We Are...Marshall, December 14, 2016

Office of Marshall University Communications

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Dear Marshall community,

As I take time during this busy season to reflect on my many blessings, I want to thank you—my Marshall family, for the past year.

My first year as president has flown by, but it has been a year of excitement, progress and, yes, challenge. I truly believe we have come a long way together and are poised to do even more in the coming months and years. I appreciate each and every one of you and all that you do each day to serve our students and help make our university better.

In closing, I want to share this video greeting that will be going out to university supporters and friends later today. Enjoy the sweet sounds of “Auld Lang Syne” from the talented members of our Marshall University Chamber Choir. Special thanks to faculty members David Castleberry and Wendell Dobbs, as well as the offices of University Communications and Digital Media Services, for their help producing this video.

I wish you and yours a blessed holiday season and a very happy, healthy New Year!

Sincerely,

Jerry
History faculty member to address graduates at winter commencement

Dr. Greta Rensenbrink, an associate professor of history and recipient of the Reynolds Outstanding Teaching Award last spring, will be the featured speaker at MU’s Winter Commencement Saturday, Dec. 17.

Winter commencement starts at 10:30 a.m. at the Big Sandy Superstore Arena in downtown Huntington.

Rensenbrink has been teaching at Marshall since 2006, when she was hired as an assistant professor in the history department. At Marshall, she was the founding director of Sexuality Studies from 2008 to 2010, and director of Women’s Studies from 2010 to 2013.

Rensenbrink, who was born in Tanzania, earned her B.A. in United States history in May 1993 from the University of Massachusetts, her master’s in history in August 1998 from the University of Chicago and her Ph.D. in history also from the University of Chicago, in August 2003. She grew up Topsham, Maine.

Marshall began conducting a winter graduation ceremony in 2008 with a convocation at the Keith-Albee Performing Arts Center. The speaker was Dr. Montserrat Miller, a professor of history. Winter commencement began in 2009 at Cam Henderson Center and the tradition of having an MU professor deliver the keynote address continued.

Previous winter commencement speakers were Dr. Simon Perry, professor of political science, in 2009; Dr. Bonita Lawrence, professor of mathematics, in 2010; Dr. Jamie Warner, professor of political science, in 2011; Dan Hollis, associate professor of journalism and mass communications, in 2012, Dr. Kateryna Schray, an English professor, in 2013; Dr. Judith Silver, emeritus professor of mathematics, in 2014; and, Dr. Andrew Nichols, a professor of engineering, in 2015.

“I love the tradition of having faculty address the December ceremony, and I am very honored to take part,” Rensenbrink said. “I think this tradition highlights the importance of community at Marshall, how we all, students, faculty and staff, work together to create what Marshall is and can be.”

She said teaching has always been the center of her work.

“As faculty we all wear a lot of hats,” she said. “But for me it is working with students that keeps me hopeful and excited about the future. Having the opportunity to address students and their families on this important day makes me very happy.”

Rensenbrink said her talk will encourage students to broaden their definition of success as they move from the university into the wider world.
“The climate in this country has recently been divisive and difficult,” she said. “To me this reality highlights the importance of what our graduates will take with them. They have the opportunity to have a profound impact on the world.”

Marshall Foundation’s Family Campaign underway

On Nov. 29, the Foundation kicked off The 2016 Family Campaign, the annual faculty and staff giving drive that allows for MU employee payroll deduction or one-time gifts to support areas and initiatives throughout Marshall University. The campaign will run until Jan. 31.

As a special thank you to those with existing payroll deductions, they will receive a limited edition John Marshall statue bobblehead. In addition, anyone who initiates a new payroll deduction or makes a one-time gift of $100 or more by 1/31 will also receive a bobblehead when they arrive in January.

To make your gift, DOWNLOAD THE FORM HERE.
Annual Christmas Kente Ceremony serves as rite of passage for MU African American students

Consistent with 17th-Century West African traditions, Marshall University will have a Christmas Kente Ceremony Friday, Dec. 16. Traditionally presented for students of African or African American ancestry, this is an inclusive ceremony open to all students graduating in December.

