3-2-2016

We Are...Marshall, March 2, 2016

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In Memoriam: Danny Ray

Danny Ray, faculty member and coach of the Thundering Word speech and debate team, died this morning. President Gilbert has issued a statement regarding Ray’s passing.

Message from President Jerome A. Gilbert regarding passing of faculty member Danny Ray

The entire Marshall community was deeply saddened today to learn one of our valued faculty members has passed away.

I got a chance to meet Danny Ray a few weeks ago at the John Marshall Invitational Speech and Debate Tournament. He welcomed me into the competition and we even took a “selfie” photo together with some of the students. He was a dedicated mentor who rebuilt Marshall’s speech and debate team and helped make it one of the leading teams in the entire country.

We will all remember his spirit and contributions to the Marshall family. He was a true son of Marshall.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his friends and family.

Just this weekend, the team competed in the 2016 West Virginia Intercollegiate Forensics Association (WVIFA) tournament—winning the state title for the sixth consecutive time. The “Thundering Word” brought home first place awards in Combined Sweepstakes and Individual Events Sweepstakes, as well as second place in Debate Sweepstakes.

A Marshall graduate, Ray joined the Marshall faculty in August 2010 and taught classes including Intercollegiate Debate, Fundamentals of Speech Communication and Special Topics in Forensic Competition. He currently served as the president of WVIFA.

Photo: Marshall faculty member Danny Ray, courtesy of The Herald-Dispatch.
Tubist Tony Zilincik to play guest recital tonight

The School of Music and Theatre will welcome tubist Tony Zilincik to the Smith Recital Hall stage for a concert at 7:30 p.m. tonight, March 2.

Zilincik, an associate professor of music at Capital University in Columbus, Ohio, is known for presenting new music in different ways. In 2012, he joined 200 other musicians to perform his own “Tower Thunder” in an 80-foot-tall, 25-foot-diameter concrete tower at the Olive Ranch in Geyserville, California.

In addition to teaching tuba and composition and theory, Zilincik also directs the brass choir and Capital Thunder, Capital’s tuba/euphonium ensemble.

Admission is free and the event is open to the public.

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Staff, faculty asked to nominate students for ‘Who’s Who’

Nominations are now being accepted for the selection of students for Who’s Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges, according to Andrew Hermansdorfer, director of the office of Student Involvement and Leadership.

All nominations are due Monday, March 7.

To be eligible, a student must be a junior, senior, or graduate student, have high academic standing, and must have demonstrated leadership competencies. To nominate student leaders, visit http://www.marshall.edu/student-activities/whos-who-nomination-form/ or e-mail andy.hermansdorfer@marshall.edu with names and e-mail addresses.

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TheBestSchools.org ranks Marshall’s online geography degree among top 5

Marshall’s B.A. in Geography online degree program, offered by the College of Liberal Arts, is ranked among “The 5 Best Online Bachelor in Geography Degree Programs” by TheBestSchools.org.

“TheBestSchools.org selected Marshall University’s program based on several weighted factors described in the article’s preamble, which include its popularity, annual income revenue, and media references,” said Monica Roberts, a representative with the higher education ranking website.

The geography program prepares students to interpret and construct maps; analyze and interpret earth processes and the processes of human geography; and evaluate world regional issues. Students also develop strong communication and critical-thinking skills. The degree completion program also focuses on climate change, natural resource management and environmental sustainability.

“We’re very proud to have national recognition for our excellent online geography program,” said Dr. Robert Bookwalter, dean of the College of Liberal Arts. “The faculty have done great, innovative work in making their courses available to students across the nation through online delivery.

“Now a broader group of students can learn from the exceptional faculty at Marshall,” Bookwalter said.

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Chair of Orthopaedics establishes scholarship for Marshall medical students

Ali Oliashirazi, M.D., founding chair of the Department of Orthopaedics and vice dean for the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine, and his wife, Corrina, have pledged to fund a new endowed scholarship at the school.

