We Are...Marshall, September 28, 2011

Office of Marshall University Communications

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General Faculty Meeting, State of the University Address to take place Wednesday, Sept. 28

The fall general faculty meeting of Marshall University's 2011-12 academic year will take place at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 28, in the Francis-Booth Experimental Theatre of the Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center.

The agenda will consist of welcoming remarks by the faculty senate chair, Dr. Cam Brammer; the introduction of new administrators by provost Dr. Gayle Ormiston, and the introduction of 46 new faculty by Brammer, School of Medicine senior associate dean for clinical affairs, Dr. Joseph Werthammer, and School of Pharmacy dean, Dr. Kevin Yingling; a State of the Faculty address by Brammer; and a State of the University address by President Kopp.

All faculty, staff, students and members of the public are invited to attend. After the meeting a reception to honor the new university personnel will be held in the lobby of the Performing Arts Center.

Those in new administrative positions who will be introduced are Dr. Kevin Yingling, dean of the School of Pharmacy; Dr. Robert Nerhood, interim dean, Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine; Dr. Wael Zatar, interim dean of the College of Information Technology and Engineering; Andrew Gooding, director of the Regents B.A. degree program; and Patricia Proctor, founding director of the Simon Perry Center for Constitutional Democracy.

New faculty to be introduced are:

- College of Education - Andrea Farenga, Michael Kallam and Linda Winter
- College of Fine Arts - Frederick Bartolovic and Henning Vauth
- College of Health Professions - Jessica Maynard
- College of Information Technology & Engineering - Hyoi Lee and Jonathan Thompson
- College of Liberal Arts - Joshua Averbeck, Mallory Carpenter, Vlasteslav Gratchev and Patrícia Proctor
- College of Science - Mary Armstead, Min-Kook Kim, Elzbieta Mlese, Dhana Rao, Jon Saken, Michael Schroeder and Samantha Vickers
- Elizabeth McDowell Lewis College of Business - Frank Bosco, Won Jun Kwak, Alissa Sikula and Robert Stimpson
- Graduate School of Education & Professional Development - Tom Histo, Enobong Inyang and Jonathan Lent
- Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine - James Denvir, Paul Ferguson, Andrew Freeman, Russell Fry, II, Aamir Hussain, Emeline Koc, Sean Loudin, Maria Lopez Marti, Gerard Oakley III, Rosa Carrasco Sanchez, Franklin Shuler, Jackie Stines, Jr., and Ryan Stone
- School of Pharmacy - H. Glenn Anderson, Kimberly Broedel-Zaugg, John Schloss and Robert Stanton
- W. Page Pitt School of Journalism & Mass Communications - Sandra York
- University Libraries - Gretchen Beach, Larry Sheret and Thomas Walker.
Gillettes join Pathway of Prominence at Marshall University

Longtime Marshall University supporters Joe and Pam Gillette became the latest to be honored with a plaque on the prestigious Pathway of Prominence in a recognition ceremony last week on the Huntington campus. Donors who present gifts of $1 million or more to Marshall are honored with a plaque on the Pathway, which is located between Old Main and the Memorial Student Center.

The Gillettes’ plaque is the 21st on the Pathway.

"Joe and Pam Gillette are dear friends whose commitment to Marshall is both inspiring and magnificent," said Marshall President Stephen J. Kopp. "As distinguished alumni, they are shaping a legacy through their dedication to Marshall. This enduring tribute to them commemorates that legacy and should make everyone associated with our great university proud. They are truly making a difference in so many ways."

In addition to the couple's generous financial support, Joe Gillette has served on many boards of directors at Marshall, including the Society of Yeager Scholars, the MU Alumni Association and the Marshall Foundation Inc. He currently is president of the Yeager Scholars board and first vice president of the Foundation board. He also is a past president of the Thunder Club.

"Joe and Pam have been major supporters of and contributors to Marshall for a long time," said Dr. Ron Area, CEO of the Marshall University Foundation. "Their commitment to the growth of the Huntington campus and their involvement is outstanding. And, as Joe has said many times, they are planning on doing a lot more in the future. Joe has been very successful in his business as a Wendy's franchisee, and he and Pam are willing to share their wealth and experience with their alma mater."

In 2008, the Marshall University Welcome Center was renamed the Joseph M. Gillette Welcome Center in honor of Joe's late father. Joe and Pam made a financial commitment to the university which resulted in the renaming of the center. Joe said the center's new name was a way to memorialize his father.

He also established the Joseph M. Gillette Scholar Award, also named in memory of his late father. In 2006. The scholarship goes to a student selected to be a Yeager Scholar.

