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## We Are...Marshall, January 20, 2016

Office of Marshall University Communications

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# WE ARE... MARSHALL®

The Newsletter for Marshall University January 20, 2016

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## A message from President Gilbert



Dear Marshall community,

Wow! What a first week it has been already. So far, as your president, I have had the pleasure of attending a basketball game on Saturday, participating in a student-led march and the annual program to celebrate the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. on Monday, and proudly representing Marshall at yesterday's Higher Education Day at the Capitol in Charleston.

In between those activities, I have begun to tour some of our facilities, met with local media, and am interacting with faculty, staff and students. I am also learning how to use Twitter, so please follow me at @marshallupres.

In the coming days and weeks, I'll be visiting constituent groups here at the university and sharing my thoughts about what I see as our greatest

opportunities.

Initially, I plan to focus my efforts on the following priorities:

- Improving student enrollment, retention and graduation rates;
- Cultivating donors and raising private funds;
- Improving faculty and staff salaries;
- Developing a shared vision and image to help market the university;
- Growing scholarly research; and
- Expansion of doctoral programs.

I see each of these items as critical to our future success—the keys to growing Marshall in both size and quality.

I welcome your input and comments and look forward to meeting many of you as I get around to the various departments and campuses.

Please do not hesitate to provide feedback or ask questions at any time by contacting me at [president@marshall.edu](mailto:president@marshall.edu).

We are Marshall!

Sincerely,

Jerome A. Gilbert, Ph.D.



Beth Caruthers, University Communications Specialist, Ginny Painter, Senior Vice President for Communications and Marketing, and President Gilbert greet a visitor at Higher Education Day at the Legislature.



Bill Burdette (left) and President Gilbert speak with Del. Jim Morgan.



Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin makes the proclamation of Higher Education Day.



President Gilbert speaks to the media in his office.

## Reminder: Emergency Closings

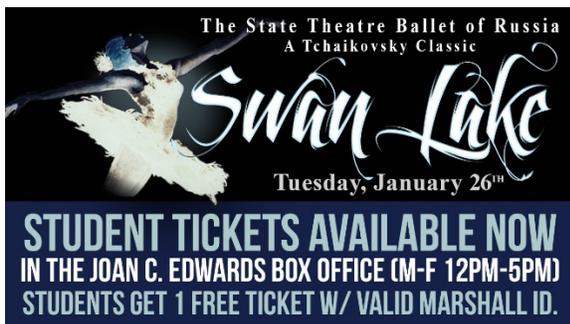
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Although the university makes every effort to keep its campuses and centers open during times of inclement weather or other emergencies, members of the Marshall community are reminded that closing or other emergency announcements will be made using [MU Alert](#), the front page of the website ([www.marshall.edu](http://www.marshall.edu)), local news media and social media such as [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

Marshall's weather policy is located online at [www.marshall.edu/ucomm/weatheremergency-closings](http://www.marshall.edu/ucomm/weatheremergency-closings).

## 'Swan Lake' to grace the Keith-Albee stage Jan. 26

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The world's most well-known classical ballet, *Swan Lake*, is coming to the Marshall Artists Series for the first time on Tuesday, Jan. 26, at 7 p.m. in the Keith-Albee Performing Arts Center.

The State Ballet Theatre of Russia, now under the direction of award-winning dancer and Moiseyev Dance Company soloist Nikolay Anokhin, presents the full-scale production, which will feature 50 dancers

and is set to Tchaikovsky's timeless music. The romantic ballet has been entertaining audiences for over 100 years.

Based on Russian folklore and German legend, *Swan Lake* transports audiences to a dreamlike fairytale, in which it follows a heroic young prince as he works to free the beautiful swan maiden from an evil spell, making her a graceful swan by day, and a young woman by night. The spell can only be broken by a man promising her his eternal love. The prince swears his love, but is tricked by the evil sorcerer who cast the spell on Odette.

Formed in 1961 by legendary dancer and former prima ballerina of the Bolshoi Theatre Ballet, Maya Plisetskaya, the State Ballet Theatre of Russia has established itself as one of Russia's leading ballet companies by building an international reputation for delivering performances of outstanding quality and depth. The soloists and corps de ballet include some of Russia's most accomplished dancers, with their breathtaking physical ability and dazzling costumes.

For ticket information, contact the Marshall Artists Series Box Office at ext. 6-6656, or visit the box office located in the Joan C. Edwards Playhouse. Box office hours are Monday through Friday from noon to 5 p.m.

## Marshall to test MU Alert emergency messaging system Jan. 27

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A test of the MU Alert emergency messaging system will be conducted at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 27.

