7-10-2013

We Are...Marshall, July 10, 2013

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Recommended Citation
http://mds.marshall.edu/mu_newsletter/339

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Advance only tickets on sale now for Marshall University’s 16th annual Paint the Capital City Green rally

Tickets are now on sale for the 16th annual Paint the Capital City Green celebration coming to Charleston Embassy Suites on Thursday, Aug. 22.

Thundering Herd fans will hear from head football coach Doc Holliday, athletic director Mike Hamrick and President Stephen J. Kopp, as well as key members of this year’s team as they talk about the future of Marshall University football.

Fans will also enjoy a pep rally atmosphere that includes a tailgate spread, entertainment by Marco, the cheerleading squad, dance team and members of the MU Marching Thunder.

Festivities begin at 6:30 p.m. and the formal program begins at 7:30 p.m.

Advance only tickets are $50 and must be purchased by close of business on Friday, Aug. 16, to be entered into a drawing for the opportunity to win admission and hotel accommodations for two to Marshall’s game at Florida Atlantic University Oct. 12 in Boca Raton.

For ticket information, call the Big Green Scholarship Foundation at ext.6-7138 or e-mail paintthecapital@marshall.edu.

The event, presented by Friends of Coal, is the nation’s largest indoor pep rally for Thundering Herd alumni, fans and friends. Paint the Capital City Green is hosted by the Big Green Scholarship Foundation and the Marshall University Alumni Association. Event proceeds benefit the Big Green Scholarship Foundation and the MU Alumni Association.

For more information, contact Lalena Price, M.B.A, Marshall University Communications at ext.6-1989 or by e-mail at pricel@marshall.edu.
Marshall University School of Pharmacy passes second step in national accreditation process

The School of Pharmacy has earned “candidate” accreditation status from the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), the national accrediting body for schools of pharmacy in the United States, according to Dean Kevin W. Yingling.

Candidate accreditation status is the second step of a three-step process that culminates with graduation of the first class and adherence to all ACPE accreditation standards. The new status is based on a site visit made to the school in April.

In its decision to grant candidate status to Marshall’s Doctor of Pharmacy program, the ACPE’s Board of Directors reported, “action was taken upon the determination that planning for the Doctor of Pharmacy program has adequately taken into account ACPE standards and guidelines, and that reasonable assurances exist for moving to the next step in the accreditation process, namely that of Full accreditation status. The Candidate accreditation term granted for the Doctor of Pharmacy program extends until June 30, 2015, which represents the customary two-year cycle for programs granted Candidate accreditation status. A focused on-site evaluation for purposes of considering the continuation of the Doctor of Pharmacy program Candidate accreditation status and its transition to Full accreditation status shall be scheduled during the 2014-2015 academic year.”

“I am so very pleased to announce that Marshall has passed this very pivotal point in the accreditation process,” Yingling said. “The ACPE was very complimentary of our faculty and staff for their outstanding efforts to build a dynamic, forward-thinking school of pharmacy which will educate the next generation of pharmacists and help meet the growing health care needs of our state and region.”

Yingling went on to say that receiving candidate status is the result of months of building robust experiential and clinical platforms, as well as developing operational policies and procedures for faculty, staff and students.

President Stephen J. Kopp said the School of Pharmacy’s progress under Yingling’s guidance is a testament to his outstanding leadership abilities.

“Dr. Yingling has assembled a dedicated, highly-qualified group of individuals who, working together as a team, are molding what will become one of the premier pharmacy schools in the country,” Kopp said. “Our commitment to the success of Marshall University and our students is unwavering; our vision to create an outstanding academic program designed for the 21st century is clear.”

The first class was admitted in August 2012.

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Prewitt to head United Way of River Cities

Dr. Michael W. Prewitt, dean of the College of Health Professions, has been named president of the board of directors for United Way of the River Cities for 2013-14.

Prewitt joined the United Way of the River Cities in 2010 when he first moved to Huntington.

“Before coming to Marshall, I was actively involved with United Way during my years at the University of Missouri-Columbia,” Prewitt said in a release. “I continue to feel a tremendous sense of satisfaction working with an organization that has such a positive impact on the community.”

As president, Prewitt will be responsible for the oversight of the agency’s executive committee and board of directors while conducting the monthly meetings. He also will coordinate regularly with Laura Gilliam, executive director of United Way of the River Cities. United Way of the River Cities is a nonprofit organization that serves five counties, including Cabell, Wayne, Lincoln and Mason counties in West Virginia and Lawrence County in Ohio. United Way of the River Cities supports programs and strategies that address critical issues in the areas of education, income, health and safety-net services.

