We Are...Marshall, October 21, 2015

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Welcome, Dr. Gilbert! Mississippi State provost named Marshall University president

The Marshall University Board of Governors yesterday named Mississippi State University Provost Jerome A. “Jerry” Gilbert the 37th president of Marshall University. Gilbert will assume the presidency in January.

Earlier this month, the Presidential Search Committee announced Gilbert as one of three finalists for the position following a national search. All three candidates participated in open forums last week with students, faculty, staff and members of the community, and the decision to hire Gilbert was made yesterday by the Board of Governors in executive session. Gilbert’s appointment and contract will require final approval from the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission.

“What an honor it is to be asked to lead Marshall University,” said Gilbert. “I’ve been so impressed by everything I’ve learned and seen. This is such a wonderful opportunity. All the pieces are in place—fantastic facilities and great academic programs. We are in a position to be able to take Marshall University to another level of excellence and really advance as a major university.

“It is difficult to express the overwhelming excitement that Leigh and I have in looking forward to being at Marshall and becoming part of the Huntington community. I also want to express my sincere appreciation to the Board of Governors for the opportunity to serve Marshall.”

Michael G. Sellards, chairman of the Board of Governors, said, “This is an exciting new chapter for Marshall University and the board is thrilled to welcome Jerry and Leigh to our community and our university. We have a world of opportunity ahead of us and our new president has the
vision and experience to lead us there. Today is a great day in the history of Marshall University.”

President Mark E. Keenum of Mississippi State University said, “Marshall University has made an extremely wise choice in selecting Dr. Jerry Gilbert as their next president. Dr. Gilbert has been an extraordinarily effective executive vice president and provost at Mississippi State and I know he will take that same thoughtful, deliberate and courageous leadership style to Marshall.”

A Mississippi native with a background in biomedical engineering, Gilbert has served since 2010 as provost and executive vice president of Mississippi State. Prior to that, he was the university’s associate provost and associate vice president for academic affairs for six years. He has held various administrative and faculty positions at Mississippi State, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and North Carolina State University.

He has a bachelor’s degree in biological engineering from Mississippi State and a doctorate in biomedical engineering from Duke University.

Gilbert and his wife Leigh are the parents of three grown children. They have one granddaughter.

An event to introduce the Gilberts to the Marshall University community is in the planning stages. More information will be released as details are finalized.

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People with Marshall connections invited to presidential event today

Five people with Marshall University connections have been invited to attend President Barack Obama’s community discussion of prescription drug and heroin abuse in Charleston Wednesday, Oct. 21.

The invitees include Carrie Dean, a student in the Doctor of Psychology program; Dr. Mary (Mitzy) Payne, associate professor of neurology at the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine; Amy Saunders, director of student health education programs; Dr. Joseph Shapiro, dean of the School of Medicine; and Kim White, counselor and interim director of military and veterans affairs.

“I think this is a great learning opportunity as a future psychologist,” Dean said. “I hope this meeting brings more awareness to the substance abuse problems that West Virginia residents face. Likewise, I hope we can work toward better resources for substance abuse and the mentally ill in West Virginia.”

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Pay changes informational sessions are taking place this week. If you have not yet attended a session and would like to see the information presented, you may access it at the pay changes website. Additional sessions are planned for November and dates are expected to be announced soon. Also, once it is confirmed whether Marshall will go to bi-weekly pay in January, the information will be shared with the university community as soon as possible.

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Plenty of events are yet to come as Marshall celebrates Homecoming with a theme of “Blast from the Past.”

**Thursday, Oct. 22**

Homecoming car bash, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. – Take out your frustration in a healthy way by joining WMUL-FM for its annual homecoming car bash on Buskirk Field.

Homecoming parade, 6:30 p.m. – Celebrate Marshall University during the annual homecoming parade. Floats, marching bands and everything you love about parades will fill the air, this time under the lights on Thursday night.

Yell Like Hell, 6:30 p.m. – Student organizations participating in the parade show their pride and see which group has the most spirit.

The Burn Shirt, Pep Rally and bonfire, following parade. – Students can bring shirts from rival schools to be burned in a bonfire, followed by a pep rally with players and coaches.

Rock The Rec, 10 to 11 p.m. – Another new tradition. Marshall’s men’s and women’s basketball teams will be introduced to the MU student body during a new event at the Marshall Recreation Center. The first 500 students receive a free limited edition Rock The Rec T-shirt and a free pizza. There also will be cash prizes and more, and a couple of lucky students will get a chance to make a half-court shot and win a car. Admission to Rock The Rec is free to all students.
Friday, Oct. 23

Picnic on the Plaza, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. – Marshall’s largest and most exciting on-campus homecoming party returns as the Marshall University Alumni Association will be throwing a party with free food, drinks, music and lots of fun.

