Marshall foundation, alumni office start fund to assist students affected by flooding

The Marshall University Foundation and the Office of Alumni Relations have begun a fundraising effort aimed at helping Marshall students who have been affected by the flooding in June.

“Many students and their families will be faced with these unexpected expenses just as the fall semester starts,” said Dr. Ron Area, CEO of the foundation.

Proceeds from this drive will be directed to those students who are most in need of aid.

Make a secure, online donation by visiting www.marshall.edu/ucomm/disaster-assistance-fund online. Be sure to designate your gift for “Disaster Relief Fund” in the dropdown menu.

BB&T continues support for capitalism center at Marshall with another gift of $100,000

Marshall University has received the ninth installment in a series of $100,000 gifts from BB&T supporting the BB&T Center for the Advancement of American Capitalism at the university’s Lewis College of Business.

David L. Helmer, Senior Vice President and Regional Corporate Banking Manager for BB&T, presented the latest check of $100,000 to Dr. Ron Area, CEO of the MU Foundation Inc., and Dr. Deanna Mader, director of the BB&T Center for the Advancement of
American Capitalism, during a ceremony in the Brad D. Smith Foundation Hall, Home of the Erickson Alumni Center.

This gift brings to $900,000 the total amount given by BB&T since an entrepreneurial program called the BB&T Center for the Advancement of American Capitalism was established in 2008.

The BB&T Center sponsors a lecture series and an upper-division course in capitalism for business students, among other activities.

“We are very appreciative of the continued support from the BB&T Foundation and their investment in this center,” Area said. “We are very proud to have the BB&T Center on our campus and we look forward to its continued success.

Area said the major emphasis of the center is for the promotion of entrepreneurship and entrepreneurship education.

Photo: David L. Helmer, Regional Corporate Banking Manager for BB&T, third from left, presents a check for $100,000 to Dr. Deanna Mader, director of the BB&T Center for the Advancement of American Capitalism, far right; and Dr. Ron Area, CEO of the MUI Foundation Inc., right of Helmer. Also pictured are President Jerome Gilbert, to Helmer’s left; Bob Simpson, interim dean of the Lewis College of Business, far left; and Spencer Murphy, Huntington Market President for BB&T, to Mader’s left.

College of Science establishes new organizational structure

The College of Science has announced a new organizational model, which will support growth while continuing to provide exceptional teaching and learning experiences for students.

The change was effective July 1 and included the restructuring of nine academic departments into four schools: the School of Biological and Environmental Sciences, the School of Physical Sciences, the School of Mathematics and Applied Informatics, and the School of Forensic and Criminal Justice Sciences.

Dr. Chuck Somerville, dean of the College of Science, said the new model would allow for more cross-disciplinary collaborations in the college.

“We reorganized to create synergy between departments that have similar expertise and interests,” Somerville said. “Bringing them together enhances collaboration on research, programs of study and innovative teaching styles.”
Somerville said he is most excited to unite the forensic science and the criminal justice and criminology programs, which will provide an integrative education for students who are interested in the scientific approach to solving crimes, the causes of criminal behavior, the application of criminal law and the practice of police work.

“This is a powerful combination of elements that were always available at Marshall, but in different places,” Somerville said. “We have the no. 1 Master of Science in forensic science program in the country and we have hundreds of criminal justice students who benefit by aligning these two disciplines.”

With both the master’s program in forensic science and the graduate area of emphasis in digital forensic science having full accreditation, Somerville said there is always room to grow.

“We are developing plans for an undergraduate forensic science program and an online graduate program in criminal justice and criminology,” Somerville said. “The forensic science program has seats for 20 candidates every year and we would like to see that grow over the next two to five years.”

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**Seth Johnson named Employee of the Month**

Seth Johnson, IT Service Desk Technician in Information Technology, has been named the Marshall University Employee of the Month for June, according to Bruce Felder, chair of the Employee of the Month Committee.

He was nominated by Jody Perry and JoAnn Black.

In their nomination they wrote: “Seth is continually going above and beyond to assist the university community. He always has the best interest of the individual in mind when helping others. He never leaves the office until he is satisfied he’s accomplished what he needs to for the day.”

The nomination goes on to say the department receives many compliments on Johnson’s service to the community and he always has a smile and maintains a friendly demeanor even when things aren’t going well.
In conclusion, they add: “He’s articulate and intelligent and can easily translate a technical issue for a non-technical individual, which is a key skill when working on the service desk. He is an outstanding employee and a tremendous resource to the university community.”

Johnson was presented with a certificate and a check for $100 by President Gilbert.

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**Students asked to select refund preference for new provider**

Marshall students have been asked to select a refund preference for the university’s new refund provider, Heartland ECSI, which became the official processor of Marshall’s e-refund systems July 6.

