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We Are...Marshall, December 10, 2014

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Marshall University will celebrate the life and legacy of the late President Stephen J. Kopp with a memorial service to be held at 2 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 13, at the Cam Henderson Center Arena on the Huntington campus. Kopp died suddenly Dec. 17, 2014.

The service is open to the public. Parking on campus will be free the day of the ceremony. Visitors are urged to arrive early, since classes are in session and parking spaces are limited. The doors of the Henderson Center will open at 1 p.m.

The service will be live streamed at www.marshall.edu/it/livestream beginning at 2 p.m. All classes will be cancelled from 2-4 p.m. so students and faculty can attend the service. Classes that convene in the afternoon prior to that timeframe will recess at 2 p.m.

Employees are welcome and encouraged to attend the service at the discretion of their supervisors. Some central offices will need to remain staffed to serve returning students. Those offices include, but are not limited to, Admissions, Bursar, Registrar, Financial Aid, and Housing and Residence Life.
The Marshall University Board of Governors named Gary G. White interim president of the university. His appointment became effective Jan. 1.

The board selected White with a unanimous 14-0 vote during an emergency meeting Dec. 29 on the Huntington campus.

“I’m gratified and humbled the board of governors has asked me to serve in this important interim role,” said White. “I look forward to working with members of the board, the faculty and the staff to keep our university moving ahead and focused on students.”

White will serve for the duration of the search process for a permanent president, which is expected to take approximately six to nine months. His salary will be $400,000. He is not a candidate for the permanent position.

Chairman of the Board of Governors Michael G. Sellards said, “Gary is an outstanding choice to be the interim president. He reflects the mission and values of Marshall University and has a tremendous background in academic affairs, having served as chairman of this board in the past and as a member of the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission. The board is appreciative he has agreed to lead the university during this interim period.”

White replaces Dr. Stephen J. Kopp, who died suddenly Dec. 17. Kopp served nearly 10 years at Marshall’s helm.

A graduate of Marshall, White is a former member and past chairman of the Marshall University Board of Governors, former member and vice president of the West Virginia Board of Education, and former member of the University of Pikeville Board of Trustees.

He is on the boards of directors of United Bankshares Inc., ARC Logistics Partners LP, Cabell Huntington Hospital, the Marshall University Foundation, the West Virginia Coal Association and the Larry Joe Harless Community Center Foundation Inc. He also serves on the board of advisors of West Virginia Media Holdings LLC.

White has been executive vice president of Blackhawk Mining LLC since October. He was president and chief executive officer of International Industries Inc. for a large part of his career—from 1992-2007. He also previously served as president and chief operating officer of International Resource Partners LP, a subsidiary of James River Coal Company, president and chief executive officer of the West Virginia Coal Association, manager of underground mining at Amherst Coal Company and corporate training coordinator at Island Creek Coal Company.
He is a former member of the Community Trust Bancorp Inc. Board of Directors and the RAG American Coal Inc. Board of Directors. He served as director of transition for Governor Cecil Underwood.

White received the 2006 Distinguished Achievement Award from the West Virginia Education Alliance, the 2004 Distinguished Achievement Award from the Marshall University Alumni Association, the City of Hope “Spirit of Life Award” and in 2003 was inducted into the Business Hall of Fame at Marshall. In 2006 and again in 2008, he was named one of the “Fifty Most Influential Individuals in West Virginia” by West Virginia Executive magazine.

To accept the appointment as interim president, White resigned from the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission. He had been a member of the commission since being appointed by Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin in August 2013.

Shaunte Polk named Employee of the Month

Shaunte Polk, Admissions Assistant II, Undergraduate Admissions, has been named the Marshall University Employee of the Month for October, according to the Employee of the Month Committee.

Employed since January 2013, she was nominated by Heather Brooks.

In her nomination, Brooks wrote, “During the hiring freeze Shaunte has been amazing in covering the duties of our vacant position. It was recently approved—but that was uncertain for over three months. She routinely stayed late to keep work flow moving knowing that she would not be compensated. Excellent attitude! Incredible hard worker!”

Polk was presented with a certificate and a check for $100 by President Stephen J. Kopp.

*Photo: Shaunte Polk (left) received her Employee of the Month award from the late President Stephen J. Kopp Dec. 9.*
In Memoriam: Dr. Clayton McNearney

Dr. Clayton L. McNearney, who retired last year after serving Marshall as a long time faculty member and chair of the Department of Religious Studies, died Jan. 4. He had retired just a year ago after serving for many years as a faculty member and chair of the Religious Studies department.