Parents & Family Weekend Wine Reception, 4 to 5:30 p.m. – Post-registration wine reception and family photos in the rotunda of Foundation Hall, home of the Erickson Alumni Center.
Parents & Family Weekend Family Night, 5:30 p.m. – Join us for a special tailgate in the Kroger parking lot across from the Veterans Memorial Soccer Complex, leading up to a 7 p.m. men’s soccer game at the stadium against the University of New Mexico.

Black Alumni Reception, 7:30 p.m. – Meet and greet reception at the Pullman Plaza Hotel.

Alumni Concert Gala, 7:30 p.m. – Join us for a special performance at Smith Music Hall for all alumni of the Marching thunder.

Saturday, Oct. 24

Alum Run, 8 a.m. – Join your fellow alums on a run from Pullman Square to campus with multiple age groups.

MU Alumni Tailgate, 11 a.m. – Tailgate with the Marshall University Alumni Association. Food, drinks, music and fun on Harless Field, which is located next to Harless Dining Hall, leading up to the homecoming football game.

Homecoming game vs. North Texas, 3:30 p.m. – The Thundering Herd, off to a 5-1 start heading into Saturday’s noon game at Florida Atlantic, battles the Mean Green of North Texas in Conference USA action at Joan C. Edwards Stadium.

Alumni after-party after the game, 9 p.m. – Join the Young Alumni Committee as they continue the homecoming weekend celebration after the game. All Marshall University alumni are invited to attend. The Alumni after-party will take place in the banquet room of The Union Pub and Grill in downtown Huntington.

Guests will have the opportunity to purchase a special edition homecoming 2015 glass for $10 which will include a drink ticket. Those who aren’t currently active members of the Alumni Association can pay $20 for the commemorative glass, a drink ticket and a one-year membership. Visit www.herdalum.com for more information.

Homecoming Step Show, after the game – Annual step show at the Keith Albee Performing Arts Center to wrap up homecoming week.

Black Alumni Dinner and Dance, 9 p.m. – Dinner and dance with a theme of “Jeans & Bling” at the Memorial Student Center. Room BE 5 on the lower level.

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Job-A-Palooza underway today at Memorial Student Center

Career Services will host Job-A-Palooza, a part-time job and internship fair, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. today in the Memorial Student Center lobby. The event is open to all Marshall students, faculty and alumni.

“Job-a-Palooza is an excellent opportunity for students to network with employers in a more casual environment,” Jennifer Brown, program manager for internships and experiential learning at Career Services, said. “This event is held once a semester and allows recruiters to reach out to Marshall students for their hiring needs during busy seasons. Students have the opportunity to gain experiences that provide skills that can be transferred to future careers.”

Around 30 employers are expected to attend Job-A-Palooza. A continually updated list of registered employers is available at http://www.marshall.edu/career-services/aboutEvents6.php.

Students and employers are asked to use the hashtag #jobapalooza when referencing Job-A-Palooza on social media. Live tweeting and tagging will be used during the event.

Denise Hogsett, Director of Career Services, said, “Students are encouraged to bring resumes and their best networking skills to the fair. For tips on how to talk with employers or to have their resume reviewed, they should stop by Career Services.” No appointment is necessary.

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Ethics and Policy of Cyberwarfare subject of Yeager Symposium lecture

Dr. Randall Dipert will deliver his lecture, “The Ethics and Policy of Cyberwarfare,” at 3 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 22, in Marshall University’s Foundation Hall, home of the Erickson Alumni Center, as part of the 26th Annual Society of Yeager Scholars Symposium.

Dipert is an associate professor of philosophy at the (SUNY) University at Buffalo and a founding member of the National Center for Ontological Research. Previously, Dipert taught at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, and his most active current interests are military ethics and the philosophy of war and peace.
The lecture comes during National Cybersecurity Awareness Month, which is designed to engage and educate the public and private sector about national cybersecurity initiatives.

Jon Cutler, Chief Information Security Officer at Marshall, said that cyberwarfare is a growing global consideration.

“My philosophy is that technology is a force multiplier,” Cutler said. “Just as we used mechanical tools years ago, technology is just another progression of the arms race. It not surprising for people to take advantage of that.”

Cutler also noted the increasing potential for our country’s cyberinfrastructure to be used against us.

