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We Are...Marshall, January 27, 2016

Office of Marshall University Communications

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Marshall engineering professor named finalist for West Virginia Professor of the Year

Dr. Andrew Nichols, professor of civil engineering, has been named one of the five finalists for the West Virginia Professor of the Year award. The Faculty Merit Foundation of West Virginia will announce the winner in early March, according to Provost Dr. Gayle Ormiston.

“We only nominate one professor for this award and it is one of the highest honors a faculty member can achieve,” Ormiston said. “Nichols was the recipient of last year’s Dr. Charles E. Hedrick Outstanding Faculty Award for his impact on students and innovative teaching style. He is a perfect representative of what it means to be a lifetime educator.”

Nichols, a native of Point Pleasant, West Virginia, came to Marshall in 2007 as an assistant professor to teach and conduct applied research in the area of transportation engineering. He has conducted traffic data collection, traffic signal design, traffic safety studies, and traffic-related research for various projects funded by the West Virginia Department of Transportation.

“Being selected as Marshall’s nominee is humbling and surreal, but equally surprising because there are so many other faculty whom I would consider better teachers than myself,” Nichols said. “I have never received formal training to be a teacher, but I believe my passions for my discipline and helping students make up for that. It is my responsibility to help students become engineers, specifically transportation engineers, and I try to create a learning environment that is both interesting and informative. Since most students use the transportation system on a daily basis, it is often easier for them to understand the concepts.”

Nichols served as keynote speaker for Marshall’s 2015 Winter Commencement, held this past December. With opportunities such as these, he said he probably wouldn’t have found the same level of success at another university.
“I like the sense of community on campus at Marshall and I am extremely happy to be back in West Virginia to help advance the state and I know I couldn’t have established the type of relationships within the university and with external funding agencies at another university,” Nichols said. “I plan to retire from Marshall University – I couldn’t imagine going anywhere else.’

The winner of West Virginia Professor of the Year will receive a $10,000 cash award and a handmade glass trophy, with $2,500 to the runner-up and $1,000 each to the next three finalists.

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Photo: Dr. Andrew Nichols was chosen to give the keynote address at Marshall’s Winter Commencement this past December.

**Marketing focus groups to be held tomorrow**

Marshall’s marketing partner TWG Plus will be on campus tomorrow, Thursday, Jan. 28, to conduct focus groups with a number of constituent groups, including students, faculty, staff, alumni and community members.

The firm's representatives will be soliciting feedback about preliminary creative concepts they have developed based on market research done over the past year or so. The creative concepts that come out of this exercise will be used in a long-term, universitywide marketing and image campaign.

Invitations to participate in the focus groups have gone out to some members of the university community. Those who did not receive an invitation but would like to attend one of the focus groups should contact ginny.painter@marshall.edu for details.

**Open house, first for President Gilbert, to take place Feb. 3**

President Gilbert and members of the university’s senior management team are hosting another of the informal monthly open houses Wednesday, Feb. 3, for members of the Marshall community from 3 to 4 p.m.

The event will take place in the in the reception area of the Office of University Communications, 213 Old Main. Refreshments will be served.

Faculty, staff and, students are welcome and encouraged to attend to meet and talk with administrators about topics of their choice.
Marshall implements plan to deal with storm recovery

Marshall University officials and staff members worked the weekend to implement a plan to deal with the after-effects of Jonas as the winter storm ended.

President Gilbert was out walking the campus late Saturday morning and complimented the university’s grounds crews for the clear sidewalks. He thanked the staffs of Physical Plant and Housing and Residence Life for their ongoing efforts during the storm. A number of those staff members, as well as some from Sodexo Dining Services, stayed on the Huntington campus over the weekend to ensure that essential services are provided for students living on campus.

“As always, our top priority is safety for everyone,” Gilbert said.

The women’s basketball game took place as scheduled Sunday, Jan. 24, in the Cam Henderson Center.

On Sunday, Marshall’s grounds crew continued to clear sidewalks and make any needed repairs. Clearing of university parking lots also took place that morning.

The Memorial Student Center reopened Monday, Jan. 25.

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Photo: Grounds crew members work to clear sidewalks near Old Main on the Huntington campus.

