Marshall receives strong financial report, bond rating upgrade

Marshall's Board of Governors received a strong financial report from the university's auditors during a meeting on the Huntington campus last week. Also, the bond rating firm Fitch Rating has given an AA+ rating to new revenue bonds to be issued by Marshall University's Board of Governors at an expected issuance amount of $50 million. The new rating represents an upgrade from the previous rating of A+.

According to the accounting firm of Deloitte and Touche, LLP, Marshall's unrestricted net assets were 20 percent of the school's operating expenses for Fiscal Year 2010-2011.

Read more.

WeCar program to kick off Monday, Oct. 31

The kickoff to mark Marshall's much-anticipated participation in Enterprise Rent-a-Car's WeCar program will take place at 10 a.m., Monday, Oct. 31, on the Memorial Student Center plaza.

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Read more.
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Brumfield, 71, was the longest-tenured faculty member, taking that mantle when Dr. Simon Perry retired in 2010. Brumfield was in his 48th year with the university.

Read more.

Other Coming Events
Faculty woodwind and percussion trio to perform tonight

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Read more.

Profile: Min Kook Kim

- a series on Interesting Marshall University people

The lush rolling hills of West Virginia and the abundant natural resources of the state remind Dr. Min Kook Kim of the country of South Korea
which he grew up, Infused even as a child with a fierce determination to conserve and sustain natural resources wherever they exist.

In fact, it was this intense interest in preservation and management that led him into a career in environmental planning and conservation.

Read more.

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According to the accounting firm of Deloitte and Touche, LLP, Marshall's unrestricted net assets were 20 percent of the school's operating expenses for Fiscal Year 2010-2011. Mary Ellen Heuton, MU's Interim chief financial officer, said the report is an indication of the strong financial health of the university.

"We are in a period of time in the financial world where bond ratings are generally on the down side, not just in the private sector, it is also happening in the non-profit area," said John Hess, vice chairman of Marshall's Board of Governors. "It is truly remarkable that we would get upgraded at this time, which indicates that our fiscal management has been outstanding. We should all take great pride in what this board and administration has accomplished."

Marshall will use the debt to help finance capital improvement projects on or near the Huntington campus. The West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission gave Marshall's board permission to finance the bonds on Oct. 13.

The projects are a biotechnology incubator and applied engineering complex; an Indoor athletic complex; a multi-floor parking structure; a soccer stadium complex; a fine arts incubator-visual arts project; a modern academic Instructional (high technology) facility, and land acquisition and demolition.

The bonds are expected via negotiated sale on or about Nov. 3.

Fitch said the ratings reflect:

- Renewed student demand for auxiliary facilities, revenues from which provide approximately 79.3 percent of the pledged total for fiscal 2012, which recovered in fall 2011 to a healthy and sustainable level;

- Broadened Security Pledge. The inclusion of additional revenue streams in the security pledge to ensure adequate debt service coverage, limiting potential reliance on the university's legally available funds further supports the AA - rating.

- A strong University Operating Profile. The pledged revenues are fundamentally linked via a joint mission to Marshall University, which demonstrates historically positive operating results, a sound demand profile and recently improved liquidity.
WeCar program to kick off Monday, Oct. 31

The kickoff to mark Marshall's much-anticipated participation in Enterprise Rental's WeCar program will take place at 10 a.m., Monday, Oct. 31, on the Memorial Student Center plaza.

The popular program, now used by more than 50 colleges in 20 states, will allow students to have transportation on demand and at their convenience by renting vehicles that are available right on the Huntington campus.

Two new cars, a Nissan Altima Hybrid and a Ford Fiesta, will be located in the parking lot of the Public Safety Building and will be available 24 hours a day. The application fee has been waived and the only initial cost will be a $35 charge for the annual membership fee. The hourly rental rates will be $9-10 per hour or $65 per day for the Altima and $8-8.50 hourly or $56 per day for the Fiesta.

The membership includes some insurance and liability coverage. Members ages 18-20 will be extended liability protection up to the state minimum required amount. Those over 21 must have Insurance but will also have extended liability protection up to the state minimum.

Gas can be obtained through a fuel card that is located in each vehicle.

College officials hope the WeCar program will help reduce the number of cars in the crowded campus area. In addition to students, any qualified faculty or staff member age 18 or older can take part in the WeCar program.

