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## We Are...Marshall, May 7, 2014

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# WE ARE... MARSHALL®

The Newsletter for Marshall University

May 7, 2014

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## More than 1,500 to graduate from Marshall Saturday



More than 1,500 students will graduate from Marshall University Saturday, May 10, in a pair of commencement ceremonies at the Big Sandy Superstore Arena in downtown Huntington.

For the third consecutive year, Marshall will conduct two commencements. The 9 a.m. ceremony is for undergraduates, and a 2 p.m. ceremony the same day is for graduate students. Among the 1,528 students receiving degrees are 1,039 undergraduates, 426 graduate students and 63 from the School of Medicine.

Registrar Roberta Ferguson said 438 students will graduate with honors. Seventy-two will graduate summa cum laude (3.85 to 4.0 GPA), 138 magna cum laude (3.6 to 3.84 GPA), and 216 cum laude (3.3 to 3.59 GPA). Three students receiving associate degrees will graduate with high honors and nine receiving associate degrees will graduate with honors.

A large crowd is expected, based on the number of graduates that have indicated they will attend.

“At our annual Countdown to Commencement, we had 703 tentative graduates attend, which is the most we have ever had,” said Ferguson. “So, we are looking for a big crowd at commencement.”

Marshall will continue a practice that began in 2006 of recognizing individually each graduate who attends commencement. Each graduate will walk to the area in front of the stage, where his or her name will be announced and he or she will receive congratulations from President Stephen J. Kopp and a representative scroll from the Marshall Alumni Association.

During the morning ceremony, Marshall will recognize its graduating honor students. Based on tentative grade point averages, 19 students will complete their baccalaureate degrees with perfect GPAs.

Also, the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine will mark its Doctoral Investiture and Medical School Commencement at 7 p.m., Friday, May 9 at the Keith Albee Performing Arts Center. Dr.

Robert C. Gallo, co-discoverer of the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) which causes AIDS, will be the featured speaker. Gallo's pioneering research in retrovirology also led to the discovery of a virus that causes one form of leukemia. Gallo will be presented with an honorary Doctor of Science degree. A reception for the students and their families is scheduled in the Don Morris Room of the Memorial Student Center following the ceremony.

Other graduation activities for the School of Medicine include the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Classic for the Class of 2014 at Silo in Lavalette held yesterday and the annual Senior Awards Ceremony at 3:30 p.m., Wednesday, May 7 in the Byrd Clinical Center Auditorium.

Here is a list of some of the remaining commencement-related events:

### **Wednesday, May 7**

3:30 p.m., annual School of Medicine senior awards ceremony in the Byrd Clinical Center Auditorium

### **Thursday, May 8**

7 p.m., College of Education and Professional Development hooding ceremony, St. Albans High School

7 p.m., College of Health Professions nursing recognition ceremony, Christ Temple Church, 2400 Johnstown Rd.

### **Friday, May 9**

1 p.m., MU Forensic Science Open House, 1401 Forensic Science Dr., Huntington; event is open to the public.

4 p.m., H.E.L.P. Program graduation ceremony, Myers Hall

4 p.m., Clinical Lab Sciences and Dietetics Department recognition ceremony, Marshall University Physical Therapy Department, in the St. Mary's building on 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue

5 p.m., College Program for Students with Asperger Syndrome (CPSAS) graduation reception, Old Main 315

5 p.m., Yeager Medallion Ceremony, Drinko Library, third-floor atrium

6:30 p.m., School of Journalism and Mass Communication spring banquet, Memorial Student Center, Room BE-5

7 p.m., Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine Doctoral Investiture and commencement, Keith Albee Performing Arts Center

7 p.m., College of Health Professions, St. Mary's Medical Center School of Nursing, School of Respiratory Care and School of Medical Imaging, Recognition and Pinning Ceremony, First Baptist Church of Proctorville

## **May 10**

9 a.m., Marshall University's 177<sup>th</sup> commencement ceremony for undergraduates, Big Sandy Superstore Arena

11:30 a.m., or, immediately following morning commencement, College of Information Technology and Engineering graduation reception, Arthur Weisberg Family Engineering Laboratories

2 p.m., Marshall University's commencement for graduate students, Big Sandy Superstore Arena

4:30 p.m., College of Science hooding ceremony, Smith Hall 154

5 p.m., Forensic Science Hooding and Graduation Reception, BE-5, Memorial Student Center; event is closed to the public.