“The COLA family is saddened by the news that Dr. Clay McNearney passed away on Jan. 4,” said Dr. Robert Bookwalter, dean of the College of Liberal Arts. “He was an inspiration to his students and a well-known figure on campus. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Clay’s family and friends.”

Born in Minneapolis, McNearney attended Minneapolis public schools, then spent a year and a half at Maryknoll Seminary in Glen Ellyn, Illinois. After receiving a B.A. degree from the University of Minnesota and a Ph.D. from the University of Iowa, he went on to be a postdoctoral fellow at Columbia University in New York from 1976 to 1977. He taught at Holy Cross College in Worcester, Massachusetts, before joining the Marshall faculty in 1972, where he served as chair of the Department of Religious Studies from 1989 to 2013. For many years he studied printmaking with Peter Massing of the art department.

A celebration of his life will take place at 2 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 10, at St. John’s Episcopal Fellowship Hall, in Huntington. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Hospice of Huntington, P.O. Box 464, Huntington, WV 25709. Condolences to the family may be expressed at www.slackandwallace.com.

Bi-weekly pay changes delayed

The change to bi-weekly pay will not take place as soon as originally anticipated, Chief Financial Officer Mary Ellen Heuton said.

According to a notification received from the state’s wvOASIS team, “…not all agencies will go live as originally planned. Departments will now go live in waves during the course of 2015. This also means that biweekly pay will be implemented in waves.”

Heuton said, “We do not yet know which wave we might be part of, but we know that we will not be in the first wave. “

Heuton said that what this means to Marshall employees is that payroll will continue on a semi-monthly frequency until further notice. The information on the wvOASIS website has not yet been updated for this change, but Marshall will advise employees when additional details are made available.
Woodward writes account of U.S. role in World War I

The American Army and the First World War, the most recent book written by Dr. David R. Woodward, emeritus professor of history, is the latest addition to Cambridge University Press’ Armies of the Great War series.

The series is published in honor of the war’s centenary. This volume by Woodward, his second book since retiring in 2006, has been described as the first truly holistic account of the U.S.’s role on the battlefields of Europe in 1917-1918 because of its examination of social, political and economic factors.

Through firsthand accounts from their diaries, letters and memoirs, Woodward depicts the doughboys’ first encounters with regimented military life and their experience both behind and in the trenches of the world’s first truly modern war.

Woodward was a professor of modern European and Russian history and his work focused on World War I and its diplomatic and military relations. He retired in 2006 after spending 41 years in the classroom, 36 of them at Marshall.

The American Army and the First World War is a 481-page paperback and is available at Empire Books in downtown Huntington and through Amazon.com. Woodward said it costs $29.99 at Empire and $26.99 plus shipping costs if ordered through Amazon.

“This reflects about three years of work,” Woodward said. “I spent a lot of time on it and I enjoyed doing it. It’s really the culmination of my work on the First World War. Of course, I’ve been working in that area for around 35 years.”
Carrolls make major commitment to Marshall University for special projects and scholarships

Charles and Norma Carroll, longtime Huntington residents and benefactors to Marshall University, have made a generous financial commitment to the Marshall University Foundation Inc. to support scholarships and other university projects close to the couple’s hearts. The bequest, which is in their wills in the form of a planned gift, will bring their total contributions to Marshall to at least $1 million.

“This major commitment from the Carrolls will support 14 different programs across the university,” said Dr. Ron Area, Foundation CEO.

Among those programs, Area said, are eight scholarships and six endowments. The scholarships are for students in the School of Art and Design; the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine; the School of Pharmacy; the Simon Perry Center for Constitutional Democracy; the College of Liberal Arts; the College of Information Technology and Engineering, and the Big Green Scholarship Foundation, including both golf and baseball.

The endowments are for Arts and Media’s Global Horizons program; the Honors College; the Graduate College, the Simon Perry Center for Constitutional Democracy and the College of Business.

“It is an opportunity for us to give back to an institution that was so important in helping to develop our future,” Charlie Carroll said. “We have had a love affair with Marshall for many, many years. We are thankful that Marshall provided us the opportunity for a college education and a degree without having to leave Huntington. It was also strongly active in helping to provide an economy that would help support my independent insurance agency—that put a roof over our heads and food on our table. We appreciate the commercial influence that Marshall University has on our community.”

