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We Are...Marshall, April 16, 2014

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WE ARE... MARSHALL®

The Newsletter for Marshall University

April 16, 2014

Marshall faculty member to lead team of experts for the National Children's Study



Dr. Rose Rine a faculty member in the College of Health Professions has been selected to lead a team of experts in the sensory domain for the National Children's Study (NCS).

The National Children's Study, a multi-year research study, will examine the effects of environmental influences on the health and development of more than 100,000 children across the United States, following them from before birth until age 21. The goal of the study is to improve the health and well-being of children, according to the NCS website. The National Institutes of Health (NIH), an agency of the United States Department of Health and Human Services, was charged by Congress to plan and implement this study in accordance with the Children's Health Act of 2000.

Dr. Jerry Slotkin, scientific director for the South Regional Operations Center of the NCS, said the study will build a unique set of data that investigators can use to better understand the factors – known and not yet imagined – that affect children as they grow.

Rine, an associate professor in the School of Physical Therapy, was selected to serve on the Scientific Coordinating Committee for Health Measurement based on her expertise in the area of vestibular function and pediatrics, according to Dr. Richard Gershon, co-primary investigator for the study.

“Dr. Rine was instrumental in developing measures of vestibular function and balance for the NIH Toolbox project which was completed in 2012,” Gershon said. “As a result of her success on that project and her knowledge of the field, she was nominated for her current position on the NCS. She continues to play an important role in the identification, selection and development of measurements in the area of sensory function.”

Rine said her involvement with the NCS serves as confirmation her contribution to these worthwhile research efforts are appreciated and valued.

“A long-standing study of this nature can have a major impact on how we care for our children and youth from an educational standpoint, a social standpoint and in general, who they become,” Rine said. “Throughout my career I’ve worked with the health and welfare of children and this is what I’ve worked toward...being asked to sit on this was truly a compliment and something I couldn’t say no to.”

Rine said she believes the most rewarding feeling will come many years from now.

“Who knows what we will know in ten or twenty years down the road thanks to this study,” Rine said. “We will be able to look at the measure we identified and say ‘Ah-ha!’ – it did work and we did identify how this problem came about and maybe we can work toward making that problem go away. That’s going to be amazing.”

According to the NCS website, the National Children’s Study will be one of the richest research efforts geared towards studying children’s health and development and will form the basis of child health guidance, interventions and policy for generations to come. To learn more about Rine and her work in the Marshall School of Physical Therapy, visit www.marshall.edu/cohp online.

New research by Marshall University paleontologist shows climate change drove evolution of ice age predators



Concerns about climate change and its impact on the world around us are growing daily. New scientific studies by Marshall University paleontologist Dr. F. Robin O’Keefe and colleagues at the La Brea Tar Pits in Los Angeles are probing the link between climate warming and the evolution of Ice Age predators, attempting to predict how animals will respond to climate change today.

The La Brea Tar Pits are famous for the amazing array of Ice Age fossils found there, such as ground sloths, mammoths, and predators like saber-toothed cats and powerful dire wolves. But the climate during the end of the Ice Age (50,000-11,000 years ago) was unstable, with rapid warming and cooling. The new research has documented the impact of this climate change on La Brea predators for the first time.

Two new studies published by O’Keefe and Dr. Julie Meachen of Des Moines University, both of whom are research associates at the Page Museum at the La Brea Tar Pits, demonstrate significant change over time in the skulls of both dire wolves and saber-toothed cats.

“Different tar pits at La Brea accumulated at different times,” said O’Keefe, lead author on the dire wolf study (*Palaeontologia Electronica*, April 14, 2014). “When we compare fossils deposited at different times, we see big changes. We can actually watch evolution happening.”

After the end of the last Ice Age, La Brea dire wolves became smaller and more graceful, adapting to take smaller prey as glaciers receded and climate warmed. This rapidly changing climate drove change in saber-toothed cats as well.



“Saber-toothed cats show a clear correlation between climate and shape. Cats living after the end of the Ice Age are larger, and adapted to taking larger prey,” said Meachen, lead author on the sabertooth study (*Journal of Evolutionary Biology*, 2014) and a former instructor at Marshall.