Other members of the Pathway of Prominence include:

The Arthur and Joan Welserberg family; Donald B. Harper; Bliss L. Charles; Timothy L. Haymaker and Sandra K. Haymaker; James E. Gibson and Verna K. Gibson; Elizabeth McInville Lewis; William E. Myers; Daniel E. Wagoner and Virginia U. Wagoner; James F. Edwards and Joan C. Edwards; Clayton W. Dunlap and Bernice Virginia Dunlap; John Deaver Drisko and Elizabeth Gibson Drisko; James "H." Buck Harless; John Oliver Butler and Ruth Elizabeth Butler; Lyle A. Smith; Charles B. Hedrick and Mary Jo Hedrick; William E. Willis and Joyce L. Willis; F. Selby Wellman and Donna Blas Wellman; Robert L. Dardinger and Dianna L. Dardinger; the Maler Foundation, and C. Fred Shewey and Christine Shewey.

The Pathway of Prominence was unveiled on Friday, Sept. 20, 2002.
Photo: Pam and Joe Gillette, right, take a look at a copy of their Pathway of Prominence plaque unveiled in a recognition ceremony last week. From left are President Stephen J. Kopp and Dr. Ron Area. Photo by Rick Haye/Marshall University.

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Author of 'The Looming Tower' to speak Sept. 29

Author, screenwriter, playwright and staff writer for The New Yorker magazine Lawrence Wright is coming to the Keith-Albee Performing Arts Center, Thursday, Sept. 29 as part of the Marshall Artists Series. He will discuss his firsthand experience traveling through the Middle East.

Wright's book, The Looming Tower: Al Qaeda and the Road to 9/11, is a narrative history of the events leading to September 11, 2001, attacks. Based on five years of research, the book includes more than 500 interviews ranging from Bin Laden's best friend in college, Jamal Khalifa, to a reporter for Al Jazeera, to the former White House counterterrorism chief, Richard A. Clarke.

Wright will sign autographs and books immediately following his performance Thursday night. The Marshall Artists Series is partnering with Empire Books to make copies of The Looming Tower available for purchase.

The book is an international bestseller. It has been translated into 25 languages and has received several awards, including the 2007 Pulitzer Prize for General Nonfiction.

Wright is the co-writer of the film 'The Siege,' starring Denzel Washington, Annette Bening and Bruce Willis. In 2006, he premiered his one-man play, My Trip to Al-Qaeda, which had a sold-out, six-week run on Broadway. The play is now a documentary film directed by Academy Award-Winning Director Alex Gibney.

For ticket information, visit www.marshallartists.org, or call ext. 6-6656. The box office is open Monday through Friday from noon - 5:00 p.m.

Wright's appearance is also sponsored by WKEE, WHHU, The Herald Dispatch, Marshall University and the College of Fine Arts.
Schloss named founding chair of pharmaceutical science and research at School of Pharmacy

Dr. John V. Schloss, an academic and industrial researcher with more than 30 years of combined experience, has been named founding chair of pharmaceutical science and research at the School of Pharmacy. He also will serve as a member of the Pharmacy Executive Council.

"Marshall University School of Pharmacy is starting with an impressive infrastructure for teaching and research," Schloss said. "This will be the third time I have helped start a new pharmacy program and the Marshall program has the potential to become a leader in the area of pharmacy education and pharmaceutical research. It is an exciting time to be a part of Marshall University."

After receiving his Ph.D. from the University of Tennessee Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, located in the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Schloss conducted postdoctoral work in the laboratory of Prof. W. W. Cleland at the University of Wisconsin-Madison from 1978 until 1981.

Following completion of his postdoctoral work, Schloss joined the research and development division of E.I. DuPont de Nemours & Co. in Wilmington, Del., where he held positions as a principal investigator and research supervisor. While at DuPont, Schloss published nearly three dozen papers and presented at more than 60 international and national conferences.

Beginning in 1991, Schloss served as professor and chair of the department of medicinal chemistry in the University of Kansas College of Pharmacy. He maintained his affiliation with the pharmacy program in Kansas until 2005. During this time he helped develop a new pharmacy program as part of the Kuwait Health Sciences Center, while maintaining his research programs at the University of Kansas.

In 2002, Schloss co-founded ThloPharma Inc., a biotech startup company focused on discovery-stage pharmaceuticals. While managing ThloPharma from 2002 to 2008, he served as director of chemistry at NeuroStyxec, another biotech startup focused on site-specific drug delivery to the inner ear, and was principal investigator on two grants funded by the National Institutes of Health. One of the grants was from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism and the other was from the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders.

Schloss' expertise in developing a school of pharmacy was tapped again in 2008, when he joined the University of New England. As a founding faculty member and chair of the department of pharmaceutical sciences, Schloss continued his research activities while developing curriculum, recruiting faculty and teaching.