“There is also the sentiment that it may not be the bad guys across the ocean, but also homegrown terrorists. Most of the infrastructure we have now is being managed and operated electronically. If we don’t pay attention, those systems could be turned against us,” Cutler said.

The lecture is sponsored by Harry and Beth Wolfe and is open to the public. A reception will follow.

For more information about the Society of Yeager Scholars’ annual symposium call 304-696-2474 or visit www.marshall.edu/yeager.

Marshall to celebrate Food Day tomorrow with the 100-Mile Meal

Last year, over 300 universities across the U.S. organized events to celebrate Food Day and for the second year, Marshall University will join the movement. Food Day, a nationwide celebration of healthy and affordable foods, advocates for better food policies on a local, state and federal level.

Casey Underwood, president of Marshall’s Student Association of Nutrition and Dietetics, said the organization has partnered with Marshall’s Dining Services and the Sustainability Department to host a 100-Mile Meal Oct. 22 in Towers Marketplace.
“Food for this dinner will be sourced within 100 miles of Marshall University, helping to support our area farmers and to create a more stable, sustainable economy,” Underwood said. “This is an opportunity to educate the public about locally grown, healthy foods and push for a change in the American food system.”

Underwood said the meal would be free for all students who have a meal plan and cost $10.70 for the rest of the Marshall community.

“This will be a meal prepared using local resources including chicken, dumplings and smoked ham from Kentucky Proud in Walton, Kentucky; mashed potatoes from Mrs. Dennis’s Farms in Wauseon, Ohio; mixed fall vegetables from Holthouse Farms in Willard, Ohio; brown-and-serve rolls from Heiner’s Bakery in Huntington; and ice cream from Broughton’s Milk and Ice Cream, topped with baked West Virginia-grown apple slices,” Underwood said.

Eve Marcum-Atkinson, community outreach assistant for the Marshall Sustainability Department, which is a sponsor for Marshall’s 100-Mile Meal, said the event will highlight the importance of practicing sustainable lifestyle choices such as buying local and eating fresh food. She said she believes the 100-Mile Meal will begin to show students the wealth of food that can be grown in this region.

“Everything we do has a direct impact on our community and our economy. Part of being a sustainable community involves buying local, growing your own food and eating fresh, nutrient-rich meals that improve our overall health and wellness,” Marcum-Atkinson said. “It is so great to see Marshall’s student leaders asking for local foods in the university dining halls. We want to inspire others to care about where their food comes from – this could lead to great opportunities to connect the campus with our community.”

The 100-Mile Meal will be from 4 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 22, in Towers Marketplace on Marshall’s Huntington campus. Special events will be hosted by the Wild Ramp, 30-Mile Meal, Marshall’s Sustainability Department and the Student Association of Nutrition and Dietetics, including a photo booth, information tables, video games and prizes. For more information about the 100-Mile Meal, contact Underwood at musand@marshall.edu or visit www.marshall.edu/100milemeal/ online.

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Dr. Joseph B. Touma and his wife, Dr. Omayma Touma, have been selected as the grand marshals for the 2015 homecoming parade, which will take place Thursday, Oct. 22, in downtown Huntington.

“What a thrill it is to have Joe and Omayma Touma as the grand marshals of our homecoming parade this year,” Matt Hayes, executive director of alumni relations, said of the Toumas, both of whom were born in Damascus, Syria. “We are so fortunate they picked Huntington to be their home when they moved to America 44 years ago. The community and the university have really prospered since because of their generosity and guidance.”

A renowned ear and hearing specialist in the region for more than 40 years, Joseph Touma has helped restore hearing for thousands of hearing-impaired patients in the Tri-State area. But his impact has reached far beyond those patients.

Joseph Touma served on the faculty at the Marshall medical school and has financially supported many of the university’s programs. In addition to his work as a physician, Joseph Touma is credited with helping lead a revitalization of downtown Huntington. He purchased and renovated buildings near Pullman Square and helped form the core of downtown development. One of his buildings houses the Touma Museum of Medicine, showing the history and advances in medicine over the past century and beyond.

An accomplished doctor in her own right, Omayma Touma previously served as director of the Cabell-Huntington Health Department.

The couple traveled to the United States in the late 1960s. After visiting 15 other cities, the Touma family settled in Huntington in 1971.

