6-29-2011

We Are...Marshall, June 29, 2011

Office of Marshall University Communications

Follow this and additional works at: http://mds.marshall.edu/mu_newsletter

Recommended Citation
http://mds.marshall.edu/mu_newsletter/412

This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by the Marshall Publications at Marshall Digital Scholar. It has been accepted for inclusion in We Are ... Marshall: the Newsletter for Marshall University by an authorized administrator of Marshall Digital Scholar. For more information, please contact zhangji@marshall.edu, martj@marshall.edu.
Nearly 200 attend President Kopp’s State of the University address in D.C.

Nearly 200 Marshall University supporters, including members of West Virginia’s congressional delegation, joined Marshall’s president, athletic director and football and basketball coaches at the nation’s capital June 21 to celebrate the university’s recent growth and expansion projects now under way.

The crowd, which included many Big Green members, gathered during Marshall’s annual State of the University address and reception at the Newseum in Washington, D.C.

Read more.


Dr. Tony Szwilski (standing) demonstrates to Congressman Nick J. Rahall, II the virtual mine safety and health academy and a simulation of a large fire and emergency response in the virtual underground coal mine. It can be viewed in stereo using the new head-mounted display (HMD) technology.

Marshall University and spinouts to be showcased at BIO International Convention

https://outlookweb.marshall.edu/owa/?ae=Item&t=IPM.Note&id=RgAAAASLlz7TmLJ... 6/30/2011
Marshall University biotechnology research and three of the university's high-tech spinout companies are being showcased as part of this week's BIO International Convention in Washington, D.C.

The largest annual global event for the biotechnology industry, the BIO International Convention attracts an audience of more than 15,000 biotech business leaders, scientists, executives and investors from around the world.

Read more.

Jim Booth named Employee of the Month

James Booth, Instructional Technologist in the College of Science, has been named the Marshall University Employee of the Month for May, according to Michelle Brown Douglas, chair of the Employee of the Month Committee.

Read more.

Photo: From left, Matt Turner, Chief of Staff, who made the presentation; Employee of the Month Jim Booth; and Dr. Charles Somerville, Dean of the College of Science.

Victor Fet receives Fulbright Award

Dr. Victor Fet, a professor in the Department of Biological Sciences, has been awarded a Fulbright Scholar grant to lecture and conduct research at the University of Athens and University of Crete, Greece, during the 2011-2012 academic year, according to the United States Department of State and the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board.

Read more.

Marshall’s Early Education STEM Center to be featured Friday on ‘This Week in West Virginia’

A segment featuring Marshall’s Early Education STEM Center for pre-kindergarten children will air at 8 p.m. Friday on the West Virginia Public Television program “This Week in West Virginia.”

A collaborative effort of the June Harless Center for Rural Educational Research and Development and Cabell County Schools, the center is designed to be a model program of STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) preschool education.

https://outlookweb.marshall.edu/owa/?ae=Item&t=IPM.Note&id=RgAAAAASLlZ7TmLJ... 6/30/2011
Health Professions to offer master's degree in public health

The College of Health Professions (COHP) has been granted permission by the MU Board of Governors to establish a plan to create the second Master of Science degree in Public Health (MPH) in West Virginia. Approval of the program took place earlier this month during the board’s regular meeting in the Memorial Student Center on the Huntington campus.

Marshall sponsoring regional forum on geohazards and transportation

Engineers, geologists and transportation planners from across the region will gather in Chattanooga, Tenn., Aug. 2-4 for the Appalachian States Coalition for Geohazards in Transportation’s 11th annual technical forum, “Geohazards Impacting Transportation in the Appalachian Region.” Coordinated by MU’s Center for Environmental, Geotechnical and Applied Sciences (CEGAS) and sponsored in conjunction with the Nick J. Rahall II Appalachian Transportation Institute, the forum will be hosted this year by the Tennessee Department of Transportation.

Marshall community encouraged to sign up for MUAlert

Active Marshall community members (faculty, staff and students) are reminded of the MU Alert system, which provides emergency messages by several notification methods, and asked to consider signing up or updating their contact information. The MU Alert system, which is operated by Marshall in partnership with third-party vendor Everbridge, allows Marshall students, faculty and staff to provide several methods for the university to use when making emergency contacts. Most common are text messages, cell phone calls and e-mail.

Profile: Daniel Kaufmann
- a series on interesting Marshall University people

Like a lot of young newly minted college graduates, Daniel Kaufmann, who had just earned a B.S. in biology, wondered what was next for him. However, unlike many uncertain graduates he took a bold step by examining his priorities, listening to his heart, and making an abrupt career switch that found him returning to school to earn a second bachelor’s degree, this time in studio art.
And it was a dynamic teacher at Florida State University who ultimately caused him to veer off his original career path.