Prewitt says United Way has huge initiatives involving health care and substance abuse, including the Cabell County Substance Abuse Prevention.

“It’s nice to see how the funds raised by this organization are immediately used to enhance and strengthen our community,” he said.

Marshall announces upgraded student e-mail system for students

An upgraded student e-mail system at Marshall will result in more available services and an easier, single sign-on system for student accounts, beginning July 15.

The system, powered by Microsoft Office 365 (previously known as Live@edu), will be available for all Marshall students. The upgrade will not impact MU faculty and staff using the university-hosted Outlook/Exchange e-mail, but faculty and staff are asked to pass along this information to students who may need it, said Jody Perry, executive director of technology services with Information Technology.
Marshall has been part of the Live Mail program with Microsoft since 2010. Microsoft has since discontinued the Live Mail service and replaced it with Office 365. Some of the features of Office 365 are improved e-mail and calendaring, web conferencing, instant messaging, file storage and sharing and team web sites. Not all of the new services will be available immediately but will be in the near future.

“Office 365 is a big upgrade for students that will give them online tools much like the Microsoft Outlook services used by companies around the world,” Perry said. “It’s more than just better email – it includes calendar and task management features that will help them keep up with their busy schedules and coursework.”

Perry said students using mobile devices to connect to their e-mail will need to update their credentials and log in with their MUNet username and password to access their e-mail. If they don’t do this, they will not automatically receive e-mail on their phones. Students who do not know their MUNet credentials may visit www.marshall.edu/munetlookup to get their usernames and reset their passwords. Their e-mail address will remain the same.

The upgraded Office 365 system will be easily accessible through the updated Marshall University portal, myMU (www.marshall.edu/myMU).

More information about Office 365 is available at http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/academic. Students also may contact the IT service desk at itservicedesk@marshall.edu, or call 304-696-3200.

Researcher lands NIH grant to study mechanisms of human reproduction

Dr. Guo-Zhang Zhu, an associate professor of biology, has received a two-year, $148,800 grant from the National Institutes of Health for his work to study the processes of human reproduction.

Research in Zhu’s lab focuses on understanding the molecular basis of fertilization and early embryonic development.

He says that in addition to helping scientists understand the mechanisms of cell differentiation and development, the study funded through NIH’s National Institute of Child Health and Human Development may offer insights into the causes of infertility in men and lead to new strategies for assisted reproduction and male contraception.
The National Institute of Child Health and Human Development sponsors research on human development; maternal, child, and family health; reproductive biology and population issues; and medical rehabilitation.

Zhu previously was awarded a three-year NIH grant worth $212,792.

Reminder: Marshall to welcome students with Asperger’s Syndrome July 27

Approximately 12-15 students with Asperger’s Syndrome will be coming from across the country to take part in Marshall’s 7th Annual Summer Transition Program on the Huntington campus July 27 through Aug. 16. In addition to taking a class of their choice, students will work collaboratively with staff to structure daily activities and develop visual schedules that are tailored to each student.

For more information go to http://www.marshall.edu/collegeprogram or contact Rebecca Hansen, Program Coordinator at fuller26@marshall.edu. In addition, videos can be viewed at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c8sP9JLbFjQ and https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iKkvVDJK3gM

Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine volunteer faculty member awarded teaching honor

Mathew Weimer, M.D., a family physician in Milton who completed a family medicine residency at the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine, is among a select group of physicians honored by the American Academy of Family Physicians Foundation for his commitment to education in the field of family medicine.

Weimer was selected to receive a 2013 Pfizer Teacher Development Award based on his scholastic achievement, leadership qualities and dedication to family medicine. He was nominated by colleagues in the Department of Family Medicine where he is currently a part-time
instructor. He serves as a volunteer clinical faculty member with the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine.

This is the third consecutive year a MU Family Medicine residency graduate has received the prestigious award. In 2012, Dr. Jason Hudak was given the award and in 2011, Dr. Scott Davis was recognized.

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Marshall selected to help implement energy and power curriculum for high school students

Marshall University has been selected by the Southern Regional Education Board to help implement an energy and power program of study for high school students in West Virginia and other states.

As part of SREB’s Advanced Career program, faculty members from the College of Information Technology and (CITE) are working with the West Virginia Department of Education to launch a sequence of four courses intended to increase the number of students who leave high school prepared for further study, advanced training and careers in energy and power.

Engineering professor Dr. Richard Begley, who is directing the project, said the field of energy and power was selected for the project because of its importance to West Virginia’s economy. The project is one of several similar initiatives SREB is developing in partnership with its member states.