“We encourage you to select electronic deposit to any bank account of your choice as the most timely and convenient way of receiving your refund,” a letter from the Bursar’s office told students. “By choosing Direct Deposit, your refund can be processed within 2-3 business days. You may also select paper check, which can take 7-10 business days. If you do not select a refund preference, your disbursement will default to paper check.”

PNC will continue to partner with Marshall University to offer students an array of products and services to manage their finances. PNC ATMs will still be located in several locations on the Huntington campus, and students may use PNC as their banking provider.

Students with questions may contact the Bursar’s office at 304-696-6620 or e-mail bursar@marshall.edu.

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Click above to view in larger size.

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The Forensic Science Center has been awarded a $154,577 grant from the National Institute of Justice to conduct a research project on methods involved with screening and processing sexual assault kits.

Jason Chute, M.S., technical leader of Marshall’s forensic DNA laboratories, is the project’s principal investigator. Co-principal investigators are Dr. Terry W. Fenger, director, and Season Seferyn, M.S., a DNA analyst.

Backlogs of untested sexual assault kits have drawn national attention in recent years. In the past the federal government has estimated there are hundreds of thousands of untested sexual assault kits nationally.

Chute said Marshall’s Forensic Science Center has tested about 2,500 sexual assault kits from West Virginia and large metropolitan areas including New Orleans, Los Angeles and Detroit. The projects were supported by the National Institute of Justice, which facilitated the partnerships as part of a national effort to address untested sexual assault kits.

“We recognized a need for this research project, which will benefit state and local laboratories across the nation by giving an option that could increase efficiency, and decrease the turnaround-time of testing evidence from sexual assault kits,” said Chute. The project is titled “Evaluating the Efficiency of the Use of the Qiagen® QIAsymphony® with High Throughput Y-screening as an Alternative to Conventional Serology.” The grant began Jan. 1 and runs through March 31, 2017.

The project will compare testing results using conventional serology screening, a labor-intensive method, to an automated screening method for the presence of male DNA and includes a cost analysis to compare and evaluate the two processes.

Photo: Researchers will use the Qiagen® QIAsymphony® instrument as a novel approach to develop an automated screening method for the presence of male DNA. From left are Dr. Terry W. Fenger and Season Seferyn, co-principal investigators, and Jason Chute, principal investigator for the project.
An endowed scholarship, the Cabell County Medical Society Alliance Scholarship, has been created at the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine and is designated for first-year medical students who are residents of Cabell County. The award is renewable for three additional years pending normal academic progress.

Since the early days of the School of Medicine the Cabell County Medical Society Alliance has been working alongside it, lending support and raising scholarship funds.

“These dedication of these Alliance leaders and their ongoing support for the School of Medicine is second to none,” said Linda S. Holmes, director of development & alumni affairs for the
CCMSA’s longtime partnership with the School of Medicine goes beyond fundraising and scholarships. One of the projects it is most proud of is the Family Life Education program. For more than 34 years, CCMSA has been partnering with the School of Medicine to teach preteen students about puberty, hygiene, anatomy and reproduction. Teachers may request a classroom visit from a CCMSA member and a family medicine resident physician. Students can anonymously submit written questions to be discussed by the member and the physician during their visit.

Photo Caption: The Cabell County Medical Society Alliance has established a new endowed scholarship with the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine. Pictured left to right are past presidents and officers of the organization Linda Turner (left); Ruth Gilbert (second from left); Maxine Baur (second from right); and Amy Ricard (right). Also in the picture are Linda Holmes, director of development and alumni affairs, School of Medicine (third from left) and Sheanna Spence, assistant director, School of Medicine (third from right).

Faculty/Staff Achievement: Jason Chute

Jason Chute, DNA technical leader at the Forensic Science Center, was a featured speaker discussing a successful pilot project to review and expedite sexual assault kit cases last month at the North Carolina State Crime Lab DNA Conference in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Hosted by Bode Cellmark Forensics, the conference focused on challenges facing DNA laboratory directors, managers and analysts. Topics include information on sexual assault kit testing, the latest DNA technologies, policy, and law enforcement investigations of cold rape cases and property crimes.

Chute discussed an approach that involved MUFSC forensic laboratory staff providing DNA technical review of sexual assault cases for the Michigan State Police (MSP). The presentation provided an overview of the strategies, challenges and successes that were encountered during development and implementation of the project.
Faculty/Staff Achievement: Dr. Marc Ellison

Dr. Marc Ellison, executive director of the West Virginia Autism Training Center, co-authored a chapter in the upcoming *Autism Spectrum Disorders: Identification, Education, and Treatment (4th Edition)*. Ellison, with colleagues from the University of St. Thomas and Edgewood College, co-authored the chapter titled: “The Transition from High School to Higher Education: Inclusive Services and Supports.” The text will be available through Routledge in late August.

