Marshall, West Virginia State University sign educational agreement

West Virginia State University (WVSU) students now have a more direct route to a doctorate in pharmacy from Marshall University thanks to an agreement signed Monday by the schools’ top academic officers.

From Marshall, Dr. Gayle L. Ormiston, senior vice president and provost, and Dr. Kevin W. Yingling, dean of the School of Pharmacy, signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) that defines plans of study that, once completed by WVSU students, fulfill the prerequisite requirements for the Marshall University School of Pharmacy. Dr. R. Charles Byers, provost and vice president for academic affairs at WVSU, along with Dr. Katherine L. Harper, dean of WVSU’s College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, also signed the MOU.

The agreement allows students who are in good standing and meet the admissions requirements to enroll at Marshall’s School of Pharmacy and receive full credit for up to 72 hours of college-level coursework. Additionally, once students satisfactorily complete two years of pharmacy coursework at Marshall, they will be eligible to receive their bachelor’s degree in chemistry or biology from West Virginia State.

The signing ceremony took place at the School of Pharmacy located on the campus of the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Huntington. Following the signing, Yingling led the guests from West Virginia State on a tour of the School of Pharmacy.

“We are very pleased to offer this option to students at West Virginia State,” Ormiston said. “This collaboration helps streamline the process for students to pursue a Pharm D. degree, which ultimately helps us meet our goal of educating pharmacists for West Virginia and the Appalachian region.”
“We are excited for the new opportunity that this agreement creates for our students,” said Byers. “The close proximity of our two universities, and the seamless transition into the Pharmacy School will create even more educational and career options for our graduates.”

The agreement stipulates that Marshall will guarantee admission during each academic year to two WVSU students provided the students meet all admission requirements as articulated in the MOU.

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*Photos:* (Above) From left, Dr. Kevin Yingling, dean of the School of Pharmacy, Dr. R. Charles Byers, provost and vice president for academic affairs at West Virginia State University, Dr. Katherine Harper, dean of WVSU’s College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, and Dr. Gayle Ormiston, senior vice president and provost, participate in a signing of a memorandum of understanding. (Below) Dr. Kevin Yingling, dean of the Marshall University School of Pharmacy, leads Dr. Katherine Harper, left, dean of West Virginia State University’s College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, and Dr. R. Charles Byers, provost and vice president for academic affairs at WVSU, on a tour of the School of Pharmacy at MU. *Photos by Rick Haye.*

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*Reminder: Men’s Health Fair is today until 1 p.m.*

The PEIA Men’s Health Fair is taking place Wednesday, June 18, from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. on the Memorial Student Center plaza on the Huntington campus. Free health screenings including blood pressure, lung, glucose and flexibility tests will be offered to all employees and students. Please take advantage of this opportunity and join us in celebrating Men’s Health Month.

For more information about the Men’s Health Fair, please contact Megan Archer at archer15@marshall.edu. For more information about Men’s Health Month, please visit www.menshealthmonth.org.

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Reminder: Health Policy Forum is at 6 p.m. today

The Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine, in partnership with the Robert C. Byrd Center for Rural Health, the Department of Family and Community Health, the Paul Ambrose Health Fellows and the West Virginia Higher Education Commission, is sponsoring the Third Annual Paul W. Ambrose Health Policy Forum at 6 p.m., Wednesday, June 18, in the Harless Auditorium at the MU Medical Center.

This year’s guest speaker is Christopher Koller, President of the Milbank Memorial Fund, an endowed operating foundation that works to improve the health of populations around the world. Koller will present “The Affordable Care Act and the Future of Primary Care.” A reception with light refreshments will follow the presentation.

The program is named for Paul Ambrose, a Huntington native and Marshall graduate, who was killed on Sept. 11, 2001.

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MIIR lecture series to feature drug discovery pioneer

Commercializing scientific research will be the focus of an upcoming program featuring Dr. Shaomeng Wang, who is widely recognized for his pioneering work in the field of drug discovery and his ongoing efforts to bring the fruits of that work to the market.