According to Begley, the new courses were designed by teams from universities and high schools in partnership with industry experts. The curriculum incorporates a hands-on approach with experiments that use energy and power measurement instruments, data software and computer simulations. Participating students will learn to apply mathematical and scientific concepts, and will use technology and engineering to solve real-world problems found in the energy and power industry.

Begley said Marshall’s primary role in the project will be training high school teachers to deliver the curriculum. Sessions to train selected West Virginia teachers will be held this summer. The trained teachers will pilot the new courses during the upcoming school year and next summer will help train teachers from other states.

Dr. Wael Zatar, dean of CITE, said the cooperative project is testament to the quality of the university’s engineering faculty.
“The fact that our college was selected by SREB to help implement this program in West Virginia speaks volumes about our faculty, their skills and their dedication to helping students learn at all levels,” he said. “Work force development is at the heart of everything we do and this new curriculum will play a vital role in preparing high school students to continue their educations and contribute to our state’s economic future.”

Dr. Gayle Ormiston, provost and senior vice president for academic affairs, congratulated Begley and Zatar, saying, “We are pleased to be part of this important cooperative program with SREB and the West Virginia Department of Education. Thank you to Dr. Begley and Dean Zatar for their leadership. The hands-on approach of the Advanced Career program is perfectly suited to the style of teaching and learning we embrace here at Marshall.”

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Marshall scholarships memorialize educator John E. Huxley

The John E. Huxley memorial scholarships for physical therapy and special education have been established by the Marshall University Foundation, Inc., according to Dr. Ron Area, CEO of the foundation.

These endowed and renewable awards will go to full-time Marshall University students who are residents of West Virginia, in good academic standing (2.5 GPA or higher) and are majoring in Physical Therapy and Special Education, respectively. The award recipients will be chosen by the Office of Student Financial Assistance.

The awards were established to memorialize John E. Huxley, who spent his life as an educator, teaching in Kanawha and Boone counties and at Charleston Catholic High School. He also worked for the West Virginia State Department of Education in the Office of Special Education. Most recently, Huxley was the Director of Distance Education at the Marshall University Graduate School of Education and Professional Development.

These scholarships will be available for the 2013-2014 academic year.

Anyone wanting to contribute to the John E. Huxley Memorial Scholarship for Physical Therapy or the John E. Huxley Memorial Scholarship for Special Education may do so by sending a check payable to: The Marshall University Foundation, Inc., 519 John Marshall Dr., Huntington, WV 25703 and listing the specific scholarship on the memo line.

Photo: John E. Huxley, who died in May, is being remembered with scholarships in special education and physical therapy.
Works of artist Craig Hill on exhibit at Gallery 842

Visiting artist Craig Hill is featured in a solo exhibition that began last weekend at Gallery 842 at 842 4th Ave. in Huntington. The exhibit features both paintings and drawings.

“We’re excited to welcome an artist of Mr. Hill’s reputation to campus,” said gallery director John Farley. “His paintings are equal parts playful and thoughtful, with content that is both accessible and challenging. The familiar imagery derived from popular culture – superheroes, toys and ray guns – found in Hill’s paintings offers viewers deceptively simple points of entry for the discussion of much more complex ideas.”

Hill earned his B.F.A. in drawing from the Atlanta College of Art and his M.F.A. in painting and printmaking from the Rhode Island School of Design. He teaches drawing, painting and printmaking at Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio. His work appropriates imagery and techniques from pop culture and modernist works of art, and addresses issues of masculinity and male rites of passage.

Hill has exhibited in both solo and group exhibitions across the country at such venues as the Danna Center Gallery at Loyola University in New Orleans, La., the Shremshock Gallery in Westerville, Ohio, and the L2 Gallery in Washington, D.C.

The exhibition will be on display until Aug. 23. Gallery 842 is free and open to the public Tuesday through Saturday from noon to 7 p.m.

Newly enacted pharmacy legislation allows for health care advances

Officials with the School of Pharmacy say legislation adopted by the 2013 West Virginia Legislature and signed into law by Governor Earl Ray Tomblin paves the way for new educational opportunities and also modernizes pharmacy practice in the state.

Brian A. Gallagher, director of pharmacy services at the school, said the legislation expands collaborative practice between pharmacists and physicians and replaces outdated policy from the 1990s.