## **Commencement notes**

- Each commencement ceremony will be streamed live on the Web. The link will be available on the MU website at [www.marshall.edu/it/livestream](http://www.marshall.edu/it/livestream).
- Marshall University will produce a DVD of the commencement ceremonies for purchase at \$20 per copy. Orders may be submitted using the order form on the registrar's office website ([www.marshall.edu/registrar](http://www.marshall.edu/registrar)). In addition, orders will be accepted at the arena May 10. The MU Alumni Association will process the DVD orders.
- Marshall will provide shuttle buses to transport graduates and guests to the arena. Graduates and guests are encouraged to park on university lots at the 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue Parking Facility, the Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center, Joan C. Edwards Stadium or across from Smith Hall (Lot F). Shuttle service will begin at 7:45 a.m. for the 9 a.m. ceremony and at noon for the 2 p.m. ceremony. After commencement, buses will transport passengers back to campus.
- Legacy Photographics will take photographs of the graduates, then send proof information to graduates using e-mail addresses a few days after the ceremony. Purchase of photographs is optional.

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## Reminder: Manchin to visit RCBI in South Charleston Friday

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A new public/private partnership in advanced manufacturing and 3-D metal printing technology will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Friday, May 9, in the Robert C. Byrd Institute located on the South Charleston campus.

U.S. Sen. Joe Manchin, along with representatives of the Robert C. Byrd Institute, ATK, U.S. Navy and Marshall University will be on hand to see a demonstration of the new technology and learn how Toyota Motor Corp. is using this advanced technology for its operation.

Faculty and staff are invited to attend the demonstration

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## Jamie Warner named Hedrick Faculty Teaching Fellow

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Dr. Jamie Warner, professor of political science, will join the Center for Teaching and Learning for the next academic year as the inaugural Hedrick Faculty Teaching Fellow.

The new annual fellowship gives one Marshall University faculty member the opportunity to pursue a Scholarship of Teaching and Learning project, collaborate with the center staff and other Marshall faculty, and develop a niche area of expertise in faculty development, thus adding to the programming regularly offered by the center.

“The Hedrick family has long supported teaching and learning at Marshall University,” said Dr. Sherri Smith, executive director of the center. “By using Hedrick funds to establish this fellowship, we hope that faculty will truly recognize that they are at the center of CTL’s strategic plan for campus-wide faculty development.”

“There are so many great teachers here,” Warner said. “I’m really looking forward to picking their brains for creative ways to engage students and get them excited about learning.”

Warner said she is especially excited to facilitate a special topics Faculty Learning Community on “Tricks of the Trade: Using deception, stealth, sneak attacks and subterfuge to make learning fun.”

“In the business of our day-to-day responsibilities, I think it’s easy to forget the original captivation with ideas that drove us into this profession in the first place,” Warner said. “I’m hoping that that this fellowship will allow me to swap tricks, interesting ideas, and research with smart, like-minded colleagues.”

More information about applying to become a member of the Tricks of the Trade FLC is forthcoming next week. FLC membership is open to all faculty, full-time and part-time.

The Hedrick Fellow will also design, facilitate and promote a variety of high-impact instructional development programs for Marshall faculty, including initiatives that give faculty a dedicated forum for exploring the Marshall University Baccalaureate Degree Profile.

As the instructor for the senior capstone course in political science, for example, Warner has been immersed for some time in two outcomes within the degree profile: namely, Creative Thinking and Inquiry-Based Thinking. It is no surprise, then, that Warner has chosen to feature these two outcomes as part of her fellowship portfolio.

Marshall faculty can expect numerous opportunities in the coming year to discuss what is meant by Creative Thinking or Inquiry-Based Thinking, what resources are available to facilitate these modes of thinking and acting, and how faculty across the disciplines can share intellectual responsibility for students’ growth in these areas.

Since her arrival at Marshall in 2002, Warner has won numerous awards, including the Pickens Queen Teacher Award (2004), The College of Liberal Arts Outstanding Teaching Award (2004), and the Charles Hedrick Outstanding Faculty Award (2011).

Warner received her Ph.D. in political science with a minor in women’s studies from Penn State in 2001.

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## 2014 Research and Practice Day winners announced



The first Research and Practice Day sponsored by the College of Health Professions took place April 25 with awards presented to 11 students.

The event showcased the work of undergraduate and graduate students in both oral and poster presentations. Entries included such topics as communication disorders in Appalachia, smartphone applications in medicine and innovations in nursing practice.