Reminder: Space utilization inventory taking place on the Huntington campus

As part of a Marshall 20/20 initiative, Operations is currently conducting a space utilization inventory on the Huntington campus. We have already gathered classroom and storage space information. The next phase is all office space. Operations wants to make you aware that a representative of this department will be conducting a visual review of all office space in the following buildings during the months of July and August:

- Art Warehouse
- Biotech Center
- Corbly Hall
- Gullickson Hall
- Harris Hall
- Henderson Center
- Jenkins Hall
- Morrow Library
- Old Main
- Prichard Hall
- Science Building
- Smith Communications
Please be patient with our endeavors and we apologize for any inconvenience this may cause. If you should have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact either Char McKenna at 696-2487 or Brandi Jacobs-Jones at 696-3328.

Grant Supports Technology Camp at RCBI

The Manufacturing Institute and the Toyota Foundation have awarded the Robert C. Byrd Institute for Advanced Flexible Manufacturing (RCBI) a $7,000 grant to support its summer camp activities that involve STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) skills.

“We are very pleased to receive the support of the Manufacturing Institute and the Toyota Foundation,” said Charlotte Weber, director and CEO of RCBI. “Our camps allow young people to explore technology and engage in STEM activities in new ways.”

With guidance from RCBI engineers, technicians and outside experts, the young campers receive hands-on experience with computer-aided design, 3D Printing, coding and manufacturing. They also learn about career opportunities by interacting with West Virginia manufacturers and entrepreneurs.

More than 300 students have attended camps at RCBI. This summer, RCBI is presenting robotics camps in partnership with the Educator Resource Center at NASA’s Independent Verification and Validation Facility (IV&V) in Fairmont and computer coding language camps in partnership with Marshall.

This summer’s camps at RCBI also received financial support from the West Virginia Governor’s STEM Initiative and Nuts, Bolts and Thingamajigs, the foundation of the Fabricators and Manufacturers Association.
Photo: Ron Cabacar, design engineer at RCBI, demonstrates 3D printing during a 3D Printing Camp at RCBI Huntington. This summer, RCBI is also hosting 3D Printing Camps in South Charleston and Bridgeport.

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Special Collections Department in Morrow Library to be closed for five days beginning Aug. 1

The Special Collections Department in the James E. Morrow Library will be closed from Monday, Aug. 1, through Friday, Aug. 5, for staff development training, cleanup and maintenance of the University Archives and Manuscript Collections, and database maintenance.

During this period, all other departments including the Morrow Stacks will remain open during their regular hours. All materials in the Morrow Stacks will be available for patron use and checkout.

For additional information, contact the Special Collections department at ext. 6-2343.

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Marshall hosting month-long health care pipeline experience for high school students

More than two dozen high school students from West Virginia, Kentucky and Ohio have begun a four-week immersion experience this week at Marshall that will showcase a variety of research, technology, health and engineering career opportunities.

Students participating in Marshall’s Health Care Pipeline Initiative participate in interactive hands-on activities that highlight the skills, equipment, technology and resources used by STEM professionals in the fields of health care, pharmacy, nursing, health informatics and engineering.

“This is a group of students who are historically underrepresented in science and math careers,” said Shelvy L. Campbell-Monroe, Ph.D., assistant dean for diversity for the schools of medicine
and pharmacy. “So, hands-on engagement and the opportunity to immerse themselves in unique learning experiences is life-changing and could help them identify a new path for their careers.”

As part of the immersion experience, the students live in residence halls, participate in field trips and a career day, and hear from speakers from the business, industry, civil, Army and Department of Defense sectors. The summer program continues through July 22.

The Health Care Pipeline Initiative is a collaborative venture between the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine and the School of Pharmacy. It also is supported by the Army Educational Outreach Program, Marshall Health, the Technology Student Association, the Army Education Outreach Program UNITE and Walgreens.

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*Photo Caption:* Students attending the Marshall University Health Care Pipeline Initiative gather for an opening event on Monday, June 27, at the Memorial Student Center.

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**School of Medicine welcomes 72 new resident physicians, fellows**

The Joan C. School of Medicine has welcomed 72 new resident physicians and fellows to its graduate medical training programs.

The new class of trainees represents 36 medical schools, including 26 residents from in-state medical schools. There are currently a total of 195 residents and fellows training in the 15 residency and fellowship programs that are part of the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine-Marshall Health system.

“It is exciting to watch these young physicians in training develop and master the competencies to become outstanding members of the health care team,” said Paulette S. Wehner, M.D., vice dean for graduate medical education at the School of Medicine. “Our medical faculty have worked tirelessly this past year to bring new specialist training opportunities to Marshall, and their work has paid off.”

