

7-12-2017

## We Are...Marshall, July 12, 2017

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# WE ARE... MARSHALL®

The Newsletter for Marshall University

July 12, 2017

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## School of Medicine team publishes longitudinal study on long-term effects of pneumonia

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A [School of Medicine](#) research team has published findings that show patients who recover from invasive pneumococcal pneumonia, on average, live 10 years less when measured against life expectancy tables for the state of West Virginia as well as two other techniques.

Researchers say the findings underscore the recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that all adults over 65 years old should be immunized with pneumococcal vaccine and that younger adults with chronic disease should be vaccinated.

The study, which gathered data from over three decades (1983-2003) at community hospitals in Huntington, West Virginia, was published in the [May 2017 issue of the American Journal of Medicine Sciences](#).

“Our study group comprised 155 adults who survived invasive pneumococcal disease (IPD), a particularly deadly infection,” said Maurice A. Mufson, M.D., professor emeritus in the department of internal medicine at the school and senior author of the study. “Only 14 patients lived longer than their life expectancy, indicating the importance of immunization of adults with pneumococcal vaccines as well as the pernicious severity of IPD.”

The team reported that the presence of two comorbid diseases—cancer and neurologic diseases—as well as the total number of comorbid diseases suffered by each patient with invasive pneumococcal disease were significantly associated with increased risk of mortality.

The researchers employed a variety of methods to help ascertain lifespan of the patients in the study including electronic medical records, state health records and in a few instances, the popular genealogy website, Ancestry.com.

“The strengths of our study, in addition to the long follow-up interval of patients, included three different techniques for assessing lifespan,” Mufson said.

The Marshall research team included Nancy Norton, M.D.; Todd W. Gress, M.D., M.P.H.; Ronald J. Stanek, M.S.; Oluwandamilare Ajayi, a fourth-year medical student; and Mufson.

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## Biweekly pay conversion expected to start Sept. 15

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The conversion to biweekly pay is planned for the first biweekly paycheck to be issued on September 15, 2017 for the pay period of August 17, 2017 through September 1, 2017.

Please continue to check the [Pay Changes website](#) for additional information regarding the conversion as it becomes available.

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## Two recent graduates receive Woodrow Wilson Teaching Fellowships

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Posted on July 12, 2017 Sara Brumbaugh and David “Ben” Jones, two recent graduates of Marshall, have received Woodrow Wilson Teaching Fellowships for the coming academic year. They are the first Marshall students to receive these fellowships.

The fellowship program is designed to prepare students to work in high-need rural or urban schools by providing professional development experience and the opportunity for students to earn their master’s degree in a field related to teaching. The overall award includes a \$30,000

stipend, tuition discounts to certain schools in either New Jersey or Georgia and mentoring and teaching support, among other benefits.

Beginning Summer 2017, Brumbaugh will use the fellowship to attend the Master of Arts in Secondary Education program at Kennesaw State University in Kennesaw, Georgia. She graduated from Marshall summa cum laude in May with a double major in secondary education and applied mathematics. While at Marshall, she has been a recipient of the Aaron C. Dot George Scholarship, the PROMISE Scholarship, a mathematics department scholarship and the Yeager scholarship. She has worked as a HEART tutor at Huntington High School and is co-founder and outgoing president of the Thundering Nerds Math Club and outgoing treasurer of Pi Mu Epsilon.

Originally from Kenova, West Virginia, Brumbaugh says she is excited at the opportunity to work with students in other rural settings.

“To help each student meet my expectations, I must be able to adjust according to their needs,” she said. “I have to maintain a growth mindset. I am eager to learn various techniques and strategies to improve how well I translate mathematics to my students.”

Jones will use the fellowship to attend the STEM Master of Arts in Teaching program at Mercer University in Macon, Georgia. He graduated from Marshall summa cum laude in May with a major in mathematics. He is a National Merit Scholar, was awarded the title of “Outstanding Junior in Mathematics” by the Math Department and has received both the West Virginia PROMISE scholarship and the Yeager scholarship. He also is an Eagle Scout and a member of both Phi Kappa Phi and Pi Mu Epsilon honor societies. He is an accomplished pianist, has developed material for the WV Science Adventures camps and is the outgoing secretary of the “Thundering Nerds” Math Club.