The Toumas received The Herald-Dispatch “Citizens of the Year” award in 2000 and were both inducted into Marshall’s Business Hall of Fame in 2001.
Marshall Dining offers lunch discounts to faculty, staff

Marshall Dining Services has announced that faculty, staff and military veterans can enjoy lunch without having to leave the Huntington campus. Price is only $7.00 (before tax) – that’s $1.50 off of the regular door price at either Towers Marketplace or Harless Dining Hall.

The reduced rate is available for individuals only, no groups or meetings. A valid MU or military ID will be required.

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Rock music pioneer Boz Scaggs to take the Keith-Albee stage

Grammy Award-winning rock pioneer Boz Scaggs will perform at the Keith-Albee Performing Arts Center at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 27.

Scaggs’ career dates back to the late sixties, when he performed with the Steve Miller Band and has spanned decades with his solo hits.

“I’m at a point where I’m having a lot of fun with music, more than ever,” Scaggs says about his new album *A Fool to Care*. “It’s like I’m just going wherever I want to go with it.” *A Fool to Care* was released in spring 2015 and features duets with Bonnie Raitt and Lucinda Williams.

His explorations in blues and R&B, rock and jazz have produced lasting work and a career that has brought with it acclaim, a loyal following and an enduring respect among musicians. In addition to touring extensively with his own band, Scaggs continues to work with Donald Fagen and Michael McDonald as The Dukes of September, most recently playing a 47-city tour and performing their own material along with R&B and classics.
Internationally recognized artist to speak at Visual Arts Center

Internationally recognized multimedia artist Anila Quayyum Agha will lecture at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 28, in Room 209 at Marshall University’s Visual Arts Center.

The Lahore, Pakistan, native’s award-winning creations have been the featured fall exhibit at the Visual Arts Center’s Gallery at 927 Third Ave. since August and will be up until Friday, Oct. 30. An artist reception is set for 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 26, in the gallery.

Just last year, Agha captured the imagination of both the public and art experts alike as the first person in ArtPrize history to take home both the $200,000 Public Vote Grand Prize and the $100,000 Juried Grand Prize.

Agha said her work routinely explores politics worldwide, cultural multiplicity, mass media, and social and gender roles in our current cultural and global scenario.

Currently an associate professor of drawing at Herron School of Art and Design in Indianapolis, Agha visits Marshall as a Joan C. Edwards Distinguished Professor in the Arts. The endowment was established in 1992 in an effort to enhance learning opportunities for students, staff, faculty and the community.

For more information, please visit www.marshall.edu/cam or e-mail galleries@marshall.edu.
Marshall’s Traumatic Brain Injury support group recognized on Library Television Network

A faculty member from Marshall University’s College of Health Professions appeared on the Library Television Network’s show “Access for All: Support and Services in Your Community” for her work with the Brain Injury Group of Huntington, a support group for victims of Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI).

Dr. Carrie Childers, an assistant professor in the college’s Department of Communication Disorders, has served as an organizer of the TBI support group through a partnership with the WVU Center for Excellence in Disabilities since 2014. Childers appeared on the Library Television Network Oct. 17 to help raise awareness for victims of TBI in West Virginia.

“According to a study conducted by the West Virginia University Injury Control Research Center, there are 22,000 new traumatic brain injury cases each year in West Virginia,” Childers said. “We know that awareness about TBI is growing, thanks to media coverage of athletes and members of the military with brain injuries. We also know that people often have difficulty knowing where and how to get access to services and support for TBI.”

Jennifer Tenney, program manager for the WVU Center for Excellence in Disabilities (CED), said she hopes TBI survivors watching the show will learn about the support groups offered across the state and realize the CED wants to establish more.

“Traumatic Brain Injury is a silent, growing epidemic. Forty percent of all TBIs occur after a fall and in West Virginia, car accidents are the number one cause of TBI,” Tenney said. “After watching the show, I hope that folks understand a little bit about TBI and support groups, why they are important and their role in the TBI survivor’s recovery.”

The show aired on the Library Television Network to over 500,000 subscribers beginning Oct. 17 and continuing until the end of November. The Brain Injury Group of Huntington meets from 6 to 7:30 p.m. on the last Wednesday of every month on the third floor of the downtown Cabell County Library. Survivors of TBI and their family members and caregivers are encouraged to attend.

Opportunities are provided for individuals with TBI and caregivers to meet separately to discuss topics that are uniquely relevant to each group. For more information, visit https://www.facebook.com/HuntingtonBIG online or call 304-696-2984 or 304-696-2982. To learn more about the programs and services offered within the Marshall College of Health Professions, visit www.marshall.edu/cohp online.

