



# Huntington Regional Chamber of Commerce Young Professionals Committee

January/February 2010 Newsletter

## Letter from the Chair....

Greetings!

As we begin to write another chapter in the YPC book, I wanted to take a moment to tell each of you how honored I am to serve as the chair of our group for the next year. We have the most sought after, most progressive group of people in the Tri-State and I believe if we showcase our talents and abilities properly, this will be a year that people will remember. During the upcoming year, I ask you to be diligent in your commitments to the YPC, stay involved, and let's give the community something to talk about! Let's engage our membership through follow-up and accountability. Let's communicate amongst ourselves, present ideas, suggestions and feedback. Your ideas or suggestions could be the key that unlocks the next "big thing" for the YPC. I want each of you to grow personally and professionally from being a member of the YPC and enjoy the experience and benefits of being a member.

Our first meeting of the year is coming up soon and I would encourage you to help us start 2010 successfully, by joining us for what promises to be a very exciting meeting! Throughout this year we promise to have great speakers, great educational opportunities and to continue our great networking functions, so if you haven't been around in a while, we would love to see you at our February 4<sup>th</sup> meeting!

I look forward to working with all of you this year! - Chris

### FEBRUARY MEETING

**WHEN:** Thursday, February 4th at 11:30am

**WHERE:** Marshall University Shewey Athletic Building

**SPEAKERS:** Chief Cabell County Circuit Court Judge Dan O'Hanlon

Marshall University Director of Athletics Mike Hamrick

Marshall University Head Football Coach John "Doc" Holliday

**OTHER:** "Brown-bag" lunches will be provided **FREE**. Parking passes will be provided via email.

## YPC Leadership Meets with Congressman Nick Rahall

US House Representative Nick Joe Rahall II (D-WV) spent the better part of the early evening of Tuesday, January 5th with the leadership of the YPC discussing various topics in a casual, informative session.

Fielding questions and also touching on various topics, Mr. Rahall began by sharing his story of the challenges he faced as a young businessperson fighting an uphill battle. Mr. Rahall, 27 years of age when first elected to federal office, spent several years working for Senator Robert Byrd's (D-WV) staff. He spoke of his time working on Senator Byrd's staff and campaigns and used instances from those experiences as examples of what he did to stand out in a crowd of many. He went on to recall how he took the approach that no task was below him, having spent countless hours stuffing envelopes and doing other, grass-roots campaign work.

When asked about strong leadership, Mr. Rahall shared with the group his observations of the six US Presidents he has worked with, providing insight from a viewpoint not often seen by the group. Mr. Rahall vividly recalled how, although the two could not be further apart ideologically, President Reagan and then House Speaker Thomas "Tip" O'Neill (D-MA) could battle politically all day but after work

hours, they could put their differences aside and be friends.

Although the conversation was nonpartisan, Mr. Rahall's comments on the past Chief Executives served as a terrific segue to the topic of the current political climate. Mr. Rahall said that the current political environment in Washington is very polarized but he was optimistic that both sides of the aisle could put some differences aside in the upcoming session with the hope of having a productive year.

Mr. Rahall expressed appreciation for the opportunity to meet with the organization's leaders and enjoyed conversing with them. Countless times he spoke of how encouraging it is to see young, civic-minded individuals coming together to better their community.



Developing Leaders. Building Relationships. Achieving Success.

# INTRODUCING YPC's 2010

## LEADERSHIP TEAM....

### CHAIR



Chris Tatum is the Assistant County Administrator for the Cabell County Commission. He oversees the Human Resource function for the County as well as advising on County budget matters, overseeing County development projects and acts as liaison for the Commission for several boards and civic organizations. Chris is also an elected member of the Barboursville City Council where he is serving in his third term.

In addition to his work with the city and county, Chris can be heard on AM 800 NEWSTALK WVHU during football and basketball seasons serving as "The Voice of the Huntington Highlanders".

Most recently Chris has been named Chairman of the Young Professionals Committee at the Huntington Area Regional Chamber of Commerce.

