

1-2019

Distance Education Connection Newsletter, January 2019

Dena Laton

DISTANCE EDUCATION CONNECTION

Welcome to the spring semester.

For those who are new to distance education at Marshall, this newsletter is designed to keep you connected to MU. Although you may not physically be on a Marshall campus, you are still part of the Marshall family—and we'd like to get to know you and help you get to know us.



Online Education Profile:



Dena Callicoat Laton
Manager of Online Learning Programs, Independent Proctoring and Copyright Education, is the first point of contact for online students and is devoted to your success

Drinko Library 226; Huntington Campus;
Email: dena.laton@marshall.edu;
Office: 304-696-3141.

Faculty Profile:



Sherry Early
Sherry Early is an assistant professor of leadership studies at Marshall's South Charleston Campus. She spent 10 years as an administrator in residence life, leadership development, service learning, diversity initiatives, and has taught numerous leadership courses. She also serves as an academic coach and editor for Heartful Editor. Sherry has presented at the state, regional, national, and international levels.

She currently serves as the NASPA Region II Faculty Council Representative, Co-Chair for Research and Scholarship for the Women in Student Affairs Knowledge Community, and on the NASPA 100 Anniversary Educational Programs Committee. Sherry will serve on the NASPA 2020 Convention Planning Team

overseeing Faculty Initiatives and Scholarly Papers. Sherry received her Master's in Student Affairs Administration from Michigan State University and her PhD in Higher Education Administration from Bowling Green State University.

She is the proud pet mom of two cats, Mo (14) and Darius (19). This past summer she had the opportunity to teach undergraduate leadership courses in Costa Rica. Recently she was made aware she will receive two national awards: ACPA's Coalition-Builder Award for her work with the Faculty Learning Community *Creating Inclusive Environments While Increasing Our Capacity for Diversity* and NASPA's Region II Outstanding Contribution to Research or Literature Award.

Student Profile:



Whitney White
I graduated with my Bachelor's Degree in 2015 from Morehead State University and I am a third year teacher at Bracken County Middle school. I started my Master's program (Adult and Continuing

Education) in August and the best part is that it is fully online.

The benefits of fully online courses are that they are flexible with my schedule. I work full time, I have two little boys, and my husband works on second shift. My oldest son is three and my youngest son is eight months old. I am busy from sun up to sun down. Having online courses allows me to work on my studies when the time is good for me.



IMPORTANT ACADEMIC DATES

February 8, Friday
Applications for May graduation due in dean's office

February 15, Friday
Last day to drop 1st eight weeks courses

March 6, Wednesday
1st 8 weeks courses end

March 7, Thursday
2nd 8 weeks courses begin

March 22, Friday
Last day to drop an individual course

**March 25, Monday —
March 30, Saturday**
Spring Break, Classes dismissed

**March 25, Monday —
May 3, Friday**
Complete Withdrawals Only

April 1, Monday
Recommended date to apply for December 2019 graduation

**April 1, Monday —
April 5, Friday**
Advance registration for summer sessions (currently enrolled students)

**April 15, Monday —
April 26, Friday**
Advance registration for fall semester (currently enrolled students)

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Libraries and Online Learning
One John Marshall Drive
Huntington, WV 25755
www.marshall.edu/library

Online Education and the Challenge of Motivation

Completing an online education program can be difficult. The staff at Marshall University are here to help you succeed.

Although completing college or learning new skills in a non-traditional way can be more fun than traditional learning, it does pose some different challenges including loss of motivation. Because students usually complete online programs from their homes, away from classrooms and fellow classmates, it can be difficult to remain motivated to study. Some students also lose motivation when they do not have the opportunity to interact with fellow students.

This newsletter as well as our Facebook group can alleviate the feeling of disconnect and help you engage with other online students.

Overcoming the Challenges of Online Learning

Motivation – You are in charge of your own success. Keep your motivations clear in your mind so you can prioritize studying when your initial enthusiasm subsides.

Accountability – Many students struggle with holding themselves accountable when there's no one standing at the front of the room. Use your course syllabus as a guide to hold yourself accountable for assignment and project deadlines.

Organization – There's not a schedule requiring online students to be in a classroom at a certain time but some students find it easier to plan specific times each week for course work.

Confidence – If you don't understand something or you're struggling with any aspect your course, you're going to need the confidence to speak up. Reach out to your course instructors or fellow classmates for help before you fall behind.

Technical skills – Students don't need a lot of technical ability to complete online courses but some skills are essential. Marshall provides free training through Lynda Campus at Lynda.marshall.edu.