“We can see animals adapting to a warming climate at La Brea,” said O’Keefe. “Then humans show up and all the big ones disappear. We haven’t been able to establish causality there yet. But we are working on it.”

He says the emerging links between climate change and evolution needs further study. There are many unanswered questions; such as why predators change in the ways that they do, the importance of factors other than climate and whether the arrival of humans played a role in the mass extinction at the end of the Ice Age.

John Harris, chief curator at the Page Museum, said, “There is much work to be done on the specimens from the tar pits. We are working actively to bring together the researchers and resources needed to expand on these discoveries. Climate change is a pressing issue for all of us, and we must take advantage of what Rancho La Brea can teach us about how ecosystems react to it.”

O’Keefe and Meachen talk about their work in a video here: http://youtu.be/jK_DKSNbgR4.

O’Keefe’s research has taken him around the globe in search of prehistoric creatures. He is credited with the discovery of a new plesiosaur, *Tatenectes laramiensis*, a type of marine animal that lived during the late Jurassic age when large dinosaurs, including apatosaurus, stegosaurus and allosaurus, roamed the Earth. O’Keefe made the discovery in what is now the Devils Tower National Monument in Wyoming. In addition, his research produced the first evidence to establish that plesiosaurs gave birth to live young, rather than hatching their offspring from eggs on land. That study was published in the journal *Science* in 2011

An associate professor of biology, O’Keefe has been on the Marshall faculty since 2006. He teaches human anatomy, introductory biology, comparative vertebrate anatomy and various graduate seminars, and serves as a graduate adviser. He received his bachelor’s degree in biology from Stanford University and his doctorate in evolutionary biology from the University of Chicago. He has published numerous scientific publications, and has served as a scientific

adviser for *National Geographic*, IMAX and the Discovery Channel. He was named Marshall's 2012-13 Distinguished John Deaver Drinko Academy Fellow.

His research is funded through grants from the National Science Foundation/West Virginia Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research and NASA.

The dire wolf study became available online beginning April 14 at palaeo-electronica.org/content/2014/723-canis-dirus-craniometrics. The sabertooth study is available at <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/jeb.12340/abstract>.

For more information, contact O'Keefe at ext.6-2427 or okeefef@marshall.edu.

Photo: Dr. Robin O'Keefe (above) and Dr. Julie Meachen used more than 200 La Brea fossils (below) in their research. Credit: Page Museum at the La Brea Tar Pits

Jacobs-Jones named senior vice president for operations



Brandi D. Jacobs-Jones, director of administration and finance for the City of Huntington since 2007, has been named senior vice president for operations at Marshall University, President Stephen J. Kopp announced yesterday.

She replaces Dr. Karen Kirtley, senior vice president for administration, who will retire at the end of this month. Jacobs-Jones will begin her duties at Marshall on May 12.

"I'm delighted Ms. Jacobs-Jones has accepted this key leadership position," said Kopp. "We have a number of challenges ahead as an institution and the wealth of experience she brings from her various roles with the city, combined with her considerable interpersonal skills, will be invaluable. Additionally, Marshall University and Huntington have a wonderful partnership and her relationships with the city will help us continue to foster that collaboration. I anticipate she will be an excellent fit in this role and look forward to a smooth transition."

Jacobs-Jones said that she is excited about being part of the university's leadership team.

She said, "I consider it an honor and a joy to return to serve my alma mater. Both our community and the state's success are dependent upon the scholars and workforce developed by Marshall

University. This is a time of great change and challenge in public higher education, and I look forward to transitioning my skills and experience to support the institution and its mission.”

Jacobs-Jones has served three mayors as the city’s director of administration and finance. In that role, she provided oversight and management to a number of municipal departments, including finance, human resources, information technology and purchasing. She has managed a number of multi-disciplinary initiatives including River to Rail and the City of Huntington’s component of the West Virginia Municipal Home Rule Pilot Program. She also has served as acting public works director, with responsibility for the divisions of building maintenance, street, floodwall, traffic engineering, motor pool and inspections and compliance.

Prior to working for the city, she served four years as the outreach coordinator/development officer for Ebenezer Medical Outreach Inc. in Huntington., where she managed health education outreach programs and was responsible for the agency’s volunteer recruitment and management, fundraising, human resources and marketing functions. From 2001 to 2003, she was a housing and urban development fellow at Eastern Kentucky University.

