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We Are...Marshall, August 12, 2015

Office of Marshall University Communications

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Opening of Weisberg complex to take place tomorrow; university community encouraged to attend

The opening of its $56 million Arthur Weisberg Family Applied Engineering Complex will be celebrated with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 3 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 13, on the Morrow Library lawn, across Third Ave. from the complex. Members of the university community are welcome and encouraged to attend.

A portion of Third Ave. between 20th St. and Hal Greer Blvd. will be closed from 2:30 to 4 p.m. for the ceremony. All west-bound traffic will be rerouted during that time.

Among the guest speakers will be:

- Dr. Gayle Ormiston, provost and senior vice president for academic affairs;
- Pamela L. Weisberg, Esq.;
- Interim President Gary G. White;
- U.S. Sen. Joe Manchin III;
- U.S. Rep. Evan Jenkins;
- W.Va. Sen. Robert Plymale; and,
- Marshall engineering student Taylor Lipscomb

A reception and tours of the building will follow the ceremony.

The university community is reminded that parking on campus will be difficult that day due to the number of guests expected. No parking will be permitted at the meters on Third Avenue between 17th Street and Hal Greer Boulevard, and the university parking lot at the corner of Third Avenue and Hal Greer Boulevard will be reserved for ceremony guests.
WOW activities begin next Wednesday, Aug. 19

This year’s Week of Welcome (WOW) for incoming freshmen officially runs Wednesday, Aug. 19, through Sunday, Aug. 21, although there are many WOW-related events continuing Aug. 22 and 23. The complete schedule of WOW activities, which leads up to the opening day of the fall semester, can be found at www.marshall.edu/wow.

“Week of Welcome and UNI 100 provide incoming freshmen with an opportunity to arrive on campus early and meet new friends and classmates,” said Sherri Stepp, director of University College at Marshall. “They will find a team of staff volunteers and peer mentors who are ready to provide support in their transition to college life. Students will meet for large interactive group programs as well as small classroom sessions to learn about the expectations for academic success, the availability of campus resources, the responsibilities for community building, and development of success strategies. Additional evening events and social activities are available to meet a variety of student interests.”

Participants in Week of Welcome and the UNI 100 Freshman First Class will understand what it means to be an accountable member of the Marshall University community; identify and understand important academic resources, procedures, and policies to create a successful Marshall experience; explore essential technology that will aid in student success; and, develop positive and influential relationships with university officials and peers.

Marshall’s Week of Welcome is an opportunity for freshmen to find out what it means to be a student at Marshall University and get acquainted with campus before upperclassmen return, and, a time to learn how to take advantage of the academic and support services provided, meet new friends and have fun.

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New Marshall website design launched

Marshall rolled out a newly revamped website last week. The site, which is compatible with all browsers and mobile devices, offers an enhanced user experience and is part of Marshall’s ongoing efforts to improve the information available to its current and prospective students.

Ginny Painter, senior vice president for communications and marketing, said the
university’s main goal was to design a user-friendly site with streamlined navigation and increased functionality, with a special focus on serving students and making information about attending Marshall easy to find.

“We are so pleased to have this fresh, new design for the website,” she said. “It is targeted to students and prospective students, and has an increased emphasis on mobile applications and a clean look that we think people will find attractive and easy to use.”

Some key features of the new website include:

- Improved navigation and structure;
- Modern, eye-pleasing colors and larger photographs;
- Highlighted degree and locations sections;
- Student and faculty spotlights; and
- Social media integration with direct connections to Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube, as well as Marshall’s Storify site.

Painter said the redesign was done in house, with communications and marketing, recruitment and IT staff members working together for several months to get the new look online.

“We really stepped back and thought carefully about what students are looking for when they come to our site. We designed the site from their perspective, which is one of our favorite things about the new look,” she said.

She added that the changes launched last week include the homepage and most of the top-level pages and that many of the department-level pages will be transitioned to match the new look over the coming weeks.

Visitors are encouraged to explore the new website at www.marshall.edu.