Chris can be reached by email at [ctatum@cabellcounty.org](mailto:ctatum@cabellcounty.org)

### VICE CHAIR



Elizabeth Ayers is the Public Health Educator and Public Information Officer for the Cabell-Huntington Health Department. Her primary responsibilities include health promotion, mass media communication and threat preparedness. Elizabeth graduated Cum Laude from West Virginia University in 2005 with a Bachelor's of Arts in Communication Studies and a Minor in Business Administration. She received her Master's of Science in Health Care Administration in 2007 from Marshall

University.

Elizabeth has been involved with YPC for 2 years and is eager to assist in bringing new opportunities for YPC members and our community. She served as the Generation West Virginia Liaison in 2009 and has also been a member of the Networking Subcommittee.

Elizabeth can be reached by email at [Elizabeth.A.Ayers@wv.gov](mailto:Elizabeth.A.Ayers@wv.gov)

### SECRETARY / TREASURER



Michael Misiti, originally from Beckley, WV, attended Marshall University, where he graduated in 2006 with Bachelor's of Business Administration degree in Accounting and Finance. While attending Marshall, Michael served as the Student Body President and the student representative on the university's Board of Governors. After graduation Michael moved to Columbus, Ohio where he worked for a Big Four accounting

firm. He moved back to Huntington in 2009 and is now the audit manager for The Fyffe Jones Group.

Michael can be reached by email at [mmisiti@fja-cpas.com](mailto:mmisiti@fja-cpas.com)

## MEMBERSHIP - CHAIR



Charles Shumaker, a native of Charleston, WV, earned his bachelor's degree in journalism and mass communications from Marshall University. During his career, he has worked as a staff writer with The Charleston Gazette and reported on issues including courts, crime and Putnam County. In May 2008, Shumaker joined Cabell Huntington Hospital as Media Relations Manager in the Marketing and Public Relations Department. He is chairman of the Membership Subcommittee of the Young Professionals Committee of the Huntington Regional Chamber of Commerce.

Charles can be reached by email at [charles.shumaker@chhi.org](mailto:charles.shumaker@chhi.org)

## MEMBERSHIP - VICE CHAIR



Will Crabtree is an accountant with the Fyffe Jones Group. His responsibilities include providing and overseeing a wide variety of tax and accounting services. Will graduated Cum Laude from Ohio University in 2008 with a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration, and was the Outstanding Graduate in the College

of Business. After attaining his position with Fyffe Jones, he moved to Huntington and is working to become a more active part of the community. He has been a member of the YPC since 2007.

Will can be reached by email at [wcrabtree@fja-cpas.com](mailto:wcrabtree@fja-cpas.com)

## NETWORKING - VICE CHAIR



Jill Morris, a native of Wayne West Virginia, is a 2001 Graduate of Wayne High School and a 2006 Graduate of Marshall University. Jill earned a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration with an emphasis on Marketing. Jill is a licensed Property and Casualty Insurance Agent and has been with Rucker, Billups and Fowler Insurance since 2006. Jill specializes in Commercial Insurance. In 2008, she joined YPC to meet other young professionals from the Tri-State area and to become more involved within the community. She is an avid sports fan & loves spending all her free time with her Daughter, Kailyn.

Jill can be reached by email at [jmorris@rbfinsurance.com](mailto:jmorris@rbfinsurance.com)

## NETWORKING - CHAIR

Born and raised in Huntington, Jennifer Wheeler lived in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina for nearly 10 years before returning to Huntington in 2003. After service to the Huntington Museum of Art and Marshall University, Jennifer joined the staff at the Cabell-Huntington Convention and Visitors Bureau as the Director of Marketing. A member of the Young Professionals Committee since its inception in 2005, Jennifer is the former Chairperson of the Ambassadors Committee and has also represented the Chamber on the United Way's Community Investment Council. In 2008, she was the recipient of the Chamber's Star Award for volunteerism. Jennifer serves on the Board of Directors for TEAM for WV Children and is a member of the Junior League of Huntington, for which she is the Public Relations Chair. In addition to her efforts, locally, Jennifer volunteers for the Boomer Esiason Foundation for Cystic Fibrosis in New York City. She is a member of the United States Tennis Association and Westmoreland United Methodist Church. Jennifer earned her undergraduate degree in public relations from Marshall University and will receive her Master's Degree in Strategic Leadership this April.