Gallagher says under the new law pharmacists will be able to partner with physicians to provide specific patient care functions under certain conditions and limitations.
Dr. Kevin W. Yingling, dean of the School of Pharmacy, applauded the efforts of lawmakers for revamping the decades-old pharmacy act which, he says, now allows for enhanced patient care outcomes through medication therapy management by pharmacists and for broader experiential opportunities for pharmacy students.

“The modernization of the pharmacy practice act moves West Virginia forward in pharmacy education and ultimately means better and more accessible health care for patients,” Yingling said. “I commend the West Virginia Legislature, in particular Delegate Don C. Perdue and Senator Ron D. Stollings, and Governor Earl Ray Tomblin for their dedication to shepherding this much-needed initiative into law.”

The Larry W. Border Pharmacy Practice Act is named in memory of longtime delegate and pharmacist Larry W. Border, who passed away in 2011. “This particular legislation had been in process for three years,” Perdue said. “The assistance of Dean Yingling, the folks at the Marshall University School of Pharmacy and pharmacy professionals across the state were critical in getting a version passed that was appealing to both professionals and the public.”

Stollings agreed, saying, “The work of Dr. Yingling and others at Marshall certainly helped facilitate the passage of this much-needed update to the Pharmacy Practice Act. Health care of the future is all about teamwork and the new law provides a framework for that collaboration to occur.”

The new law took effect July 1.

Marshall School of Physical Therapy receives Hedrick Grant for Teaching Innovation

Dr. Penny Kroll and Dr. Rania Karim of the School of Physical Therapy have received the Hedrick Program Grant for Teaching Innovation for the 2013-14 academic year.

Kroll is director of the School of Physical Therapy and Karim is an assistant professor with the school.

The Hedrick Grant is given annually from the Faculty Development Office in the Center for Teaching and Learning at Marshall. The grant funds an award of up to $5,000 for a project that supports innovations in teaching at the program level.
“As clinicians we realize the importance of working together across disciplines,” Kroll said. “We have joined with the College of Health Profession’s Department of Communication Disorders and School of Nursing as well as the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine and School of Pharmacy to continue our inter-professional education (IPE) initiative.”

Approximately 320 students were brought together this past spring for three, three-hour seminars. They participated in activities designed to encourage inter-professional education, which occurs when “students from two or more professions learn about, from and with each other to enable effective learning.

With the aid of the Hedrick Grant, Karim said students can build on these experiences and continue their interactions with different professionals to learn about improving patient care.

“If we can get our students exposed to this collaborative environment of working with individuals of different disciplines, we create meaningful interactions that improve student outcomes,” Karim said. “Growing up in this educational environment will allow them to be more prepared for real-world situations. That’s our ultimate goal.”

Both Kroll and Karim agree the need for inter-professional education is greater than ever due to miscommunication among health care workers, which can result in many costly medical errors. Pam Holland, director of clinical education in the Department of Communication Disorders, said the changing landscape of health care is one reason why inter-professional education is so important.

“Students we are educating now will be working in a changing environment,” Holland said. “It is essential, now more than ever, to have a solid understanding of how other professionals can contribute to the care of a patient and see others’ knowledge and skills as equally important.”

Holland, one of the faculty organizers for the inter-professional education sessions, said she was not surprised to hear about the School of Physical Therapy’s grant award.

“This is a great example of innovation that benefits both faculty and students as well as the community for years to come through the quality of health care received,” Holland said. “The fact that the IPE initiative is a collaborative endeavor across several disciplines further supports the recognition provided through the grant.”

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*Photo:* Students from the College of Health Professions’ Department of Communication Disorders, School of Physical Therapy and School of Nursing joined with the Joan C. Edwards Schools of Medicine and Pharmacy last spring for the first ever inter-professional education (IPE) seminar.
Donations sought for facility to help treat drug-addicted babies

Donations for Lily’s Place, a new facility that will be opening in Huntington to treat drug addicted babies, is taking place in the MU Rec Center and the Memorial Student Center through July 15. The Student Health Education Program is asking for help in collecting items for these babies.

Items needed include diapers (preemie, newborn, size 1), wipes, burp cloths, gently used and new baby clothes (preemie, newborn and 0-3 months sizes), formula, baby soaps, lotions, ointments, bottles and blankets.

For additional information, contact Amy Saunders, director of Student Health Education Programs at ext. 6-4800.

Profile: Marie Willis

Marie Willis likes to shake things up sometimes. “I like change; routine is fine where it’s needed but when it gets too comfortable, it’s time to try something different. I like to see things evolve,” says the Administrative Secretary Senior for Outreach and Continuing Studies.