Payroll reminder: Sept. 15 is first payday for 9-month faculty for new academic year

As a reminder from information previously shared in the spring, the first paycheck for 9-month faculty whose contract period begins in mid-August will be Sept. 15, 2015. This is due to all employees being paid in arrears now.

If a 9-month faculty member chose to spread his/her pay over 12 months, then he/she will receive the final pay from the previous year’s contract on Aug. 31.
If he/she chose to be paid over the contract period, then he/she will not receive a paycheck on Aug. 31 as in previous years. The paycheck received on May 29 was the final pay for the previous year’s contract.

Marshall officer receives national award from Rape Aggressive Defense Systems

Scott Ballou’s passion for the work he does has just won him a prestigious national award. And ironically, for the mild-mannered Ballou, it’s known as the Aggressor Award.

That’s fine with him, because the award came from Rape Aggressive Defense Systems (RAD) a national program that educates women about how to be safe by learning about risks and how to deal with them. It’s a program he’s been teaching at Marshall since 2000, an elective course he would like to see expanded to include more women.

Nationally, RAD only gives two aggressor awards annually at their annual conference and while Ballou may have been shocked to be a recipient, no one who’s been involved with Marshall RAD is, because the award matches him perfectly. It’s given to the most tenacious and aggressive promoter of the RAD program—to a person who, in addition, displays perseverance and fortitude.

Taught by certified instructors, the RAD system is described as teaching realistic self-defense techniques. The comprehensive course for women begins with awareness, prevention, risk reduction and avoidance instruction, then progresses on to the basics of hands-on defense training. It is not a martial arts program. The goal is to provide women with information that allows them to make educated decisions about defense.

And Ballou, who’s a Marshall police officer, has long been on a mission to spread the word about RAD and how it can change lives. He stresses that the course teaches women how to be safe in all situations—when they’re out, or alone, at home, in a vehicle—anywhere, actually. Women learn how to focus on risk reduction, recognition and avoidance. “Self-defense for women isn’t about hitting, kicking, striking—it’s about education,” he says. “As police officers we’re educating women about what to look for.”

And most importantly, he says, “I know we’re making a difference in changing lives for the better. Some women who come into the program are young and not sure how to take care of themselves in case of an attack. College students can make wrong choices. We’re trying to change that. We’re educating women and giving them tools that they need to defend
themselves. Education is important but we also focus on physical techniques that we show them if they are faced with violence.”

RAD was created in 1989 and Marshall brought it to the Huntington campus in 1998. Marshall has always been ahead of the curve because early on, the training was offered for credit, while many institutions today still aren’t granting credit. The conference is making a big push to change that according to Ballou. At MU it’s an elective taken as part of a physical education requirement and it has grown in popularity over the years.

Now as the West Virginia Director of RAD Systems, he’s the “go-to guy” for information.

Taught by Ballou and fellow officer Kyle McCallister, and assisted by students who have been through both the basic and advanced RAD courses, the 8-week program begins with two weeks of classroom instruction, where they cover the basics and get safety instructions. They then move to the Rec Center where the class picks up steam, he says. Speakers from the Contact Rape Crisis Center talk to them and they watch a powerful video. Then physical instruction begins and, as a final exercise, students are put through a real-life simulation where they come into a room, are confronted by three or four aggressors and must make their way across the room to escape.

“It’s really empowering,” Ballou says. “They are so much better after class, how they feel about themselves and how they carry themselves through everyday life. They are thrilled by the information they get. I wish all incoming freshman women could take the class, but logistics make that impractical.”

And there’s a telling exercise performed on the first day of class. Students are asked to write down the five most important people in their lives. Ninety-eight percent don’t include their own name. “I want them to know this program is for them,” he emphasizes.

Right now, class size is limited to 25, with 100 students per semester taking part, and Ballou wishes it could be more. He has high praise for all those who work in the program. “We’re surrounded with good people, all those who support and take part in this program from the other police officers to the student assistants. That’s why RAD has been so successful here. We all have a passion for it, we believe in it and the students can see that. You are only as good as the people you surround yourself with.”

