Distance Education Connection Newsletter, October 2019

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As we approach the end of the semester, it’s time to touch base to make sure you have the tools you need to succeed. Don’t forget to double check assignments and deadlines!

My name is Jaime (pronounced Hi-Me) Taylor, and I’ve had the privilege of serving as Provost and Senior Vice President at Marshall for almost a year and a half now. Since day one, I’ve been impressed by the students, staff, and faculty who aim high and support one another as we all move forward together.

The unique character of Marshall as an institution is clearly visible in its people, but it is also reflected in recent national rankings. In March, Marshall University achieved Carnegie “R2” status as doctoral university with high research activity and is now ranked in the top tier of national universities in U.S. News & World Report. Our online MBA program and our online graduate programs in education are also nationally ranked in the same report, while Marshall’s graduate forensic science program is routinely ranked #1 in the nation based upon scores on the Forensic Science Assessment Test (FSAT), a qualifying test offered by the American Board of Criminalistics.

I’m particularly pleased to see that we are also a top performer in Social Mobility in the U.S. News & World Report rankings. This means that students who make an investment of time and money at Marshall are able to increase their earning power substantially after earning the degree—and given our distance education offerings, this has a favorable effect on families and communities not only in West Virginia but across the nation and world.

Marshall is rising. As you continue your studies, I encourage you to find a problem around you that you care about, and then be passionate about it. Use technology to stay engaged with other students in your courses and with your online faculty and advisors. The study of politics, science, education, management, our cities and communities, our past, ourselves—all lines of inquiry are crucial in an age of rapid change. Curiosity will always prompt you to ask a question. What we uncover as a result of those questions will help us to adapt to challenging environments and to influence our communities for the better.

I’d like to offer my sincere thanks to each of you for choosing Marshall. You are developing the vision, knowledge, experience, and curiosity to help us all move forward.

Best wishes,
Jaime R. Taylor

BE PROUD.
BE A SON OR DAUGHTER OF MARSHALL.
Katrina Johnson is a working mom of three, two boys (13 and 9) and one girl (4) from Weston, W.Va.. She started at Marshall in the spring of 2019. Living about two and a half hours from Marshall’s campus, Katrina doesn’t get to visit campus often. She completes everything from the convenience of her own home and work.

“When I went through a divorce five years ago, at the age of 30, I decided I wanted to go back to school. I worked at the public library in my town and loved the job, so I decided I wanted to get a Masters in Library Science. After I had my daughter in the fall, I started school the following year.”

Katrina decided to complete her bachelor’s degree through Marshall and became emotional when she first received her acceptance packet. “The message I tell my kids is this ‘it’s never too late to follow your dreams and when you put your mind to something you can achieve anything.’ I know that I’m only halfway through my journey. My goal is to graduate with my Masters the same year my oldest son graduates high school. I will achieve this goal with hard work and determination.”

Sarah Cecil lives in Princeton, W.Va. and is working toward a Masters in Accountancy through Marshall. Currently, she is the Controller for Raw Resources Group and is both a wife and a mother (20-month old daughter). Previously, Sarah worked as both the HR manager and accountant for a recycling facility.

“In my free time, I teach art classes within my community and volunteer as the Fiscal Manager for Bluefield State College’s Center for International Understanding. Marshall’s online classes allow me the freedom to be able to continue my education while working full-time, being a mom, wife, etc.” Sarah said she takes advantage of her lunch hour throughout the week to study without distractions. She also gets up early and stays up late to finish up assignments while her daughter sleeps. Sarah says she wouldn’t be able to complete the program if Marshall only offered the traditional in-seat format. While she acknowledges that it is difficult at times, she knows her education will pay off and is grateful Marshall offers the MSA program online.

Sarah Loftus is an online student pursuing an Ed.D. in Leadership Studies. Sarah is married and has three boys (16, 5 and 3).

“My oldest son is an avid soccer player and we spend a lot of time on the road for soccer games. I work full-time for the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia as a paralegal and human resource employee. As a mother and full-time employee, the online program has allowed me to pursue my degree while balancing my work and home life.”

Sarah noted having professors with experience who provide detailed feedback on assignments has helped her grow both as a student and as a person. She likes the flexibility to set her own timeframes and deadlines to complete her assignments. Already in her third semester, Sarah is looking forward to her second year at Marshall in the spring.

We have created a Facebook group for Marshall Distance Education students. This is a closed group and is opt in only. If you wish to participate, please search for Marshall University Distance Education Students and join the group. This will be a good way to stay connected to campus and to each other.
CLIO CONNECTS US TO INFORMATION ABOUT THE WORLD AROUND US

Mobile devices are becoming the primary means by which many Americans discover and share information. Recognizing the unique potential of GPS-enabled devices to connect people to reliable information about the history and culture that surround us, history professor David Trowbridge designed Clio as a free educational website and mobile application in 2013. Since that time, Clio has grown to include over 30,000 individual historical and cultural sites throughout the United States. Dozens of organizations and universities such as the National Park Service, NYU, and Harvard University have used Clio to create entries and heritage trails in their communities. Collectively, these entries and tours have been viewed over seven million times, and the project has secured grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities and other leading organizations. The project is also being utilized with online and distance education students who have created dozens of Clio entries for historical landmarks throughout West Virginia. Clio is available online at www.theclio.com and the Clio mobile app can also be downloaded for free on iTunes and Google Play.