The talk titled “Translating Your Research Discoveries into Practice: It Takes a Village!” will begin at 11 a.m. Wednesday, June 25, in Room 109 of the Robert C. Byrd Biotechnology Science Center. The event is part of a series of public lectures hosted by the Marshall Institute for Interdisciplinary Research.

Wang is the Warner-Lambert/Parke-Davis Professor of Medicine and professor of internal medicine and pharmacology in the University of Michigan Medical School, and professor of medicinal chemistry in the College of Pharmacy. He also serves as co-director of the Molecular Therapeutics Program at the University of Michigan Comprehensive Cancer Center and is the
director of the Cancer Drug Discovery Program. He is editor-in-chief of the Journal of Medicinal Chemistry, the most-cited journal in the field.

As part of his research, Wang’s laboratory has successfully developed several classes of anticancer drugs designed to specifically kill tumor cells while leaving normal cells unharmed.

To date, he has advanced four novel cancer drugs into Phase I/II clinical development and several more drugs into late-stage preclinical development.

In March, he was honored with the University of Michigan’s Distinguished University Innovator Award, which honors faculty who have made important and lasting contributions to society by developing novel ideas and insights through their research, and then translating them to practice.

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Full circle: Former Anderson-Newcomb/Stone and Thomas employees tour world-class Visual Arts Center

Eleven Anderson-Newcomb Co./Stone and Thomas employees were given a tour of Marshall University’s new Visual Arts Center June 3.

Strolling the original floors, the group reminisced about their more than 230 years of combined service to the department stores.

“I have so many photographs from my time here,” Lottie Woody, who spent 44 years with the companies, said. “I even have photographs of my daughters helping wrap presents and tying bows during Christmastime.”

Yvonne Newman, who worked in accounting, remembered lingering on the phone with a young Virgil Newman from delivery. They met and married while they both worked there. Virgil started in 1963 and stayed until the doors to Stone and Thomas closed in 1996.

“Even after I was drafted to Vietnam, I would still work when I came home on leave,” Virgil Newman said. “I never missed a day of work.”

College of Arts and Media Senior Director of Development Melanie Griffis said the group’s affinity to the six-story building on Third Avenue goes beyond their incredible years of service.
“Our community had such strong ties to those stores,” Griffis said. “We hear so often someone say they grew up in Anderson-Newcomb or Stone and Thomas.”

Before Marshall University purchased the 66,000-square-foot building, it was just a few years away from demolition. With $9 million in bonds and $4 million in private donations, Marshall University reinforced the infrastructure with 65,000 pounds of new steel and updated windows to match the 112-year-old, original ones.

“With the upgrades, this structure will stand for at least another 100 years,” Griffis said.

The building is on track to open to students this summer, while grand opening events for the public, including a ribbon-cutting ceremony, are to take place Sept. 18-20.

For more information about the Visual Arts Center, visit http://www.marshall.edu/cam.

Photo: From left, Fern Fitzpatrick, Lottie Woody, Elsie Singleton, Lula Cremeans; Donna Rawley; Opal Blake; Yvonne and Virgil Newman; and Jerry and Shirley Blake, the former Anderson-Newcomb employees who toured the building, stand with an early 1900s printing press originally owned by The Anderson-Newcomb Co. When A-N was bought out by Stone and Thomas, the press was donated to Marshall University’s printing department, where it has been used for the past few decades. The press has now found its way back “home” to the Marshall University Visual Arts Center (formerly the Anderson-Newcomb/Stone & Thomas building), where it will continue to be used by students of printmaking.

Sawhney’s global research on child and maternal mortality published in The Lancet

Dr. Monika Sawhney of the College of Health Professions served as co-author for two articles published last month in The Lancet on research related to child health and maternal health. The Lancet is one of the world’s leading general medical and specialty journals in oncology, neurology and infectious diseases.