The winners for Outstanding Research Presentation and their advisers were:

*Graduate*

Having a Disability in Appalachia: Social, Cultural, and Political Considerations  
Sara Henson, Megan Foster, Hilliary Johnson, Jordan Lewis, Katie Wilson Communication Disorders  
Adviser: Dr. Karen McComas

*Undergraduate*

Utilization of Unilateral Heat to Increase Extremity Bone Length in Mice  
Jenna Vance  
School of Kinesiology  
Adviser: Dr. Kumika Toma

The winners for Outstanding Practice Presentation were as follows:

*Graduate*

Pre-Service Teachers' Knowledge and Perceptions of Stuttering  
Emily Barney  
Communication Disorders  
Adviser: Craig Coleman

*Undergraduate*

Prevention of Ventilator-Associated Pneumonia in Critical-Care Patients  
Megan Evans, Chelsea Cottrell, Kristen Deise, Elizabeth Sites  
School of Nursing  
Adviser: Dr. Anita Swartzwelder

Dr. William Pewen, associate dean of research for the college, applauded all the participants, noting, "As an inaugural event for our college, this forum provided a sample of the remarkable breadth of our students' endeavors. We hope this event helps provide a springboard for our graduates to continue their work in advancing our knowledge and improving practices to promote health."

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*Photo:* Dr. Michael Prewitt (right), dean of the College of Health Professions, presents the award for Outstanding Practice Presentation to undergraduate nursing student Megan Evans for her group's work on "Prevention of Ventilator Associated Pneumonia in Critical Care Patients." She shares the award with team members Chelsea Cottrell, Kristen Deise and Elizabeth Sites.

## Director of undergraduate public health program receives grant for breast cancer research

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Dr. Monika Sawhney of the College of Health Professions has received a grant through the Higher Education Policy Commission of West Virginia to conduct breast cancer research in rural communities across the state.

Sawhney, director of Marshall's undergraduate public health program, said this research will provide an opportunity for student-focused research training in regard to breast cancer screenings. The students chosen to work on this project include undergraduate public health students Minal Patel and Cory Lambert; School of Medicine resident Mohamed Alsharedi; and medical students Andrew Myers and Chad Crigger.

“These students will collaborate and practice the skills they’ve been learning in the classroom and apply them within a practical setting,” Sawhney said. “As director of the public health undergraduate program, I think it is essential for our students to gain exposure to public health research of this nature and enrich their educational experience.”

The one-year grant is titled, “Improving recruitment of health workers in rural areas through student-focused research training: The case of breast cancer screening in rural West Virginia.” To learn more about the student-focused research training in regard to breast cancer screenings, contact Sawhney at [sawhney@marshall.edu](mailto:sawhney@marshall.edu). To learn more about the public health program visit [www.marshall.edu/cohp](http://www.marshall.edu/cohp) online.

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*Photo:* From left to right, Mohamed Alsharedi, Minal Patel, Chad Crigger, Dr. Monika Sawhney and Cory Lambert will work together for the next year to conduct breast cancer research in rural communities of West Virginia. *Not pictured:* Andrew Myers.

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## ‘Creek Geeks’ exploring effects of humans on region’s waterways

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The recent water crisis in Kanawha and surrounding counties put a spotlight on the quality of West Virginia’s rivers and streams.

A wide variety of research at Marshall is focused on many of the issues raised by the crisis, including how to detect contaminants in the region’s water supply, predicting how dangerous those toxins may be and finding the best ways to remove them from the environment.

Dr. Mindy Armstead, an associate professor of integrated science and technology, is heading up some of that water research. She leads a group of Marshall students who call themselves the “Creek Geeks” and work

both in the lab and in the field to study stream ecology and the effects humans have on those ecosystems.

Although their name is funny, the group is doing vital research.

“Our name truly describes how we blend technology with old-fashioned field biology to address some of the most pressing environmental issues in West Virginia and the Appalachian region,” says Armstead, who joined the Marshall faculty in 2012 through the state’s Eminent Scholars Recruitment and Enhancement initiative to attract nationally recognized researchers.



She says her group’s current research projects include studying the effects of selenium on fish communities and evaluating the effects of total dissolved solids on the small organisms—like mayflies, dragonflies and crayfish—that live among the stones and sediment in streams, rivers and lakes. She adds that biological communities are used to evaluate the quality of freshwater systems and can indicate the presence of chemical contaminants.

Another topic of interest to the “Creek Geeks” is the invasive species *Prymnesium parvum*. Often referred to as the “golden algae,” the organism produces toxins that, while not believed to be dangerous to humans, cause extensive fish kills worldwide. Armstead and her students are evaluating new methods of controlling the algae and studying how environmental conditions affect production of the toxins.

Research assistant Mande Wilson manages the lab and is available to give students ready access to direction and assistance to help keep their projects moving along.