Jacobs-Jones has a master’s degree in public administration from Eastern Kentucky University and a regents bachelor of arts degree from Marshall.

She is the recipient of numerous awards, including being named to the West Virginia State Journal “Generation Next 40 Under 40” in 2012. The West Virginia Women’s Commission recognized her in 2010 with the Lena Lowe Yost Award for Women in Public Service, and in 2009, she received the U.S. Department of Justice Award for Public Service. In 2005, she received the Neighborhood Institute Community Service Award and was named the Mountain State Bar Association Citizen of the Year. While a student at Marshall, she was president of the university’s Student Government Association.

She has served as a member of the adjunct faculty of Marshall’s Department of Political Science. In addition, she is a member of the boards of directors of the Huntington Urban Renewal Authority, Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Tri-State and the Child Development Academy at Marshall University.

Reminder: Marshall Women’s Center to host screening and panel discussion for documentary on military sexual assault

The Marshall University Women’s Center, in conjunction with CONTACT Rape Crisis Center, will sponsor a screening of “The Invisible War,” an investigative documentary about rape within the U.S. military at 6 p.m. tonight in room BE-5 of the Memorial Student Center. It is free and open to the public.

The film follows several veteran survivors of military sexual assault who tell their emotional stories and their efforts to rebuild their lives and seek justice, while revealing the systemic cover-up of rapes within the military. This documentary has exposed a culture of widespread sexual harassment and sexual assault and is credited for encouraging victims to come forward and for publicly forcing the military to deal more openly with the problem of sexual assault within its ranks.

Immediately following the screening, there will be a panel discussion regarding treatment of military sexual assault and victim advocacy. Panelists will include treatment providers from the Huntington Veterans Administration, Marshall Counseling Center and CONTACT Rape Crisis Center of Huntington. Representatives from the MU Psychology Clinic will also be available to provide information about mental health treatment.

The Women's Center is hosting this event as part of Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Other events for the month include "Red Flag Day" on the Huntington campus on Thursday, April 24, which encourages students to identify red flags for stalking, sexual assault, and relationship violence.

Alumni Weekend begins April 25

Marshall University alumni, current students, and friends of the university will be welcomed to the Huntington campus for a weekend of activities Friday and Saturday, April 25 and 26, to celebrate Alumni Weekend 2014.

Among the events planned during the two days are the annual Green and White football game, the annual fountain ceremony and the 77th annual Alumni Awards Banquet, all on Saturday.

Events taking place include:

Friday

6 p.m. – Dinner theatre, a Marshall University theatre production of Shakespeare's *The Taming of the Shrew*, includes dinner, the play and coffee and conversation with the director afterwards in the Francis-Booth Experimental Theatre in the Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center. Costs of tickets are \$38 a person and can be obtained by calling the Alumni Office at ext.6-3134.

Saturday

9 a.m. – Class Breakfast celebrating the golden anniversary of the Grand Class who graduated in 1964, along with those who graduated before and afterward. The breakfast takes place in the Grand Ballroom of the MU Foundation Hall and Erickson Alumni Center. Tickets are \$20 per person and may be obtained by contacting the Alumni Office at ext.6-3134.

11 a.m. – Fountain ceremony to turn on the Memorial Fountain on the student center plaza after it was silenced last year on Nov. 14.

2 p.m. – Kickoff of the Green and White Spring Football Game at the Joan C. Edwards Football Stadium. Tickets are \$5 and can be obtained by contacting the ticket office at 6-HERD.

6:30 p.m. – 77th annual Awards banquet honoring distinguished alumni and friends takes place in the Don Morris Room of the MU Memorial Student Center. Several awards will be given. The cost is \$75 per person or \$140 a couple. Tickets may be obtained by calling ext. 6-3134.

Researchers to present at the World Congress on Endometriosis in Brazil

Two investigators from the [Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine](#) will be traveling later this month to Sao Paolo to present their research at the World Congress on Endometriosis.

The congress is held every three years and brings together scientists, clinicians, nurses and other healthcare professionals involved in research or treatment of endometriosis—a chronic, inflammatory condition that affects young women and adversely impacts their fertility and quality of life.