The Kente cloth, which resembles a stole and is worn with the academic regalia, is a symbol of accomplishment that has its roots in a long tradition of weaving in West African countries. Marshall instituted this African ceremony with a tradition of presenting hand-woven Kente cloths to graduating students over 15 years ago, according to Maurice Cooley, associate vice president of intercultural affairs.

“This annual event serves as a traditional rite of passage when each graduate receives his or her own hand-woven Kente cloth based on his or her degree. The Christmas Kente is always a smaller ceremony than our spring ceremony, which allows family and close friends to present the cloth to their graduate,” Cooley said. “This truly defines and captures one of the most significant moments of their lives when our advancing students are recognized for their extraordinary achievements.”

Cooley said he expects 35-40 students to participate in the 2016 Christmas Kente Ceremony. The celebration begins at 4 p.m. in Smith Recital Hall, located in the Smith Music Hall at Hal Greer Boulevard and 3rd Avenue in Huntington. The university will have its annual winter commencement at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 17, at the Big Sandy Superstore Arena in downtown Huntington.

To learn more about the 2016 Christmas Kente Ceremony, contact Cooley by e-mail at cooley@marshall.edu or by calling 304-696-5430.

For more information about activities sponsored by the Center for African American Students and the Office of Intercultural Affairs, visit www.marshall.edu/intercultural.

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Photo: A group of female graduates pose for a selfie outside of the 2016 Donning of the Kente spring ceremony, which was held at the Joan C. Edwards Playhouse.
Marshall experts serving on governor-elect’s transition policy committees

More than 20 Marshall University faculty and staff members have been invited to serve on Governor-elect Jim Justice’s transition policy committees.

The eight committees will comprise a diverse group of experts who are being charged with making policy recommendations to the governor-elect.

Transition chairman Larry Puccio said, “Each policy committee is made up of respected experts who care deeply about the future of West Virginia. These committees will generate policy proposals for the new administration. The goal is to generate good policy ideas from West Virginians on the front lines.”

The Marshall participants and the committees on which they are serving are as follows:

**Tourism**

- Mike Hamrick, Director of Athletics
- Ginny Painter, Senior Vice President for Communications and Marketing
- Dr. David Trowbridge, Associate Professor of History/Director of African and African American Studies
- Dr. Kelli Williams, Associate Professor of Dietetics

**Health Care/DHHR**

- Dr. James Becker, Vice Dean for Government Relations, Health Care Policy and External Affairs, Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine
- Jo Dee Gottlieb, Professor of Social Work
- Dr. Joseph Shapiro, Dean, Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine

**Substance Abuse**

- Dr. Brian Gallagher, Director of Pharmacy Services, Marshall Health/Assistant Professor, School of Pharmacy and Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine
- Dr. Sean Loudin, Assistant Professor, Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine
- Amy Saunders, Student Health Education Specialist
- Dr. Kevin Yingling, Dean, School of Pharmacy
Energy and the Environment

Dr. John Maher, Vice President for Research/Executive Director, Marshall University Research Corporation

Dr. Charles Somerville, Dean, College of Science

Infrastructure/Transportation

Edward Aractingi, Interim Associate Vice President and CIO

Michael McGuffey, Senior Vice President for Institutional Research

Dr. Wael Zatar, Dean, College of Information Technology and Engineering

Economic Development

Robert Simpson, Interim Dean, Lewis College of Business

Charlotte Weber, Director and CEO, Robert C. Byrd Institute for Advanced Flexible Manufacturing

Bill Woodrum, Project Coordinator/Agricultural Innovations, Robert C. Byrd Institute for Advanced Flexible Manufacturing

Higher Education

Dr. Gayle Ormiston, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs (co-chair)

Layton Cottrill, General Counsel/Senior Vice President for Executive Affairs

Dr. Sherri Smith, Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs/Dean of Undergraduate Studies

Public Education

Dr. Teresa Eagle, Dean, College of Education and Professional Development

The policy committees will meet for the first time Thursday in Charleston. Marshall and West Virginia University are working with the governor-elect’s transition team to facilitate the meetings and will compile the findings for the incoming administration.

Ormiston also is serving as transition policy committee co-coordinator, along with West Virginia University Provost Joyce McConnell.
The Student Government Association and the Office of Community Engagement are asking you to help kids have a brighter holiday season.