And her own life can serve as an example. Years ago when she came to Huntington from her home just northwest of Boston with her then-husband and baby daughter, the River Cities area felt like home right from the start. “After my daughter started school and my son was in preschool, I decided to take a part-time job and take some classes at a local business college,” she says. “Then later I pursued an undergraduate degree from Ohio University’s Ironton campus before transferring to Marshall.” But after two semesters at Marshall, because of family priorities, college was put on hold. Willis, however, continued an interest in the field of business and spent several years working with a nonprofit group.

Then one day, just by chance, she caught a radio ad about Marshall’s Regents B.A. degree program, which she was delighted to learn had an emphasis in business. “I heard that the program was geared more toward adults and there were various ways to get credits,” she recalls. And particularly appealing to her, students could get credit for their business experiences. Before long she was enrolled in Saturday classes in a program she found to be very rigorous. “I had four hours of homework a day,” she remembers. But with perseverance and additional evening
classes, she received her RBA degree and went on to earn a M.S. from Marshall in adult and technical education with an emphasis in training and development in business and industry.

Willis didn’t know it at the time, but her personal RBA experience would eventually play an important role in the job that she eventually took at Marshall for Outreach and Continuing Studies. The RBA Program is a component of OCS and part of her job today, she explains, is administering the CLEP and DSST exams, both college equivalent exams that are offered by the RBA program. She proctors the exams and makes sure the administrative work is complete. “We encourage our students to take them and we make them available.” She also works with the RBA in a support role because she’s often the original contact with students interested in the program, and as an alumna, she’s an enthusiastic ambassador for the program. “I’m the first person students see when they come in and, depending on what their needs are, I direct them to an advisor, prepare transfers to the RBA program or just arrange for whatever other things that may be required. I also help them navigate the website. Having been through the program myself, I can understand their needs and answer questions,” she says. And of course these duties are combined with her other administrative support responsibilities for the Outreach and Continuing Education program.

While working toward her undergraduate degree she took a course in International Studies, which included an unforgettable trip. The Adult and Technical Education program sponsored a 10-day trip to Western Europe, where the group toured London, visited the White Cliffs of Dover, then went on to Belgium, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Paris and, Willis’ particular favorites, Milan, Verona and Venice, Italy. “The trip was wonderful, just indescribable,” she says. “I really want to go back to Italy. I’m of Italian heritage … my grandparents were born and raised in Tuscany. I definitely want to go back; I’m hoping next year.”

Because she loved going to school and now working with students, Willis signed on to be a UNI 100 facilitator last fall beginning with the Week of Welcome (WOW) activities for incoming freshmen. “I take every opportunity to learn new things and the UNI class helped me learn more about the university. A lot has changed since I was a student here, so it was an enriching experience for me. We had a lot of students from out of state. They came from Louisiana, Chicago, Florida, many from the Midwest, and even from Canada. I had such a good experience I’m planning to facilitate another class this fall.”

The athletic Willis laments that there was no rec center when she was a student. If there had been she certainly would have used it, because fitness has been a lifelong priority for her and she works diligently to stay fit and trim. Living near the YMCA is convenient, so she can be found there working out four times a week and she’s a determined walker as well. And she and some of her colleagues participate in Marshall’s fitness challenge, competing with other groups to see which team can compile the most time in minutes spent working out. “I’ve been involved with keeping fit all my life,” she says. “I played tennis and I skied. I belonged to a ski club and we skied in West Virginia and Ohio, but I haven’t done that for a while—family and school curtailed that.”

And always eager to change things up, as she says, and looking for something she hadn’t tried before, about a year ago Willis joined the choir at St. Joseph’s Catholic Church even though she
had never sung in a choir before. The experience actually has provided some unexpected benefits. “I wanted to do something as a volunteer but I didn’t know what to do, so this seemed like a good opportunity. Being in the choir has turned out to be a good way to get to know people in the parish.”

In addition, she’s made good friends on campus with a camaraderie that sometimes extends to weekend social activities. Part of a close-knit family, she relishes visits to her daughter Lianne and the four grandchildren, who live in Indiana, and son Donald in Columbus, Ohio. “This summer I took one of my grandsons to Myrtle Beach with me—it turned out to be a real treat for both of us.”

Her life today is balanced in a good way, she believes. “One of my goals was to get my bachelor’s degree. I never dreamed I would go on to get a master’s, but I did. Sometimes I’ve had to change paths, but I want to move forward, that’s my goal. As long as you’re moving forward, that’s what you have to focus on.”

The next issue of We Are…Marshall will be distributed July 24, 2013. Please send any materials for consideration to Pat Dickson by noon, July 22.