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We Are...Marshall, May 8, 2013

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More than 1,500 to graduate from Marshall May 11

More than 1,500 students will graduate Saturday, May 11, in a pair of commencement ceremonies at the Big Sandy Superstore Arena. Marshall will conduct two commencements for the second consecutive year. The 9 a.m. ceremony is for undergraduates, and a 2 p.m. ceremony the same day is for graduate students.

Registrar Roberta Ferguson said the decision to split commencement into two events last year was a popular one and both ceremonies went smoothly.

“We received excellent feedback from last year and the overwhelming opinion was good,” Ferguson said. “Two shorter ceremonies rather than one very long one makes it easier on the graduates and their families and friends. With this format we can still honor each graduate individually without taking too long.”

Among the 1,507 students receiving degrees are 986 undergraduates, 439 graduate students and 72 from the School of Medicine. The commencement ceremony is for tentative May 2013 graduates only. Ferguson said she expects about 650 undergraduates and 175 graduate students to take part in their respective ceremonies.

Ferguson said 516 students will graduate with honors. One hundred fifty-nine will graduate summa cum laude (3.85 to 4.0 GPA), 139 magna cum laude (3.6 to 3.84 GPA), and 208 cum laude (3.3 to 3.59). Ten students receiving associate degrees will graduate with honors.

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 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, 16 students will complete their baccalaureate degrees with perfect GPAs.
James C. Smith, president and CEO of Thomson Reuters and a 1981 MU graduate, will deliver the keynote speech in the morning ceremony. Dr. Donna Spindel, dean of the Marshall Graduate College, will speak in the afternoon ceremony.

Here is a list of remaining commencement-related events:

**May 8**

7 p.m., Fraternity and sorority life graduation celebration, Memorial Student Center plaza

**May 9**

6 p.m., Mid-Ohio Valley Center nursing recognition ceremony for BSN graduates, at MOVC campus

6 p.m., College of Education ceremony for master’s and bachelor’s degree recipients, Memorial Student Center, Don Morris Room

7 p.m., Graduate School of Education and Professional Development hooding ceremony, Emmanuel Baptist Church

**May 10**

11 a.m., LEAP Intensive English Program graduation ceremony, Memorial Student Center, Shawkey Dining Room

1 p.m., Forsensic Science Center open house, 1401 Forensic Science Dr.

2 p.m., Political Science hooding ceremony, Shawkey Dining Room

4 p.m., Clinical Lab Sciences and Dietetics Department recognition ceremony, Memorial Student Center, BE 5

4:30 p.m., H.E.L.P. Program graduation ceremony, Myers Hall, Heiner’s Study Room

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

6 p.m., W. Page Pitt School of Journalism and Mass Communications spring banquet, Marshall University Foundation Hall

7 p.m., School of Medicine Investiture, Keith-Albee Performing Arts Center

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

May 11

9 a.m., Marshall University’s 176th commencement ceremony for undergraduates, Big Sandy Superstore Arena

Immediately following morning commencement, College of Information Technology and Engineering graduation reception, Arthur Weisberg Family Engineering Laboratories

Immediately following morning commencement, College of Fine Arts post-graduation brunch, The Palms

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

4 p.m., Forensic Science graduation reception, Memorial Student Center, BE 5

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

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.

- Marshall 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). In addition, orders will be accepted at the arena May 11. 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 6th 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.

Visit the new Marshall University commencement site at http://www.marshall.edu/commencement/
Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine marks annual investiture Friday

Seventy-five medical students will receive their Doctor of Medicine degrees Friday, May 10, in the Investiture Ceremony of Marshall University’s Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine. The event is scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. at the Keith-Albee Performing Arts Center. Admission is by invitation.

Marshall University President Stephen J. Kopp, Ph.D., who is among the speakers, will confer the students’ degrees.