Loneliness – Some students find studying online to be a lonely experience. Try to find a way to balance any loneliness with social time elsewhere. Reach out to other distance education students through our Facebook group or through your courses.

Persistence – Maybe you didn't do as well as you were hoping on an assignment or maybe there is a concept that you just can't seem to make sense of. Don't give up. Try picking up the phone or emailing your course advisor for additional help.



Staff Profile:



Andrew Gooding

Andrew Gooding is the director of the Regents Bachelor of Arts (RBA) Program. In that capacity he works with returning students who have graduated from high school a minimum of four years ago to help them complete their undergraduate degrees in a timely manner.

Andrew was born in the Bronx and raised in Ithaca, NY. He received his bachelor's degree in rhetoric at Bates College in Maine and did graduate work in speech communication at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign. His graduate work focused on rhetorical theory and criticism and his research focuses on collective memory and trauma. He has been at Marshall University since 1999.

He taught courses in public speaking, technical writing, group communication, the impact of science and technology on society, bioethics and helped prepare students for senior projects. He also worked for the Rahall Transportation Institute completing reports, writing grant proposals and editing technical papers.

Andrew has also been the speech mentor for the Yeager seminar series and still occasionally teaches classes for the Honors College in film and memory. He also teaches the First Year Seminar course. He administers the WVROCKS online course program, so you will see his name on the course list frequently.

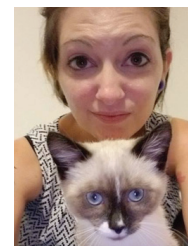
Andrew lives on the south side of Huntington with his wife Grace and two children, Evan and Chris. He helps coach the Marshall University fencing club and runs the Boy Scout Merit Badge College. He takes his younger son, a high school senior, to debate tournaments where he serves as a judge. In his spare time he plays table tennis competitively and races kayaks and surf skis during the summer months.

Student Profile:

Whitney Walls-Rodriguez

Last semester was my first semester attending Marshall University online. I am a retail store manager for a drug chain, a mom to a rambunctious 5 year old girl, and a wife to a current Shenandoah University Pharmacy School student so my days tend to be very busy.

I absolutely loved taking my online classes. The ease of being able to log on anytime to complete assignments helped tremendously. I definitely do not have time to sit in a classroom, and listen to a lecture for three hours.



Usually, while completing my assignments, I have my husband griping about school and the stock market, my 5-year-old telling me about what she did at pre-k while dancing and running around the house, and one of our three of my cats climbing all over me. A three-hour lecture usually takes me about five hours with all the disruptions, but that's my life, and I would never change it.



Reasons Using a Planner/Agenda Can Save Your Sanity

By: Dena Calliccoat Laton

As a manager of programs in the online platform, you would think I would be pushing electronic calendars. I do keep work projects and deadlines on my computer, but, I can say from experience that paper is still the best way I handle deadlines and juggle day-to-day life. I need to see the entire week at one time with everything written out just to keep my sanity.

Why I use a planner:

- **It improves time management.**

Having an agenda allows you to see an overview of your day, week and month. By seeing which tests you have scheduled in a certain week or papers you have to work on in the month, you can easily plan out when you will focus on them. I strongly urge every student to buy an agenda that has a layout for each day. Although we will get use to our schedules a month in, having an agenda with a daily layout will make it easier to plan time for personal, social and school activities. I put EVERYTHING in my planner. Everyone has different preferences for the layout of their planner. Choose what works for you.

- **It will keep you focused.**

By writing down important information and constantly checking your agenda, you will be more cognizant of what is going on. Having everything written down allows you to see what you have to do and by when. I use my planner daily to track work, home, my daughter's schedule and course assignments.

- **It will give you a sense of accomplishment.**

One of the best feelings in the world is to check off something on your to-do list. As adults, stress is an everyday issue. For many of you, adding courses on top of your day-to-day life can add even more stress. Having a visual "checklist" can add a sense of gratification and lead to feeling less stressed and more accomplished.

- **It will serve as a journal/tracker.**

I use my planner as a tracker and journal. One of my biggest stresses was knowing when certain things were done in the past. Not just assignments or classes, but "when was the last time I changed the filter in the AC? Or when did I have my last dental cleaning?" Some of these things can seem trivial at the time, but if you have one page dedicated to when you did something last, it keeps things from falling through the cracks.

