Incoming Marshall University President Jerome A. “Jerry” Gilbert is in Huntington this week to begin getting settled in. He will assume his duties as the university’s 37th president this Saturday, Jan. 16. His schedule currently includes three public events for next week, as follows:

**Monday, Jan. 18: Martin Luther King Jr. Observance Day**

5:30 p.m. – Celebration, Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center, Marshall University

Annual celebration sponsored by the NAACP and the university’s Office of Intercultural Affairs. President Gilbert will be making brief remarks at the celebration.

**Tuesday, Jan. 19: Higher Education Day at the Legislature**

8:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

West Virginia State Capitol, Charleston

Annual event sponsored by the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission. President Gilbert will be visiting legislators and participating in the day’s activities with the state’s other public university and college presidents. The presidents will receive a citation from the House of Delegates, a resolution from the Senate and a proclamation from Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin.
Wednesday, Jan. 20: Media Availability

10-10:30 a.m.

Office of the President, Old Main 216, Huntington campus

Gilbert will be available to speak with members of the media regarding his first days as president, his vision and goals for Marshall, etc.

Follow President Gilbert on Twitter at @MarshalluPres beginning Saturday, Jan. 16. For more information about his appointment as president, visit www.marshall.edu/ucomm/2015/10/20/mississippi-state-provost-named-marshall-university-president.

Marshall community to remember Dr. King Monday

Marshall University will help celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at 5:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 18, in the Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center. The event will include a host of activities honoring the late civil rights leader.

The traditional march, which was scheduled to begin at 4:30 p.m., has been canceled due to a forecast of extreme weather conditions.

Dr. Jerome Gilbert, Marshall’s incoming president, will be among the speakers at the 5:30 p.m. event. Other features will include the Marshall University Chamber Choir, a video, a vocal performance, liturgical dance and a presentation by the American Dream Movement.

A reception with refreshments and a time for socializing will follow.
Rapid Response Team for Shared Services reports progress, future direction

As the Rapid Response Team for Shared Services continues its work, the team’s leadership is providing an update on what has happened so far and what can be expected in the weeks ahead.

Mary Ellen Heuton, senior vice president for finance and Chief Financial Officer, has spoken to several groups about the vision for the shared services effort, and the Shared Services Implementation team continues frequent meetings. In addition, two travel positions have been posted; interviews will begin soon.

Meetings also have occurred with deans and vice presidents to discuss shared services, the budget work ahead, and the staff that will initially be working with Mark Robinson and the Budget Office on developing the FY17 budget, looking for additional savings for FY16 and learning about new tools to help us monitor the university’s financial activity.

A variety of focus group meetings will take place in order to explore specific processes, with the goal of understanding how different areas handle a particular process; who is involved in the process; what the outcomes of the process are, particularly how directly or indirectly the process may affect faculty, students and staff; and challenges encountered with the process. The groups will also “brainstorm” on possible changes to improve the process in question.

The initial meetings will include the following processes: Candidate Travel, Student/Team Travel, Purchasing Card and Honorariums. Invitations will be coming out soon. Participant lists are being generated based on those who appear to be the most involved in the particular process. If you feel you have a unique perspective on the process in one of the areas listed, please contact Miriah Young (spence10@marshall.edu) to see if you can be included in the focus group or follow-up discussions. Also, if you have suggestions for areas to look at for future focus groups, please let her know as well.

“As we move through this we expect to get a better picture of how we can best use our most important asset, our human resources,” Heuton said. “We can use this in combination with process improvement to minimize effort on the necessary administrative tasks in order to focus more resources on those tasks more directly affecting our mission, particularly those that involve students.”

Representatives from Human Resources and Finance will also continue meetings to look at staffing as vacancies occur and as part of the overall process to understand the staffing situation university wide.
“A key to the success of this initiative is going to be communication, so we encourage participation in any meetings you are invited to, providing feedback to those who are participating in other sessions, and reading the newsletter,” Heuton said.