"Dr. Schloss has an extensive background in both the scholarship and discovery in pharmaceutical sciences and will provide excellent leadership for the department's development," Dr. Kevin Yingling, dean of the school of pharmacy, said. "He is a fantastic addition to our team and we are happy to welcome him."

Schloss has received many honors, as well as several notable research awards and grants, including a DuPont Agricultural Products Department, Research and Development Division Accomplishment Award, a Gustavus and Louise Pfeiffer Research Foundation grant, National Institutes of Health grants, Office of Naval Research grants, US-Israel Binational Research Foundation grants and Maine Technology Institute grants. He also has provided substantial service to his profession through organizational leadership.
President Kopp elected chairman of West Virginia business organization

President Stephen J. Kopp has been elected chairman of the West Virginia Roundtable, an independent, nonprofit and non-partisan business organization dedicated to creating a viable business climate in the Mountain State.

Kopp has served as a member of the Roundtable since 2006 alongside educational, business and community leaders from around the state.

"I am honored to serve as chairman of the West Virginia Roundtable and I am excited by the vast array of opportunities before us," Kopp said. "The public policy initiatives advanced by our organization are targeted directly at the very heart of growing West Virginia's economy and our group of very talented leaders is committed to doing just that."

"The Roundtable has a legacy of distinguished leaders serving as its chair," said Paul Arbogast, president of the West Virginia Roundtable. "Dr. Kopp's vision and focus on the important issues facing West Virginia positions him to lead us successfully. I look forward to working with him as our new chairman."

Kopp will be joined by newly elected vice chairman Rick Slater, a Charleston certified public accountant and managing partner of Dixon Hughes Goodman. Slater, a Marshall graduate, says he is eager to begin working in his new position.

"I am honored to be elected as the vice chairman of the West Virginia Roundtable and excited to work alongside Chairman Stephen Kopp," Slater said. "The Roundtable's diverse group of West Virginia's top CEOs affords business a tremendous opportunity to utilize unparalleled talent, experience and political influence in helping to shape the future of our great state."

Kopp succeeds chairman Dana Waldo, senior vice president and general manager of Frontier Communications, West Virginia.

The West Virginia Roundtable was developed in 1984 and seeks to create opportunity and wealth for all West Virginians.
Marshall to host Native American powwow

Marshall University’s Office of Multicultural Affairs, in partnership with the Mekoce Shawnee Nation of West Virginia, will present a traditional Native American powwow Friday, Oct. 7, and Saturday, Oct. 8, at Buskirk Field on the Huntington campus.

“A modern powwow is a specific type of event where both Native American and non-Native American people meet to dance, sing, socialize and honor American Indian culture,” said Dr. Shari Clarke, vice president for multicultural affairs at Marshall. This powwow will feature drums, native dancers, storytellers and vendors of traditional native wares and food, she said.

The powwow will be open to the community both days, beginning at 10 a.m. A grand entry of participants will start at 11 a.m. each day.

Fourth-grade students in Cabell County will attend the powwow as a field trip on Friday, Oct. 7, starting with the grand entry at 11 a.m., followed by interactive activities for the children.

In the event of rain, the powwow will take place in the Memorial Student Center.
Maj. Gen. Anthony G. Crutchfield returns to Marshall University to serve as grand marshal in 2011 homecoming parade

Maj. Gen. Anthony G. Crutchfield, commanding general of the U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence in Fort Rucker, Ala., will be the grand marshal in Marshall’s homecoming parade next month. Crutchfield is a 1982 Marshall graduate.

The parade is set for 6 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 13, in downtown Huntington. It starts at the Big Sandy Superstore Arena and ends at Joan C. Edwards Stadium. Marshall plays its homecoming football game Saturday, Oct. 15, taking on Rice at 3 p.m.

“We are pleased and proud to welcome General Crutchfield as our grand marshal for the 2011 homecoming parade,” said Tish Littlehales, director of alumni relations. “He is a tremendous role model for our students and alumni. Not only will he serve as grand marshal in the parade, but he also will meet and engage with students on campus. We appreciate his willingness to share his experiences with our students and alumni during this great week.”

Crutchfield began his military career in 1982, graduating from Marshall as a Distinguished Military Graduate receiving a Regular Army commission. In his current position as commanding general, he is responsible for all U.S. Army helicopter, Unmanned Aerial Systems and Aviation Maintenance training.

In addition to his military education, Crutchfield has a Master of Arts degree in business from Webster University and a Master of Arts degree in Strategic Military Studies from the Army War College.

His awards and decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit with two oak leaf clusters, Bronze Star Medal with oak leaf cluster, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, the Air Medal, the Army Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster, the Army Achievement Medal with oak leaf cluster, the National Defense Service Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal and the Humanitarian Service Medal.