Armstead says, “Our philosophy is to give everyone a chance to get hands-on experience with research that is interesting to them. Some of our research is externally funded, and we often pay students for help on those projects, but we also encourage students to ask their own questions and conduct their original research separate from the funded projects.”

She adds the student researchers have access to modern facilities, including a wet lab for water chemistry analysis and stream mesocosms, which are experimental water enclosures that simulate conditions close to the natural environment, as well as a full complement of field sampling and monitoring equipment.

A nationally respected aquatic toxicologist with 15 years’ experience in the commercial sector, Armstead has led numerous projects to determine water quality standards, assess aquatic community health and develop strategies to improve or protect stream ecosystems. Research in her lab is currently funded through the Appalachian Research Initiative for Environmental Science (ARIES) and the U.S. Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement through a sub-contract with West Virginia University.

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*Photos:* (Above) Dr. Mindy Armstead has been at Marshall since 2012. (Center) Marshall University students doing water quality research in the laboratory of Dr. Mindy Armstead have access to a wet lab and simulated environments to help them evaluate the quality of freshwater systems. (Below) Field work gives Marshall University students working with Dr. Mindy Armstead valuable hands-on opportunities to study stream ecology and the effects humans have on those ecosystems.

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## Investigator joins Marshall Institute for Interdisciplinary Research



Dr. Sandrine V. Pierre has been named associate investigator and education coordinator at the Marshall Institute for Interdisciplinary Research.

Pierre most recently was on the faculty of the University of Toledo College of Medicine, where she had served as an associate professor in the Department of Biochemistry and Cancer Biology since July 2013. Prior to that, she was an assistant professor in the same department. From 2003 to 2011, she was an assistant professor in the college’s Department of Physiology and Pharmacology. In addition, she was a

research instructor and post-doctoral fellow in the Department of Physiology at Texas Tech University from 2000 to 2003.

She has a bachelor's degree in cell biology and a doctorate in cell communication in endocrinology from Aix-Marseille II University in France. She is an active member of the steering committee of the American Physiology Society's Cell and Molecular Physiology section.

Pierre's group at MIIR will explore new treatments for heart attacks and other cardiovascular conditions by studying how the dual role of a sodium-potassium pump regulates cardiac cell physiology in health and diseases.

As the institute's education coordinator, Pierre will work with Marshall academic program directors to facilitate students' access to research opportunities in the MIIR labs.

MIIR is Marshall University's key vehicle to advancing regional economic development through entrepreneurship and commercialization of scientific discoveries. Scientists at the institute are developing an intensive program of biotechnology research dedicated to producing patentable scientific breakthroughs and creating new businesses based on those discoveries.

Research at the institute is focused on a protein, the Na<sup>+</sup>, K<sup>+</sup>-ATPase, which is commonly referred to as the "sodium-potassium pump" because it controls the active transport of potassium and sodium in and out of cells. Through their studies to learn more about the molecular mechanisms by which cellular signaling occurs, MIIR researchers are working to develop new treatments for cancer, heart and kidney disease.

"I am very pleased to have Dr. Pierre join us," said Dr. Zijian Xie, director of MIIR. "She fits very nicely because her skills not only complement the research and innovation strengths at the institute, but also enhance our educational mission. She brings national exposure to MIIR through her experience in student recruitment and her service to the American Physiology Society."

Pierre said, "I simply can't think of a role that could better suit my scientific and academic interests. I am thrilled by the prospect of exploring concrete applications for our research. I am also looking forward to working with my new colleagues at Marshall to build MIIR as an environment that will help further position students for success in biomedical research and entrepreneurship."

For more information about MIIR, visit [www.marshall.edu/miir](http://www.marshall.edu/miir).

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## Reminder: Farewell reception for Barnett is Friday, May 9

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It's not an easy decision to leave behind your work from the past decade, but it's one Marshall University Band Director Steve Barnett felt was right for him. He will be honored at a reception at 2 p.m. Friday, May 9, in the Smith Hall Atrium on the Huntington campus.

Barnett publicly announced his resignation as the face of the Marching Thunder on April 29, explaining that the opportunity to move into another area of music education and also the need to help his 80-year-old mother manage two farms in his hometown of Humboldt, Tennessee, prompted the move. After 35 years as a band director, Barnett accepted a position with Amro Music based in Memphis.

"I will be able to serve and help many students, band directors and schools in the West Tennessee area, which is where I grew up," Barnett said. "And over the next years of my mother's life, I know that she will need me to help her."

College of Arts and Media Dean Donald Van Horn said Barnett's announcement was a sad day for the university and for him, personally.