The initiative, "Don’t Let the Grinch Steal Christmas," will provide a bear, blanket, and book to children at the City Mission and Hoops Family Children's Hospital. The cost for each is $20, and the goal is 50.

For more information, contact Elizabeth Appell Sheets at appell1@marshall.edu.

Click above to view in larger size.
Annual Family Holiday Party takes place tomorrow; link for Santa pictures announced

Santa will arrive at the Annual Family Holiday party tomorrow at around 5:45 p.m., and all the kids in attendance are invited to have their pictures taken with him. Once the pictures are ready, they’ll be posted at http://muphotos.marshall.edu/Events/Holiday-Events/Faculty-Staff-Holiday-Photos/.

In addition, the fundraising committee for the Marshall University Employee or Dependent Endowed Scholarship will host a silent auction and a 50/50 raffle, in which a lucky employee could win half of all raffle money raised. Many colleges, departments and offices are creating themed baskets which are designed to appeal to pet lovers, chocolate cravers, artists, movie buffs and more! Information regarding the scholarship is online at www.marshall.edu/academic-affairs/mu-employee-scholarship/.

Get ready for a fun evening with the Marshall University family!

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2017 Tech-up Open House to take place in Huntington Jan. 4

All students, faculty and staff are welcome to attend a Tech-up Open House at Drinko Library on the Huntington campus Wednesday, Jan. 4, from 4 to 7 p.m.

Brush up on your technology skills in navigating the library’s electronic resources and services and using Blackboard through MUOnLine. IT staff will be on-hand to provide an overview of myMU and assist with other computer or wireless questions.

Learn tips and tricks to help you hit the ground running with research and writing support; accessing online librarians and guides; and maximizing e-books and e-journals. Basic Blackboard tools and utilizing the free 24/7 Blackboard tech support service will also be covered. Refreshments and door prizes will be provided.

For additional information, contact library@marshall.edu or call 304-696-2321.

Baseball team to hold Little Herd Camp later this month

Marshall’s baseball team will hold a “Little Herd” camp for students in grades K-5 Tuesday, Dec. 27 to Wednesday, Dec. 28. The team promises fundamental development for beginning through advanced players and a whole lot of fun! Visit http://collegebaseballcamps.com/herdbaseball for more information.
Final fall Music Mondays to study Benjamin Britten’s ‘Ceremony of Carols’

The School of Music will host the final MUsic Mondays lecture of the fall series at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 19, at the Cellar Door, 905 3rd Ave., Huntington. The fall series, titled “Music and Ways of Telling,” investigates how the composers convey meaning to listeners.

The lecture, “Tapping into England’s Past: Britten’s ‘Ceremony of Carols’” will explore composer Benjamin Britten’s use of texts from medieval England to create a work that would speak to wartime Britain.

Lead presenter Dr. Vicki Stroeher, professor of music history, said Britten retreated to the United States before the start of the war, but returned in 1942.
“Britten had to reconnect with his English audience, who were a bit skeptical of him,” Stroeher said. “He found a book of English carols in a bookstore in Nova Scotia while on his return journey across the Atlantic.”

Stroeher, who recently published a book on Britten, said he wrote the work on board a freighter ship as it crossed the submarine-infested ocean. “The work bears the marks of a world torn by war, but also offers hope for a peaceful future, as seen through the eyes of the past.”

Seating is limited. Participants are invited to arrive early to enjoy conversation and refreshments, and facilitators are requesting a $10 donation, payable at the door. Checks should be made payable to Marshall University. All proceeds will go to support the music program. Marshall students get in free with a Marshall ID.

The MUusic Mondays spring series will begin Jan. 23 with a joint lecture by Drs. Michael and Vicki Stroeher titled “This is Your Brain on Music.” The spring series will investigate the different ways music communicates with the individual.

For more information about MUusic Mondays, call the School of Music.

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Photo: Benjamin Britten used texts from medieval England to create “A Ceremony of Carols.”

Former US Ambassador donates papers of grandfather, C.H. Freeman, to Marshall Special Collections

Former U.S. Ambassador, Mark Erwin was in Huntington Tuesday, Dec. 6 to promote his book, The Powers. While in town, he met with administrators from the Marshall University Foundation and Special Collections to donate a collection of papers from his late grandfather, Charles H. Freeman.