Program Profile: The Regents Bachelor of Arts (RBA)

The Regents Bachelor of Arts (RBA) program helps you work around life's challenges so you can earn a bachelor's degree.

Motives to join the RBA program may be personal fulfillment, career enhancement, promises made, or simply wanting to be a better role model but the common factor of each participant is that they **want to earn a college degree!**

The RBA program is a nontraditional program designed for the adult student. The flexibility of the RBA program allows students to maximize their use of previous and transfer credit in completing their degree. The RBA is designed for degree completion and is not open to students who have already earned a regionally accredited bachelor's degree.

The wide variety of available online courses makes it possible for many students to complete their degrees without ever taking classes on a Marshall University campus or center. For those who prefer to be in a traditional classroom setting, the Huntington and South Charleston campuses, Teays Valley Regional Center in Putnam County and the Mid-Ohio Valley Center in Mason County offer convenient places to take courses.

Contact us today to find out how you can apply previously earned college credits, knowledge gained from work and life experiences, certifications and more toward a bachelor degree at Marshall University. You may be closer to earning a four-year college degree than you think.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SHARE YOUR STORY?

Thanks to those who have already sent me your stories. I will include them in each issue. Submit your story and photo to me at dena.laton@marshall.edu to receive a goodie box with a t-shirt and Marshall swag.



(Continued from front page)

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

April 16, Tuesday

Last day to drop a
2nd 8 weeks courses

May 3, Friday

Last class day
Last day to completely withdraw
from spring semester

May 4, Saturday —

May 10, Friday
Final Exams

May 11, Saturday

TBD at Big Sandy Superstore
Arena Commencement, Official
Graduation Date

May 13, Monday —

August 16, Friday
Summer School Sessions

Student Resources:

Libraries

www.marshall.edu/library

Drinko Library

Research: 304.696.2334

Circulation: 304.696.2321

Tutoring Services

www.marshall.edu/uc/tutoring-services

Smith Hall Communications Building, Room 211

304.696.6622

Student Resource Center

www.marshall.edu/src

Memorial Student Center, SW16

IT Service Desk

www.marshall.edu/it/departments/it-service-desk

Drinko Library

304.696.3200 in Huntington

304.746.1969 in Charleston

Facebook Group:

Join our Facebook group for Distance Education students. This closed group and is opt-in only and is a good way to stay connected to campus and other online students. Search for **Marshall University Distance Education Students** find us on www.facebook.com/marshallu.

Examity Identity Verification

If you've already completed the Distance Student Orientation, thank you! If not, please do so at your earliest convenience.

You are enrolled in **Distance Student Orientation**, which is completely free but has one required activity to be completed right away to comply with federal law: **Identity Verification**. The rest of the course is entirely self-paced and not graded. The course is designed to give you an introduction to Marshall University, including where to find assistance and services you may need.

In the Distance Student Orientation course you will find detailed directions for scheduling your brief photo ID session with Examity. This uses Examity's online test-proctoring capability to provide identity verification services. Note that the verification process is referred to as an "exam," and the video goes on to describe taking an exam, but the identity verification process does not involve an actual exam.

Watch the [Introduction to Examity video](#) for a quick overview. You may also want to see the [Identity Verification Quick Guide](#) for Students and the [Examity Privacy Policy](#). After completing the identity verification process with Examity, please log in to the Distance Education Student Orientation course again and click "Acknowledge Completion of Identity Verification" to confirm that you finished the identity verification process.

Note:

- Examity helps ensure that Marshall University is in compliance with the Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA) by providing processes "through which the institution establishes that the student who registers in a distance education or correspondence education course or program is the same student who participates in and completes the course or program and receives the academic credit" (34 CFR 602.17(g)).
- Active duty military personnel who may not be permitted to share government issued IDs or utilize webcams in the field must contact the Office of Online Learning (dena.laton@marshall.edu or 304-696-3141) upon receiving an ID request from the system to postpone your ID verification.



DID YOU KNOW...

Tuition in 1940 was \$12.50 per semester and room and board was \$30 for a year.

TUITION FEES:

(Payable by all students)

	West Virginians Per Semester	Non-West Virginians Per Semester
Enrollment fee	\$35	\$55
(Includes Enrollments, plus \$5.00 student activities fee.)		
Hospitalization fee	0.50	0.50
Summer term, nine weeks	23.00	23.00
Hospitalization (Summer Term) fee	0.25	0.25
Diploma fee	5.00	5.00
Late Registration fee ²	2.00	2.00
Reinstatement fee ³	2.50	2.50

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