"I have known few people in higher education who have had such a positive influence on so many students, and Marshall has been fortunate to have Steve for these past 11 years," Van Horn said. "He has meant so much to so many students – it is really quite remarkable."

"More than the music he has directed over the years, it is the quality of student that he has helped shape," Van Horn said. "His ensembles are widely recognized as the finest Marshall ambassadors, and that is a tribute to his character. That is his true legacy he leaves for Marshall."

Dr. Richard Kravchak, School of Music and Theatre director, echoed Van Horn's sentiments, saying Barnett went above and beyond being just a colleague.

Kravchak was new to Huntington in early 2013. Fresh off the plane from California, he wasn't sure how he was going to unload all of his things with a parrot and dog in tow. Kravchak said Barnett arranged for band students to meet him and help him unload his trailer.

"That was very indicative of the man he is," Kravchak said. "I could not have done it without the assistance of the students Steve had arranged. He made me feel so welcome."

Barnett said the band program he and others built at Marshall brings him the biggest sense of accomplishment from his tenure.

“I am most proud of the culture that we have created emphasizing good citizenship, positive attitudes and a family atmosphere in which everyone is welcomed and feels like they belong,” Barnett said. “I cannot thank all of the students and band staff, past and present, and the administrators enough for all they have done to make the band what it is today and to represent the university with such pride and dignity.”

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## Human Resources to offer search committee orientation

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A series of seminars for those interested in becoming active participants in staff recruitment will be offered over the coming months by Human Resources Services and Equity Programs. Participants who successfully complete this training will be certified to serve on university search committees for a two-year period.

The sessions will take place in Old Main 323 from 10 to 11:15 a.m.

“Search Committee Orientation” consists of two parts. First, instruction will be provided about how to use the PeopleAdmin system in accessing and reviewing applications. In the second part of the class, participants will receive search committee orientation, which will include guidance on federal, state and institutional policies related to Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity.

The remaining May dates are May 14 and 28. Complete course information and online registration are available at [www.marshall.edu/human-resources/training/training-schedule/search-committee-orientation](http://www.marshall.edu/human-resources/training/training-schedule/search-committee-orientation).

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## Update: Arrears pay expected to begin in September

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WVOasis Project Manager Todd Childers says the state will convert to arrears payment to state employees in the last pay of September 2014.

As part of the State of West Virginia’s move to the wvOASIS Enterprise Resource Planning System (ERP), Marshall, like all state agencies, will move to a bi-weekly pay system in January 2015. So instead of being paid twice a month as they are now, employees will be paid on the

same day every other week. The transition is part of a system-wide plan to bring employees at all state locations into a standardized pay schedule.

In preparation for the move to bi-weekly, employees who are now paid on a current basis will be moved to an arrears basis. This means that work performed from the first to the middle of the month will be paid at the end of the month.

Childers appears in a video interview speaking about the payroll changes, which may be viewed at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AL2-3GqtaLE>. Although he said 2013 in the interview, it appears that he meant September of 2014.

None of this means that anyone will miss a paycheck, said Mary Ellen Heuton, Marshall's chief financial officer. That first payday when the state converts to an arrearage payroll will be like an advance on an employee's pay. Instead of making anyone skip a payday in order to hold back two week's pay for arrearage payroll, the state will just consider that one pay to be like an interest-free loan. When the employee retires or otherwise leaves state employment, the amount of that first payday will be deducted from his or her final check.

A statewide meeting about wvOASIS is being held next week where it is expected that additional details will be shared. Further information will be posted on the Marshall website at [www.marshall.edu/paychanges](http://www.marshall.edu/paychanges) as it becomes available.

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## RCBI to offer advanced “arts and bots” for grades 3-8

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The Robert C. Byrd Institute for Advanced Flexible Manufacturing (RCBI) and the June Harless Center for Rural Educational Research and Development, in the College of Education and Professional Development, are partnering to offer an Advanced Arts and Bots camp for 3rd-through 8th-grade students who have experience with robotics.

The camp is scheduled June 16-20 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. each day at the Robert C. Byrd Institute, 1050 Fourth Avenue, in Huntington. Cost for the camp is \$100 and a light snack is included.

Children enrolled in the camp will design, build and program their own robots using various craft materials with motors, sensors and lights. The campers also will be introduced to 3-D printing. To enroll, contact Crystal Maynard at 800-469-7224 or [cmaynard@rcbi.org](mailto:cmaynard@rcbi.org).

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The next issue of *We Are...Marshall* will be distributed May 7, 2014. Please send any materials for consideration to [Pat Dickson](#) by 5 p.m. Monday, May 5.