“My first mentor was my grandfather, who died 25 years before I was born,” Erwin said. “I studied his life and was inspired by him. I want to pass those ideas and thoughts on to younger people. In a way, sharing these papers is a way of paying it forward.”

Erwin said he hopes others can read his grandfather’s journals and papers and study his business journey.
“As with all our collections of manuscripts and papers unique to Marshall and Huntington’s history, they give our students and faculty an insight as to what was happening during that time,” said Dr. Monica Brooks, associate vice president of libraries and online learning. “These collections are important because they give us a context as to what helped shape our community and its people.”

In 1901, Freeman was the lawyer of William C. Yawkey, the wealthiest man in Michigan. Freeman was asked to travel to West Virginia to assess the value of land offered to Yawkey.

“He rode in a wagon from Charleston at the time,” said Erwin. “He noticed a stream was on fire. He was told ‘that’s that oil stuff that comes up from the ground, occasionally lightning strikes and it catches fire. It eventually goes out.’”

Freeman recognized this as an opportunity and together they formed Yawkey and Freeman Coal Company and Big Creek Development Company. In 1906, the site became one of the greatest oil fields of its time. In 1910 Freeman married his assistant, a former school teacher from Mason County, and they moved to the up-and-coming city of Huntington, Erwin said.

“They spent $85,000 to build the Freeman Estate, located on 8th Street Hill,” said Erwin. “At that time, people would normally spend $2,000 to build a home. The estate is now part of the National Register.

“The estate was also called Park Hill Farm because as a hobby, he raised cattle and chickens. He planted 6,000 different kinds of bushes and plants in his garden. Although he died at age 66, he was an interesting and eclectic man, kind of a renaissance man. He had a library of thousands of books.”

Growing up, Erwin spent summers at the family estate and took summer courses at Marshall College.

“I remember an English composition course I took one summer,” Erwin said. “The assignment was to find a great quote and write a paper about it. I went to my grandmother and asked her for help with a quote. At 85 years old she recited from memory a quote by Calvin Coolidge about persistence. It’s in my book, The Powers, and I’ve used it throughout my life:

Nothing in the world can take the place of Persistence. Talent will not; nothing is more common than unsuccessful men with talent. Genius will not; unrewarded genius is almost a proverb. Education will not; the world is full of educated derelicts. Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent. The slogan ‘Press On’ has solved and always will solve the problems of the human race. — Calvin Coolidge

“My grandfather was a very generous man. He gave to Marshall College and many area charities. Unfortunately, the family fortune didn’t survive to my generation. After my grandfather’s death, my grandmother and her three daughters, including my mother, lived in the family estate. They were a generation of spenders, not earners.”
The estate was sold and restored in the 1970s after his grandmother’s death. After the restoration, it was added to the National Register of Historic Places, said Erwin.

“Perhaps this was fortunate for me,” Erwin said in his blog. “Had the fortune been passed on, I may not have been inspired to develop my own skills, ambition and grand vision to restore our family fortune.”

University archivists are looking forward to adding the donation to their current collection.

“The Freeman materials that we have provide insight into the day-to-day operations of the family business,” said Nat DeBruin, head archivist for Marshall University Archives and Special Collections. “The current Freeman collection is very small and the bulk of it contains correspondence between family members. We are curious to see what additional materials Ambassador Erwin has provided.”

Photo: Amb. Mark Erwin (seated at left), and his wife, Joan (seated at right), presented the papers of C.H. Freeman, Mark Erwin’s grandfather, to the Marshall University Libraries’ Special Collections. Standing behind the Erwins are Dr. Monica Brooks, associate vice president of libraries and online learning, and Nat Debruin, head archivist.

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School of Medicine students recognized for grades, community service

The Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine recognized 107 students and 11 faculty, staff and residents at its fall awards banquet Tuesday.

Seven members from the Class of 2019 were recognized for achieving a 4.0 grade point average during the 2015-2016 academic year—their first year of medical school. Nine members of the Class of 2018 earned a 4.0 GPA during 2015-2016—their second year of medical school—and seven members of the Class of 2018 were recognized for earning a 4.0 during both their first and second years of medical school.