This year’s Investiture speaker is Gloria A. Wilder, M.D., MPH, a nationally-recognized pediatrician, public speaker and expert on poverty and social justice. She has served as chair of Mobile Health Programs for the Children’s Health Project of D.C. at Georgetown University and the Children’s National Medical Center in Washington, D.C. Additionally, Wilder is president and chief executive officer of CORE HEALTH, a health care access solutions company dedicated to assisting underserved communities.

Wilder has received numerous awards for her work including the National Caring Award, given for exceptional generosity and commitment to service, and the Physician Humanitarian of the Year Award by George Washington University.

The ceremony, which is being streamed live at www.marshall.edu/it/livestream, will also include recognition of graduates of Marshall’s Biomedical Sciences program and the announcement of the School of Medicine Alumni Association’s Honorary Alumnus for 2013.

In addition to this ceremony, there will be a senior awards ceremony at 4 p.m. Tuesday, May 7, in the Harless Auditorium of the MU Medical Center.

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Photo: Dr. Gloria A. Wilder, a nationally recognized pediatrician, public speaker and expert on poverty and social justice, will speak at the investiture ceremony for Marshall’s Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine Friday, May 10.
Spindel to give address at graduate student commencement ceremony

Dr. Donna J. Spindel, dean of the Graduate College, will give the commencement address at the graduate student ceremony at 2 p.m. Saturday, May 11, at Big Sandy Superstore Arena.

Spindel has been a member of the faculty at Marshall for 37 years, beginning as an assistant professor of history in 1976, then moving up to associate professor in 1981 and to full professor in 1987. In addition to teaching, she has been active in the administration of the university, including service as the director of the honors program, associate dean of the College of Liberal Arts, director of the online instruction program, chair of the department of history, interim chair of the department of English and interim dean of the College of Liberal Arts prior to becoming dean of the graduate college in 2009.

A specialist in early American history, Spindel wrote *Crime and Society in North Carolina*, published by the Louisiana State University Press in 1989. In addition to that book, she has published a number of articles in journals such as the *North Carolina Historical Review, Journal of Southern History, Journal of American Studies, American Journal of Legal History* and *West Virginia History*.

Originally from New York City, Spindel received her bachelor’s degree with distinction from Mount Holyoke College and master’s and doctoral degrees from Duke University.

With the activities of May 11, Marshall University continues the practice of dividing the undergraduate and graduate commencement ceremonies. Read more about the commencement ceremonies in the story “More than 1,500 to graduate from Marshall May 11.”

Reminder: Service Awards reservations due today

Reservations for the Service Awards Brunch are due to the Service Awards Committee by today, Wednesday, May 8. Reservations may also be e-mailed to lovely@marshall.edu. This year’s event in honor of the award recipients and retirees takes place from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday, May 15, in the Don Morris Room of the Memorial Student Center.

Following is an updated list of those who will be recognized:


For 25 Years of Service: Jeanne Adkins, Michael Adkins, Doris Atkinson, Janice Colegrove, Joyce Harrah, Virginia Holderby, Damon Holley, Edwin Holley, Verlin Hughes, Yetta Meadows, Sherry Osburn, Nancy Pelphrey, Tara Runyon, Carol Stinson, James Terry, Nina Thompson, Cora Westmoreland, and Cathy Zhea.

For 30 Years of Service: David Bailey, Cassandra Chappelle, Roberta Ferguson, Frances Mooney, Trula Stanley, Patsy Stephenson, Mark Ward, and Connie Zirkle.

For 35 Years of Service: Vickie Crager, Tony Crislip, Arlene Ferguson, Lester Merle Fleming**, Karen Greybill, Kent Hayes, Estil Hurn, Jeffrey Long, Lynne Mayer, Arnold Miller, Deborah Watson, and Charles Young.

For 40 Years of Service: Sue Bell, Stephen Hensley, Randy Price, Joseph Vance, and Joe Wortham.

For 45 years of Service: Deborah Hicks.


** Awarded posthumously.
Marshall faculty member to present her research on windmill pitch mechanics

Dr. Suzanne Konz of the College of Health Professions will give an oral presentation detailing her research on the mechanics of the windmill pitch in softball at the 60th annual American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM) conference Friday, May 31.