Dr. Nalini Santanam, a professor in the Department of Pharmacology, Physiology and Toxicology, and doctoral student Kristeena Ray said they are looking forward to participating in the conference, which is being held April 30-May 3.

“Though 10 to 15 percent of young women suffer from endometriosis and almost two-thirds of these women suffer from chronic pain, the exact nature of this disease is not very well understood. My laboratory has a long-standing interest in understanding why some women get endometriosis and have pain,” said Santanam. “We are very honored that our abstracts were chosen for presentation at this meeting. The most exciting part was to find out that Kristeena was

selected to give an oral presentation and was one of only six investigators selected to receive the Rodolphe Maheux Travel Grant.”

The Rodolphe Maheux Travel Grants are awarded by the World Endometriosis Society to help young researchers attend scientific meetings. The program is named in honor of the society’s co-founder.

The balance of Ray’s travel expenses are being funded by the university’s Biomedical Sciences Graduate Program and the Department of Pharmacology, Physiology and Toxicology.



Ray is a third-year Ph.D. candidate. She works in Santanam’s laboratory studying the epigenetics of pain in endometriosis—the changes caused to DNA and genes by environment and lifestyle. Last summer, she was selected for the university’s Chancellor’s Scholar Program, an initiative to help ensure the academic success of underrepresented minority doctoral students.

Their research is partially funded through Marshall’s partnership with the University of Kentucky and the National Institutes of Health’s Clinical and Translational Science Awards program aimed at speeding the time for laboratory discoveries to benefit patients.

The researchers expressed their appreciation to Dr. Robert Nerhood and Dr. David Jude, the past and present chairmen of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology for their support and acknowledged Sandy White and Carla Cook for coordinating the clinical study.

Santanam added, “This study would not have been possible without the collaboration and intellectual contributions of Dr. Brenda Mitchell, who is a professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. We express special thanks to Dr. Mitchell.”

General Faculty meeting to honor retirees, award winners April 29

Seventeen retiring faculty members will be honored for their combined 401 total years of service to Marshall when the spring general faculty meeting of the 2013-2014 academic year takes place Tuesday, April 29, beginning at 2 p.m. in the Playhouse of the Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center.

The agenda will include welcoming remarks by the Faculty Senate Chair, Dr. Eldon Larsen; remarks from President Stephen J. Kopp; recognition of retiring faculty by Larsen and presentation of faculty awards by Dr. John Winfrey. The awards include Faculty Distinguished Service, John and Frances Rucker Graduate Advisor of the Year, Distinguished Artists and

Scholars, E. Pickens/G. Queen Excellence in Teaching, Marshall & Shirley Reynolds Outstanding Teacher, and the Charles E. Hedrick Outstanding Faculty Award.

All faculty, staff, students, and members of the public are invited to attend. Following the meeting, a reception to honor the retiring and award-winning faculty will be held in the lobby of the Performing Arts Center.

Retiring faculty to be recognized and their years of service are: Richard Emerson Abel, Integrated Science, 7; Dr. Daniel Babb, Chemistry, 41; Kathleen Bledsoe, Librarian, 24; Dr. Laura Boswell, Special Education, 9; Dr. Elizabeth Evans, Psychiatry & Behavioral Medicine, 11; Dr. Jeanette Farmer, Special Education, 7; Dr. Mary Jo Graham, Early Childhood Education, 20; Dr. Cynthia Kolsun, Leadership Studies, 3; Dr. Glenda Lowry, Family and Consumer Science, 27; Dr. Jeffrey May, Biological Sciences, 22; Dr. Clayton McNearney, Religious Studies, 42; Dr. Mary B. Moore, English, 19; Dr. Stephen O'Keefe, Psychology, 38; Dr. Judith Silver, Mathematics, 29; Dr. David Allan Stern, Safety Technology, 37; Dr. John Walden, Family and Community Health, 31; and Dr. W. Joe Wyatt, Psychology, 34.

Forensic Science Center receives National Visionary Voice Award for sexual assault outreach initiatives



The Marshall University Forensic Science Center is a recipient of the 2014 Visionary Voice Award, a national award honoring individuals and organizations throughout the country doing outstanding work to end sexual violence in their communities.