Plans underway for Marshall Day at the Capitol Feb. 26

Marshall University faculty, staff, students and alumni are invited to help turn the upper rotunda of the State Capitol Kelly green Friday, Feb. 26, as the university celebrates the annual Marshall Day at the Capitol.

“We are grateful for this opportunity to showcase for our state leaders the programs and ongoing projects here at Marshall University that are delivering exceptional results and guiding us forward,” said Matt Hayes, executive director of alumni relations. “With
Dr. Gilbert’s arrival and his presidency now in effect, we are poised to support his efforts in working with our legislators to continue the advancement of our goals and objectives.”

Representatives from Marshall should be at the Capitol from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. to host exhibits, greet visitors, interact with legislators and emphasize that every Marshall degree earned is an investment in the future of West Virginia.

If your college or department would like to participate, please complete the online registration form to secure your exhibit space. For questions and additional event information please email the Office of Alumni Relations at alumni@marshall.edu or call 304.696.3134.

A passenger bus will be available for Marshall faculty and staff who will be participating. The bus will leave the West Lot at Joan C. Edwards Stadium at 7:30 a.m. and will return immediately following the event. Reservations for the bus are on a first-come, first-served basis and can be made by contacting the Office of Alumni Relations at alumni@marshall.edu or 304-696-3134.

Marshall faculty member receives 2016 Most Distinguished Athletic Trainer Award from Mid-Atlantic Athletic Trainers’ Association

Dr. Joseph Beckett of the College of Health Professions has been chosen as the recipient of the Most Distinguished Athletic Trainer Award from the Mid-Atlantic Athletic Trainers’ Association (MAATA).

Beckett, program director of the college’s Department of Athletic Training, is the only athletic trainer in West Virginia to receive a MAATA award in 2016.

The MAATA Most Distinguished Athletic Trainer Award is a prestigious honor that recognizes qualified MAATA members for their exceptional and unique contributions to the athletic training profession, according to Marty Bradley, associate athletic director for sports medicine at Old Dominion University in Virginia.

Bradley, a longtime friend and colleague, said he nominated Beckett for this award because of Beckett’s tremendous work ethic, commitment and loyalty to the field of athletic training.

“Joe should have been nominated for this award years ago if you look at what he has done to advance and give back to our profession,” Bradley said. “I
wanted him to be recognized within the district, but also within his own institution because he is so deserving of this honor and the recognition it brings.”

Beckett received the National Athletic Trainers’ Association’s Service Award in 2008 and he was named the West Virginia Athletic Training Educator of the Year in 2013, but this is the first award he has received from MAATA in his 35 years as a member.

“It’s a very humbling feeling to be recognized by my peers and it validates my work as an athletic trainer,” Beckett said. “My only hope is that my current and prospective students realize how hard work can pay off and they will be inspired to make a sustainable contribution to the field.”

The MAATA District includes universities in Virginia, Washington, D.C., Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina and West Virginia.

New IT Guides Available for Students, Faculty & Staff

The Division of Information Technology has created online IT guides for students as well as faculty and staff. The new guides are currently available through the “current students” and “faculty/staff” tabs from the homepage of the website.

“The Division of Information Technology wanted to provide general IT overview guides of our essential services for both students and employees,” said Dr. Jan I. Fox, senior vice president for information technology and chief information officer. “The Online IT Guides hyperlink to more detailed information. You may always contact our IT Service Desk directly (6-3200 or servicedesk@marshall.edu) for assistance with any technical issue.”

The Student Guide for Information Technology includes the most commonly used technology resources available to Marshall students and helps them take advantage of those resources. The guide focuses on the single sign-on portal, available software, MU WiFi, Library Services, TECI Rooms, computer labs and more.

The Faculty and Staff Guide for Information Technology will be a great resource for both new and seasoned employees of Marshall, Fox said. The guide touches on the single sign-on portal, unified communications, hardware and software recommendations, MU WiFi, off-campus connections and more.
The new guides are currently available through the “current students” and “faculty/staff” tabs from the homepage of the website or through the links below.