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Special Collections sponsoring two Halloween-themed events

The Special Collections Department on the 2nd Floor of Morrow Library will be hosting two events at the end of this month.

A fall party for MUReads will take place Wednesday, Oct. 28 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Enjoy cookies and punch and sign up to join the Marshall reading challenge.

Trick-or-Treat Tours in the Morrow Stacks will take place Wednesday, Oct. 28, and Thursday, Oct. 29. Tours begin at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. each day. Learn more about the materials in the Morrow Stacks while getting some treats along the way.

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Marshall alum to portray Julia Child on South Charleston campus Oct. 28

Marshall alumna Karen Vuranch will present a “History Alive!” portrayal of legendary chef Julia Child in the library and research commons of the South Charleston campus at 12:30 p.m. next Wednesday, Oct. 28.

Child became an icon of gourmet cooking and, using her remarkable energy, humor and skill, changed the way Americans thought about eating.

The First Lady of Food, as she has been called, convinced the nation that anyone could create gourmet meals, as she charmed the public with her passion for good food.

“History Alive!” is a program of the West Virginia Humanities Council.

Click to view event flyer.

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Kids invited to Trick or Treat in the Residence Halls

Faculty and staff are invited to bring their children to the residence halls Wednesday, Oct. 28, for trick-or-treating from 5:30 to 8 p.m., according to Tracey Eggleston, assistant director of Housing and Residence Life.

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GeoPRISMS Distinguished Lecturer to speak at Marshall

The Geology Department will host Dr. Beatrice Magnani, Southern Methodist University seismology professor, on Friday Oct. 30, as part of the GeoPRISMS Distinguished Lectureship program.

Magnani will present a public lecture titled “The legacy of ancient plate boundaries in continental intraplate deformation” at 5 p.m. in the Memorial Student Center, Room BE5. This public lecture will present educational and informative to all audiences; both non-geoscientists and geoscientists alike.

Magnani will give an additional talk earlier in the day, titled “From plate boundary to intraplate: understanding the role of paleotectonic structures in continental intraplate deformation” at 12:30 p.m. in Corbly Hall 117. This talk will have a technical focus aimed at geoscientists, however, all are welcome to attend.

Magnani’s research focuses on seismic imaging of continents at various scales – from near surface to the entire lithosphere – to investigate the formation and evolution of continents and their geodynamics. She earned her Ph.D. from Universita’ degli Studi di Perugia in Italy. Her research interests include the structure and evolution of the passive margin of Eastern North America, seismic oceanography and seismic investigations in the Patagonian Andes.

GeoPRISMS (Geodynamic Processes at Rifting and Subducting Margins) is a scientific research community funded by the NSF focused on investigating the origin and evolution of continental margins. The GeoPRISMS Distinguished Lectureship Program annually selects distinguished scientists working on advanced research through GeoPRISMs to visit and speak at U.S. colleges,
universities, and other institutions to present technical and public lectures on topics related to tectonic processes of subduction and rifting.

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Countdown to Commencement set for Nov. 3-4 for July, August and December graduates

Marshall will conduct its semi-annual Countdown to Commencement Tuesday and Wednesday, Nov. 3 and 4, in the Memorial Student Center’s Don Morris Room on the Huntington campus.

The purpose of Countdown to Commencement is to assist those participating in this year’s winter commencement, which is set for 11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 12, at the Big Sandy Superstore Arena in downtown Huntington. It is for July, August and tentative December 2015 graduates.
Countdown to Commencement is designed to assist graduates in communicating with campus administrative offices in a central location.

Marshall University research team publishes study in prestigious Science Advances

Researchers with the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine and the Marshall University Institute for Interdisciplinary Research (MIIR) have identified a mechanism for blocking the signal by which the cellular sodium-potassium pump amplifies oxidants (reactive oxygen species). These oxidants lead to obesity and metabolic syndrome.


Dr. Joseph I. Shapiro, dean of the school of medicine and the study’s senior author, says the study is a true collaborative effort.

“I am extremely proud of this work, as the studies were conceived of, performed and analyzed entirely at Marshall University,” Shapiro said.

“This work was based on two important components. We employed a peptide, pNaKtide, which was derived from the novel hypothesis developed by Marshall’s MIIR director, Dr. Zijian Xie. Specifically, Dr. Xie has shown that in addition to its well-described role as an ion transporter, the sodium pump also regulates signal transduction and oxidant amplification. We also exploited work from Marshall’s SOM vice-dean for research, Dr. Nader Abraham, who has demonstrated a key role for oxidant stress in adipocytes in the development of obesity. The studies, which address a critical problem in the Appalachian population we serve, were performed entirely by our research staff at Marshall University.”
First author Dr. Komal Sodhi, assistant professor of surgery and pharmacology at Marshall, says the research examined a peptide (pNaKtide) designed to block the sodium potassium Na/K-ATPase signaling cascade, which altered the phenotype of adipocytes (fat cells) in a cell culture system.