Konz, an athletic trainer for the 2002 Salt Lake City Winter Olympic Games, said she conducted her study on roughly 30 athletes in game settings by filming their pitches and then analyzing the mechanical changes of each throw over the course of a game situation.

Konz, an assistant professor of biomechanics in the School of Kinesiology, said the reality of sports for any collegiate athlete is dealing with the daily wear and tear on the body.

“We ultimately hope to help an athlete’s post-collegiate quality of life by bringing in a better standard of strength conditioning, preventive components or larger pitching staffs to the team,” Konz said. “This research will allow pitching coaches to know what to look for in an athlete’s mechanics that may indicate fatigue.”

Dr. Gary McIlvain, chair of kinesiology and associate dean for the college, said Konz is a great asset to the school and her skills in biomechanical analysis are needed by athletes at every level.

“Dr. Konz is one of few women to be sought out by the NFL, as well as USA track and field and collegiate athletics, for her expertise,” McIlvain said. “She has been the cornerstone of the new biomechanics major in the School of Kinesiology and we look forward to many more accomplishments.”

Dan Henkel, senior director of communication and advocacy for ACSM, said thousands of abstracts are submitted from all over the world by scientists, clinicians and others hoping to present their research at the ACSM annual meeting.

“The number tends to increase each year; more than 3,200 abstracts were submitted in 2012,” Henkel said. “The program committee reviews them all and selects those deemed to be of particular merit or interest. This should indicate something of the selectivity and high standards reflected in the presentations chosen for the meeting.”

Konz said she was pleased to be given an opportunity to present her research and speak to audiences with very different backgrounds.

“I’ll be presenting to a large, diverse group of professionals who will hopefully begin to think about things from a different perspective,” Konz said. “At the end of the conference, I want an exercise psychologist, an MD, or an athletic trainer to be able to take my message, see the value and use it in their professional lives.”
The conference will take place in Indianapolis from May 28 to June 1. For more information, visit www.acsmannualmeeting.org.

Faculty members land $400,000 in grants to support professional development for teachers

Faculty members in Marshall University’s Graduate School of Education and Professional Development have received five grants totaling $409,447 to support professional development for teachers.

The grants were received through the Improving Teacher Quality State Grants Program (Title II). The initiative is part of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, which emphasizes teacher quality as a factor in improving student achievement. The Title II program focuses on preparing, training and recruiting high-quality teachers and principals and requires states to develop plans to ensure all teachers teaching core academic subjects are highly qualified.

The projects funded at Marshall include:

- **Using the Next Generation CSOs to improve the Achievement for Secondary Students in Clay County** – $94,490 (Dr. Yvonne Skoretz, assistant professor). This project is the second of a two-part summer institute with follow-up activities. Participants will be introduced to new instructional strategies designed to reinforce and extend content knowledge and strategies learned in the first session to increase college success and career readiness for high school graduates.

- **Writing in the Common Core: Capacity, Commitment, Collaboration** – $61,400 (Dr. Barbara O’Byrne, professor and literacy education program director). This project targets high school and middle school English and social studies teachers in Kanawha County. The intensive, research-based professional development will prepare participants to develop, deliver and evaluate writing instruction to support state standards.

- **Improving Mathematics Instruction in the Standards-Based Classroom (Grades K-2) in Cooperation with Mingo County Public Schools** – $87,356 (Dr. Lisa Heaton, professor and elementary and secondary education program director). This project is designed to provide professional development in mathematics for 30 Mingo County elementary educators. Program activities will reinforce the use of standards-based instruction and assessment to support the new math standards, and provide books and materials to support content learning and skills development.

- **Standards-Based Learning in the Science Classroom (Grades 3-6) in Cooperation with Mingo County Schools** – $87,356 (Dr. Lisa Heaton, professor and elementary and secondary education program director). This project will provide professional development in science for 30 elementary teachers. The focus on standards-based instruction will use...
inquiry and problem-based learning through hands-on experiences to demonstrate the integration and application of scientific literacy in everyday life.