“I am absolutely delighted to see this selfless act of generosity and leadership from one of our most prominent physicians,” said Joseph I. Shapiro, M.D., dean of the School of Medicine.

Oliashirazi, or “Dr. Ali,” as he is affectionately known by his patients, is a board-certified orthopaedic surgeon who specializes in total joint replacement. He was valedictorian at George Washington University School of Medicine before completing a residency in orthopaedic surgery at the Mayo Clinic. He lectures extensively nationally and internationally on hip and knee replacement surgery. Oliashirazi is a Fellow of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons and Diplomate of the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery.

“Dr. Ali is a talented, well-respected orthopaedic surgeon and department head,” said Linda S. Holmes, director of development and alumni affairs for the School of Medicine. “He and Corrina are leading by example and we are grateful for their support.”

The scholarship, established through the school’s Adopt a Medical Student program, is known as the Oliashirazi Family Scholarship. It is designated for first-year medical students at Marshall who have overcome hardships in order to attend medical school. The scholarship is renewable for three additional years, pending normal academic progress.

“The road to medical school is difficult for everyone. For a few, though, this journey is completed against all odds. This scholarship is for those who’ve been able to get into medical school despite seemingly insurmountable hurdles,” Oliashirazi said.

Photo: Corrina (left) and Ali Oliashirazi, M.D. (second from left), announce their scholarship with Joseph Shapiro, M.D., dean, (second from right) and Linda Holmes, development director, of the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine.
Men’s basketball to play Thursday, Saturday

Men’s Basketball will be facing LA Tech on Thursday at 7 p.m. and then Southern Miss on Saturday at 7 p.m. for Senior Night at the Cam Henderson Center. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit HerdZone.com.

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Panel discussion on Rural Women in Activism at Marshall March 3

A panel discussion on Rural Women in Activism, featuring panelists from *The End of the Line*, by Sellus Wilder, and *Our Roots Run Deep as Ironweed, Appalachian Women and The Fight for Environmental Justice* by Shannon Elizabeth Bell, will take place at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, March 3, in Drinko Library 402.

This event is part of Rural Women’s Week on the Huntington campus. Panelists will be speaking about the process of becoming activists, their experiences in activism, and their advice to future rural activists. The panel discussion will provide ample time for a question-and-answer session and discussion during the formal proceedings.

The free public event is sponsored by the MU Women’s Center.

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School of Pharmacy students plan fundraiser for Huntington City Mission

Tickets are currently on sale for the Queen of Hearts Masquerade Gala, a philanthropic event organized by the School of Pharmacy student groups to benefit the Huntington City Mission.

The gala is set for 6 p.m. to 11 p.m., Saturday, March 5, in the Don Morris Room of the Memorial Student Center and includes dinner, music and dancing as well as a silent auction, photo booth and games of chance.

This is the second year for the formal event hosted by student organizations Phi Lambda Sigma and Marshall Student Society of Health-Systems Pharmacists.

Ticket prices are $30 per person or $50 per couple and may be purchased by e-mailing Colleen Heffner at heffner13@marshall.edu or Dr. Brittany Riley at warrick2@marshall.edu, or by calling ext.6-7396.

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Film on resistance to Bluegrass Pipeline to be shown March 8

When two major energy companies teamed up to ship hazardous liquids to the Gulf Coast, they didn’t count on the resistance the proposed Bluegrass Pipeline project would encounter in Kentucky.

A diverse coalition of farmers, activists and religious orders won against all odds after joining forces to resist a threat to their land, liberty and lives. The film, “The End of the Line: the true story of the Bluegrass Pipeline,” is an enlightening documentary focusing on individuals and communities that were instrumental in obtaining a pipeline permit denial in Kentucky. It will be screened as a free public event at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 8, in Room BE5 on the lower level of the Memorial Student Center.

This event is part of rural women’s week on the Huntington campus. The screening will be sponsored by the Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition and the MU Women’s Center.