The National Sexual Violence Resource Center sponsors the Visionary Voice Award in conjunction with Sexual Assault Awareness Month each April. Nominees are selected by state, tribal or territory anti-sexual violence coalitions.

The award was presented April 9 to Dr. Terry W. Fenger, director of the Forensic Science Center, and Jason Chute, DNA Technical Leader, at the 14th Annual Statewide West Virginia Sexual Assault and Stalking Symposium at the Stonewall Resort in Roanoke, W.Va.

The West Virginia Foundation for Rape Information and Services (FRIS) nominated Marshall's Forensic Science Center for the award in recognition of its outreach projects and contributions in support of victim assistance and addressing sexual violence in West Virginia and its local communities.

Fenger said receiving the national award is an honor. “The Forensic Science Center’s long partnership with the FRIS coalition has been valuable to the Huntington community as well as the state in helping victims of sexual assault in West Virginia as well as other states across the country,” he said. “The training initiatives for nurses and collaborative efforts with law enforcement ultimately support serving justice for the victims of these violent crimes.”

The West Virginia Foundation for Rape Information and Services is West Virginia’s state sexual assault coalition. Established in 1982 and comprised of the state’s nine rape crisis centers, FRIS works with all allied professionals to strengthen services and develop intervention and prevention programs to address sexual violence, stalking and dating violence.

The Forensic Science Center began collaborating with the West Virginia Foundation for Rape Information and Services in 2003 and supported development of Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) and Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE) training initiatives. The center hosted the region’s first Sexual Assault Response Training for health care workers and law enforcement.

Since May 2004, MUFSC has provided week-long adult and pediatric Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Training to more than 430 registered nurses from West Virginia and 21 states across the country. Specialized training is delivered on how to care for the complex issues of sexual assault victims such as how to recognize, collect and preserve evidence, interview victims and link them to vital community resources for follow-up.

In West Virginia, Marshall’s Forensic Science Center serves as the secure storage area of sexual assault kits for victims until he or she notifies law enforcement and grants approval to initiate a criminal case.

Additionally, the center participates in the Cabell County Sexual Assault Response Team and hosts meetings. Staff members also serve on the SANE Advisory Board coordinated by FRIS.

Photo: Nancy Hoffman, state coordinator for the West Virginia Foundation for Rape Information and Services, center, presents Dr. Terry W. Fenger, left, with a Visionary Voice Award from the National Sexual Violence Resource Center for Marshall University Forensic Science Center’s support to improve services in West Virginia for sexual assault victims. Standing at right is Jason Chute, the center’s DNA Technical Leader.

Department of Communication Disorders receives continuing accreditation

The graduate program in speech-language pathology in the Department of Communication Disorders has been awarded continuing accreditation from the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (CAA).

As of Feb. 22, the CAA voted to re-accredit the program for a period of eight years beginning Dec. 1, 2013 and continuing through Nov. 20, 2021. The program was originally accredited in 1992.

Dr. Karen McNealy, chair of the Department of Communication Disorders, said accreditation was awarded as a result of an on-site visit from last fall and would not have been possible without the continued support of Marshall University and, specifically, the College of Health Professions.

“We are very grateful for the dedicated faculty within our department and the college administration,” McNealy said. “We have been re-accredited for a full eight years which is the maximum number of years for any speech-language pathology program. This is considered a national distinction and we are quite proud of that.”

McNealy said receiving continuing accreditation ensures the success of students within the Department of Communication Disorders.

“In order for students to practice in their field they must graduate from an accredited institution to obtain licensing and certification,” McNealy said. “Graduates of our program are employed as speech-language pathologists across the U.S.”

Dr. Michael W. Prewitt, dean of the College of Health Professions, said he commends his colleagues for their commitment to this program.

“As demonstrated by the efforts to receive program accreditation, we can see continuous improvement for health professions education at Marshall University,” Prewitt said.

Currently, the Department of Communication Disorders is home to the Speech and Hearing Center, the Scottish Rite Childhood Speech and Language Program, The Luke Lee Listening, Language and Learning Lab, The Oshel Parent Education Program and the Stuttering Clinic.

For more information on the Department of Communication Disorders, visit www.marshall.edu/cohp online.