In the past year, faculty and students worked collaboratively with community partners to create and improve hundreds of Clio entries for historical and cultural sites throughout West Virginia and Central Appalachia. Students and faculty also created and expanded over a hundred heritage trails and walking tours. We are proud to announce that there are 85 walking tours and heritage trails in West Virginia among the over 600 Clio heritage trails and walking tours throughout the United States. Users can download walking tours and heritage trails as PDFs. Users can also browse, search, and explore using a variety of tech-savvy features that can expand as new technology and resources are available. For example, we hope to make it possible to download tours for complete offline use even without a cell signal using the existing GPS functionality within mobile devices—something that could be a game-changer for West Virginia heritage tourism in areas of limited connectivity.

Faculty at dozens of West Virginia colleges, universities, and high schools have used Clio with their students in a variety of ways that encourages students to explore nearby history and culture. In recent months, teachers of younger students—including the Explorer Academy here in Huntington, have also started to use Clio. In addition, Clio was recently featured by the Herald-Dispatch and West Virginia Public Broadcasting. The process of students working with mentors is just as valuable as the final product, and the faculty and students of Marshall University hope that their Clio entries, heritage trails, and walking tours will make the history of our state come alive for tens of thousands of residents and visitors.

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**CAMPUS CORNER**

**JOHN MARSHALL (1755-1835)**
Marshall University traces its origins to the founding of the Marshall Academy in 1837. The academy was named in honor of John Marshall, the fourth Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, who died on July 6, 1835. The Marshall University community has taken great pride in observing the memory of its namesake, who has been described by modern-day biographer Jean Edward Smith, former member of the Marshall faculty, as the “Definer of the United States Constitution.”

John Marshall was a man for the ages in an era that brought forth greatness. He was characterized by others as befitting Thomas Babington Macaulay’s description, “He neither sought nor shunned greatness, and found glory only because glory lay in the plain path of duty.”

Chief Justice John Marshall served the Supreme Court in that capacity from 1801 to 1835, the longest-serving chief justice in U.S. history.

He is widely regarded as having set a broad interpretation of the Constitution of the United States, which established the document as the basis of the American legal system and the “rule of law” as the law of the land. During his tenure, the judicial branch of the new American government rose to a level of importance commensurate with that of the executive and legal branches.

**DISTANCE LEARNING DEGREES TOTALLY ONLINE!**
The online degrees listed below qualify for distance learning tuition rates. Consult the university’s tuition page to review distance tuition and fees (linked at bottom of tuition page). Certificates and Minors not listed on that page do not qualify for the prorated tuition and are subject to regular tuition and fee rates.

**Doctoral Program**
- Ed.D, Leadership Studies
- MS, Accountancy
- MA, Counseling
- MS, Cyber Security
- MA, Leadership Studies
- MA, Education
  - Early Childhood Education
  - Elementary Mathematics
  - Individualized Plan of Study
  - Instructional Processes and Strategies
  - Instructional Technology and Learning
  - Math Through Algebra I
  - School Library Media Specialist
  - Teaching English As A Second Language
    (licensure/non-licensure)
- MA, Geography
- MA, Literacy Education (hybrid)
- MA, Mathematics (optional emphasis in statistics)
- MA, Journalism
- MAJ, New Media Studies
- MBA, Masters of Business Administration
  - Military Management
  - Management
- MSN, Nursing Administration
- MSN, Nursing Education
- MS, Adult and Continuing Education
  - Adult Education and Evaluation
  - Career and Technical Center Teaching
- MS, Criminal Justice

**Undergraduate Programs**
- BA, BS, Geography
- BS, Medical Laboratory Science
- RBA, Regents Degree
- BSN, Nursing (RN Option Only)

**Graduate Certificates**
- Distance Dietetics Internship
- Early Childhood Education
- Elementary Math Specialist
- Geospatial Information Science – Basic Instructional Technology and Learning
- Literacy Education
- Management Foundations
- Nursing Informatics
- Math through Algebra I
- School Library Media Specialist
- School Principalship
- Teaching English as a Second Language
  (licensure/non-licensure)

For more information visit
www.marshall.edu/muonline/degreesandcourses

**DENA CALLICOAT LATON**
Student Success Coordinator for Distance Education; Copyright Education and Independent Proctoring, is the first point of contact for online students and is devoted to your success. As a former online student herself, Dena is familiar with the needs and struggles of distance students.

**Contact Dena:**
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**DID YOU KNOW...**
In the early 1970s Marshall had a live baby buffalo as a Marco mascot for football games. He was a fan favorite, even when he attempted to eat the AstroTurf. He was eventually moved to the zoo at Camden Park.

Read more about Marshall University’s history at www.marshall.edu/muhistory.