More than 100 medical students from the classes of 2017, 2018 and 2019 received Community Service Awards for completing at least 40 hours of community service during 2015-2016.

Additionally, students recognized the following faculty, staff and residents for awards voted on by each class:
Class of 2019
Best All-Around Professor – Sasha N. Zill, Ph.D., professor, department of biomedical sciences
Outstanding Creativity in Teaching – Maria A. Serrat, Ph.D., associate professor, department of biomedical sciences
Above and Beyond in Teaching – Laura Richardson, Ph.D., professor, department of biomedical sciences
Best Block Leader – Lawrence Grover, Ph.D., professor, department of biomedical sciences

Class of 2018
Creativity in Teaching Award – Felix H. Cheung, M.D., associate professor, department of orthopaedics
Commitment to Learning – Nancy Norton, M.D., associate professor, department of pathology
Excellence in Education – Richard Egleton, Ph.D., associate professor, department of biomedical sciences

Class of 2017
Best Clerkship – Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology
Best Attending – Kelly E. Melvin, M.D., assistant professor, department of psychiatry & behavioral medicine
Best Resident – Jacob T. Kilgore, M.D., fourth-year Medicine/Pediatrics resident
Best Clerkship Coordinator – Melinda Wyrick, department of obstetrics and gynecology

For the complete list of student award winners, visit
http://jcesom.marshall.edu/media/55655/2016-fall-awards.pdf.

Marshall Health offers advanced eye care in new Charleston office

Marshall Eye Surgeons, a department of Marshall Health, has opened a new Charleston clinic to offer advanced eye care to patients throughout the Kanawha Valley.

The new office, located at 331 Laidley St., Suite 201, in downtown Charleston adjacent to St. Francis Hospital, offers a full range of ophthalmology services including treatment for glaucoma, cataracts and cornea problems, as well as refractive surgery and advanced ophthalmic plastic and reconstructive surgery. The 1,700-square-foot office features two screening rooms, three exam lanes and specialized glaucoma and cornea equipment.

“Access to advanced eye care remains a priority,” said R. Mark Hatfield, O.D., M.D., administrative chair of the department of ophthalmology at the Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine. “So, with a number of specialists now in place, we knew this was
the right time for Marshall Eye Surgeons to begin offering services in the Charleston area in a permanent location.”

Physicians practicing at this location include:

- Maya Bitar, M.D., who is a board-certified cornea, cataract and refractive surgeon, who specializes in dry eye syndrome, keratoconus, Fuchs’ dystrophy, pterygium, ocular surface neoplasia, corneal transplantation, cataract surgery and refractive surgery.
- Manik Goel, M.D., who is the only fellowship-trained glaucoma specialist in southern West Virginia. He helps patients control their glaucoma through continued monitoring, medication, laser treatment or the newest advances in glaucoma surgeries.
- Rene S. Rodriguez-Sains, M.D., FACS, who is a board-certified ophthalmic plastic and reconstructive surgeon, who had more than 30 years of experience as an ophthalmic plastic surgeon, ophthalmologist and ophthalmic oncologist in New York City before joining Marshall Eye Surgeons in 2015. He specializes in eyelid cosmetic surgery, ptosis, tumors of the eye and eye repair and reconstruction.

Physicians practicing at the Marshall Eye Surgeons’ Charleston location will see patients in their new Charleston office from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays. Drs. Bitar, Goel and Rodriguez-Sains will also continue to see patients at Marshall Eye Surgeons’ Huntington location several days per week.

Patients may contact the Charleston office by phone from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. For appointments, call 304-746-8990. For more information, visit http://www.marshallhealth.org/eye.

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Marco’s Favorite Things

24 days of giveaways

Marco is celebrating the holiday season by giving away some of his favorite gifts.

Connect with @MarshallU on Facebook, Twitter & Instagram for chances to win December 1st - 24th

#MarcosFavoriteThings

www.marshall.edu/hendholiday

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The next regular issue of We Are...Marshall will be distributed Jan. 11, 2017. Please send items for consideration to WAMnewsletter@marshall.edu by 5 p.m. Monday, Jan. 9.

To read the content of this newsletter online, please click on the following link: http://www.marshall.edu/wamnewsletter/december-14-2016.