RAD is not just found on college campuses and it’s not just for women, it’s a comprehensive program, Ballou points out. There is RAD for men, seniors, children, and teens. And it’s found in towns such as Winfield and Hurricane, which have their own programs.

Over the years, Ballou has certainly put the criminal justice degree he earned from Marshall in 1997 to good use. He came to MU in 1993 as member of the baseball team, where he met and eventually married his wife, Stephanie, who was a cheerleader. Today she’s the assistant coordinator in the Office of Disabilities Services at Marshall. They have a son Brady, 5, and daughter Lucy, 3. “Lucy will be in my class in two years,” he jokes.
“I love police work. I love helping people in that role, but doing this (RAD) and knowing that I’m making a difference in changing lives, well that’s a pretty awesome feeling.”

Photo: Scott Ballou (left), poses with his Aggressor Award and co-instructor Kyle McCallister.

Reminder: Deadline for Marshall Artists Series season packages is today

A reminder: the deadline to purchase or renew season packages for the Marshall Artists Series is today, Wednesday, Aug. 12. All orders will be processed in order of date and time received. Tickets to individual events go on sale, Monday, Aug. 31.

The Marshall Artists Series is again offering a two-payment plan which can be ordered at ext. 6-3313.

Season packages may be ordered by calling ext.6-3326, faxing (304) 696-6658 or e-mailing artistsseries@marshall.edu. The Artists Series box office is located in the Jomie Jazz Center on the Huntington campus, with hours Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Presidential open house to take place Aug. 19

Interim President Gary White and members of the university’s senior management team will host their next informal monthly open house for members of the Marshall community on Wednesday, Aug. 19, from 3 to 4 p.m.

Although the open houses normally take place each month in the reception area of the Office of University Communications, this month’s event will take place in the lobby of the Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center. Refreshments will be served.

Faculty, staff and students are welcome and encouraged to attend to meet and talk with administrators about a range of topics of their choice.
New Title IX training to be offered; deadline is Oct. 1

The offices of the General Counsel and Equity Programs are rolling out a new online Title IX training course.

The course, which is mandatory for all faculty and staff, is intended to help ensure an environment free from unlawful sexual discrimination in all aspects of the university experience. The course must be completed by Oct. 1.

Each employee will receive an e-mail with a unique link to access the course. For your convenience, once you log on, you may take sections of the training as your schedule permits. It is not necessary to complete the training in one session.

If you have any questions or do not receive an e-mail with the course link by the end of the first week in September, please contact the Office of Equity Programs at (304) 696-2597 or e-mail Debra Hart. The university’s Sexual Harassment Policy is available online here.

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College of Health Professions dean honored as WSAZ’s Hometown Hero

Dr. Michael Prewitt, dean of the College of Health Professions, has been named WSAZ’s most recent Hometown Hero.

Every week, WSAZ recognizes people who have made a significant difference in other people’s lives and their communities. Winners are chosen based on their voluntary positive impact on a person or community, according to WSAZ. Prewitt said he was only trying to help the owners of a local business after a severe storm blew out their storefront windows in late June.

“I was driving by Avant-Garde on 4th Avenue after going grocery shopping and noticed they had no windows,” Prewitt said. “The owners seemed in shock because the damage was significant, but I offered to go home and get some things to start helping them clean up. I came back with gloves, trash bags and a few brooms and we got to work.”
Avant-Garde, a furniture and home décor consignment store, is located in the former location of Magic Makers and was scheduled to open the following Monday. For many days after the incident, the owners of Avant-Garde didn’t know who the kind stranger was who stopped to help out, according to WSAZ’s article.

“I didn’t stop to help thinking it would be recognized by WSAZ,” Prewitt said. “I’m a big collector of antiques and when I saw the broken glass covering these pieces of beautiful furniture, it was instinct to stop and offer any help I could. I would hope someone would do the same for me if I were in that situation.”