The Carrolls both are graduates of the College of Business. They met during their years as students at Marshall and later married. He pursued a career in property and the casualty insurance business, while Norma enjoyed her career as a homemaker. Charlie sold his business in 2004 and retired.
“Having grown up in Huntington, I remember all too well the many commercial and industrial businesses that were so prominent. Now, all those firms are gone, except for Inco (now Special Metals). Our population was 95,000; now, our population is about 50,000. Without Marshall, I’m afraid Huntington would possibly be a ghost town, because, even though we have two outstanding health providers, they could not support Huntington, nor have the financial impact of Marshall. I wish more people understood that and thanked Marshall with more financial support because it is a great college and learning institution that is getting better and better and better every day. Without Marshall, I think that Huntington would be dead in the water.”

Charlie Carroll is extremely impressed and grateful for what Marshall did with the former Stone & Thomas building downtown.

“Who else besides Marshall could have taken on this task of building, renovating and remodeling this building at a cost of 14 million dollars?” he said.

Over the years, the Carrolls have been loyal supporters of Marshall University, both in academics and athletics. From 1987 through 2004, Charlie did not miss a football game, home or away. He attended the I-AA championship games and all the bowl games in which the Herd played during those 17 years. Norma missed just three games during that span.

“They’re the perfect example of loyal fans and generous donors,” Area said.

Photo: From left, Dr. Ron Area, CEO of the Foundation, the late President Stephen J. Kopp, Norma Carroll and her husband, Charles Carroll, sign the scholarship and endowment agreements the couple will fund during a ceremony Dec 11. Photo by Rick Haye.

Deadline is Friday for ‘Rally for Autism’ design contest

The “Rally for Autism”, a walk, run and bike ride event that is the major fund raiser for three Huntington/Tri-State area agencies that work with people on the Autism Spectrum—Autism Society River Cities, the Autism Services Center and the West Virginia Autism Training Center housed in Old Main—will take place April 25 in Huntington.

Now for the first time an opportunity to let imaginations soar by designing the official rally t-shirt is being offered through a design contest. Entrants can use choose from colors that include red, yellow, blue, white and black. According to contest rules, one of these colors will be the t-shirt color of the artist’s choice while the other colors will be printed. The rally puzzle logo may be incorporated into the design, but it is not required.

Entries must be received or postmarked on or before Jan. 9. Judging will take place Jan. 16. Since this is a double-blind contest, judges won’t see the names of the artists until a winner
has been selected and the names of the judges won’t be revealed until the competition is completed.

“We have always had a different design on the participant shirts each year, but this is the first time we are holding a competition to pick the design,” said Beth Tappan, accountant in the WV Autism Training Center. “We look forward to seeing all the wonderful ideas people come up with at the judging on Jan. 16.”

The winning artist will receive a framed certificate and his or design will be used on the participant and volunteer shirts as well as in related media promotions. The artist will also be highlighted on social media and introduced at the rally if he/she is available to attend.

To enter, complete the form at www.marshall.edu/ucomm/files/web/AutismTShirtDesignContest_ending01-09-15.pdf and send it to Rally Shirt Design Contest, WV Autism Training Center, Old Main 316. For further information contact Lisa at carter318@marshall.edu.

Faculty Achievement: Hoey publishes ‘Opting for Elsewhere’

Dr. Brian A. Hoey, associate professor of anthropology in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, has published a book with Vanderbilt University Press, Opting for Elsewhere: Lifestyle Migration in the American Middle Class.

Hoey’s book examines stories of everyday Americans who move to new places as a way to redefine themselves through reordering work, family, and personal priorities. According to Hoey, their act of relocation expresses longstanding cultural values while also demonstrating developing responses to distinctive contemporary challenges and opportunities.

Based on Hoey’s community-based, ethnographic research, the book is about the impulse to start over. Whether downshifting from stressful careers or the victims of downsizing from jobs lost in a surge of economic restructuring, lifestyle migrants seek refuge in places that seem to resonate with an idealized, potential self. The book captures their stories and frames them as part of a larger moral story about what constitutes the good life at a time of economic uncertainty coupled with shifting social categories and cultural meanings.

Hoey’s book provides illustration of the ways these sweeping changes impact people and the places where they live and work as well as how both react– devising strategies for either coping with or challenging the status quo. Opting for Elsewhere is widely available at online retailers both in hardcover and as an eBook. See http://www.vanderbilt.edu/university-press/book/9780826520050.

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College of Business faculty members Drs. Rishav Bista, Michael Newsome and Becky Tomasik recently completed a technical paper for the HOPE Community Development Corporation, a non-profit organization working to improve the lives of residents living on the West Side of Charleston, West Virginia.

This report, titled “A General Consideration of Possible Economic Impacts of Potentially Reducing Crime through West Side Demonstration Projects”, presents an analytical framework that focuses on how HOPE project investments can lead to reduced crime and recidivism, which have measurable economic impacts on the West Side community and greater Kanawha County.