Read more.

The next issue of *We Are...Marshall* will be distributed July 20, 2011. Please send any materials for consideration to Pat Dickson by July 18.

This issue is also available online at [www.marshall.edu/ucomm/newsletters/2011/nl_062911.html](http://www.marshall.edu/ucomm/newsletters/2011/nl_062911.html).

Any mass e-mail must adhere to the guidelines listed in the University E-mail policy ([http://www.marshall.edu/ucs/emailpol.asp](http://www.marshall.edu/ucs/emailpol.asp)).

This e-mail has been forwarded at the request of the Office of University Communications, 304-746-1971.
Nearly 200 attend President Kopp’s State of the University address in D.C.

Nearly 200 Marshall University supporters, including members of West Virginia’s congressional delegation, joined Marshall’s president, athletic director and football and basketball coaches at the nation’s capital June 21 to celebrate the university’s recent growth and expansion projects now under way.

The crowd, which included many Big Green members, gathered during Marshall’s annual State of the University address and reception at the Newseum in Washington, D.C. The Newseum is an interactive museum of news located at 555 Pennsylvania Ave.

West Virginia’s congressional delegation includes Senator John D. Rockefeller IV, Senator Joe Manchin, Representative Nick Joe Rahall II, Representative Shelley Moore Capito and Representative David McKinley. Kopp met earlier in the day with all members of the delegation to discuss the university’s priorities and concerns on the federal level.

Kopp, who has been at Marshall for six years, spoke of the importance of setting high expectations, of the importance of higher education and the attributes of college graduates. He updated the audience on the university’s progress on many fronts, including planned new facilities such as the Biotechnology Incubator and Applied Engineering Complex, the Fine Arts Incubator and the soccer complex; record enrollment; new programs of excellence, and campus improvements, such as the modernizing of all classrooms.

Manchin and Rahall each spoke at the event. Marshall coaches Doc Holliday and Tom Herrion, and Athletic Director Mike Hamrick, spoke about the university’s commitment to excellence in athletics, with an emphasis on academic achievement and stringent team standards. Ten of MU’s 14 sports teams had a grade point average of 3.0 or better for the spring term.
Photos: (Above) U.S. Sen. Joe Manchin (left) responds to Marshall University President Stephen J. Kopp's State of the University address at the Newseum in Washington, D.C. June 21. (Below) Dr. Tony Szwfiski (standing) demonstrates to Congressman Nick J. Rahall II the virtual mine safety and health academy and a simulation of a large fire and emergency response in the virtual underground coal mine. It can be viewed in stereo using the new head-mounted display (HMD) technology.

View a gallery of more photos of the event.

Like Be the first of your friends to like this.

Return to newsletter front page.
Marshall University and spinouts
to be showcased at BIO International Convention

Marshall University biotechnology research and three of the university’s high-tech spinout companies are being showcased as part of this week’s BIO International Convention in Washington, D.C.

The largest annual global event for the biotechnology industry, the BIO International Convention attracts an audience of more than 15,000 biotech business leaders, scientists, executives and investors from around the world.

According to Jennifer Kmiec, associate vice president for economic development for the Marshall University Research Corporation, the Bioscience Association of West Virginia (BioWV) - along with the Biotech Alliance of the Huntington Area Development Council (HADCO) and the West Virginia Development Office - is hosting a West Virginia Pavilion at the convention.

"The West Virginia Pavilion is intended to highlight key participants in the state’s life sciences community," she said. "There is a great deal of very exciting biotechnology work happening in labs here at Marshall and we are pleased to have this opportunity to share it with colleagues from the rest of the country and around the world."

Kmiec, who is also vice-chair of BioWV, said the Marshall-related companies being featured at the pavilion include Vandalia Research, Progenesis Technologies and Cordgenics. All three businesses were founded based on technologies developed at Marshall and are headquartered in the state.

South Charleston-based biotechnology company TRAX BioDiscovery, as well as West Virginia University and its spinout Protea Biosciences, also will be represented at the convention.

BIO International Convention attendees include a mix of biotechnology, pharmaceutical, plant and life science, medical diagnostic, instrumentation and technology companies of all sizes, including the top 10 pharmaceutical companies in the world. Also represented are economic development organizations and businesses that support the industry, including law firms, service providers, investors, and suppliers of laboratory equipment and products. Representatives from more than 200 universities and academic communities also attend for networking, educational sessions and collaboration opportunities. There is a strong international attendance, with participants from approximately 60 countries.