Crutchfield has been awarded the Master Aviator Badge, the Parachutist Badge, the Air Assault Badge and the Honorable Order of Saint Michael Silver Award. He has served tours in the United States and in Germany, Korea, Iraq and Afghanistan.
Local poets Oeding, Shaw to read at event tonight

Poets Carrie Oeding and Kent Shaw will read from their work at 8 p.m. tonight, Sept. 28, in Corbly Hall Room 105. The reading marks the release of Oeding's new poetry collection Our List of Solutions.

Oeding's book won the Lester Wolfson Prize and is the premiere book of a new poetry series from Indiana University South Bend. Her work has appeared in Best New Poets, Colorado Review, Third Coast, Diagram and elsewhere. She earned her Ph.D. in creative writing and American Literature from Ohio University in 2007. She has taught at Ohio University, the University of Houston and the North Carolina Governor's School, and currently teaches at Marshall.

Shaw is the author of Calenture, published by University of Tampa Press in 2008. It is a lyric meditation on his experience in the Navy. Recent poems have appeared or are forthcoming in The Believer, Boston Review, Ploughshares, Missouri Review Online, Denver Quarterly and other magazines. He holds the Ph.D. in Creative Writing from the University of Houston, where he taught with the Writers In The Schools program. He currently teaches at West Virginia State University.

Their appearance is sponsored by the Marshall Visiting Writers Series with support from the English department and the College of Liberal Arts.
School of Journalism and Mass Communications to host golf scramble fundraiser at Twin Silos

The W. Page Pitt School of Journalism and Mass Communications (SOJMC) will host its 2nd annual golf scramble at the Twin Silos Golf Course in Lavalette Friday, Sept. 30. Registration begins at noon and tee-off is at 1 p.m.

The purpose of the event is to raise money for equipment needs for the school's classrooms and teaching labs, said Melanie Griffts, director of development for the SOJMC.

"The School of Journalism and Mass Communications is a very hands-on program and we try to maintain the most current equipment in our teaching environments," said Dr. Corley Dennison, SOJMC dean.

Early registration allows participants to take advantage of a $75 Individual or $275 team rate through Sept. 29. Registration the day of the event is $90 for individuals or $325 for teams. The fee includes 18 holes of play, golf balls, a cookout dinner and a gift bag. The day's activities will also include raffles and a silent auction, which will include a round for two on The Greenbrier Sporting Club's private Snead course and a two-night stay at The Greenbrier.

Registration and sponsor forms are available online at www.marshall.edu/sojmc.

For more information on the J-School Golf Scramble, contact Jessica Baker, graduate assistant in the SOJMC, by e-mail at marshallfan1988@yahoo.com.
Movie ‘Freedom’ to be shown Oct. 3

The Sustainability Department will host a showing of the movie “Freedom” at 7 p.m. Monday, Oct. 3, in room BE 5 of the Memorial Student Center.

Elizabeth Rutherford, the recycling coordinator, said that a question-and-answer session will follow at which three signed copies of the DVD of the movie will be handed out to audience members.

“Freedom,” which was produced by the filmmakers of the Sundance award-winner “Fuel,” is about a couple who investigate alternatives to fossil fuels in response to the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill. According to the promoters of the film, it offers an array of green solutions for transportation, such as cellulosic ethanol, plug-in hybrids and other sustainable technologies. It includes interviews with former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich, former NATO Commander Wesley Clark, singer/songwriter Jason Mraz, author Deepak Chopra and actors Michelle Rodriguez, Amy Smart and Ed Begley Jr.

In addition to the screening of the movie, the Huntington campus also will host the Freedom Bus Oct. 3. The bus is traveling to movie theaters and colleges and universities in support of the release of the movie. Tours of the Freedom Bus, which has 18 solar panels, a biofuel engine, and on-demand green energy videos, will begin at 10:30 a.m. and continue until 3:30 p.m. at the bookstore loading dock at the Memorial Student Center.

For further information on the events of Oct. 3, contact Sustainability Manager Margie Phillips by phone at ext.6-2992, or by e-mail mphil10@marshall.edu.
'A Much Curious Coop' on display on South Charleston campus

Images of fanciful birds dressed in colorful fine clothing depicting their individuality and personalities are the basis of A Much Curious Coop, the latest art exhibit now on display in the library on the South Charleston campus.

The current collection features the work of Nitro resident Stael Leech-Cornell, a versatile artist and sculptor, who has had her work displayed in numerous shows and exhibitions. The exhibit will be on display through Oct. 21.