Originally from Huntington, Jones says he hopes to bring his passion for math to his future students.

“I hope to help them to become not just better mathematicians, but, with any hope, better people,” he said, “whether that means going to college or vocational school, directly into the workforce or something else entirely.”

For more information on the Woodrow Wilson Teaching Fellowship, visit <http://woodrow.org/fellowships/ww-teaching-fellowships/> or contact Mallory Carpenter, program manager for the Office of National Scholarships by e-mail at [mallory.carpenter@marshall.edu](mailto:mallory.carpenter@marshall.edu).

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## Sonography program receives accreditation for general, vascular concentrations

Marshall University’s diagnostic medical sonography program has been awarded initial accreditation for its general and vascular/ adult echocardiographic concentrations by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP).

Sonography, a painless medical procedure that uses high-frequency sound waves to produce visual images of organs, tissues and blood flow inside the body, is considered interchangeable with “ultrasound,” due to the use of sound waves to create an image.

In its fifth year, Marshall’s ultrasound program currently has seven students. Students are asked to select in which concentration they wish to specialize and sit for the professional boards, according to Dr. Rita Fisher, program director for the St. Mary’s School of Medical Imaging.

“Graduates of our program from the last few years have all found employment as the job market is fairly robust, especially in echocardiography,” Fisher said. “Salary ranges are variable depending on where the sonographer chooses to work, but a good estimate of a starting salary would be around \$20 per hour and up.”

Fisher said they will be adding breast sonography as a concentration next year, which will be open to both sonography and radiography students who are specializing in mammography. She said future plans include the addition of fetal echocardiography as a concentration.

With the collaboration between the Marshall College of Health Professions and the St. Mary’s School of Medical Imaging, the Bachelor of Science degree in medical imaging with an emphasis in diagnostic medical sonography was the first accredited bachelor’s degree program in the state that offered its students the choice to specialize in general or vascular and echocardiography sonography.

The St. Mary’s medical imaging program accepts 24 students a year and eight of those students will be chosen for the sonography track. For more information on enrolling in the program, contact Fisher at [rita.fisher@st-marys.org](mailto:rita.fisher@st-marys.org) or Nancy MacClellan at [nancy.macclellan@st-marys.org](mailto:nancy.macclellan@st-marys.org).

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## Koester elected chair of med school’s faculty council



Dr. Alan R. Koester has been elected chairman of the Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine Faculty Council, according to the school’s Office of Faculty Affairs and Professional Development.

Koester received his medical degree from the Southern Illinois University School of Medicine. He is certified by the American Board of Orthopedic Surgery, with subspecialty certification in Surgery of the Hand. He is also a Certified Independent Medical Examiner.

Koester has more than 22 years of experience as an orthopedic surgeon and is currently an associate professor and chief of hand surgery in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at the School of Medicine. In addition to serving on the Faculty Council for the school, he serves on the Professional Practice Review, Surgery Steering and Medical Executive committees. He also serves on the West Virginia Permanent Total Disability Review Board.

He also holds a master's degree in cellular biology from the University of Illinois in Springfield, where he conducted extensive bone marrow transplantation and stem cell research in hematology/oncology prior to his medical career.

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To volunteer, please contact **Eve Marcum-Atkinson** at 304.696.2992 or [marcum13@marshall.edu](mailto:marcum13@marshall.edu)



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The next regular issue of *We Are...Marshall* will be distributed July 19. Please send items for consideration to [WAMnewsletter@marshall.edu](mailto:WAMnewsletter@marshall.edu) by 5 p.m. Monday, July 17.

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[www.marshall.edu/wamnewsletter/July-12-2017](http://www.marshall.edu/wamnewsletter/July-12-2017).