Marshall University is a founding member of the Bioscience Association of West Virginia. The purpose of the association is to promote and strengthen the bioscience industry in the state by developing a cohesive community that unites the biotechnology, pharmaceutical, medical device and research organizations. To advance this mission, BioWV provides educational, networking and commercial opportunities for its members, and serves as an educational and information resource to advance public understanding about the bioscience industry. For more information, visit www.biowv.org.
James Booth named Employee of the Month

James Booth, Instructional Technologist in the College of Science, has been named the Marshall University Employee of the Month for May, according to Michelle Brown Douglas, chair of the Employee of the Month Committee.

An employee since 2001, he was nominated by Dr. Richard Bady, professor of Physics and Physical Sciences.

In his nomination, Bady wrote, "Jim is able to help people of various levels of computer skills to get their work done! His positive attitude and helpful nature are great!" Bady explains it is "...a difficult job—highly technical yet serving people with less understanding."

Booth was presented with a plaque and a check for $100 by Matt Turner, Chief of Staff.

Photo: From left, Matt Turner, Chief of Staff, who made the presentation; Employee of the Month Jim Booth; and Dr. Charles Somerville, Dean of the College of Science.
Victor Fet receives Fulbright Award

Dr. Victor Fet, a professor in the Department of Biological Sciences, has been awarded a Fulbright Scholar grant to lecture and conduct research at the University of Athens and University of Crete, Greece, during the 2011-2012 academic year, according to the United States Department of State and the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board.

Fet will perform research and lecture in Evolution and Biogeography. In collaboration with Greek biology researchers, teachers and students, he will collect data and analyze biodiversity, biogeography and evolutionary formation of Greek fauna.

"I am very honored to receive a Fulbright Award, one of the most prestigious given to scholars as cultural ambassadors," Fet said. "It is especially important for me since I have collaborated for years with zoologists from Greece but never had a chance to work there for an extended period of time."

Fet is one of approximately 1,100 U.S. faculty and other professionals who will travel abroad through the Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program in 2011-2012. He also was awarded a Fulbright Scholar grant in 2004 to do research at the Institute of Zoology in Sofia, Bulgaria.

The Fulbright Program is the flagship international educational exchange program sponsored by the U.S. government and is designed to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries. Recipients of Fulbright grants are selected on the basis of academic or professional achievement, as well as demonstrated leadership potential in their fields. The program operates in more than 155 countries worldwide. Since its establishment in 1946 under legislation introduced by the late U.S. Senator J. William Fulbright of Arkansas, the Fulbright Program has given approximately 300,000 students, scholars, teachers, artists and scientists the opportunity to study, teach and conduct research, exchange ideas and contribute to finding solutions to shared international concerns.

Fulbright recipients are among more than 40,000 individuals participating in U.S. Department of State exchange programs each year. The Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program is administered by the Council for International Exchange of Scholars, a division of the Institute of International Education.
Marshall's Early Education STEM Center
to be featured Friday on ‘This Week in West Virginia’

A segment featuring Marshall's Early Education STEM Center for pre-kindergarten children will air at 8 p.m. Friday on the West Virginia Public Television program "This Week in West Virginia."

A collaborative effort of the June Harless Center for Rural Educational Research and Development and Cabell County Schools, the center is designed to be a model program of STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) preschool education. Using a curriculum where scientific inquiry serves as the basis for learning experiences, students' curiosities about the environment are encouraged and the child-directed projects are rooted in problem solving. Children enrolled in the program engage in global studies experiences, Spanish immersion, the arts, research in project work and technology - both in and outside of the classroom.

The program will repeat at 6 p.m. Sunday, July 3.

A slightly different version will be aired on West Virginia Public Radio on Tuesday, July 5, during the 7:30 a.m. newscast.

The story is part of "Mountain State Science," a public broadcasting series highlighting science and research in West Virginia. The series is made possible with support from the West Virginia Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research.
Health Professions to offer master's degree in public health

The College of Health Professions (COHP) has been granted permission by the MU Board of Governors to establish a plan to create the second Master of Science degree in Public Health (MPH) in West Virginia.

Approval of the program took place earlier this month during the board's regular meeting in the Memorial Student Center on the Huntington campus.

Graduates from the MPH program will apply the knowledge and skills of public health practice in areas that include all five core domains of knowledge basic to public health: biostatistics, epidemiology, environmental health, behavioral and health sciences, and health services administration, according to COHP Associate Dean Charles Hosler.

