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We Are...Marshall, July 2, 2014

Office of Marshall University Communications

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WE ARE... MARSHALL®

The Newsletter for Marshall University

July 2, 2014

Employees encouraged to ask questions about new WV OASIS finance system

Two sessions next week for Banner Finance users will help explain how state changes will affect Marshall employees and their work.

Marshall finance and administration team members will be hosting two remaining question-and-answer sessions to update employees about how the state's new finance system is affecting our own financial processes. The sessions will provide a brief overview of the changes and provide time for questions and answers. All employees are welcome to attend but those who regularly interact with the Banner software are especially encouraged to learn more during this time.

JULY 9 – South Charleston
3:30 p.m.
MUGC 319

JULY 10 – Huntington
10:30 a.m.
Memorial Student Center BE-5

Employees can share their questions and concerns by e-mailing Juanita Parsons at ocheltreej@marshall.edu. They can also stay up to date with the changes on Marshall's wvOasis blog at www.marshall.edu/wvoasis.

School of Medicine announces new administrative chair of ophthalmology



Dr. R. Mark Hatfield, a Charleston-based retina specialist, has been appointed administrative chairman of Marshall University's department of ophthalmology.

Dr. Joseph I. Shapiro, dean of the Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine, said the appointment was effective July 1.

"We are thrilled to have Dr. Hatfield join us at Marshall," Shapiro said. "He is an accomplished, successful, private practice physician whose expertise, both clinically and in business, will be a tremendous asset as Marshall navigates the bold new world of health care and medical education."

Hatfield earned a doctor of optometry degree from Illinois College of Optometry before graduating from the Marshall University School of Medicine in 1983. He completed a surgical internship at Marshall, an ophthalmology residency at the University of Illinois School of Medicine and a vitreoretinal fellowship at Rush Presbyterian St. Luke's in Chicago.

He is the founder of Retina Consultants, which has five locations in West Virginia.

"I am very pleased to accept this new position at my alma mater," Hatfield said. "Making health care more accessible to those across this region is very important to me. I look forward to working with Dr. Shapiro and others at Marshall to not only continue the mission of educating doctors for Appalachia, but also expanding clinical services in the area."

Hatfield has received dozens of honors and awards, including the Illinois Eye and Ear Infirmary Distinguished Alumnus Award and the 2013 Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine Alumni Association's Distinguished Alumnus.

In addition to his medical practice, Hatfield is a busy lecturer who has presented at a number of professional meetings, including ones sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control, the West Virginia Optometric Association and the West Virginia Academy of Ophthalmology.

Marshall's department of ophthalmology, located at 5187 U.S. 60 E. in Huntington, is a referral center for eye surgery and eye disease including cataract evaluation and surgery, diabetic eye care and treatment, glaucoma evaluation and treatment as well as ocular injuries, emergency eye care and comprehensive diagnostic services.

Hatfield replaces Michael A. Krasnow, D.O., Ph.D. who has retired as chairman, but will continue to serve as a professor in the department.

Joe Wortham named Employee of the Year



Joe Wortham receives the Employee of the Year award from President Kopp.

Joe Wortham, Assistant for Business and Facilities, Athletics, has been named the 2013 Marshall University Employee of the Year. The announcement was made by President Stephen J. Kopp at the annual classified staff Service Awards Luncheon June 26.

Employed since January 1971, Wortham was the Employee of the Month for June and was nominated by Catherine Donchatz, Ruth Patton and David Steele.

In her nomination Donchatz wrote, “It is a pleasure to work with Joe. He is dependable and consistent. If there is an opportunity or need to go the extra mile, Joe will be right there doing all he can to complete a task or offer to help. Along with his excellent work ethic, Joe has a pleasant disposition and a positive attitude that combine to make him an exemplary co-worker.”

Patton commented, “You can always depend on Joe Wortham. When you ask Joe for help, he goes above and beyond anything you need. He has the best attitude, and is appreciated by everyone in the Athletic Department and by many, many other people on campus. He is completely devoted to Marshall University.”

Steele said, “Joe Wortham is the most dedicated employee I have known at Marshall. He is always willing to help on any project. He has served Marshall in many areas. You can always count on Joe Wortham.”

Wortham was presented with a plaque and a check for \$300 by the president. In addition, he received gift cards from Sodexo Dining Services and the Marshall University Bookstore.

[Click to visit the MU Photo website to view all pictures from the Service Awards Luncheon.](#)

MU faculty member, student ‘giving back’ through local Guitars for Vets program



Marshall University associate professor Dr. Julio Alves, left, and Jonathan Thorne, a senior music education major, are “giving back” to local veterans through the Guitars for Vets (G4V) program at the VA Medical Center in Spring Valley. Photo by Dave Wellman/Marshall University.