Leech-Cornell's collection is the latest in a series of exhibits showcasing the work of local artists on the South Charleston campus. Mark Tobin Moore is the exhibit coordinator for the show, which is sponsored by the Graduate Humanities program.

A graduate of Marshall with a B.F.A. and M.A. in Fine Arts, Leech-Cornell, who is also the Community Learning Center Manager for the Clay Center, says she began drawing and sculpting birds at a low point in her life. They provided a path through that low point and into a new set of ideas and Imagery for her artistic creations, she says. Her bird images continued to evolve until they took on varying personalities and characteristics that make them all different and distinctive.

"The works in A Much Curious Coop represent the new appearance my bird Imagery has become," Leech-Cornell says. "I dress these birds in fine clothing, dresses or sometimes suits. I never really have the chance in my life to play 'dress up' on many occasions and I find that when I do have the opportunity it's one that I don't particularly care for, but I love dresses and I adore suits. These birds allow me to play 'dress up.'"

All the works are created by drawing with pen and ink, with added folded or cut paper pieces.

"The characters are created as the drawing progresses. Any slips of the hand or blobs of ink sometimes help to determine what pattern the feathers may take, the length of the beak, the age of a face, and so on," Leech-Cornell says. "The drawings are presented in family or formal portrait style mainly because those are moments in my mind that people tend to 'dress up.' This is something that would happen in A Much Curious Coop."
Next Campus Conversation to take place Oct. 12

A Campus Conversation offered as a forum for introducing an innovative approach to regional accreditation with the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) of the North Central Association, is scheduled for Wednesday, Oct. 12 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in Drinko Library 402 and simultaneously to South Charleston, Room GC 134.

A previous session took place Sept. 26.

The discussion will center initially on a quality improvement project initiated by the HLC called the "Degree Qualifications Profile." Schools that participate will help craft a response to the question, "What is the meaning of a university degree?"

The discussions are sponsored by the Office of Academic Affairs and MU-ADVANCE.

Questions and requests for additional information should be directed to the Office of Academic Affairs, academic-affairs@marshall.edu.

We Are...Marshall

The Newsletter for Marshall University

September 28, 2011

Elvis Costello, Jungle Jack Hanna next up for Marshall Artists Series

A celebrated singer-songwriter, along with America's favorite zookeeper, will be helping the Marshall Artists Series continue the celebration of their 75th anniversary with appearances at the Keith-Albee Performing Arts Center in early October.

Elvis Costello, known for his quirky lyrics which are full of word plays, instrumentation and vocal styles, will perform with his group, the Imposters, Saturday, Oct. 8 at 7:30 p.m. He will be followed by Jungle Jack Hanna: Into the Wild Live! Tuesday, Oct. 11 at 7 p.m.

The son of musicians, Costello was exposed to a mix of British and American styles—dance-hall pop, modern jazz and the Beatles—from an early age.

With a career spanning more than 30 years, Elvis Costello is perhaps best known for his performances with the Attractions, the Imposters and for concert appearances with pianist Steve Nieve. He is also well known for his collaborations with Paul McCartney and the Brodsky Quartet.

Elvis Costello and the Attractions were Inducted Into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2003. He received the ASCAP’s prestigious Founder’s Award along with numerous Grammy nominations. Costello has been called "the finest songwriter of his generation."

Back by popular demand, Jungle Jack Hanna and his family-friendly show return for an encore performance bringing his infectious energy and his animal buddies with him. Hanna has made countless television appearances on shows such as Good Morning America, CNN’s Larry King Live, the Ellen DeGeneres Show and the Late Show with David Letterman. He is the star of two nationally syndicated television programs, Jack Hanna’s Animal Adventures and most recently Jack Hanna’s: Into the Wild. In its first year into the Wild won an Emmy for "Outstanding Children’s Series."

Tickets for both shows are now on sale and may be purchased at the Marshall Artists Series Box Office, located on the east side of the Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center, or by calling ext. 6-6656.

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We Are... Marshall

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Gallery 842 to showcase photographer George Bedell

An exhibit titled "The Wasteland" by photographer George Bedell will open at Gallery 842 Friday, Sept. 30, with a reception from 6 to 8 p.m. It will continue until Friday, Oct. 28.

Gallery 842 is an off-campus commercial art gallery located at 842 4th Avenue in downtown Huntington and is operated by the Department of Art and Design in collaboration with Marshall University and the local community. It is free and open to the public. Hours are noon to 7 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays.
Dr. Calvin Kent awarded designation of Assessment Administration Specialist

Dr. Calvin Kent, Vice President for Business and Economic Research, was awarded the designation of Assessment Administration Specialist (AAS) at the annual meeting of the International Association of Assessors (IAAO) Sept. 20 in Phoenix, Ariz.