Applications are available via the WeCar site at wecar.com/marshall.

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Return to newsletter front page.
Forensic Science Center to assist New Orleans police with DNA testing

More than 800 untested New Orleans, La., rape kits will be tested by the Marshall University Forensic Science Center (MUFSC) by the beginning of next year, according to a New Orleans police official quoted in the New Orleans Times-Picayune. The tests are expected to clear up a backlog that includes physical evidence from sexual assaults that date back to the 1980s.

Of the 800 old kits, the New Orleans Police Department said so far they have received 12 matches with people whose DNA is listed in a national database that is maintained by the FBI, and those cases are being investigated. The kits had apparently been sitting in storage for several years, according to New Orleans police officials.

The testing will be done in cooperation with the Louisiana State Police's crime laboratory.

At the core of the MUFSC's mission of providing critical assistance to the law enforcement community is its forensic DNA laboratory. Nationally recognized and accredited, MUFSC's DNA laboratory has continued to provide important analysis services to law enforcement agencies. One of the services offered is the analysis of Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) samples for West Virginia. CODIS is a DNA database of convicted offenders. Through its role as West Virginia's CODIS laboratory, the Forensic Science Center is part of a national effort to connect all state police CODIS labs to the FBI's National DNA Index System (NDIS).

Other MUFSC services include performing forensic casework for agencies across the country, processing both civil and criminal parentage samples and engaging in innovative DNA projects.

Marshall's laboratory was established in 1994 when Senate Bill 252 established MUFSC as the DNA data-basing lab for the state. In addition to financial support from the state, a memorandum of understanding with the West Virginia State Police allows MUFSC and state law enforcement to share vital resources. The lab also receives funding through cooperative agreements with the National Institute of Justice, Office of Science and Technology and Forensic Sciences Division.
Application process under way for Spring 2012 Graduate Scholarship Tuition Waivers

Applications are now being accepted through Friday, Nov. 11, for the Marshall University Graduate Scholarship Tuition Waiver Program for Spring 2012, according to Dr. Donna Spindel, dean of the Graduate College. The scholarship program provides tuition assistance for MU graduate students and full-time faculty and staff employees.

Applicants must be currently admitted and enrolled in a graduate degree-granting or certificate program at Marshall University.

The awarding of waivers is competitive and is made on the basis of academic achievement and promise, Spindel said. Preference may be given to students who did not receive a waiver the previous semester.

Applicants who are awarded waivers will be notified by email. Waivers are posted to student accounts within 10 business days of approval and registration. Award recipients are responsible for any amount not covered by the waiver. Balances must be paid by the tuition/fee due date noted on the Bursar website at www.marshall.edu/bursar.

Award recipients must be registered for graduate courses for the Spring 2012 term by Friday, Dec. 9, in order to receive a waiver. Spindel said applicants are encouraged to register for classes at the same time they submit a waiver application. Waivers for students who are not registered by Dec. 9 will be assigned to other qualified applicants.

Applications are available in the Graduate College office (Old Main 113) through a student's academic department office on the South Charleston campus, or online at www.marshall.edu/graduate/tuitionwaivers.asp.

For more information, call the Graduate College at ext. 6-6606.
Two fundraising positions filled

Two fundraising positions have been filled, one in the Office of Development and the other in the Office of Planned Giving.

Dr. Ron Area, CEO of the Marshall University Foundation Inc., said Christine Anderson of Culloden, W.Va., is the new assistant vice president for development, and Beverly Crabtree of Jackson, Ohio, is the new associate director for planned giving. Both started at Marshall Oct. 3.

"Both Chris and Bev are very talented women who have incredible development experience that will allow the advancement program to move to the next level," Area said. "We were very lucky to be able to attract them."

Anderson came to Marshall from the Clements Group, a 25-year-old, full-service institutional advancement consulting firm based out of Salt Lake City, Utah, and specializing in community colleges. As a senior vice president, she organized major gifts campaigns, serving more than 50 community and technical colleges in 16 states and helping colleges raise nearly $100 million.

Prior to joining the Clements Group, Anderson was director for development at Ashland (Ky.) Community College for nearly seven years. It was there that she implemented a comprehensive resource development program. During her tenure, the college established a foundation, conducted its first major gifts campaign and raised $2.2 million.