Reminder: Dietetics program to be featured at Business After Hours tomorrow

The College of Health Professions and the Department of Dietetics, in partnership with Cabell Huntington Hospital, will present the Huntington Regional Chamber of Commerce’s Business After Hours from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 14, at Huntington’s Kitchen, 911 Third Ave. The event will celebrate the upcoming move of Dietetics to the 3rd Avenue location this month.

Business After Hours is designed as a premier networking event for members of the business community. The cost is $15 per member if registered in advance and $20 for non-members and walk-ins. Since Marshall is a member of the chamber, faculty and staff can attend at the lower rate. To register, call 304-525 5131.

Since 2013, Cabell Huntington Hospital has operated Huntington’s Kitchen as a community outreach initiative with the goals of positively affecting the health of the community through the prevention and reduction of diet-related disease through healthy food and cooking education.

Beginning this month, Marshall is partnering with the hospital to expand the kitchen and strengthen the commitment to the Tri-State community’s nutritional health and wellness by moving the Department of Dietetics to Huntington’s Kitchen location. The department was previously located in Prichard Hall, which did not have enough space or appropriate equipment to meet the department’s needs, Interim President Gary G. White said when he made the announcement of the move in December.

With more than 120 students, faculty and staff, the Department of Dietetics’ new partnership will “advance the missions of both Huntington’s Kitchen and Marshall University’s dietetics program, as both seek to enhance, promote and improve healthy eating, education and quality of life for residents of Huntington and surrounding areas,” White said.
Anthropological Society issues final call for conference in Huntington

A final call is being issued for proposals for the Southern Anthropological Society’s 51st Annual Meeting and Conference, which will take place April 7-9, in Huntington, according to Dr. Brian A. Hoey, associate professor of anthropology and the conference and program chair.

Proposal submissions are due Monday, Feb. 1.

“With concern over budgets potentially limiting our travel, this is a tremendous opportunity to present your work with little expense,” Hoey said. With the orienting theme being publicly engaged, locally committed applications of social and allied sciences, Hoey says he is particularly seeking proposals for organized sessions, forums and special events, as well as individually volunteered papers and posters that bring together a variety of interdisciplinary as well as nonacademic interpretations. In addition to what is considered “traditional” academic conference fare such as papers and posters, Hoey said he would like to consider proposals for a broad range of offerings that engage participants with the conference theme.

“Think of short films, poetry readings, art exhibits, interpretive dance, and so on,” he added.

The conference will be hosted by the Department of Sociology and Anthropology in the Big Sandy Conference Center in downtown Huntington. Information and instructions regarding registration and proposal submission are available at the conference portal: http://mds.marshall.edu/sas_conference/.

For more information, contact Hoey at hoey@marshall.edu. Find the SAS on Twitter: @southernanthro and use the hashtag #SAS2016WV for all conference-related tweets.
The first Kids’ Night Out of the year will be from 5 to 9 p.m. Friday, Jan. 15, at the Marshall Recreation Center.

Children will climb on the Rec Center’s rock wall, swim in the indoor pool, play ball on the courts and have a pizza party.

Potty-trained children ages 4-12 will be able to interact with other kids during a fun, safe night at the Center. All they need to bring is a swimsuit, towel, change of clothes, and closed-toed shoes.

The cost for members is $20 ($15 for each additional sibling), and the cost for non-members is $25 ($20 for each additional sibling).

Parents can register their children at the Welcome Desk or on the Recreation Center website.

Kids’ Night Out also will occur on the following dates: Feb. 12, March 11 and April 22. For more information, call Chad Steen, Assistant Director of Adventure Recreation and Youth Programs, at ext.6-4653 or contact him via e-mail at steenc@marshall.edu.
Experienced thoracic surgeon joins Marshall Health

Mark H. Cooper, M.D., Ph.D., a board-certified, fellowship-trained thoracic surgeon, has joined the faculty of the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine as an assistant professor. He will also be a part of Marshall Surgery, a department of Marshall Health, and Cabell Huntington Hospital.

Cooper specializes in surgery of the heart, lungs, esophagus and other chest organs, as well as robotic services. He comes to Huntington with 27 years of experience in general and cardiothoracic surgery, having practiced in England and most recently in eastern Tennessee.