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Putnam County entrepreneur is 2016 Vanguard winner

A Putnam County entrepreneur is the winner of the 2016 Vanguard Agriculture Competition sponsored by the Robert C. Byrd Institute for Advanced Flexible Manufacturing (RCBI).

Mandy Curry created Healthy Kids — an easy-to-use, customizable online meal planner that includes recipes, instructional videos and shopping lists of ingredients.

With the help of her husband, a master gardener, Curry is developing a new component that integrates farming technology into the meal planner, offering guidance on what to grow in particular areas, how to grow and care for the plants, when to harvest and how to incorporate homegrown produce into meal plans.

As winner of the West Virginia Vanguard Agriculture Competition, Curry will receive a business assistance package valued in excess of $10,000, including product design and development, funding opportunities, business incubator space and other services. She received the award during a ceremony Feb. 26 at the West Virginia Small Farm Conference at the Charleston Civic Center.

The West Virginia Vanguard Agriculture Competition honors innovation and ingenuity in agriculture, recognizing an entrepreneur whose idea has potential to solve logistical challenges in the local food supply chain.

The contest is part of RCBI’s Agricultural Innovations initiative, a focused effort to improve opportunities for West Virginia’s farming and agricultural economy. Funded by a grant from the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation, the initiative supports and enhances a local foods system by promoting entrepreneurship and innovation.

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Marshall Day at the Capitol Feb. 26 promotes the university with state leaders

Academic units and other departments gathered at the state capitol in Charleston last Friday for Marshall Day. The event provided a chance to meet legislators and other state leaders and show them the latest opportunities Marshall has to offer.

Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin presented President Gilbert with a special proclamation for the day and also conducted a formal ceremony naming Red Dawson as a Distinguished West Virginian.

Click to view more pictures.
Marshall’s online master’s in education degrees ranked among top 10 by GoGrad.org

GoGrad.org has ranked Marshall University as one of the top 10 higher education institutions in which to earn an online master’s degree in education.

Dr. Teresa Eagle, dean of the College of Education and Professional Development, said the formal recognition was “wonderful.”

“We have long known how exceptional our program is,” Eagle said. “Dr. Lisa Heaton, the program director, has been a driving force behind program development and the maintenance of high quality curriculum and instruction. She and her faculty are committed to the program, providing preschool through 12th grade teachers an opportunity to hone their skills or add new ones without leaving home.”

The College of Education and Professional Development offers online master’s degrees in elementary or secondary education with areas of emphasis in general education, early childhood education, English as a second language, math through algebra I and school library media specialist.

According to GoGrad.org, the ranking was determined using the following scoring metrics: number of online graduate degrees available in related subject area; graduate tuition; availability of academic and career counseling services; availability of job placement services; value of online degree.

Library encourages participation in ‘MU Reads’

Readers who are thinking about tackling a new novel or unraveling an old classic can now be eligible for prizes by reading that book with MUReads, a yearlong reading initiative that encourages West Virginians to read books individually or as part of a team.

A few dedicated Marshall librarians started the initiative a few years ago in conjunction with WVReads 150, a group that celebrated reading for the 150th anniversary of West Virginia. Anyone can join, and there are prizes at various times in the year. Interested participants can sign up at any time during the year and only have to read one book of any kind to be eligible for prizes.
The books can be in any format (printed book, e-book, downloadable text, audio book, etc.) and from any source. Books can be on any topic, fiction or non-fiction.

Marshall University Libraries encourages faculty, staff, and students to read individually or by creating a team. Teams can have any number of members. All participants will be eligible for a chance to win prizes.

At the end of each semester names will be drawn from all participants and prizes will be awarded.

To register, or for more information, visit http://libguides.marshall.edu/mureads.

Marshall women’s basketball coach gives keynote at Women of Color observance

Whether it’s on the court or in the classroom, Caronica Randle has done nothing but succeed since coming to Marshall University. Since 2012, Randle has served as an assistant coach for the women’s basketball team and in May, she will graduate with her master’s degree in adult and technical education from Marshall.