Sawhney, director of the undergraduate public health program in the college, said her research began last summer after traveling to Greece for the Global Burden of Disease workshop held May 7-17, 2013.
“This has been an international effort through the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) to address maternal and child mortality throughout the world,” Sawhney said. “The United Nations established MDGs (Millennium Development Goals) to decrease maternal and child deaths by 2015. If we continue on this path, child deaths will fall from more than 6 million in 2013 to fewer than 4 million in 2030.”

Sawhney was one of more than 40 authors who worked on this study with her major emphasis and contribution for countries such as India, Kenya, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Sri Lanka and Nepal. The results of each article were featured in the Science Daily Journal May 2.

According to the journal, the first installment in IHME’s new updates to the Global Burden of Disease study shows that child death rates dropped by 48 percent globally between 1990 and 2013. Maternal deaths also decreased over the same period, though 293,000 women still died in 2013 from pregnancy-related causes. The majority of countries have seen faster declines in maternal and child deaths — with child deaths reduced by 3.5 percent per year since 2000 and maternal deaths by 2.7 percent per year since 2003.

“Working on an international project such as this demonstrates the importance of an organization like IHME and the impact it has on our world,” Sawhney said. “My collaboration with IHME has placed Marshall University on the international front and future work will increase partnerships with people all across the world who are working toward improvements in children’s health and wellness.”


Bookwalter named dean of Marshall’s College of Liberal Arts

Dr. Robert Bookwalter has been named dean of the College of Liberal Arts, according to Dr. Gayle Ormiston, senior vice president of academic affairs and provost. Bookwalter has served as interim dean of the college since June 1, 2013. His new appointment begins July 1.

“I am honored to have been selected as dean of the College of Liberal Arts,” Bookwalter said. “I look forward to working with the faculty and the students to face the challenges that we are presented with now in higher education. I understand that this is my greatest responsibility — to serve our students and to help strengthen our programs, along with the faculty and administration.”
Ormiston said, “Dr. Bookwalter brings a wealth of knowledge and experience that is highly valued by everyone on our campus. His ‘students-first’ philosophy makes the academic programs he and the faculty within the College of Liberal Arts are building even more outstanding.”

Bookwalter joined the Department of Speech (now Communication Studies) in 1987. His teaching and research interests are in the areas of peace and conflict studies, interpersonal communication, group dynamics, leadership and language. While at Marshall he has served as chair of the College of Liberal Arts Academic Planning Committee and Curriculum Committee and served on the college’s Promotion and Tenure Committee.

He served as director of the Oral Communication component of the General Education program for 15 years. In 2009, he led the university’s General Education Council which oversaw the transition to the new Core Curriculum. He also served as Faculty Athletics Representative to the NCAA from 2002 to 2012.

A native of San Jose, Calif., Bookwalter received his B.A. in Speech Communication from Fresno State University in 1979, his M.A. in Interpersonal Communication from the University of Montana in 1982 and his Ph.D. in Communication Studies from the University of Kansas in 1989.

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**Affordable Care Act will require most part-time Marshall employees to report hours worked beginning July 1**

*Details of ACA requirements and state pay changes still coming together*

With the implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) on July 1, 2014, Marshall will be required to track hours worked for all employees who are not already eligible for health insurance. And, as you may know, there are lots of changes happening this year with the way we process our payroll and payments to integrate with the state’s new finance system, known as wvOASIS. These changes mean Marshall must modify how we categorize some employees and how they are paid. Unfortunately with both the ACA and the new OASIS system, there are still many uncertainties beyond our control. Because only a small number of employees working this summer will be affected, we will contact their departments directly to let them know of any
changes. As fall approaches and more part-time employees come on board, we will provide additional information as we receive it. For now, here are a few expected changes:

- Adjunct/part-time faculty will be credited with hours worked based on teaching load and any administrative assignments.
- Graduate assistants (GAs) will be required to track actual hours worked and certain categories of GAs will be paid based on these hours rather than the salary method used in the past.
- Resident Assistants (RAs) will be required to track actual hours worked, but will continue to be paid via salary.
- In general most positions for temporary part-time employment including students, extra-help and casual employment will need to report hours worked for both ACA and payment purposes.