Marshall faculty member, alumni, students win best health care papers awards

Dr. Alberto Coustasse, associate professor in the Health Care Management program, from the Marketing and MIS division of the College of Business, and several Marshall alumni and graduating students were honored with Best Paper Awards at the annual Business and Healthcare Administration Association (BHAA) conference held last month in Chicago.

Their papers were among the top 10 papers selected. Categories and topics included:

- Healthcare Management – *Early Mobilization in ICU Patients-* Alex Hunter, Leslie Johnson, William K, Willis, Alberto Coustasse.
- Healthcare Economics – *Financial Advantages of Hospitals' Relationships with Accountable Care Organizations* – Rodrigo Camargo, Thaisa Camargo, Stacie Deslich, Alberto Coustasse.
- Healthcare Marketing – *Medical Tourism Comparing Bypass Surgery in the U.S. and Abroad-* William K. Willis, Alberto Coustasse
- Nursing – *The American Epidemic: The U.S. Nursing Shortage and Turnover Problem* – Patrick Cox, William K. Willis, Alberto Coustasse

Application process begins for Great Teachers Seminar in June

The WV Higher Education Policy Commission, with support from the Faculty Advisory Council, will sponsor the 22nd Annual WV Great Teachers Seminar (GTS), Monday, June 16, through Thursday, June 19, at North Bend State Park in Cairo, W.Va. Faculty interested in this unique professional development opportunity should contact Dr. Sherri Smith in the Center for Teaching and Learning (smithsc@marshall.edu) for application information.

Marshall University is eligible to send up to four faculty members to the seminar with all expenses paid. Registration is funded by the HEPC, and travel expenses (lodging, meals and mileage) are funded by the MU Office of Academic Affairs. The application process is administered through the Center for Teaching and Learning.

The focus of the seminar will be on innovations and challenges of instruction at the college and university level. The seminar is based on the notion that, if properly tapped, the collective wisdom, experience and creativity of any group of practicing educators far surpasses that of any individual expert or consultant. The seminar challenges educators to undertake rational analysis of instructional problems, develop realistic and creative approaches to solutions, and venture beyond the limits of their own specializations and environments in search of transferable ideas. GTS is a useful context for developing one's perspective and philosophy on excellence in teaching.

The seminar is at the North Bend State Park Lodge (not far from Parkersburg). Participants will enjoy the facilities of an established conference center situated in a picturesque wooded valley. Recreational activities include bicycling, tennis, hiking, swimming, playing music, guided nature and bird walks, and nearby antique shopping. Participants have one afternoon free for recreation.

Smith said CTL will attempt to assemble a team from across several departments.

Reminder: Student-run garden needs daily votes to win grant

Tucked away behind the Career Services Center on 5th Avenue in Huntington is a humble student-run garden grown from campus and volunteer resources and organic seeds. In eight raised beds, the garden's founders saw an opportunity to raise awareness about the merits and how-tos of growing your own vegetables and to give the Marshall University community a unique connection to locally grown produce.

"Every year, that garden grows and not just in plants, but in scope and reach to people in the community," said Margie Phillips, manager of Marshall's Sustainability Department.

Now the garden is in steep competition for a grant from organic food and seed producer, Seeds of Change, which will award \$190,000 in grants to deserving community gardens. Phillips is encouraging everyone to go and vote once per day to help put the student garden on the path to a bigger, greener future.

To vote, follow this link: <http://www.seedsofchange.com/GalleryDetail.aspx?id=89200b7a-e1f9-48f8-bff3-2ad5e8e0aecc&share>.

Seeds of Change was founded in 1989 with the mission of making organically grown seeds available to gardeners and farmers while preserving countless heirloom seed varieties in danger of being lost to modern industrial agriculture. The company also produces Certified Organic foods.

“We really need the whole Marshall family clicking and voting every single day through April 21,” Phillips said. “Please share this story on Facebook and send out tweets!”

To keep up with the green doings of the Sustainability Department, go to <http://tinyurl.com/lk7uvpm> or www.marshall.edu/sustainability.

The next issue of *We Are...Marshall* will be distributed April 23, 2014. Please send any materials for consideration to [Pat Dickson](#) by 5 p.m. Monday, April 21.