Area said Anderson will spend most of her time as a major gifts fundraiser and development officer. She also will have a supervisory role over scholarships, donor relations and the university fund. Anderson earned her Master of Arts in Journalism from Marshall in 1997.

Crabtree came to Marshall from the University of Rio Grande (Ohio), where she worked from 1984 to this past July. In different capacities in development during those 27 years, she participated in three capital campaigns that raised nearly $30 million.

Most recently, Crabtree was vice president for institutional advancement, directing and participated in institutional fundraising activities and encouraging alumni participation in such activities.

She was special assistant to the president from 1994 to 2005 and before that was director of planned giving for five years. In that position, Crabtree cultivated and secured a bequest of $1.67 million, which at the time of termination was the university’s largest single gift.

According to Area, Crabtree will be working closely with Ed Zimmerman, director of planned giving, and continue to expand and cultivate the university’s planned giving prospects. She is a 1981 graduate of Berea (Ky.) College, where she earned a bachelor of arts in English.
Profile: Tracy Smith
- a series on Interesting Marshall University people

It could be the weather—flood, gusty winds, or snow and ice. Or it could be a fire, a chemical spill, or other potentially hazardous situations... even an earthquake. Perhaps it's just the everyday work environment for those in certain university occupations. But no matter the scenario, when there's an unforeseen occurrence, the Health and Safety Department is ready to handle it.

And Tracy Smith, Safety and Health Specialist in that department, will be the first to tell you that most of the safety procedures put into place begin with training—lots and lots of training. This includes sessions for both students and employees.

Read more.

The next issue of We Are...Marshall will be distributed Oct. 12, 2011. Please send any materials for consideration to Pat Dickson by Oct. 10.
Marshall Psychology Department to offer Social Anxiety Group

Marshall's psychology department will soon begin a series of twice-a-week sessions for people dealing with social anxiety. People who deal with social anxiety often feel uncomfortable in social situations, worry about embarrassing themselves in social situations, avoid being around others because it "stresses them out," or fear that others will judge and evaluate them.

"Social anxiety is a problem that affects dozens of students across campus and even more in the community," said Greg Rodgers, one of the therapists leading the group. "But it is a very treatable problem for people who are willing to take the steps to change it. This group is a great opportunity for people to help themselves."

"Being a part of a social anxiety group can be extremely helpful for the socially anxious person," said Dr. Keith Beard, director of MU's Psychology Clinic. "It is an atmosphere where the person can feel safe to discuss his or her anxiety and interact with people in a safe environment. No matter how painfully shy a person is or how many 'butterflies' are in his or her stomach, there are skills that can be learned to help lessen these feelings and gain more confidence when interacting with others."

This group lasts for eight sessions across four weeks and is free and confidential. Group meetings will occur in the Marshall's Psychology Clinic, located in Harris Hall. Pre-screenings for the group will begin as soon as enough members are acquired and group meeting times will be set based on the members' and group leaders' availability.

For more information contact the clinic by phone at ext.6-2772, option 1, or email Beard at beard@marshall.edu.
In Memoriam: Dr. James Brumfield

Dr. James Otis Brumfield, known as "Brummy" to his colleagues in the College of Science at Marshall University, passed away Saturday, Oct. 8.

Brumfield, 71, was the longest-tenured faculty member, taking that mantle when Dr. Simon Perry retired in 2010. Brumfield was in his 48th year with the university.

He was a member of the department of Biological Sciences. He had earned a bachelor's degree in physics and master's degree in biological sciences from Marshall, and earned a doctoral degree in geobiophysical modeling from the Union Institute in Cincinnati, Ohio. He had been an Education Fellowship Recipient as a Faculty Fellow and Researcher in geomorphology and mining through NASA/ASEE-American Society of Engineering Education.

Dr. Charles Somerville, dean of the College of Science, said Brumfield was an innovator in the area of geospatial science and image processing at Marshall. He founded courses in remote sensing, image processing and geographical information systems on campus through a 30-plus year collaboration and friendship with physics professor Dr. Ralph Oberly.

Funeral services were at the MU Campus Christian Center. Entombment followed in Woodmere Memorial Park, Corridor of Faith, Huntington.
Faculty woodwind and percussion trio to perform Oct. 26

Triptych, a woodwind and percussion trio composed of music faculty members Dr. Ann Marie Bingham, Dr. Ed Bingham and Steve Hall, will perform at 8 p.m. tonight, Oct. 26, in Smith Music Hall. The concert is free and open to the public.