This month also marks the start of a new sports medicine fellowship in the department of family medicine and new nephrology and hematology-oncology fellowships in the department of internal medicine, as well as the continued expansion of the psychiatry residency and the addition of a new dental residency in partnership with Cabell Huntington Hospital.
The two new dental residents are recent graduates of West Virginia University’s School of Dentistry, whose administration supported Marshall’s development of the new program. The Huntington residency received approval from the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) in April 2016 and will be eligible for full accreditation following a site visit next summer.

“Both our local dental colleagues and those at WVU have been so supportive as we worked to bring this new, unique training opportunity to Marshall,” said Raj K. Khanna, D.M.D., M.D., chair of the department of dentistry and oral and maxillofacial surgery. “As we work toward full CODA accreditation, continued community support will be equally important.

The new group of trainees began July 1.

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Marshall professor presents Britten book to President Gilbert

Dr. Vicki Stroeher, a musicologist at Marshall, presented her first book, “My Beloved Man,” to President Gilbert, last week.

The volume details the complete surviving correspondence between famous composer Benjamin Britten and his life partner and recital partner, tenor Peter Pears. The men, together from 1937 until Britten’s death in 1976, lived with an appearance of separation and communicated in secret to avoid persecution for their relationship.

“The complete correspondence has never been published, so this is a first,” Stroeher said. “Peter Pears kept all of the letters in a box, and one of his life’s goals was to publish these letters before he died and it didn’t happen.

“We’ve done this work for him.”

“I’ll enjoy reading this,” Gilbert told Stroeher. “Because of the format, I can easily pick it up and read it anytime.”

“That was the plan,” Stroeher laughed. “The plan was that you could pick it up and read for a little bit at a time.”

The work was a labor of love, Stroeher said, requiring 4 years and the same number of trips to the Britten-Pears Foundation in Aldeburgh, England, where the 365 letters between the couple are kept. Stroeher transcribed the book with the help of Nicholas Clark and Jude Brimmer of the foundation.
A book launch was held June 16 at The Red House, where Britten lived and worked for the last two decades of his life.

Stroeher said she developed an intense interest in Britten during her undergraduate years when her chorus sang his works. Since, she has presented on Britten in Nottingham at the 2012 North American British Music Studies Association Conference; at the “Literary Britten” conference at Girton College, Cambridge University in September 2011; and the “Britten in Context” conference at Liverpool Hope University in 2010. She was a co-organizer of “Benjamin Britten at 100: An American Centenary Celebration,” held on the campus of Illinois State University in 2013.

“My Beloved Man: The Letters of Benjamin Britten and Peter Pears” can be purchased online at Amazon.com.

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Photo: Dr. Vicki Stroeher (right), professor of music history, presents a copy of her book, “My Beloved Man,” to President Jerome Gilbert.

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Touma provides free hearing protection for Marshall music staff and students

Dr. Joseph Touma of Touma Hearing Centers has made a contribution to help provide hearing protection for music students and faculty through the Center for Wellness in the Arts.

Thirty Etymotic earplugs were distributed to students at the Speech and Hearing Center earlier this spring, according to Dr. Karen McNealy, chair of the Department of Communication Disorders.

“Awareness is the key to helping music students prevent irreversible hearing damage that can impact the rest of their lives, not only when playing their instruments but otherwise,” McNealy said.

She noted how important Touma’s support has been for the growth of the university. As a renowned otolaryngologist and a neurotologist in the area, Touma said he has always been loyal to Marshall and hopes to provide hearing protection to future students.
“A large part of what we do as a team is not only to improve or repair hearing, but also try to prevent hearing loss by minimizing the exposure in the first place,” Touma said. “My audiologists brought this program to my attention and felt it would be a good way to impact young musicians. It is imperative that musicians protect their ears to avoid permanent damage after intense exposure to loud sounds. This is a small investment in these students, who provide all of us so much entertainment throughout the year.”

Noise-induced hearing loss is one of the few forms of hearing loss that are preventable. McNealy said the Center for Wellness in the Arts will continue to promote hearing conservation through education on hearing health and the distribution of ear plugs for hearing protection.

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Photos: (Above) Communication disorders graduate student Jen Billups gives a set of Etymotic earplugs to music education major Jacob Lambert. Thirty Etymotic ear plugs were donated by local otolaryngologist and neurotologist Dr. Joseph Touma and distributed through the Center for Wellness in the Arts. (Below) Etymotic ear plugs reduce most noise to safe levels while preserving the clarity of sounds.

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We Are...Marshall will be on a reduced frequency for the summer. The next regular issue of this newsletter will be distributed July 27, 2016. Please send items for consideration to WAMnewsletter@marshall.edu by 5 p.m. Monday, July 25.

A complete schedule for summer issues is online at www.marshall.edu/wamnewsletter.

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To read the content of this newsletter online, please click on the following link: http://www.marshall.edu/wamnewsletter/july-13-2016.