"There is a great demand for public health across the nation and in West Virginia," Hosler said. "West Virginia ranks nearly last in all health markers, placing the state's population at great risk for acute and chronic health problems."

Provost Dr. Gayle Ormiston said the university is committed to developing programs that provide unique opportunities for advanced study in fields important to the vitality of the region, state and nation.

"The Master of Science in Public Health fits into the overall mission of the College of Health Professions and the university as a whole, which includes a commitment to improving the education, health and welfare of West Virginia and the Appalachian region through innovative and necessary programs of study," Ormiston said.

Hosler said the program's mission is to educate students in the biological, environmental and behavioral determinants of key public health issues for the purpose of promoting and maintaining health, preventing disease and disabilities and educating the public on health-related matters.

"The primary goals of public health officials are the prevention of problems through the development of educational programs, policy changes, administration of services and the elimination of health disparities by conducting and applying research," Hosler said. "Through these activities the MPH program will bring to West Virginia an improvement in health and prevention of disease and disabilities."

Earlier this spring, the College of Health Professions announced that it is offering a new bachelor's degree program in public health - the first such degree to be offered in West Virginia. Admissions to that program have begun for the fall 2011 inaugural class.
Marshall sponsoring regional forum on geohazards and transportation

Engineers, geologists and transportation planners from across the region will gather in Chattanooga, Tenn., Aug. 2-4 for the Appalachian States Coalition for Geohazards in Transportation’s 11th annual technical forum, “Geohazards Impacting Transportation in the Appalachian Region.”

Coordinated by MU’s Center for Environmental, Geotechnical and Applied Sciences (CEGAS) and sponsored in conjunction with the Nick J. Rahall II Appalachian Transportation Institute, the forum will be hosted this year by the Tennessee Department of Transportation.

According to CEGAS Director Dr. Tony Szwilski, chairman of the coalition and head of the planning committee for this year’s forum, members of the coalition meet annually to share information about research developments and projects related to rock falls and landslides along highways, seismic activity, and flooding and subsidence impacting transportation infrastructure in the region. Coalition members represent the U.S. Geological Survey, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, CSX Transportation, Norfolk Southern Corporation, the Federal Highway Administration, and the departments of transportation and state geological surveys in Kentucky, Maryland, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia.

“It is an exciting prospect to work with federal, state and private entities to share best practices on the prevention and remediation of geological problems that affect transportation throughout the Appalachian region,” Szwilski said. “We encourage anyone with an interest in this topic to join us for what promises to be an excellent program.”

He added that this year’s event will include a pre-conference field trip to the U.S. Route 64 area through the Ocoee River Gorge. The area, which is used for transportation, forestry, conservation, recreation and power generation, was the site of three rock slides in 2009-10, one of which closed the highway for five months. The field trip will feature discussions and visits to areas of interest to geologists, geotechnical engineers, environmental scientists, planners and others interested in the geohazards and constraints of development of the area designated as the nation’s first U.S. Forest Service Scenic Byway.

The early registration deadline for the forum is Friday, July 8. For more information, visit www.marshall.edu/cegas or contact Szwilski at szwilski@marshall.edu or ext. 6-5457.
Marshall community encouraged to sign up for MU Alert

Active Marshall community members (faculty, staff and students) are reminded of the MU Alert system, which provides emergency messages by several notification methods, and asked to consider signing up or updating their contact information.

The MU Alert system, which is operated by Marshall in partnership with third-party vendor Everbridge, allows Marshall students, faculty and staff to provide several methods for the university to use when making emergency contacts. Most common are text messages, cell phone calls and e-mail.

Those in the active Marshall community who would like to subscribe or update their information are asked to visit the myMU page at www.marshall.edu/myMU, log in, click on the MU Alert red triangle and complete their subscription or update. Others external to the campuses or centers (i.e. news media, alumni, campus neighbors) should watch other outlets, such as the Marshall website, Twitter, Facebook, etc., for relevant news releases.

Everbridge is a leading provider of emergency notification services to colleges and universities, health care systems, government agencies and municipalities.
Profile: Daniel Kaufmann

Like a lot of young newly minted college graduates, Daniel Kaufmann, who had just earned a B.S. in biology, wondered what was next for him. However, unlike many uncertain graduates he took a bold step by examining his priorities, listening to his heart, and making an abrupt career switch that found him returning to school to earn a second bachelor's degree, this time in studio art.