- Faculty/Staff guide: [http://www.marshall.edu/it/faculty-staff-guide/](http://www.marshall.edu/it/faculty-staff-guide/)

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**Nine projects selected for Marshall University and West Virginia University health grants program**

Marshall University and West Virginia University have awarded $426,234 in grants to nine projects that promote health-related partnerships between the two schools. This collaborative program is coordinated through the West Virginia Clinical and Translational Science Institute (WVCTSI).

As announced in August 2015, both universities have each pledged $250,000 annually for a three-year combined effort of $1.5 million to support innovative clinical projects and/or translational research that will ultimately help faculty members at both schools better serve West Virginians and attract future external funding.

“We hope that West Virginians and others in the Appalachian region will ultimately benefit from the projects that we will fund with this first round,” said Joseph Shapiro, M.D., dean of the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine. “It is very exciting to see the enthusiasm for collaboration between our faculties that this initiative has created.”

“I’m very proud of the faculty researchers at WVU and Marshall who have stepped up to the challenge and found partners at the other school to achieve what they want to do for our state,” said Clay Marsh, M.D., WVU’s vice president and executive dean for health sciences. “Dean Shapiro and I each realized that we can do more for the people of West Virginia by working together than we ever could apart. The quality of these initial research and healthcare projects is proof that we were right.”

The following clinical projects received funding:

- **“Assessing the Effectiveness of Vitamin K2 and/or Vitamin D3 Supplementation on Neuromuscular Function, Muscular Strength, and Bone Density in Older Patients with Hip Fractures”** – Jean McCrory, Ph.D., School of Medicine, West Virginia University and Frank Shuler, M.D., Ph.D., Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine, Marshall University ($49,996)
- **“Better Outcomes for Children through Safe Transitions”** – Kamakshya Patra, M.D., School of Medicine, West Virginia University and Audra Pritt, M.D., Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine, Marshall University ($36,120)
- **“Effects of Two Simple 12-week Mind-body Programs on Indices of Inflammation, Cellular Aging, and Genomic Profiles in Older Adults with Early Memory Loss”** – Kim Innes, Ph.D., School of Public Health, West Virginia University and Donald Primerano, Ph.D., Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine, Marshall University ($50,000)
The following translational research projects received funding:

- **“Childhood Antecedents of Atherosclerotic Cardiovascular Disease; Implementing Findings from WV School Screenings”** – Jeff Harris, M.D., Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine, Marshall University and Lee Pyles, M.D., M.S., School of Medicine, West Virginia University ($50,000)

- **“Long-term effects of e-cigarette vapor exposure on the respiratory system structure and function”** – Piyali Dasgupta, Ph.D., Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine, Marshall University and Mark Olfert, Ph.D., School of Medicine, West Virginia University ($50,000)

- **“Personalizing chemotherapy for treatment of AML for patients in West Virginia”** – James Denvir, Ph.D., Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine, Marshall University and Lori Hazlehurst, Ph.D., School of Pharmacy, West Virginia University ($48,304)

- **“Polypharmacy and its health consequences among West Virginia Medicaid beneficiaries”** – Brittany Riley, Pharm.D., M.S., School of Pharmacy, Marshall University and Xi Tan, Ph.D., Pharm.D., School of Pharmacy, West Virginia University ($41,814)

- **“Using a whole exome sequencing approach to enhance the treatment of pregnant women with opioid use disorder and their neonates”** – Richard Egleton, Ph.D., Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine, Marshall University and Laura Lander, M.S.W., L.I.C.S.W., School of Medicine, West Virginia University ($50,000)

- **“Adaptive metabolic rewiring in precision therapy lung cancer drug resistance”** – Elaine Hardman, Ph.D., Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine, Marshall University and Patrick Ma, M.D., M.S.C., West Virginia University Cancer Institute ($50,000)

Recipients were notified in late December and projects will begin as early as next month.

**Annual Soul Food Feast to take place Feb. 7**

The Center for African American Students has announced plans for its traditional Soul Food Feast this year. The event will take place at 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 7, in the John Marshall Dining Room at the Memorial Student Center.

This annual celebration is a time of fellowship with friends, family, and others from throughout the community, said Maurice Cooley, associate vice president of intercultural affairs.