Kent was only the 155th person to receive this designation in the 75-year history of the International organization. The IAAO designation "... recognizes professionalism and competency in administration of a variety of functions for property tax purposes."

The designation is granted based on more than 200 hours of graded coursework and preparation of a major research project. Kent’s project concerned the property taxation of severed mineral interests in the United States.

Kent is a Senior National Instructor for the IAAO and has conducted courses in many states besides West Virginia. He teaches the advanced courses in property appraisal and administration with a special emphasis on mass appraisal and statistical procedures for property valuation. IAAO has also certified him as a general property appraiser.

For the past five years Kent has been a member of the West Virginia Property Valuation and Training Commission. The commission is responsible for the development of appraisal policy in the state as well as supervising the quality of assessing in the state’s 55 counties.

He served as vice chair of Gov. Cecil Underwood’s "Tax Fairness Commission" and as a member of Gov. Joe Manchin’s "Tax Modernization Project." In the latter position, he chaired the sub-committee on Property Taxation and Local Finance. He has served as an adviser to the West Virginia Legislature on property taxation, education, public health and municipal organization.

At Marshall Kent heads the Center for Business and Economic Research and the BB&T Center for the Advancement of American Capitalism, and holds the Elizabeth McDowell Lewis Distinguished Chair in Business. He has published more than 100 articles in major journals as well as seven books and major legislative reports.
Doctoral student and professor write chapter for molecular biology publication

Doctoral student J. Adam Hall and faculty member Dr. Philippe T. George have collaborated to write a chapter for a new book focusing on RNA processing in animal and plant cells.

Their chapter describes the interaction between RNA splicing and chromatin, and appears in the book "RNA Processing," which was edited by Paula Grabowski and published in August. The book is freely available online through open access publisher InTech.

In describing their research, Hall explains that RNA, or ribonucleic acid, acts as the “middle man” of molecular biology. DNA, or deoxyribonucleic acid, is the carrier of basic genetic information. A cell uses DNA to make RNA, which in turn makes proteins.

Hall says that alterations to RNA can have a significant influence on the type and/or amount of protein produced, creating crucial differences in the identity of the cell and how it functions. The study of these modifications caused by factors outside of the DNA sequence itself is known as “epigenetics.”

George added, “In recent years, a much better understanding of gene regulation has led to many important breakthroughs in the fields of cellular differentiation, development and disease. The specific mechanism of regulation we describe in this chapter has never been reported before in any biological system, so we think it could be an important contribution to the existing body of work.”

A native of Crown City, Ohio, Hall received his bachelor's degree in molecular biology from Marshall in 2005 and started his doctoral studies in 2006. He finished his graduate coursework with a 4.0 grade point average and was awarded the Biomedical Sciences program's top award for academic performance in 2007 and research performance in 2008. In 2009, Hall became the first Marshall student to receive the prestigious National Institutes of Health Ruth L. Kirschstein Predoctoral Fellowship, which provided two years of support totaling more than $70,000. He will complete his Ph.D. in December and plans to continue his scientific career in the field of epigenetics, with a focus on translational research.

George is a professor of biological sciences and director of Marshall’s Cell Differentiation and Development Center. He has been at Marshall since 2002.


For more information, contact George at george@marshall.edu or call 304-696-3965.
Profile: Tracy Smith

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.

“Our job is to keep the campus safe,” he says. “To do that, we provide training for the many building representatives—there’s a designated person on each floor—and we cover everything from evacuation to safety procedures. We do a lot of work with resident directors and resident assistants (in the residence halls) to educate them about emergency responses, fire safety and notification procedures during emergencies, among other things.”

To keep the campus community informed, documents are placed around the Huntington campus and other locations, which give a quick reference to emergency situations, he says.

Employee training is an important part of Health and Safety’s work. Physical Plant employees are annually instructed on OSHA standards, the handling of hazardous materials, personal protective equipment and even fork truck training. These are the kind of safety procedures that affect them daily, Smith says.

And many employees probably remember, some not so fondly, the online driver’s training that was required for anyone who drives or anticipates driving a state-owned vehicle. That was Smith’s voice on the test giving step-by-step instructions through the approximately 35-minute test.

And before fans flood into Huntington to cheer on their teams, the Health and Safety department is busy conducting walk-throughs of the athletic facilities on game days, making inspections to be sure that doors are unlocked, exits are open and unlocked, and safety procedures are in place. After last month’s earthquake, which caused the evacuation of several buildings on the Huntington campus, the department fanned out to make inspections of critical structures before life returned to normal for the campus community.