And it was a dynamic teacher at Florida State University who ultimately caused him to veer off his original career path. "I had thoughts of going to graduate school, getting on the Ph.D. track, but then I began to re-think that. I didn't know what I wanted to do. I had become interested in art and took some classes because I wanted to learn more about it. I was thinking graphic design, maybe sculpture, then I had a terrific photography teacher who really piqued my interest. I have always been interested in photography--I even had my own darkroom--but it was strictly a hobby," Kaufmann, who now teaches photography in the College of Fine Arts, says.

The second degree led him to the University of New Mexico, where he earned an M.F.A. and taught classes virtually from the start. Summers found him working at a private school where, in addition to photography, he taught computer animation and website building. His career path may have been unorthodox, but he had definitely found his niche.

At Marshall he likes the flexibility found in the Department of Art and Design and the breadth of courses offered. There's a wide spectrum of types of photography which run the gamut from the very early 19th century processes to the latest cutting-edge technology, he says, and it's important that students be exposed to all of them. "I want students to understand that all these are still viable uses of photography and there are ways to go back and forth between the older and the newer processes."

Students In his experimental classes can actually learn the techniques used in 19th century photos, which produced those often stiff but surprisingly sharp images. And while some are complex, others are surprisingly simple to duplicate. "Before photographic materials were manufactured, rather than buying photo paper, you used various materials to make a light-sensitive emulsion which is a light-sensitive liquid. You would then coat various surfaces, anything from glass to meal and more commonly, fine art paper to make it light sensitive. So students are entirely capable of creating the kinds of images found in early photos. The only difference is that we sometimes use more modern chemicals to produce something that looks the same, because some of the early chemicals used were quite dangerous and we're not going to use them in the labs."

Although there are a number of photography majors and minors, non-majors and others in the Department of Art and Design take his classes as well. In his department there are core classes that everyone takes, and beyond that students can choose an area of emphasis, he explains. "Other emphases could be printmaking, painting, sculpture, graphic design, fibers, ceramics, art education--all the major areas that an art department would have."

It's important that his students learn to combine the technical aspects with artistic ones, he says firmly. "You have to have both. We stress them both; we stress the technique of the craft along with personal vision. It's a balance between teaching techniques and helping them make their own personal discoveries. You can see a really technically superb photo but artistically it's empty. And others have good ideas but they aren't able to get the technique to come through. Art is about both of these and getting people to understand the importance of both."
And graduates with photographic training can go in many directions, he says. "With the skills the students learn here there are numerous avenues open to them. They can go into art-based photography or go the commercial route."

The Department of Art and Design has a rich curriculum to offer students, whether they are enrolled majors or just casual students, Kaufmann says. "We offer classes for students with all levels of interest, from those who want to take an occasional class just for their own interest to a full range for our majors. One of our biggest assets is we have a wonderful faculty who have many shared as well as diverse interests."

People are often surprised that on vacations and family occasions, Kaufmann is not automatically the chronicler. He takes his fair share of photos but not as many as one would think, he notes. Although he has an array of professional cameras, he's not a camera snob. And in his profession, he's worked with all types from 35 mm to large-format cameras. He doesn't lug around the big professional ones on trips, for example. "I often just use the camera on my phone," he admits. "It's always there and with technology the quality of the phone camera is quite high for what I need. I have a good digital camera that works very well for my purposes. Digital cameras have changed a lot and they've greatly improved technically. People are taking more photos with them now. Cameras are tools and you use the right one for different purposes."

Living in Huntington with his wife, Michelle, 5-year-old Miko and 11-year-old Isa, he's an avid cyclist who often rides with colleagues. "I love the outdoors," he says. "I particularly like the gorgeous West Virginia landscape."

Kaufmann's work is well known outside the classroom as well, as his photos are featured in several traveling exhibits both nationally and internationally. Currently he has an exhibit at the Beckley Art Center, part of an annual show that tours West Virginia. He's also participating in a large traveling exhibit, reGeneration 2, which can be seen throughout the United States and Europe. The tour began last summer in Switzerland, moved on to Morocco and currently can be seen in Paris. There is another version of the exhibition that is traveling throughout North America, starting out in the U.S. and currently touring Mexico.

Although his initial academic path may have been somewhat unconventional, would he do anything differently today? Probably not, he says frankly. He didn't end up as a scientist as he originally planned, but the biology degree definitely wasn't wasted, he believes. "When you're young, you don't know what you want to do. You have to teach yourself how to learn, how to work. I still like science ... I'm very interested in the environment and I use some of that knowledge and interest in my current career. Things have a way of going together. Changing careers took some nerve, but I've never regretted it."