Jennifer can be reached by email at [jennifer@wvvisit.org](mailto:jennifer@wvvisit.org)



## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - CHAIR

Matt Campbell came to Huntington in January of 2009 with the opening of the Marshall Recreation Center, where he oversees the Intramural Sports Program, Special Events, and Youth Programming. As Community Development Sub-Committee Chair, Matt hopes to create YPC led initiatives and continue existing relationships with service organizations in the community. Matt is involved in many service activities, including Marshall University Student Legal Aid, Legal Aid of



West Virginia, State Scholars, the Paul Ambrose Trail for Health, Camp New You, and the Healthy Kids, Healthy Communities Coalition. In his free time, Matt enjoys nearly all things sports related, including officiating high school football, basketball and baseball, teaching private pitching lessons, attempting to play slow-pitch softball. He also aspires to become a bogey golfer.

Matt can be reached by email at [campbellm@marshall.edu](mailto:campbellm@marshall.edu)

## COMMUNICATIONS - CHAIR

Heather Marrs grew up in Bluefield, VA and graduated from Graham High school in 2000. She then moved to Huntington to attend Marshall University and graduated in 2005, earning a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration with an emphasis in both accounting and finance. Heather began her career as a corporate tax accountant for Champion Industries, Inc, where she worked for four and a half years. She also worked part-time for Bagby & Weaver, AC. In August 2008, Heather took a position with Goodwill Industries of KYOWVA Area, Inc., where she is currently working as the Director of Finance.



Heather is a member of Christ Temple Church. She is also involved in Big Brother/Big Sister. Heather joined the YPC in an effort to meet new people and find new ways to get involved in the community.

During her free time, Heather loves spending time her dog, watching football, shopping, bowling, going to church and most of all, spending time with friends and family.

Heather can be reached by email at [hmarrs@goodwillhunting.org](mailto:hmarrs@goodwillhunting.org)

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - VICE CHAIR

Anne Yon is a Realtor with McGuire Realty Company in Huntington, assisting buyers & sellers with residential and commercial real estate. Anne graduated from St. Joseph High School and went on to receive a Bachelor's Degree from Marshall University.



She is actively involved in such groups as T.E.A.M. for WV Children, The Toy Train of WV, a charity that hosts an annual toy drive for the area's underprivileged children, Huntington Women's Caucus for Leadership, & The Ronald McDonald House. Anne currently lives in Huntington with her husband Daniel Yon & two year old daughter Elia. They attend Christ Community Church.

Anne can be reached by email at [anneyon1@gmail.com](mailto:anneyon1@gmail.com)

## COMMUNICATIONS - VICE CHAIR

Born and raised in the Dayton, Ohio area, Jennifer has spent the last 13 years in Huntington. Jennifer has worked the last decade in the profession of advertising, working for The Media Makers, WSAZ and currently Paris Signs where she is responsible for the transit advertising sales for TTA and KRT. She is a volunteer with Hospice of Huntington, Little Victories Animal Rescue Group and the Huntington Regional Chamber of Commerce. She served as the inaugural chair of the YPC's Public Relations committee and is back to service as the vice-chair of the Communications committee (which encompasses Public Relations and Education). Jennifer resides with her husband Joe.



Jennifer can be reached by email at [jennifer@parissigns.com](mailto:jennifer@parissigns.com)

## MARSHALL UNIVERSITY

### LIAISON



Matt White, a lifelong Huntington resident, is married to Katrina and has two children, Matti and Cash. Matt graduated from Marshall University in 2003 with a degree in finance while competing as a student athlete on the baseball team. Matt is entering his sev-

enth year as an insurance and investment broker at ZBA Financial Group. Matt specializes in corporate insurance & investment planning. Matt works with individuals and business owners all over the country. A serial entrepreneur, Matt also helped create Carsignment, an Internet company specializing in automotive marketing and advertising. Carsignment services auto dealers in the Huntington/Charleston metro valley.

Matt's primary role in the YPC is the development of YPC On-Campus. The YPC's role on the campus of Marshall University is to create awareness about life after college. Matt facilitates On-Campus projects such as Speed Networking, classroom speaking engagements, and presentation evaluations, to name a few. Matt was also instrumental in the completion of the Lewis College of Business Lounge. The lounge serves as a technology center for communication between the YPC and Marshall students.