Smith, who has both a B.A. in management and accounting and a M.A. in safety and health from Marshall, began his MU career as extra help at the medical school and later interned there as part of his master’s degree. He stayed on in a unique dual role, working in the division of Occupational and Environmental Health in the department of Family and Community Health while he also was the corporate safety officer for University Physicians and Surgeons Inc. As part of his myriad duties, he regularly gave lectures on corporate safety and health issues and conducted seminars. If anyone was exposed to a chemical, Smith researched the chemical, then provided his findings to physicians. In addition, he says, “We did a lot of pre-employment examinations, such as hearing tests and spirometry, to make sure potential employees could wear respirators.” He moved to his present location in the Sorrell Maintenance Building in 2007, when he moved into his current job.

Smith is proud of his deep ties to Marshall—his mother, Judy Olson, is a longtime employee in the Center for Business and Economic Research and his stepfather, Dr. Lee Olson, has taught in Adult and Technical Education since 1971. Smith lives...
In Ona and has a daughter, Haleigh, who is a member of the band at Cabell Midland High School, and a son, Ryan, who headed off this fall to Concord University in Athens, W.Va. on a track and cross-country scholarship.

The whole family enjoys trips to the Cranberry Glades in Pocahontas County, where Smith can indulge his love of trout fishing. They are ardent Marshall fans, particularly football and basketball. An avid runner, Smith runs regularly and, although he’s not much for entering races, he does once in a while and in fact completed the Marshall half-marathon last fall.

And if everything goes as it should, the members of the Health and Safety Department are always there, but neither seen nor heard—and there are no holidays from vigilance. "We have to be vigilant and prepared all the time. Every day is different; it's never the same day twice," he says. And he’s quick to give credit for the support they’re given. “Our mission is to make people informed on safety issues. We have great support from the administration to do the things we do. Without that it would be difficult if not impossible.”
General Faculty Meeting, State of the University Address to take place today

The fall general faculty meeting of Marshall University's 2011-12 academic year will take place at 2 p.m. today (Wednesday, Sept. 28) in the Francis-Booth Experimental Theatre of the Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center.

The agenda will consist of welcoming remarks by the faculty senate chair, Dr. Cam Brammer; the introduction of new administrators by provost Dr. Gayle Ormlston, and the introduction of 46 new faculty by Brammer, School of Medicine senior associate dean for clinical affairs, Dr. Joseph Wertherammer, and School of Pharmacy dean, Dr. Kevin Yingling; a State of the Faculty address by Brammer; and a State of the University address by President Dr. Stephen J. Kopp.

All faculty, staff, students and members of the public are invited to attend.

Read more.

Gillettes join Pathway of Prominence at Marshall

Longtime Marshall University supporters Joe and Pam Gillette became the latest to be honored with a plaque on the prestigious Pathway of Prominence in a recognition ceremony last week on the Huntington campus. Donors who present gifts of $1 million or more to Marshall are honored with a plaque on the Pathway, which is located between Old Main and the Memorial Student Center.

The Gillettes' plaque is the 21st on the Pathway.
Author of 'The Looming Tower' to speak Sept. 29

Author, screenwriter, playwright and staff writer for The New Yorker magazine Lawrence Wright is coming to the Kelth-Albee Performing Arts Center, Thursday, Sept. 29 as part of the Marshall Artists Series. He will discuss his firsthand experience traveling through the Middle East.

Wright's book, The Looming Tower: Al Qaeda and the Road to 9/11, is a narrative history of the events leading to September 11, 2001, attacks. Based on five years of research, the book includes more than 500 interviews ranging from Bin Laden's best friend in college, Jamal Khalifa, to a reporter for Al Jazeera, to the former White House counterterrorism chief, Richard A. Clarke.

Schloss named founding chair of pharmaceutical science and research at School of Pharmacy

Dr. John V. Schloss, an academic and industrial researcher with more than 30 years of combined experience, has been named founding chair of pharmaceutical science and research at the School of Pharmacy. He also will serve as a member of the Pharmacy Executive Council.

"Marshall University School of Pharmacy is starting with an impressive infrastructure for teaching and research," Schloss said. "This will be the third time I have helped start a new pharmacy program and the Marshall program has the potential to become a leader in the area of pharmacy education and pharmaceutical research. It is an exciting time to be a part of Marshall University."

President Kopp elected chairman of West Virginia business organization

President Stephen J. Kopp has been elected chairman of the West Virginia Roundtable, an independent, nonprofit and non-partisan business organization dedicated to creating a viable business climate in the Mountain State.

Kopp has served as a member of the Roundtable since 2006 alongside educational, business and community leaders from around the state.
Marshall to host Native American powwow

Marshall University’s Office of Multicultural Affairs, in partnership with the Mekoce Shawnee Nation of West Virginia, will present a traditional Native American powwow Friday, Oct. 7, and Saturday, Oct. 8, at Buskirk Field on the Huntington campus.