“We found this decreased the development of obesity and metabolic syndrome in mice subjected to a high-fat diet, “Sodhi said. “The studies performed strongly supported this idea and suggest that if this is confirmed in humans, the Na/K-ATPase might ultimately be a therapeutic target for clinical conditions like obesity and metabolic syndrome, which are particularly relevant to West Virginia where more than a third of the population is currently obese.”

Shapiro said while there are years of work ahead for researchers to determine the impact on humans, they believe they have hit on a feasible strategy for treating obesity and metabolic syndrome.

“The bottom line is that we’ve identified a novel mechanism by which to address oxidant stress and, through this mechanism, treat obesity,” Shapiro said. “Our work opens up a new target for intervention in this disease as well as possibly other diseases characterized by oxidant stress.”

In addition to Shapiro and Sodhi, Marshall’s team of researchers includes Kyle Maxwell; Yanling Yan, Ph.D.; Jiang Liu, M.D., Ph.D.; Muhammad A. Chaudhry, M.A.; Morghan Getty; Zijian Xie, Ph.D.; and Nader G. Abraham, Ph.D.

Funding for this study was provided by the National Institutes of Health, BrickStreet Foundation, and the Huntington Foundation Inc.

Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine

The Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine is a community-based, Veterans Affairs-affiliated medical school dedicated to providing high-quality medical education and postgraduate training programs to foster a skilled physician workforce to meet the unique health care needs of West Virginia and Central Appalachia. The school seeks to develop centers of excellence in clinical care, including primary care in rural underserved areas, focused and responsive programs of biomedical science graduate study, biomedical and clinical science research, academic scholarship and public service outreach. For more information, visit www.musom.marshall.edu.
Marshall Institute for Interdisciplinary Research

MIIR is Marshall University’s key vehicle for advancing regional economic development. The institute’s scientists are developing a focused program of biotechnology research dedicated to exploring new treatments for cancer and heart and kidney disease, producing patentable scientific breakthroughs and creating new businesses based on those discoveries. Learn more at http://www.marshall.edu/miir.

Photos: Dr. Joseph Shapiro (above) and Dr. Komal Sodhi led the Marshall research team whose research was published recently in Science Advances.

Faculty/staff achievement: Art faculty member exhibits work in France, Italy

Ian Hagarty, a member of the School of Art and Design faculty, has had work on display in two international art exhibitions in Paris, France and Verona, Italy.

His works of video art were shown at the gallery Sincresis Arte in Empoli, Italy, and his paintings were at the gallery Montoro12 Contemporary Art at the Art Verona|Art Project Fair in Verona, Italy.

He also will be exhibiting works of painting with Montoro12 Contemporary Art at the YIA Art Fair in Paris beginning this Friday, Oct. 23.

Each of the art fairs hosts art galleries and artists’ works from all over the globe.

Photo: Ascending (2015) by Ian Hagarty, which will be on view in Europe. (Acrylic on canvas, 16” x 12”)
Coalfied Development and CEGAS at Marshall announce joint job training program

The community development nonprofit Coalfied Development Corporation today announced a new partnership with the Center for Environmental, Geotechnical and Applied Sciences (CEGAS) at Marshall University called “The Quality Environmental Jobs Initiative.”

Funded through an Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training grant from the U.S. Department of Environmental Protection (U.S. EPA), the initiative will provide technical training in environmental remediation over the next two years.

Initially geared toward laid-off coal miners, veterans and unemployed young adults, the training program is free of charge and open to the general public. The first courses are scheduled to begin Monday, Oct. 26, at the West Edge Factory in Huntington and will include Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER), asbestos abatement, lead abatement, and safety and health during three weeks of training.

Registrations for the October 2015 fall courses must be received by Tuesday, Oct. 20, and can be made online at http://qejobtrainingwv.eventbrite.com.

The second offering of five courses will begin in January 2016 and will be taught over five consecutive weeks for an intensive immersion into the environmental field.

To be considered a graduate of the training program one must complete the required HAZWOPER training, as well as two additional courses, such as asbestos abatement and lead Renovation, Repair and Painting (RRP).