We want to make these transitions as easy as possible. Help us! Please share your questions and concerns by emailing paychanges@marshall.edu, calling 304-696-2209 or stopping in 203 Old Main. Thank you for your patience and cooperation. Please watch for more updates on this and other changes related to ACA and the State system on our blog at http://www.marshall.edu/wvoasis.

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Marshall faculty offering science camps for local students this summer

Three faculty members from the College of Science are offering hands-on science exploration experiences for middle and high school students on the Huntington campus this summer beginning Monday, June 30. Kids will have the opportunity to participate in fun and engaging hands-on laboratory activities during both the 4-day and 1-day camps, said biology Professor Dr. Suzanne Strait, who is offering the camps, along with colleagues Dr. Wendy Trzyna, associate professor of biological sciences, and Dr. Mindy Armstead, assistant professor of integrated science and technology. Depending on which camp or camps students choose, they will be interacting with and learning about microbes, the environment or skeletons. Costs for the camps are $65 for a 4-day experience and $20 for a half-day camp. Other camp expenses are covered by a grant from the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission. Camps for students who will be freshmen through seniors during the 2014-2015 school year and want to explore careers in science are as follows:

**Monday-Thursday, July 7-10, 1-4:30 p.m. – Microbes In, On and Around You**

Dr. Wendy Trzyna, Department of Biological Sciences

Find out why microbes are the hottest single cells around by getting into the lab and culturing them. Students will be fascinated by diversity of microbes that are living
everywhere around them – from their kitchen sinks and shower floors, to their cell phone covers, the foods they eat and their own bodies. Students will culture and identify common microbes and learn a variety of microbiological laboratory techniques including the use of microscopes, preparation of microbial specimens for viewing, and tests for identification of microbes while we do fun and exciting hands-on lab activities. (16 students)

**Monday-Thursday, July 14-17, 1-4:30 p.m. – Environmental Science**

Dr. Mindy Armstead, Department of Integrated Sciences and Technology

This session will focus on maintaining aquatic resources for human and ecological uses. The class will explore the beneficial uses of streams, lakes, and rivers and determine whether the water is being protected for those uses. These sessions will include discussions, as well as hands-on investigation of aquatic systems and organisms. Students will get to perform water quality testing, fish identifications and other hands-on aspects of aquatic investigations. (16 students)

**Monday-Thursday, July 21-24, 1-4:30 p.m. – Bones: The Forensic Evidence**

Dr. Suzanne Strait, Department of Biological Sciences

This session will introduce students to the human skeleton. They will work with skeletons to learn the bones of the human skeleton and how we reconstruct their stature, age, ethnicity, gender, and more from just bones. They will even be able to prepare a skeleton of their own if interested! (16 students)

Camps for students who will be in 6th, 7th or 8th grades during the 2014-2015 school year are as follows:

**Monday-Thursday, June 30-July 3, 1-4:30 p.m. – Microbiology**

Dr. Wendy Trzyna, Department of Biological Sciences

Students will be introduced to the fascinating “unseen” microbial world around them. They will have the opportunity to learn about a variety of different microbes through fun, hands-on activities. We will be collecting, growing and observing microbes from diverse environments. Students will learn how to culture microbes, prepare samples for viewing, and perform selected tests for identifying microbes. (16 students)

**Monday, July 21, 9 a.m.-Noon – Bones: Forensics Investigations**

Learn about human bones and how forensic scientists are able to physically reconstruct a person using just their bones. (20 students)

**Tuesday, July 22, 9 a.m.-Noon – Heart Anatomy: Pumping Blood**
Students will learn how the heart works using interactive techniques, models, and having the opportunity to dissect a real deer or cow heart! (20 students)

**Wednesday July 23, 9 a.m.-Noon – Water Quality**

Students will learn which animals use our local water, how to conserve water resources, and how to test for water quality. (20 students)

**Thursday, July 24, 9 a.m.-Noon – Snakes, Turtles and More**

Learn all about the amphibians and reptiles around us in West Virginia. Learn about their habitat and anatomy and how to identify local species. Opportunities include observing non-venomous species. (16 students)

“This is the first summer these educational activities are available for local kids right here in their own backyards,” Trzyna said.