Marshall University associate professor Dr. Julio Alves and Jonathan Thorne, a senior music education major, are “giving back” to local veterans through the Guitars for Vets (G4V) program at the VA

Medical Center in Spring Valley.

Guitars for Vets is a federally registered 501(C)(3) not-for-profit founded in 2007 with headquarters in Milwaukee, Wisc. Through the program, local vets are taught how to play guitar by volunteers such as Alves and Thorne.

“It’s a great opportunity to give back to those who have served the country so bravely,” Alves said. “And, it is an opportunity for John and others to develop even further.”

G4V operates more than 40 chapters in more than 20 states and has in excess of 150 volunteers. G4V is dedicated to sharing the healing power of music with veterans suffering from significant combat-related mental and emotional stress, particularly post-traumatic stress.

Guitars for Vets pursues its mission by providing free, private guitar instruction, a practice guitar, accessories and a method book in a structured program run by volunteers primarily through the VA facilities.

Dave Ball is a veteran who is participating in the program.

“Personally, I’ve been trying to play for 12 or 13 years,” Ball said. “With Jonathan’s instruction, it’s been coming a whole lot easier. It’s a good hobby to have, I just really enjoy it. I like country music. That’s the good thing about Jonathan, he can adapt to teach you whatever your interest is.”

Melissa Stillwell, who, as chapter coordinator, heads up the local G4V program, said it takes 12 weeks of instruction for a student to graduate. Then, the organization gives him or her a new guitar, a new stand, new picks, a new gig bag, strap, tuner and strings. Thus far, Guitars for Vets has given more than 20,000 lessons and distributed more than 2,000 new guitars to veterans.

“This really is a fantastic way to get people interested in playing music,” Thorne said. “Playing guitar gives you something to take your mind off of your daily troubles. Music is such a great thing; it’s like an escapism where you can get away from the bad parts of the world for a while.”

Veteran Tim Burton described the program as “sweet.”

“It’s very nice. It gives you a hobby, if you don’t have one already,” he said.

Each chapter is encouraged to do some fundraising to help pay for the equipment. However, donations are welcome, and can be made through www.guitarsforvets.org. Or, persons may send a check payable to Guitars for Vets to: Guitars for Vets Processing Center, 11933 W. Burleigh St., Wauwatosa, WI 53222, or call 1-855-G4V-HERO/1-855-448-4376 for more information.

Honors College announces new class of Yeager Scholars

Eight exceptional high-school seniors have been selected by the Honors College to enter its Yeager Scholars Program this fall semester. One is the first international student in the history of this prestigious scholarship program.

Each new Yeager class is named after a strong supporter of academic achievement opportunities at Marshall. The James and Verna Gibson Class of 2018, which is the 28th Yeager class, includes a student from Ontario, Canada, and several high school valedictorians.

Dr. Ronald Bieniek, dean of the Honors College, said, “In their high school lives, our new Yeager Scholars exhibited a strong desire and ability for broad intellectual and leadership activity. I am so pleased that we are able to offer them such a superb academic package for their developmental benefit – and for their future contributions to a global society. I am proud to be so closely associated with the Society of Yeager Scholars.”

The James and Verna Gibson Class of 2018 will have an enhanced curriculum throughout their college careers. Some of the requirements include: maintaining a high cumulative grade point average, completing four challenging interdisciplinary seminars, and involvement in campus and community activities. They will also have the opportunity to study literature, political science or history abroad at Oxford University in England as well as further study abroad in a country of the scholar’s choice.

These students went through an extended competition, involving a challenging written application and two interviews — one by telephone and one by a panel of interviewers on the Huntington campus. The final selection was made by university faculty and staff, university alumni, Society of Yeager Scholars board members and community members.

The Society of Yeager Scholars is named for U.S. Air Force Brigadier General (Ret.) Charles E. “Chuck” Yeager, who is a native of Lincoln County. In October 1947, Yeager became the first supersonic pilot by breaking the sound barrier in a Bell X-1 experimental aircraft in California.

Jim and Verna Gibson attended Marshall University in the mid-1960s and are currently retired. Jim has had several small businesses, and Verna has been CEO of The Limited Corporation; on the board of Chico’s women’s fashion clothing store, and president of Outlook Consulting. Verna is credited for drastically moving the companies forward.

The Gibsons are longtime supporters and contributors to the university. Their giving level is in the “Pathway of Prominence” (\$1 million to \$5 million) range. They were contributors to the first phase of the H.E.L.P. building construction. They love and support Marshall and the Big Green Foundation.