Matt can be reached by email at [mwhite05@zbafig.com](mailto:mwhite05@zbafig.com)

## MARSHALL UNIVERSITY

### LIAISON



Teddy Kluemper III is the Director of Development and Communications for Huntington Area Habitat for Humanity. A native West Virginian, he attended Marshall University, where he obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree in Journalism—Public Relations (2002) and a Master of Arts degree in communications studies (2005). In 2006, he obtained his certificate in fund raising management from the Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University. For the past 8 years in several different capacities, Teddy has worked for Huntington Area Habitat for Humanity.

To date, he remains very active with his alma mater. In 2009, he was re-elected to a second term as a member of the board of directors for the Marshall University Alumni Association and is currently serving as the organizations first vice-president. He was also appointed to serve on the board of directors for the MU Higher Education for Learning Problems (H.E.L.P. Program).

Teddy is a member of the board of directors and program chairman for the Rotary Club of Huntington. Since 2005 he has been an active member of the YPC, most recently serving as a liaison for the group to Marshall University.

Teddy is married to Molly, a successful account executive with Humana and they have a three year old daughter named Sophie.

Teddy can be reached by emailing [teddy@hahabitat.org](mailto:teddy@hahabitat.org)



## GENERATION WV LIAISON

Born and raised in Boomer WV, Jason Shepherd came to Huntington in 2000 to pursue a degree in marketing from Marshall University. Upon completing his degree in 2003, Jason left Huntington for a few years, only to return back to the city for his management position at United Bank in 2007. Jason is currently pursuing his EMBA degree form Marshall University's Graduate Scholl Program. Jason is a member of Chamber of Commerce, YPC, and Generation WV. His hobbies are listening to music, spending time with his wife, Leila and their newborn son, Liam. He is a member of Boomer Baptist Church.

Jason can be reached by email at [Jason.shepherd@ubsi-wv.com](mailto:Jason.shepherd@ubsi-wv.com)



Members of Generation WV with several members of the House of Delegates.

## GENERATION WV DAY AT LEGISLATURE

Members of Generation West Virginia headed to the State Capitol on Jan. 21, 2010, for a day of leadership training, legislative education and networking. The following Huntington YPC members were present: Elizabeth Ayers, Charles Shumaker, Rebecca McPhail and Joe Randolph. By visiting the WV Legislature, attendees had the unique opportunity to get an up-close view on how policies are made in the Mountain State. Rebecca McPhail- Vice-Chair for Generation WV states; *"Organizations like the Huntington YPC and Generation WV have become increasingly important in the eyes of our state leaders. The responsiveness of the West Virginia House and Senate during Generation WV Day at the legislature indicates the growing voice of these groups in state and local government and policy. Now more than ever the Huntington YPC and Generation West Virginia must build on positive momentum and continue to push forward in making West Virginia a desirable place to live, work and play for young talent."*

## NEW MEMBERS

### Jamie Nelson

Area Account Executive  
Marriott International  
jamie.nelson@marriott.com

### Tim Ganger

Project Engineer  
Marathon Petroleum  
taganger@marathonoil.com

### Leslie Horton

Nurse Extern  
St. Mary's Medical Center  
lesnicolel@yahoo.com

## CALENDAR

- FEB 4 - YPC FEBRUARY MEETING
- FEB 4 - COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT MTG
- FEB 9 - MEET & GREET - MU B-BALL GAME
- FEB 10 - COMMUNICATIONS MEETING
- FEB 17 - NETWORKING MEETING

## CARDIO TENNIS

Weekly drop-in clinic at Ritter Park Tennis Center  
All levels, \$12 per person  
Wednesdays 6-7pm  
(Beginning Wednesday, February 10<sup>th</sup>)  
For more information contact [jennifer@wvvisit.org](mailto:jennifer@wvvisit.org)



JOIN US FOR A **MEET AND GREET ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9TH** BEGINNING WITH A PRE-GAME DINNER AT **FAT PATTY'S AT 5:30** AND THEN WE'LL HEAD OVER TO THE CAM HENDERSON CENTER TO WATCH **MU VS. RIO GRANDE AT 7PM**

Edited by Heather Marrs of



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