In an effort to recognize women like Randle who are committed to achieving their dreams, organizers of Marshall’s annual Women of Color program asked her to serve as the 2016 keynote speaker yesterday.

Randle, a self-proclaimed small-town girl from Arkansas, said she was elated to be given the opportunity to address the women within the Marshall University community.

“We need to understand our power as women. We have come so far and have done so many amazing things to get to where we are today,” Randle said. “When I deliver my keynote, I want the audience to know that sometimes minor setbacks can become major comebacks. I want them to realize how far positive recognition can go and how it can serve to motivate those around us.

Photo: Caronica Randle gives the keynote address at the Women of Color observance yesterday.
LCOB faculty evaluate RCBI’s economic impact

Marshall’s Center for Community Growth and Development (CCGD), housed within the Lewis College of Business’ Division of Finance and Economics, has completed a project involving technical consulting work for the Robert C Byrd Institute (RCBI).

In January, LCOB faculty members Dr. Michael Newsome and Dr. Becky Tomasik, two of the founders of the CCGD, completed a technical paper for RCBI that assesses and estimates the statewide economic impact of RCBI’s early funding opportunities to help entrepreneurs develop new manufacturing technologies. RCBI’s programs provide seed funding for prototype development, design engineering, quality management and advanced training.

Newsome and Tomasik estimate that, for each dollar of RCBI’s early funding opportunities, West Virginia experiences $435.35 in increased output, $202.13 in increased value added, and $74.35 in increased earnings. One new job is created for every $665.47 of RCBI allocations. The analysis also indicates that the positive impacts from the allocations will likely continue even if the state’s economic condition deteriorates.

CCGD has in recent years completed other reports for the Cabell Huntington Health Department, the Cabell County Planning Commission, Marshall’s Office of the President and the HOPE Community Development Corporation in Charleston.

Faculty Achievement: English faculty members

Three English Department faculty members—Assistant Professor Dr. Kristen Lillvis, Instructor David Robinson, and Assistant Professor Dr. Walter Squire—conducted a round table session titled “Teaching Difficult Topics through Octavia Butler’s Texts” at the inaugural Octavia E. Butler Conference, which took place at Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia, Feb. 26 through 28.

Butler was an African American science fiction writer, renowned for focusing on issues of race, gender and sexuality in her works. She is the only science fiction writer to have been awarded a MacArthur “Genius Grant.” This year marked the tenth anniversary of her passing.
West Virginia Brownfields Assistance Centers to host annual conference Sept. 7-8 in Charleston

“Reclaim, Restore, Revitalize West Virginia” is the theme for the 11th annual West Virginia Brownfields Conference. The event, hosted by the West Virginia Brownfields Assistance Centers, will take place Wednesday, Sept. 7, and Thursday, Sept. 8, at the Marriott Town Center in Charleston.

The conference features exceptional educational programs covering multiple aspects of brownfields redevelopment. New this year, the event will include pre-conference mobile workshops showcasing brownfields projects in the Kanawha Valley.

George Carico, director of the West Virginia Brownfields Assistance Center at Marshall, said “With the economic challenges faced across the state, it’s more important now than ever to maximize each opportunity that could potentially bring new businesses and jobs, increased community vibrancy and increased quality-of-life aspects. Transforming our many brownfield properties into new productive use is a vital component of our state’s future economic development.”

This premier redevelopment event attracts over 200 stakeholders, including regional EPA officials, economic development professionals, real estate developers, lawyers, state and local officials, environmental professionals, entrepreneurs, planners, bankers, investors, and community redevelopment professionals. More details including registration and exhibitor information are expected to come soon.

The next regular issue of We Are...Marshall will be distributed March 9, 2016. Please send items for consideration to Pat Dickson by 5 p.m. Monday, March 7.

To read the content of this newsletter online, please click on the following link: http://www.marshall.edu/wamnewsletter/march-2-2016.