The Society of Yeager Scholars James and Verna Gibson Class of 2018 are:

Sonia Chandi, of Mississauga, Ontario, the first international Yeager Scholar. Chandi is a graduate of Port Credit Secondary School in Mississauga, and will be taking pre-med classes in hopes of becoming a neurologist.

McGinnis Dalton, of Logan, W.Va. A graduate and valedictorian of Logan High School, he plans to study theatre and creative writing, in hopes of becoming a voice actor.

Brooke Estep, of Barboursville, W.Va. A graduate of Cabell Midland High School, she plans to major in public relations in the W. Page Pitt School of Journalism and Mass Communications.

Abigail Feldman, of Lyndonville, N.Y. A graduate of Lyndonville Central School, she is interested in anthropology and international affairs.

David Hannan, of St. Albans, W.Va. A graduate of St. Albans High School, he plans to study mathematics. Hannan was the valedictorian and student body president of his class.

Cody Mason, of St. Albans, W.Va. A graduate of St. Albans High School, he plans to study civil engineering and jazz.

Sarah Nix, of Huntington, W.Va. A graduate of Huntington High School, she hopes to study diplomacy and international affairs.

Rebecca Turnbull, of Bridgeport, W.Va.. A graduate of Bridgeport High School, she plans to attend the W. Page Pitt School of Journalism and Mass Communications.

Marshall athletic training students win fundraising competition for LivON Foundation to help prevent colon cancer

Athletic training students from Marshall and the University of Charleston joined forces last month to compete against students from five other states to win a fundraising competition for the LivON Foundation, which helps support prevention of colon cancer.

The competition took place during the Mid-Atlantic Athletic Training Conference held in Virginia Beach, Va.

Zach Garrett, interim director for the department of athletic training, said the competition was called a Penny War and students were given positive points for collecting change and negative points for bills.

“Students competed against other states in the district and the state of West Virginia came out on top raising over \$162 in change in just a little over a week,” Garrett said. “Many other states didn’t even realize West Virginia was at the conference, let alone participating in the competition. It felt good to be recognized amongst the other states for such a worthy cause.”

Olivia Naples Bostic, founder of the LivON Foundation, said she was diagnosed with Stage IV metastatic colon cancer at age 37. As a physician assistant for 10 years, Bostic said she has developed a relationship with local athletic trainers.

“I have been a physician assistant for 10 years specializing in sports medicine,” Bostic said. “With LivON, I knew I wanted to do something, to put my talents and experience out there, but only if I was truly inspired. One of the local athletic trainers heard my story and turned it over to the Mid-Atlantic Athletic Training Conference for help.”

Bostic said the money raised by the West Virginia athletic training students during the fundraising competition will help support diagnosis of colon cancer for those under 50 years of age. According to their web site, many individuals under age 50 go undiagnosed. As a result, the LivON Foundation is working to increase awareness of symptoms and hopeful prevention of colon cancer.

To learn more about the LivON Foundation and ways you can help, visit www.livonfoundation.org online. To learn more about MU’s athletic training department, visit www.marshall.edu/cohp.

Department of Communication Disorders helps local youth improve literacy at the Huntington Reading Camp

Twenty-four campers attended this year's Huntington Reading Camp, a free-five-day event for children who are struggling readers, which concluded June 27. The camp, which is sponsored yearly by the Department of Communication Disorders, provided each camper with 15 hours of reading instructions, strategies and skill builders taught by local teachers.

In addition, campers enjoyed outdoor activities at Beech Fork State Park, the Huntington Museum of Art and the former Proctor Farm. At the conclusion of the camp participants received a backpack with four books, one being an autographed copy by Colleen Anderson, children's author of "Missing: Mrs. Cornblossom," who visited the camp.

Dr. Susan Thomas Frank, associate professor of communication disorders and one of the camp's many advocates, said this intensive one-week camp helps struggling readers learn to love to read, improve study and reading skills, and have fun with others who share their goals.

"In this country, we have a tremendous illiteracy problem and we know reading and writing problems cross socio-economic lines. A camp like this is so important because we live in the information age, where literacy is a necessary element for academic achievement," Frank said. "Through this camp, we want to instill a love of reading and writing and provide them with the confidence to succeed outside of the classroom."

The camp is sponsored by three local Episcopal churches in Huntington and has been held at St. John's Episcopal Church for the past two years. Frank said the initiatives of the camp are conducted nationally and internationally and would not be possible without the support of local teachers, students and members of the community.