Graduates of the Quality Environmental Jobs Initiative will gain a working knowledge of job-related environmental issues and the opportunity to earn professional certifications in a variety of environmental fields such as: HAZWOPER, asbestos abatement, lead abatement, mold remediation and meth-lab clean-up.

Additional services will include professional skills development, life-skills counseling and job placement services. Importantly, the program involves close collaboration with more than 12 private-sector partners and multiple employers across the state.

“This is a great opportunity for hard-working West Virginians to gain valuable skill sets and credentials for the modern workforce that can lead to good paying jobs,” said CEGAS Director Dr. Tony Szwilski.

Coalfied Director Brandon Dennison added, “These are jobs that help take liabilities such as environmentally damaged properties or vacant buildings and convert them into community assets. It’s exciting to be a part of this process.”
Hands-on training will take place primarily at a former brownfields site previously known as the Corbin Clothing Factory in Huntington, which closed and became vacant in the 1990s. Coalfield Development Corporation now owns the building, which they redeveloped and rebranded as the West Edge Factory through a partnership with the Wayne County Economic Development Authority, the City of Huntington, and the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection’s Division of Land Restoration and its EPA Brownfield Assessment Grant.

The structure now contains a warehouse, workshop, office space and a large training facility, where these courses will take place.

“When coupled with our counseling and job placement services, this program will truly provide an opportunity to change lives for the better,” Dennison said. “I highly encourage anybody looking to improve their skills, to do important work for their community and find gainful employment to get in touch with us.”

About Coalfield Development:
The Coalfield Development Corporation is a licensed general contractor that is involved in several types of construction in the community as well as deconstruction projects. Coalfield’s Quality Jobs initiative (QJI) is structured on a ‘33-6-3’ model where crew members participate in QJI work for Coalfield doing hands-on construction work for 33 hours a week.

Six hours a week are devoted to classes in which crew members attend a local community college for all general and major course classes. Along with their coursework, local community colleges partner with Coalfield by providing academic credit for certain on-the-job training activities that take place during the 33-hour portion of work. This enables crew members to essentially be full-time students while completing an associate degree in two years’ time. Crew members also commit to fully participating in three hours of life skills training a week, where they are challenged to learn about managing finances, culture, physical health and other factors necessary to live a quality life.

About CEGAS:
The Center for Environmental, Geotechnical, and Applied Sciences (CEGAS) was established at Marshall University in May 1993 and conducts research and development projects that include environmental management, virtual interactive simulation for training programs, visualization laboratory development, geographical information systems, and specialized training and technical assistance.

The center takes a leadership role in technological innovation and collaborates with community stakeholders to develop innovative ideas, enhance scientific capability, encourage economic development and contribute to the economic vitality of the State of West Virginia and beyond. The West Virginia Brownfield Assistance Center at Marshall University (WVBAC), housed within CEGAS, was established in 2005 as a West Virginia state legislative mandate to promote economic development through brownfield revitalization.
The WVBAC conducts various brownfield outreach and technical assistance activities to West Virginia communities interested in brownfield redevelopment opportunities. And, through its Visualization Center, CEGAS provides a Virtual Interactive Simulation Environment (VISE) for virtual training, scientific visualization, urban planning and conceptual visualization, motion capture and custom services.

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Trowbridge receives Heritage Tourism Award for Clio

Dr. David Trowbridge, associate professor of history, has received the Preservation Alliance of West Virginia’s 2015 Heritage Tourism Award for his development of the Clio, a smartphone app that shows users the historical places and events near their location. The Clio, as it is called, guides the public to thousands of historical and cultural sites throughout the United States. Built by scholars for public benefit, each entry includes a concise summary and useful information about a historical site, museum, monument, landmark or other site of cultural or historical significance. In addition, “time capsule” entries allow users to learn about historical events that occurred around them. Each entry offers turn-by-turn directions as well as links to relevant books, articles, videos, primary sources, and credible websites.

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Journalism scholarship honors Bos Johnson

Beginning in the spring of 2017, Marshall University’s College of Arts and Media will award the C. Bosworth “Bos” Johnson Memorial Scholarship in honor of the late journalist, Marshall alumnus and professor.

“Whatever my Dad was doing—as news director or journalism professor or public relations executive—he was always teaching,” Dr. Beth Johnson Paulsen, Johnson’s daughter and professor of theology at Columbia Theological Seminary, said. “The best way to remember him is to keep doing what he did.”

Janet Dooley, director of the School of Journalism and Mass Communications, said Johnson, who received a Master of Arts from the university in 1969, was a consummate newperson.