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Marshall contracts with PNC Bank

PNC Bank, N.A., a member of The PNC Financial Services Group, Inc., (NYSE: PNC) has announced that it will provide banking services to Marshall students. Under this new agreement, PNC will provide student and workplace banking, as well as financial literacy programs for the school’s more than 13,000 students, faculty and staff.

“We believe the tools and services PNC provides will allow our students to stay on the right path for financial success,” said Barry A. Beckett, Director of Student Financial Systems and Bursar. “Their technology and commitment to financial education will be a great benefit to all of Marshall.”

Additional highlights of the agreement include:

- Four ATMs will be located at two Marshall locations, three on the main campus in Huntington and one at the Mid-Ohio Valley Center in Point Pleasant. One of the ATMs, located in the Memorial Student Center, will be DepositEasySM, which allows students, faculty and staff to withdraw cash, including $1 bills, cash checks and deposit checks or cash, directly into their accounts.

- Virtual Wallet® Student accounts for Marshall students. The account is equipped with technology to help students monitor spending, view account balances and to help safeguard customers from financial mistakes and unnecessary fees.

- A co-branded website, hosted by PNC, where students can complete account applications, manage their finances and find financial and educational information.

- A co-branded check card with the Marshall University logo.

- On-site workshops on personal financial management and financial literacy. Topics include basic banking, credit management, savings and investing, identity protection and home buying.
PNC Bank will provide processing of Marshall’s new e-Refund system, which will allow a convenient way for students to receive their refunds—either by direct deposit to any bank account or by a paper check. PNC has relationships with more than 400 schools across 19 states and the District of Columbia. Since Marshall entered into this relationship with PNC Bank, Higher One will no longer provide refund services for Marshall students. For the students’ convenience, Higher One will maintain one ATM on the main campus at the Memorial Student Center until Dec. 1. All students must log on to the Marshall-PNC e-Refund Payment Portal and select their refund preference.

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School of Medicine marks annual White Coat Ceremony

The Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine officially welcomed 76 new students Friday, Aug. 7, in the school’s annual White Coat Ceremony.

The White Coat Ceremony was first introduced at Marshall in 1996. It is considered a rite of passage for first-year students and is designed to instill the values of professionalism, humanism and compassionate care.

Among this year’s class of students are a 54-year-old who recently received her undergraduate degree, a former missionary worker who survived a serious earthquake in Chile, a veteran who boxed during his collegiate career at West Point and four students who all play the violin.

Some interesting statistics about the Class of 2019 include the following:

- 62 percent of the class are West Virginia residents
- 83 percent were science majors
- Average age is 24 years
- 27 percent are first-generation college graduates

Photo: Dr. Jay R. Lakhani (left), assistant professor of pediatrics and the keynote speaker for this year’s White Coat Ceremony, congratulates Matthew Bruner upon receiving his white coat.

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New Internet access service to assist Marshall community, guests with secure access

The Division of Information Technology has partnered with eduroam, a secure, worldwide roaming Internet access service developed for the international research and education communities, according to Dr. Jan Fox, Senior Vice President for Information Technology/CIO. Marshall faculty, staff and students visiting other participating institutions around the world can use their MU email address and password to gain instant wireless Internet access. Conversely, visitors from eduroam partners and Internet2 member institutions can connect to MU’s wireless network using their home institution credentials. For example, when visiting WVU your MU email address and password provides access to the WVU Wi-Fi network.

Eduroam is based on secure encryption and authentication standards, using the wireless networks of participating institutions. It offers a more secure alternative to public Wi-Fi hot spots. Eduroam visitors to Marshall, for example, will access the Internet through MU’s secure wireless network. The eduroam service allows for colleagues to transparently use their home participating institution’s credentials without losing valuable time in creating MU guest accounts. The “eduroam” wireless network appears as a new option in selecting a Wi-Fi network. MU faculty, staff and students will continue to use the existing “MU Wi-Fi” network name while on campus. For a quick and engaging overview, watch the “What is eduroam?” video or visit the eduroam-U.S. website.

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The next regular issue of We Are...Marshall will be distributed August 19, 2015. Please send any materials for consideration to Pat Dickson by 5 p.m. Monday, August 17.