Using the general sociodemographic characteristics of the West Side and the rest of Charleston, the stated goals of existing HOPE projects, and well-established relationships between the stated goals and impacts on crime and recidivism, the authors were able relate HOPE program activities to potential social improvements.

The Rev. Matthew J. Watts, president and CEO of HOPE, wrote, “We are extremely pleased with [the report’s] format and content. We believe that this report provides HOPE CDC with a credible document to present to policy makers and potential funders.”

Bista, Newsome and Tomasik shared their findings at a Strategic Planning and Briefing Meeting on the West Side Revitalization and Transformation (West Side Revive) Initiative, which took place Dec. 5 in the Governor’s Conference Room in the Capitol Complex.

The report is a product of the Center for Community Growth and Development (CCGD), started in the fall 2013 by Bista, Newsome and Tomasik. The objectives of the CCGD are to improve communities, increase research potential, and enrich the student experience. Research areas include planning analysis, economic statistical analysis, financial analysis, and community surveying and strategic planning. In addition to the report, the CCGD has also conducted studies for the Cabell Huntington Health Department, the Cabell County Planning Commission, and MU’s Office of the President.

Bista is an assistant professor of economics in his third year at Marshall. He teaches undergraduate macroeconomics, econometrics and global macroeconomic analysis. Newsome is a professor of economics in his 17th year at Marshall. He teaches undergraduate econometrics and microeconomics, and graduate managerial economics and health economics. Tomasik is an assistant professor of economics in her third year at Marshall. She teaches undergraduate microeconomics and international trade.

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Walker named Resident of the Month at med school

Johnson B. Walker, M.D., a third-year surgery resident physician with the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine, has been selected as the December recipient of the Resident of the Month Award. The award was announced by Paulette S. Wehner, M.D., vice dean, graduate medical education. Walker is the second recipient of the new recognition award.

“The School of Medicine is fortunate to have Dr. Walker in a leadership position to utilize his fervor and passion for bettering the medical education training process,” Wehner said. “As the chair of the Resident Advisory Committee, Dr. Walker has taken on extra responsibilities and projects to increase the quality of student, resident/fellow education and training here at Marshall. Despite his time-intensive surgical residency schedule, Dr. Walker is truly dedicated to making a difference in increasing the quality of the clinical learning environment for all of our training programs.”

Walker is a 2012 graduate of the School of Medicine and earned his Master of Science from Marshall. He holds an undergraduate degree in biology from Elon University.

“We are very proud of what Johnson has accomplished so early in his medical career,” said Farid B. Mozaffari, M.D., surgery program residency director. “He’s an excellent physician, keen scientist, and compassionate educator and has shown great leadership skills and work ethics that make him an exemplary resident. We are happy that Dr. Walker is being recognized for the work that he has done and are looking forward to the difference he will continue to make in our patients’ lives and our community.”

As part of his recognition of the December Resident of the Month, Walker received items including a certificate of recognition and a designated parking spot. Monthly winners will also be automatically entered into the Resident of the Year Award to be announced in May.

Photo: Johnson B. Walker, M.D., right, is congratulated by David A. Denning, M.D., chair of the department of surgery, Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine after being named December’s Resident of the Month.

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The School of Pharmacy has received a $10,000 grant from Walgreens to support diversity outreach and inclusion initiatives.

The grant, to be disseminated as scholarships and funding for pipeline programs and other cultural initiatives, is part of Walgreens’ national effort to support increasing diversity among professional student programs.

Receiving Walgreens scholarships this academic year are James W. Frazier, Louisville, Ky. Yanick N. Hicks, Marietta, Ga., and Minh Thu T. Tran, Jacksonville, Fla.

“These students are exemplary in their commitment to diversity on campus,” said Dr. Shelvy L. Campbell, assistant dean for diversity. “They have been important partners in our mission to create an inclusive environment at the School of Pharmacy that is welcoming and nurturing to all students, particularly those from underrepresented minority groups in pharmacy.”

As part of the grant, Walgreens requires the school to report on how the annual funds were used to support diversity initiatives throughout the year. Since 2008, the company has donated more than $1 million annually to support diversity initiatives at schools and colleges of pharmacy nationwide.

*Photo: Kevin W. Yingling, R. Ph., M.D., dean of the School of Pharmacy, and Shelvy L. Campbell, Ph.D., assistant dean for diversity, receive a gift from Walgreens presented by (center) Deborah Harris, Pharm.D., with Walgreens.*

The next issue of *We Are... Marshall* will be distributed Jan. 14, 2015. Please send any materials for consideration to Pat Dickson by 5 p.m. Monday, Jan. 12.