- **Using Next Generation CSOs to improve Middle and High School Students’ Achievement in Roane County** – $78,845 (Dr. Elizabeth Campbell, assistant professor). This project will provide professional development for 25 Roane County teachers in English, language arts and mathematics. Participants will use Next Generation CSOs strategies and skills to help with the implementation of the new state standards geared towards increasing college success and career readiness for high school graduates.

The grant funds are administered through the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission.

Nominations being accepted through June 1 for ‘Spirit of the Coalfields’ Miners’ Celebration awards

Nominations are being accepted for “Because of You” awards to honor people who have made significant contributions to West Virginia’s coal mining enterprise and the state’s mining heritage.

Awards in nearly a dozen categories will be presented at a dinner and awards ceremony planned as part of this year’s “Spirit of the Coalfields” Miners’ Celebration to be held Oct. 3 at Tamarack in Beckley.

According to event organizers, representatives of the state’s mining industry and community leaders will gather at the event to recognize miners, engineers, safety and environmental professionals and community members. Nominations for the awards are being accepted through June 1.

“Many of our engineering graduates find employment in West Virginia’s mining industry, which depends upon thousands of individuals in a number of different roles,” said Dr. Tony Szwilski, chairman of the event planning committee and director of Marshall University’s Center for Environmental, Geotechnical and Applied Sciences. “Every person who works in the industry—whether they are a safety engineer, miner, environmental professional or equipment supplier—contributes to each ton of coal produced, as do countless community leaders and mining families.

“It is because of every one of them that the mining industry is successful. This event is intended to honor and recognize the contributions of everyone involved. Last year’s celebration was a rousing success and we look forward to this year’s program being even bigger and better.”

According to Szwilski, “Because of You” awards will be presented in the following categories: Equipment/Technology Innovation, Safety Champion, Women in Mining,
Community Investment, Environmental Champion, Engineering, Community Involvement and Educator of the Year. In addition, the Homer Hickam Collier and Spirit of the Coalfields awards will be presented.

Representatives of the Coal Heritage Highway Authority/National Coal Heritage Area will be on hand to present several of that organization’s top awards, including the Nick Joe Rahall Award for Outstanding Achievements in Coal Heritage Preservation, the Coal Heritage Award for Excellence in the Arts, the Coal Heritage Marketing Award and the Coal Heritage Research and Documentation Award.

The “Spirit of the Coalfields” Miners’ Celebration dinner and awards ceremony will begin at 6 p.m. Szwilski added that the program also will feature exhibits and presentations focusing on a variety of aspects of the mining industry, beginning at 11 a.m.

Speech and debate team honored at National Forensic Association tournament

The Thundering Word, competing as the smallest entry in the largest division, received a team sweepstakes award for the first time in 28 years in the National Forensic Association (NFA) National Tournament conducted recently on the Huntington campus.

Marshall finished 10th in the President’s Division 1 and 22nd overall out of 83 teams. To compete in Division 1, a school had to enter 27-40 slots. Marshall entered 27, making it the smallest entry in the largest division.

“For us to finish 10th in Division 1 and 22nd in the nation, I’m very, very proud and we’re very pleased,” said Coach Danny Ray.

Bradley University finished first overall, followed by Western Kentucky University and the University of Texas at Austin.

“People said it was the best nationals they’ve ever attended,” Ray said. “They were asking when we would be willing to host again. It went very, very smoothly and they loved our campus.”

The team will return intact for the 2013-2014 season.

“Our hopes are high for future success,” Ray said.
MU Speech and Hearing Center offers free screenings to celebrate Better Speech and Hearing Month

The Speech and Hearing Center will offer free speech, language and hearing screenings on Wednesday, May 15, to celebrate Better Speech and Hearing Month.

Since 1927, the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) has celebrated Better Hearing and Speech Month each May to raise public awareness of speech and language disorders that affect 14 million Americans.

Pam Holland, director of clinical education in the department of communication disorders, said speech and language disorders can take many forms and can limit academic achievement, social adjustment and career advancement.