They will be joined by faculty colleagues Dr. Wendell Dobbs, Kay Lawson, Dr. Martin Saunders, Dr. Steve Lawson, Dr. Michael Stroever and Dr. Ben Miller for a performance of Jan Bach's Helix. The work features the saxophone and explores its dual personality as both a classical and jazz instrument.

The Binghams and Hall formed Triptych in the mid-1980s, when they taught together at Cumberland College in Williamsburg, Ky. They performed extensively and commissioned several works specifically for the trio. Most of their repertoire requires an enormous array of pitched and unpitched percussion instruments.

Photo: Steve Hall, percussion; Dr. Ed Bingham, saxophone; and Dr. Ann Marie Bingham, clarinet, will perform at Smith Music Hall Wednesday, Oct. 26. Photo by Emily Hall.
Lecture on Tel Dor in Israel to be given Oct. 26

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Franzen will explain the layout of the archeological site as well as how the artifacts in the area were uncovered. The discussion also will include Franzen's thoughts and understandings of her visit to the Middle East and how her experiences affect her teaching.

For more Information, contact Dr. David Pittenger, dean of COLA, at ext.6-2731.
Genomics and Bioinformatics forum set for Thursday, Oct. 27

Any member of the Marshall community who is interested in genomics and/or bioinformatics is invited to attend the free forum, "Next Generation Sequencing and Bioinformatics," Thursday, Oct. 27, from 1-4:30 p.m. in room 402 of the Drisko Library on the Huntington campus.

The program will include presentations about the university's resources for advanced research in these cutting-edge scientific fields and current research projects under way on campus, as well as a discussion about what will be necessary to continue to build momentum.

For more information or to register online, visit www.marshall.edu/cegas/ngbf.

http://www.marshall.edu/ucomm/Newsletters/2011/102611/nl_102611_5.html

2/9/2012
Musicians to celebrate 'Tubaween' Oct. 31

Members of the Marshall University tuba and euphonium studio in the Department of Music, known as Tubonium, will give a concert Monday, Oct. 31 at 8 p.m. in Smith Recital Hall.

The concert will include an array of Halloween-themed compositions to celebrate Tubaween. This year the program will feature a combined ensemble including Department of Music students and faculty, local high school students and community members.

“Come enjoy the festive costumes, decorations and free candy,” said Dr. George Patlon, adjunct professor of tuba. “There will be ‘kid-friendly’ activities and costumes are welcome!”

Admission to the event is free and open to the public.

Like Sign Up to see what your friends like.

Return to newsletter front page.
Social Work department to present panel about suicide

Understanding warning signs, risk factors, and the process for getting help are critical pieces of suicide prevention, and to address these issues and others, the Huntington Branch of Social Workers, West Virginia chapter, along with Marshall’s Department of Social Work will host a panel with question and answer forum, Monday, Nov. 7, from 5 to 8 p.m. in the Harless Auditorium at the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine.

Registration begins at 4 p.m. The cost is a $20 donation, by check or cash, which will go to Messages for Hope, a local nonprofit organization dedicated to aiding survivors of suicide loss through peer-facilitated support groups.

There is no charge for students who have valid Marshall IDs. Three continuing education hours are available for W.Va. licensed social workers (provider #490013).

Reservations should be made by Nov. 1 to Francie Roberts Buchanan at fbuchana@cabell.lib.wv.us. If paying by check, please write “NASW CE EVENT” in the subject line. Light refreshments will be provided.

Click to read flyer online.

Like One like. Sign Up to see what your friends like.

Return to newsletter front page.
'Young Frankenstein' (the musical) comes to the Keith-Albee Nov. 10

The season of ghosts and ghouls lives on a bit beyond Halloween as the New Mel Brooks musical "Young Frankenstein" visits the Keith-Albee Performing Arts Center at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 10, in a musical re-telling of a classic tale.

Based on the Oscar-nominated 1974 film, "Young Frankenstein," this version re-imagines the Mary Shelley classic as a bright young Dr. Frankenstein attempts to complete his grandfather's masterpiece and bring a corpse to life. An esteemed New York brain surgeon and professor, Frederick Frankenstein inherits a castle and laboratory in Transylvania and must decide whether to stay in that country and continue his grandfather's work or return to his comfortable life in New York. Aided by his faithful helper, Igor; his lab assistant, Igor; and his self-absorbed fiancé, Elizabeth; the young man succeeds in creating a monster but not without scary and unexpected complications.