To learn more about the Huntington Reading Camp visit www.readingcampinhuntington.org. To learn more about the Department of Communication Disorders and its involvement in the community, visit www.marshall.edu/cohp.

New computer science master's degree will fill need for advanced computer and software industry graduates

Marshall soon will offer a high-demand master of science degree in computer science, following last week's approval of the program by the Marshall University Board of Governors at its regular meeting.

The MSCS is designed to provide students with the knowledge, skill and professional practices to develop complex software systems and will prepare students who desire to pursue further graduate work leading to the Ph.D.

"A master's degree in Computer Science (MSCS) is long overdue at Marshall University," said Dr. Venkat Gudivada, a professor in the College of Information, Technology and Engineering (CITE), who did much of the primary work on the new degree. "Given the high demand for computer science graduate education and excellent job opportunities, this new degree will serve the needs of the southern West Virginia population and beyond. As software has deeply entrenched in all aspects of our lives, computer science graduate education is a critical component for economic growth in the state with potential for software startup companies."

The new degree was proposed by the Weisberg Division of Computer Science in the College of Information Technology and Engineering. It requires 30 credit hours of graduate work.

Gudivada said that, according to United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, more than half of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics job openings in 2020 will be in the computing discipline. The 2011 average annual pay for software professionals was \$96,250, and the same for software managerial positions was \$125,660, based on labor statistics, Gudivada said.

"According to a 2013 Forbes report, software development is the occupation that created the most jobs in the U.S.," Gudivada said. "Forbes also ranks a master's degree in computer science as the second best master's degree for jobs."

A bachelor's degree in computer science is often inadequate for computing jobs given the rapid advances in the field, Gudivada said.

"West Virginia companies such as MATRIC and BrickStreet Insurance find it hard to recruit people with advanced software knowledge and skills," he said. "A leading-edge, graduate degree in computer science education will produce highly sought-after professionals capable of thriving in the challenging environments demanded in today's business world. Because our society is becoming increasingly dependent on technology for every aspect of our lives, computer scientists are sought after in pretty much every industry and in a wide range of capacities."

In addition, “this new program will contribute to attracting more international students to Marshall’s campus,” he said.

Prior to the start of their studies, students are required to complete a plan of study in consultation with their academic advisers. All students must take CS 620-Applied Algorithms and CS 660-Big Data Systems. Working with their advisers, students will then select courses from a menu that includes database systems, bioinformatics, information retrieval, software design, software testing, machine learning, visual analytics, computer architecture, software specifications, artificial intelligence principals and methods and high performance computing.

Students then choose a thesis option or a project option. They must summarize their thesis work in a formal written document and deliver an oral presentation. Thesis work is typically done over two semesters. Students select a topic for the project option in consultation with their academic adviser. Project work requires effort equivalent to a three-credit-hour course and is typically completed in the last semester of study.

In other news, the board approved an updated policy to allow registered support animals on Marshall’s campuses, which brings the university into compliance with federal law concerning individuals with disabilities. The policy defines the difference among pets, service animals, and support animals, and outlines the rules and regulations regarding where they are allowed on campus.

Sandra Clements, director of the Office of Disability Services, said students seeking support animal accommodation must provide documentation of a psychological evaluation where the student has been diagnosed with a disability and a doctor has outlined that a specific support animal is necessary and appropriate for the student. Also required is documentation of vaccinations and a statement from a veterinarian that the support animal is healthy enough to be on campus and around people.

“As with any special accommodation, there is a specific process,” Clements said. “It’s a process that requires a 30-day period to allow for verification of documents and review of the situation for the Office of Disability Services.” If the student requires university housing, there are specific Housing and Residence Life rules the student must follow, Clements said.

Other than service and approved support animals, Marshall does not allow animals or pets on campus.

June Harless Center to host 'Camp Create' in Gilbert

The June Harless Center for Rural Educational Research and Development, part of the College of Education, will be offering "Camp Create" at the Larry Joe Harless Community Center in Gilbert, W.Va., July 8-11, from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The camp is free, and will be open to students entering 2nd through 5th grade. Lunch will be provided for the children.

"Camp Create," which is being held in memory of James H. "Buck" Harless, will focus on engaging children with real technology and creative robotics while integrating the arts. Each child will be creating his or her own robot, which will be displayed at the community center. A showcase of the creative robots will be held at the Larry Joe Harless Center July 11 from 11:30 – 12:30 and is open to the public.

For more information, please contact Tarabeth Brumfield at brumfield11@marshall.edu or call ext.6-2945.

The next issue of *We Are...Marshall* will be distributed July 16, 2014. Please send any materials for consideration to [Pat Dickson](#) by 5 p.m. Monday, July 14.