Cooper earned his medical degree from the University of Leeds in England. He completed a residency in general surgery at Texas A&M University in Temple, Texas, and a residency in cardiothoracic surgery at the University of Wisconsin in Madison, Wisconsin. He also completed a fellowship in transplantation at the University of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania with Dr. Thomas Starzl. Cooper is board certified by the American Board of Surgery and the American Board of Thoracic Surgery.

Marshall’s Chamber of Commerce membership allows employees to get involved

As Marshall is a member of the Huntington Regional Chamber of Commerce, employees are encouraged to get involved in the Chamber by attending events and participating in chamber committees. Because the university is a member, employees can join committees and attend chamber events at the member rate.

The Huntington Regional Chamber of Commerce is a nonprofit association of business and professional people working together to make the Cabell and Wayne County area a better place to live and do business. There is a wide range of member services and benefits, including business referrals, business education workshops and seminars, exclusive promotional opportunities, and events that encourage members to do business with other Chamber members.

Some of the available committees include Women 2 Women, Generation Huntington, Ambassadors, Hunt PAC and Downtown LIVE. To learn more about these committees and how to get involved, visit www.huntingtonchamber.org/committees.
Rec Center extends Fitness Challenge to faculty, staff

The Marshall Recreation Center will be hosting a free Fitness Challenge for all faculty and staff from Monday, Jan. 18, through Friday, March 18. The Fitness Challenge is a team competition with up to five members per team. There are nine chances to win weekly individual prizes and a grand prize for the top team. Prizes include one month free membership, one free personal training session, and other prizes.

For more information on the Fitness Challenge, contact Anna Blanchard at blanchard5@marshall.edu.

Faculty/Staff Achievement: Bill Gardner

Bill Gardner, assistant professor in the digital forensics and information assurance program in the Department of Integrated Science and Technology, is the author of a new book edition that was published in December, Google Hacking For Penetration Testers.

The publisher’s site noted, “Google is the most popular search engine ever created, but Google’s search capabilities are so powerful, they sometimes discover content that no one ever intended to be publicly available on the Web, including social security numbers, credit card numbers, trade secrets, and federally classified documents. Google Hacking for Penetration Testers, Third Edition, shows you how security professionals and system administrator can manipulate Google to find this sensitive information and ‘self-police’ their own organizations.”

Gardner is the co-founder and an organizer of the 304Geeks and SecureWV conference, based in Charleston, and is the past-president and member of the board of directors of the Appalachian Institute of Digital Evidence (AIDE), which is based in Huntington.

He is also the co-author of Building an Information Security Awareness Program: Defending Against Social Engineering and Technical Threats (Syngress 2014) which focuses on defending against social engineering attacks.
RCBI, partners kick off ‘Apprenticeship Works’

The Robert C. Byrd Institute for Advanced Flexible Manufacturing, the U.S. Department of Labor and their partners celebrated the kickoff of Apprenticeship Works, the National Advanced Manufacturing Apprenticeship Program at RCBI, yesterday in downtown Huntington.

 Manufacturers, community members and others were invited to the event, which took place at RCBI Huntington on Fourth Ave.

 The Department of Labor awarded $4.9 million to RCBI to expand its model apprenticeship program. The kickoff event presented details about Apprenticeship Works, a five-year initiative that will make apprenticeships more affordable to employers and more accessible to employees and individuals considering careers in manufacturing.

Volunteer Fair set for Jan. 27

The Office of Community Engagement will be hosting a Volunteer Fair to be held in the lobby of the Memorial Student Center, Wednesday, Jan. 27, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

“This is an excellent opportunity for students to meet with various community service agencies, and hopefully find an opportunity to volunteer and ‘give back’ to the Huntington community,” said Elizabeth Appell Sheets, coordinator of Community Engagement.

For more information, contact her by e-mail at communityengagement@marshall.edu, or by phone at ext. 6-2285.

The next regular issue of We Are... Marshall will be distributed Jan. 20, 2016. Please send any materials for consideration to Pat Dickson by 5 p.m. Friday, Jan. 15.