For additional information about the camps and for an application, e-mail Strait at straitho@marshall.edu, or Trzyna at Trzyna@marshall.edu.

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**Faculty Achievement: Dr. Thomas Wilson**

Dr. Thomas Wilson, professor of physics, presented a paper and a poster at the 2014 Spring Meeting of the European Materials Research Society, Symposium D: Phonons and Fluctuations in Low-Dimensional Structures, held May 26-30 in Lille, France. He also gave an invited talk on the subject to the staff and students of the Institute for Semiconductor Engineering at the University of Stuttgart June 2. His talk and poster were titled “Evidence of Longitudinal Acoustic Phonon Generation in Si Doping Superlattices by Ge Prism-Coupled THz Laser Radiation.” Co-authors were Erich Kasper, Michael Oehme, and Joerg Schulze of the Institute for Semiconductor Engineering, and Konstantin Korolev, also of the Department of Physics at Marshall. For more information go to links: [http://www.emrs-strasbourg.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=691&Itemid=1](http://www.emrs-strasbourg.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=691&Itemid=1) or [http://www.iht.uni-stuttgart.de/index.en.php](http://www.iht.uni-stuttgart.de/index.en.php)

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Faculty Achievement: Dr. Christopher Dolmetsch

Dr. Christopher Dolmetsch, professor and program head of German, was interviewed at length May 27 about his research on the contemporary popular culture of the Alps by radio host Lilly Staudig on her morning program on statewide radio network Radio U1 Tirol in Austria. Dolmetsch was in Bavaria Germany; Tirol, Austria; and Northern Italy (Suedtirol), conducting interviews and pursuing research as part of his ongoing project.

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Widener recognized for 35 years of CCRN certification

Dr. Jeanne Widener of the College of Health Professions recently received national recognition for reaching a significant milestone in the nursing profession. Since 1979, she has maintained CCRN certification offered through the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses (AACN) Certification Corporation. Widener is one of 82 CCRNs being honored this year by the corporation and the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses for 35 years of continuous certification.

CCRN certification is one of the most advanced professional credentials that can be achieved by a nurse in the field of acute and critical care. As a result, the CCRN credential is highly regarded as recognition of advanced knowledge and clinical expertise in the care of acutely and critically ill patients and their families. There are currently more than 68,000 CCRN-certified nurses practicing worldwide who specialize in the care of adult, pediatric and/or neonatal patient populations, according to the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses.

Widener said although it was a challenge to maintain her CCRN certification, it was necessary to remain competent in her field.

“This has defined who I am as a nurse,” Widener said. “My CCRN certification gives other clinical nurses a sense of trust in my capabilities in the critical care area. Although I am an educator, I plan to stay involved in critical care nursing because I enjoy being with patients.”

Dr. Michael Prewitt, dean of the college, said Widener has served as an associate professor in the college’s School of Nursing since 2010. Prewitt said she has always been motivated to achieve clinical excellence in a constantly changing critical care environment.
“We encourage and support our nursing faculty members to demonstrate their level of commitment to patients by maintaining certifications such as these,” Prewitt said. “Dr. Widener has gone above and beyond and continues to impress those in our college with her dedication to the nursing profession.”

For more information about Widener and the college’s School of Nursing, visit www.marshall.edu/cohp online.

The next issue of We Are…Marshall will be distributed July 2, 2014. Please send any materials for consideration to Pat Dickson by 5 p.m. Monday, June 30.