“It is a joyful time to celebrate in the spirit of love, while enjoying the company of and conversation with family, friends, faculty, students and others from throughout our community, enhanced by some of the most appetizing and traditional African American dishes,” Cooley said.

The soulful buffet will include traditional African American dishes, to include chitterlings, crispy fried chicken, barbequed ribs, macaroni and cheese, collard greens, candied yams, potato salad, beverages
and an assortment of tasty desserts. Cost is $7 for students and $15 for other adults. Tickets are available at the door or in advance to avoid long waiting lines.

For additional information, contact the Center for African American Students at ext. 6-4637.

**M.B.A. program qualifies as one of the ‘most affordable’**

Online business education and career guide TopManagementDegrees.com has ranked the Lewis College of Business M.B.A. program 27th nationally in their Affordable M.B.A. Programs ranking.

Since not every M.B.A. program is developed in the same way or held to the same high caliber, the ranking looked at the more than 500 schools in the U.S. that hold an accreditation from the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) International, whose accreditation is the gold standard of business school accreditors. This accreditation is achieved by fewer than five percent of business schools worldwide. AACSB International is the premier accrediting agency for bachelor, master’s and doctoral degree programs in business administration.

Data were gathered from AACSB International, National Center for Education Statistics, and each program website. The M.B.A. programs were ranked solely on the M.B.A. in-state tuition and fees recorded on the AACSB website in order to give the best picture of the most affordable on-campus program in the country.

Here is a link to the article: [http://www.topmanagementdegrees.com/rankings/most-affordable-mba-programs-2016/](http://www.topmanagementdegrees.com/rankings/most-affordable-mba-programs-2016/).

**Kim selected as January resident of the month**

Jeffery Kim, M.D., an orthopaedic resident at the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine, has been selected as the January Resident of the Month, Paulette S. Wehner, M.D., vice dean and designated institution official for graduate medical education, has announced.

Kim is currently finishing his fifth and final year as a resident and serves as the administrative chief.

“To be nominated by nearly all the faculty of your program is truly an honor in itself,” Wehner said.
“However, by having the words ‘exceptional’ and ‘outstanding’ used in nearly every nomination, Dr. Kim’s nomination is brought to the forefront.”

Frank Shuler, M.D., Ph.D., professor and vice chairman of research in the department of orthopaedics, summed up the nominations of other faculty members by writing, “...simply stated, in a specialty populated by bright and talented people, Jeff stands out as exceptional. He is respected both inside and outside of the hospital. He leads by example and the residency core, patients and staff are benefitted by his presence.”

Kim obtained his medical degree from Rush University in 2011 and holds a master’s in chemistry from the University of Colorado, where he also earned a bachelor’s degree in chemical engineering. While completing his studies, he was involved in orthopaedic surgery research and volunteered to provide health care to the residents of the largest homeless shelter in Chicago.

After completing his residency training in June, Kim is scheduled to enter a spine fellowship at Northwestern University in Chicago.

As part of his recognition of the January Resident of the Month, Kim will receive items including a certificate of recognition and a designated parking spot.

Jeffery Kim, M.D., (left) is pictured with Jonathon Salava, M.D., assistant professor in the department of orthopaedics, after receiving the January 2016 Resident of the Month award.

**University Computing Facilities (UCF) provides technology learning spaces throughout Marshall University’s Huntington campus.**

UCF facilities provide an assortment of learning spaces that range from general, individual-use computer stations to computer lab classrooms.

The largest learning space is Drinko Library, which includes the 24-hour Study Center, three floors of individual use computing stations, multiple Study, Team and Collaboration rooms and two Training Rooms with laptop computers.

UCF maintains four computer lab classrooms, two in Corbly Hall and one in Harris Hall and Smith Hall. In the Memorial Student Center, UCF maintains the Marco’s Computer Lab and the E-Post office. Support for these facilities are provided by the UCF staff at the Study Center Desk in Drinko Library and can be contacted by calling 304-696-3249. Learn more about all of these facilities at www.marshall.edu/it/ucf.

The next regular issue of We Are...Marshall will be distributed Feb. 3, 2016. Please send any materials for consideration to Pat Dickson by 5 p.m. Monday, Feb. 1.