“Bos laid a solid foundation for the development of a broadcast journalism program in the School of Journalism and Mass Communications,” Dooley said. “He brought deep experience and a rich history in the industry.”

Dooley said Johnson, an associate professor of journalism at Marshall from 1976 to 1988, had “that rare combination of being demanding, firm, gentle and likable.”

“I believe he would be proud of how the program has developed,” Dooley said.

“Our family is grateful that, by means of this scholarship, future Marshall students will be able to learn his craft and practice it the way he did,” Paulsen said.

Throughout his career, Johnson received many accolades, including the Preceptor Award from San Francisco State University, the Distinguished Service Award from the Marshall Journalism Alumni Association, the Phil Vogel Memorial Award from the West Virginia Associated Press, the Silver Circle Award from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, the West Virginia Associated Press Lifetime Achievement Award and membership in the inaugural West Virginia Broadcasting Hall of Fame.

Between his time at Marshall and in leadership roles at WSAZ-TV Huntington-Charleston and Charles Ryan Associates, Johnson taught a list of journalists, ranging from network correspondents such as NBC’s Roger O’Neill and ABC’s Bill Stewart to current national correspondents such as Joe Johns and Sean Callebs, according to Paulsen.

Johnson passed away Nov. 23, 2014, in Huntington at the age of 85.

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The Robert C. Byrd Institute for Advanced Flexible Manufacturing (RCBI) is hosting the first step of an innovation challenge to identify products and services that empower the lives of women and families.

Sponsored by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), the local InnovateHER Competition offers West Virginia entrepreneurs the chance to advance to the national competition March 16 and 17, 2016, in Washington, D.C., where finalists will vie for cash prizes up to $40,000.

“Entrepreneurs and innovators in West Virginia consistently demonstrate their abilities to think outside the box using inventive ideas that improve the lives of ordinary citizens,” said Charlotte Weber, RCBI Director and CEO. “The InnovateHER Competition is a unique opportunity to recognize these contributions, reward innovators financially and assist them in bringing commercially viable ideas to market.”

Competitors must submit a brief proposal and written business plan to RCBI by Nov. 13. A panel will review submissions and select up to five individuals who will then pitch their ideas to judges during an event at RCBI. One local winner will be announced Nov. 23 and advance to the semifinal round, from which SBA staffers will select national finalists.

Judging is based on the following criteria:

- Has a measurable impact on the lives of women and families (30 percent)
- Has the potential for commercialization (40 percent)
- Fills a need in the marketplace (30 percent)

Trusst Lingerie, winner of the 2015 local InnovateHER Competition hosted by Fairmont State University in Fairmont, West Virginia, placed third in last year’s national competition by using robotics, advanced engineering and cutting-edge technology to create a bra that reduces pain and discomfort for large-busted women by redistributing the weight of the breasts. The first-place national winner was Bethany Edwards and a team at LIA Diagnostics in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, who created an easy-to-use, ergonomically designed and environmentally friendly pregnancy test.

RCBI’s local InnovateHER Competition is open to both men and women. Individuals, companies, non-profits or other agencies may participate. Participants must be at least 18 years old and either U.S. citizens or permanent residents. To apply, submit a brief proposal describing your product or service and a business plan to information@rcbi.org.

For assistance in crafting a business plan, visit either www.wvsbdc.wvcommerce.org or www.sba.gov/tools, or contact your regional West Virginia Small Business Development Center.

More information, including a complete list of contest rules, is available online at www.sba.gov or by calling RCBI at 800-469-7224.
Women’s Studies project featured on ‘The Green in Hygiene’ website

Associate Professor of History Dr. Laura Michele Diener, who is also director of the women’s studies program, was featured in an article in the website “The Green in Hygiene.” The story is about a donation by Linda Pace, president of Workplace Essentials, to the project Diener started at Marshall to make feminine hygiene products available to students at no charge.

“All young girls deserve the opportunity to further their education. We are hoping this small gesture will help eliminate one stressor from the day-to-day challenges these young women face, so they are able to focus on their academic goals,” Pace said in the article on the website.

On Sept. 29, Workplace Essentials responded to the initiative by shipping a donation to the Huntington campus.

“We see this as a great opportunity to kick-start their drive by sending a bulk amount of sanitary products, which we hope will impact this worthy cause,” Pace said.

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The next regular issue of We Are…Marshall will be distributed Oct. 28, 2015. Please send any materials for consideration to Pat Dickson by 5 p.m. Monday, Oct. 26.