her parents encouraged her education and she went on to college and eventually graduate school where she focused on special education. Gloria appreciates the importance of educators getting to know students and understanding both their challenges and gifts. “Marshall teachers are really good at meeting kids where they are and guiding each one to be the best that they can be.”

The Bouschors believe that Marshall’s extraordinary faculty help create opportunities for students to thrive and prepare them for whatever the future holds. At Grandparents Day, the Bouschors have enjoyed going into their granddaughter’s classroom and participating in the innovative projects that happen at Marshall. They have also seen how their older granddaughter has flourished in college, which they attribute in large part to the skills and support she received while she was at Marshall. It is because of this excellent preparation that the Bouschors support Marshall’s Annual Fund each year. David said, “We are so pleased with the education our granddaughters have received at Marshall. It makes a difference and we are so happy to support the school.”

The Bouschors encourage other grandparents to join them at Marshall’s Grandparents Day on May 27th, 2022 to experience what they know to be true – a school community that cares about their grandchildren and is helping to prepare them to be capable and compassionate global citizens.

To make a gift to Marshall’s Annual Fund in honor of your grandchild, please use the enclosed envelope or visit marshallschool.org/giving. To learn more about Grandparents Day, please contact Brianna Vander Heyden at brianna.vanderheyden@marshallschool.org or 218-727-7266 ext. 136.
Are you receiving more than one Hilltopper at your address? You can update your family member’s information at marshallschool.org/alumni.

Would you prefer not to receive a printed copy of the Hilltopper? You can request to unsubscribe at alumni@marshallschool.org.