Unfolding in the forbidding Castle Frankenstein and the foggy moors of Transylvania Heights, the show's score includes "The Transylvanian Mania," "He Was My Boyfriend" and an offbeat treatment of Irving Berlin's famous "Putting' On the Ritz."

Mel Brooks wrote the music and lyrics and co-wrote the book along with his team from another of his big hits, "The Producers."

Tickets are now on sale and may be obtained through the Marshall Artists Series Box office located on the east end of the Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center or by calling ext. 6-3326. The box office is open Monday-Friday from noon to 5 p.m.
Library Campaign to Aid Confederate Collection

The Marshall University Library Associates group has selected the Rosanna Blake Library of Confederate History as the recipient of its second annual silent fund-raising campaign. The group hopes to raise $10,000 to aid the collection.

Last year's campaign by the Library Associates garnered $10,000 to help digitize the WSAZ News Film Archive. Both the WSAZ Archive and the Confederate History collection are part of MU's Special Collections, housed in the James E. Morrow Library.

During her lifetime Rosanna Blake amassed one of the nation's finest private collections of Confederate history. On her death, she left her collection to Marshall. It consists of more than 3,000 books and journals, as well as sheet music, newspapers, photographs and other items.

Books and other materials in the collection "need continuing quality care and preservation to assure their longevity," said Special Collections Curator Lisle G. Brown.

"Gifts to this year's campaign will help provide that special care," said campaign chair Dr. Carolyn Hunter. "As we did last year, we've decided not to host a fund-raising dinner or other event but instead simply ask those who value Marshall and its library treasures to make a donation. Last year's response to our appeal was gratifying and we know the community will be equally supportive this year."

Copies of two color lithographs of Confederate warships - the CSS Alabama and the CSS Florida - will be given to all those who make a donation of $250 or more.

Gifts may be made payable to The Marshall University Foundation, noting MU Libraries Campaign for Special Collections, and sent to the foundation at 519 John Marshall Dr., Huntington, WV 25703.

The Library Associates is a group of friends of the Marshall University Libraries, that notes among its purposes helping stimulate private support of the libraries and encouraging awareness of the Importance of the libraries to the community and the state.
Profile: Min Kook Kim

The lush rolling hills of West Virginia and the abundant natural resources of the state remind Dr. Min Kook Kim of the country of South Korea in which he grew up. While still a child, the idea of protecting and preserving the environment was instilled in him. That was my motivation to study urban and regional planning.

In fact, it was this Intense Interest in preservation and management that led him into a career in environmental planning and conservation, garnering expertise through undergraduate degree in Urban and Regional Planning, two master’s degrees, one in Urban and Regional Planning and another in Environmental Education, and finally a Ph.D. in Forest Resources, with a specialization in Park and Protected Area Management.

Today, Kim, who is an assistant professor in the Natural Resources and Recreation Management program, employs the latest technological tools to enhance his work and research. Indulging his love of the outdoors with low-tech hiking, biking, kayaking and canoeing.

Growing up in South Korea, he attended schools that were enhanced with natural settings. "That allowed me to be familiar and friendly with natural resources," he said. "However, after seeing many of the resources disappear in the name of development, I felt there might be a way to help establish a balance between development and conservation. That was my motivation to study urban and regional planning in South Korea."

After receiving his B.A. from Chung-Ang University, South Korea, Kim completed a M.A. at Seoul National University, and soon after headed for the United States with his destination the State University of New York (SUNY) at Buffalo, where he earned a second master’s degree. Later he would complete his doctoral studies at the University of Maine.

Kim said that an important criterion for his choice of universities was the availability of cutting-edge technology in his field. "I had a great desire and enthusiasm to study Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Remote Sensing (RS).

These technologies allow us to capture ground cover information accurately, with the capability of spotting significantly impacted areas and tracking major changes. Technology, satellite imagery, image processing, spatial analysis and modeling—these are my academic interests," he explained. "Both SUNY Buffalo and the University of Maine had great GIS and RS programs and both have a National Center for Geographic Information Analysis. Along with the University of California at Santa Barbara, they are the only three institutions in the U.S. that have this center at the national level."