“Fortunately, most people with speech and language problems can be helped and even if the problem cannot be eliminated, we can teach people strategies to help them cope,” Holland said. “People may not fully regain their capacity to speak and understand, but a speech-language pathologist can help them live more independently.”

Holland said many people do not realize speech-language pathologists are the professionals who treat all types of speech, language and related disorders such as feeding and swallowing. Speech-language pathologists work in schools, private practice, hospitals, clinics and other health and education settings.

“These individuals hold at least a master’s degree and are certified by the ASHA,” Holland said. “In West Virginia, they also are licensed by the state.”

The Speech and Hearing Center will be offering several free services in May. Anyone interested in participating in one of the screenings or events may contact the speech and hearing center at ext. 6-3641.

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**Wednesday, May 15**

By appointment only – Call ext. 6-3641

Speech, language and hearing screenings for Marshall faculty members, staff and their families as well as the families in the Tri-state will be offered.

Contacts: Pam Holland, Karen McNealy

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**Tuesday, May 21**

6:30-7:30 p.m.
Seminar for parents and coaches related to concussion prevention and treatment will be offered.

Contacts: Bev Miller, Nicole Campbell

**Tuesday, May 28**

1- 3:30 p.m.

A seminar on bullying prevention and intervention in Communication Sciences and Disorders for parents and professionals will be offered.

Contacts: Craig Coleman, Emma Searls

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**5k running class kickoff event scheduled for 7 p.m. Thursday at Rec Center**

Crossing the finish line of a 5k race is all about taking the first step, and the Marshall Recreation Center is making that step easier with a 5-week training class.

Experts will work with people at their own pace to prepare them for their first 5k or even shave time off their current personal best. The Rec will be holding a kickoff event prior to the beginning of the class and invites those interested to attend May 9. It will be an informative time to learn more about the upcoming 5k class and the proper techniques of running.

The kickoff event will start at 7 p.m. Guest speakers will give nutrition and fitness tips, as well as advice on the right shoes to wear while running, stretching exercises and ways to lower participants’ 5k times. The event will take place in Studio A on the second floor. There will be light refreshments and time to speak with the instructor of the class. There also will be a time to learn proper stretches to do before and after running, so those attending are asked to wear workout clothes.

As an initiative to get more people active and to give them the experience of running their first 5k or improving an existing 5k time, Tristateracer is covering the cost of the 5k class and the 5k for up to 50 participants who qualify.

“We want to help motivate people to take the first step by offering to pay for this class; all they have to do is finish the class and their first 5k,” said Pat Riley of Tristateracer.

Those who have never participated in the West Virginia 5k Championship or who have never run a 5k before will qualify to have their registration fee for the 5k class at the recreation center and
the cost of the WV 5k Championship reimbursed. They will initially pay either the $29 member fee or the $35 non-member fee for the class up front and also cover the $20 cost of the 5k. Upon completion of the WV 5k Championship, they will be fully reimbursed.

Two sessions of the class will start this month. They will begin on May 21 and May 23. The classes will last for five weeks up until the West Virginia 5k Championship at 8 a.m. Saturday, June 22.

Everyone is welcome to participate in the Extra Mile 5k class, no matter how much running experience they have. For more information, contact Michele Muth at pallante1@marshall.edu or at ext.6-2943.

Facultty Achievement – Dr. Montserrat Miller

**Dr. Montserrat Miller** of the Department of History has been invited to present a paper in Barcelona, Spain, on May 10. The paper, “Las Propietarias de Pudestos de Venta en los Mercados Municipales,” is part of a conference called “Las Mujeres en el Mundo de los Negocios y en las Gestion Financiera y del Patrimonio Inmobiliario,” sponsored by the University of Barcelona, The European Union European Social Fund, the Spanish Ministry of Social Services and Equality, and the Generalitat of Catalunya.

The next issue of We Are…Marshall will be distributed May 15, 2013. Please send any materials for consideration to Pat Dickson by noon, May 13.