Read more.

Maj. Gen. Anthony G. Crutchfield to return to Marshall University to serve as grand marshal in 2011 homecoming parade

Maj. Gen. Anthony G. Crutchfield, commanding general of the U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence in Fort Rucker, Ala., will be the grand marshal in Marshall’s homecoming parade next month. Crutchfield is a 1982 Marshall graduate.

The parade is set for 6 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 13, in downtown Huntington. It starts at the Big Sandy Superstore Arena and ends at Joan C. Edwards Stadium. Marshall plays its homecoming football game Saturday, Oct. 15, taking on Rice at 3 p.m.

Read more.

Other Coming Events

Local poets Oeding, Shaw to read at event tonight

Poets Carrie Oeding and Kent Shaw will read from their work at 8 p.m. tonight, Sept. 28, in Corbly Hall Room 105. The reading marks the release of Oeding’s new poetry collection Our List of Solutions.

Read more.

Movie ‘Freedom’ to be shown Oct. 3

The Sustainability Department will host a showing of the movie “Freedom” at 7 p.m. Monday, Oct. 3, in room BES of the Memorial Student Center.

Elizabeth Rutherford, the recycling coordinator, said that a question-and-answer session will follow at which three signed copies of the DVD of the movie will be handed out to audience members.

Read more.

School of Journalism and Mass Communications to host golf scramble fundraiser at Twin Silos

The W. Page Pitt School of Journalism and Mass Communications (SQJMC) will host its 2nd annual golf scramble at the Twin Silos Golf Course in Lavalette Friday, Sept. 30. Registration begins at noon and tee-off is at 1 p.m.

Read more.

‘A Much Curious Coop’ on display on South Charleston campus

Images of fanciful birds dressed in colorful fine clothing depicting their Individualitv and personalities are the basis of A Much Curious Coop, the latest art exhibit now on display in the library on the South Charleston campus.

The current collection features the work of Nitro resident Staci Leech-Cornell, a versatile artist and sculptor, who has had her work displayed in numerous shows and exhibitions. The exhibit will be on display through Oct. 21.

Read more.
Next Campus Conversation to take place Oct. 12

A Campus Conversation offered as a forum for introducing an innovative approach to regional accreditation with the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) of the North Central Association, is scheduled for Wednesday, Oct. 12 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in Drikko Library 402 and simultaneously to South Charleston, Room GC 134.

Read more.

Elvis Costello, Jungle Jack Hanna next up for Marshall Artists Series

A celebrated singer-song writer along with America’s favorite zookeeper will be helping the Marshall Artists Series continue the celebration of their 75th anniversary with appearances at the Keith-Albee Performing Arts Center in early October.

Elvis Costello, known for his quirky lyrics which are full of word plays, instrumentation and vocal styles, will perform with his group, the Impostors, Saturday, Oct. 8 at 7:30 p.m. He will be followed by Jungle Jack Hanna: Into the Wild Live Tuesday, Oct. 11 at 7 p.m.

Read more.

Gallery 842 to showcase photographer George Bedell

An exhibit titled “The Wasteland” by photographer George Bedell will open at Gallery 842 Friday, Sept. 30, with a reception from 6 to 8 p.m. It will continue until Friday, Oct. 28.

Read more.

Two Health/Wellness Screenings Coming Up Wednesday, Oct. 5

Marshall faculty and staff can take advantage of two health screening opportunities on Wednesday, Oct. 5.

Breast exams and Pap smears will be available at the Cabell-Huntington Health Department from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Appointments are recommended; call 304-523-6483.

PEIA Worksite Health Screenings will take place from 7 a.m. to noon. These include, but are not limited to, blood pressure, waist circumference, total cholesterol and HDL/LDL. Contact Amy Saunders at 304-696-4103 to schedule an appointment.

Read more.

Dr. Calvin Kent awarded designation of Assessment Administration Specialist

Dr. Calvin Kent, Vice President for Business and Economic Research, was awarded the designation of Assessment Administration Specialist (AAS) at the annual meeting of the International Association of Assessors (IAAO) Sept. 20 in Phoenix, Ariz.

Kent was only the 155th person to receive this designation in the 75-year history of the International organization. The IAAO designation “... recognizes professionalism and competency in administration of a variety of functions for property tax purposes.”

Read more.

Doctoral student and professor write chapter for molecular biology publication

Doctoral student J. Adam Hall and faculty member Dr. Philippe T. Georgel have collaborated to write a chapter for a new book focusing on RNA processing in animal and plant cells.

Their chapter describes the Interaction between RNA splicing and chromatin, and appears in the book “RNA Processing,” which was edited by Paula Grabowski and