While he was in Maine, Kim started a hiking trail monitoring program in Acadia National Park. It was actually a labor of love, because as part of his academic research he was able to observe and participate in a wide range of outdoor activities including hiking, rock climbing, camping and bird watching. The objective was to study the magnitude of impact on the vegetation of a very short trail from the estimated 2.5 million visitors. "Acadia is located in the middle of the Maine Coast and is an enormously popular tourist destination," he explained. "It's a 0.3 mile long trail at the summit of Cadillac Mountain, and there are constant environmental challenges to be dealt with because of that many visitors. Using high resolution RS datasets and spatial analysis, I investigated the efficacy of the site/visitor management techniques employed to minimize the vegetation impact and enhance the vegetation recovery."


2/9/2012
His task as he saw it, using the most available RS dataset, was to determine how the trail and the vicinity had been affected over the past 10 years. His research was encouraging, as he found a good deal of recovery had occurred during those years through the use of effective site/visitor management strategies. As part of his research he was also heavily involved in academic activities of the George Wright Society and the U.S. National Park Service, utilizing a wide range of geospatial datasets.

Kim joined the newly re-named Natural Resources and Recreation Management program, now housed in the Department of Integrated Science and Technology at the College of Science, last year. According to him, when he moved to West Virginia from Maine, he felt comfortable about landscape conditions. "The terrain is pretty much like South Korea, very hilly with small-scale mountains," he explained. "There wasn't a culture shock about that. But when I visited some national parks in the western part of the U.S., such as the Grand Canyon, it was quite a shock, realizing the landscape setting was totally different."

Kim brings with enthusiasm for his department and its goals. "I guess the program has two major responsibilities in terms of providing knowledge to our students, management and technology," said Kim. "My role is to help our students achieve a well balanced approach to natural resources management using social and biophysical methodologies. Because we provide all sorts of quality recreational opportunities, we also need to be responsible and manage the resources and minimize the impact," he added. In addition, his position has been a particularly good fit considering his technology background. "Being a part of Integrated Science and Technology allows us to provide more geospatial science background to our students, which makes them very competitive in a job market. I was fortunate to be able to use my background with a natural resources major blended with technology in order to strengthen the curriculum of the program."

Kim said one of the major concerns today is sustainability. "The U.S. National Park Service has a dual mission--to provide enjoyment to the public as a form of recreation activities and, at the same time, to preserve natural resources."

According to Kim, that dual mission is extremely challenging to maintain. "Sometimes we can easily identify a negative outcome and impact. The bottom line is simple. The resources we are currently using don't just belong to us; they belong to the next generation as well. Our grandchildren have the right to enjoy the natural resources we leave behind. A fundamental objective for preserving our natural resources is to pass them to our next generations. That's a major component of our program, helping our students to think about sustainability, smart growth, and balanced development," he explained.

Kim added that his field offers good job opportunities for graduates. "Students are able to get jobs in public land management agencies, the National Park Service, the Forest Service, the Army Corp of Engineers, and the Fish and Wildlife Services," he explained. "Also, there are a variety of positions available in state and city governments such as a municipal park and recreation planner and manager. It's a very versatile field for students. Along with traditional recreation resource management skills, the program also provides students with various skills based on environmental science, GPS/GIS/RS technology, and basic computer programming," he added.

Kim has great praise for his colleagues. "In particular," he said, "Richard Abel, who is the coordinator of our program, and Dr. Michael Little, who is the chair of Integrated Science and Technology, have always been ready to take my questions and suggestions for the program. Their doors are always open. Since last year, I have met people in the university community who have been great in providing me with input and support. I have felt right at home."

It comes as no surprise that Kim himself is an avid outdoorsman. Since coming to West Virginia, he's headed outdoors at every opportunity, although because of job duties he hasn't been able to get out as much as he would like. But he's impressed with the outdoor delights the area has to offer. Hiking, camping, biking, kayaking, canoeing -- they're his favorite pastimes.

"I love the New River Gorge and the other outdoor sites I've visited. I've discovered Beech Fork State Park and the Monongalia Natural Forest in the state. We have been blessed here with natural resources. I hope to do research on these natural resources later. And it's vital that these resources be sustained," he concluded.