Marshall community members who are subscribed to MU Alert are asked to be sure that they have received the message that morning. If a message has not been received by noon, a subscriber should review and update his or her contact information in the myMU/MU Alert Web interface. If this contact information was already correct, but a message was still not received, then an e-mail should be sent to [mualert@marshall.edu](mailto:mualert@marshall.edu) with details on which contact method (text, e-mail, voice) did not work as expected.

The most recent test of the system occurred Sept. 9.

The MU Alert system, which is operated by Marshall and delivered thru the Blackboard Connect™ service, allows Marshall students, faculty and staff to provide several methods for the university to use when making emergency contacts. Most common are text messages, cell phone calls and e-mail.

Members of the immediate Marshall community (students, faculty and staff) who would like to subscribe or update their information for this test are asked to visit the myMU page at [www.marshall.edu/MyMU](http://www.marshall.edu/MyMU), log in, click on the MU Alert red triangle and complete their subscription or update by 5 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 26. Those external to the campuses or centers (i.e. news media, alumni, campus neighbors) should watch other outlets, such as the Marshall website, Twitter, Facebook, etc., for relevant news releases.

## Marshall's new director of military and veterans affairs 'a great fit'

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Kim White is a military veteran who has experience in higher education and mental health. She also is a doctoral student in Curriculum and Instruction at Marshall, which she believes makes her “a great fit” for her new position at MU – director of military and veterans affairs.

“I can empathize with the students and the stressors involved in pursuing school, work and family goals, and how experience as a veteran – the military training one receives – factors into success in higher education. The veterans see me studying, bemoaning a huge assignment, prioritizing my time and resources, and working hard to the end of the semester,” she said.

“Veterans and active-duty students alike know I have walked and continue to walk along a path similar to their own and that shared experience is priceless when establishing rapport and building relationships, which are the keys to our collective success as

students and as a university.”

White, a native of Athens, Ohio, has traveled the world in the military. Suffering from “burnout” when she was just 22, White dropped out of Ohio University her senior year (1994).

“I was ready for an adventure out in the world with new scenery and new people,” she said.

White joined the Navy and found what she was seeking. Her first duty station was Diego Garcia, which is considered isolated duty because the base is positioned on an atoll in the middle of the Indian Ocean 3,000 miles away from land.

There, she met her husband, Dr. Chris White, who is associate professor of history at Marshall. At the time, he was stationed on Diego Garcia with a U.S. Marine Corps Security Force unit. After leaving Diego Garcia, they were married, and then went on separate deployments – Chris to Japan, Kim to Rota, Spain.

In 1998, when their enlistments were up, both enrolled at Humboldt State University in northern California, and both were employed as work-study students in the Veterans Upward Bound program.

Kim graduated from HSU with a teaching credential in secondary education, and Chris was accepted by the University of Kansas in its Latin American Studies program after completing his bachelor's degree.

They moved to Lawrence, Kansas, where Kim taught English for two years before returning to the university to earn a master's degree in social work. In May 2006, Chris graduated with his Ph.D. in Latin American History and accepted a position in the history department at Marshall.

"We arrived in Huntington in August 2006, with our newborn sons, Vincent and Mason, and we were embraced as family by faculty and staff in the history department," she said.

In October 2009, Kim accepted a position in the counseling center at Marshall, where she says she again was embraced as family by her colleagues, whom she respects tremendously.

"My practice as a mental health specialist in the counseling center gave me a peek into the individual lives of students, to better understand the challenges they face and the strength they have to overcome those challenges," Kim said. "I am so grateful for my time at the counseling center because my experiences there grew me both personally and professionally and prepared me for my new role on campus."

In July 2015, she was asked to step into the position she currently holds on an interim basis, and then in October, she was chosen by the search committee to hold the position permanently.

"My goal is to use evidence-based approaches to promote veterans' interests on campus while building meaningful relationships with faculty, staff and administration on behalf of veterans, active military and their families so students feel supported in the classroom and on campus," she said.

## **TIAA-CREF counseling sessions to take place Jan. 26-27**

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Marshall University will offer TIAA-CREF individual counseling sessions for its employees from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 26, and Wednesday, Jan. 27, in the Memorial Student Center room 2W9. These sessions are offered at no additional cost to you. Experienced TIAA-CREF financial consultants will be available to discuss your financial goals and options for investing in financial products such as mutual funds, brokerage, life insurance and annuities.

Space is limited, so sign up today by registering at [www.tiaa-cref.org/schedulenow](http://www.tiaa-cref.org/schedulenow) or call 800-732-8353 Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. (ET). Visit the TIAA-CREF website to view dates and times for individual counseling sessions scheduled in February and March or click [here](#) for more information.

## **Burnis Morris chosen as a History Hero for work and support of Woodson Foundation's historical programs and services**

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Burnis Morris, the Dr. Carter G. Woodson Professor in the School of Journalism and Mass Communications, has been selected as a 2016 History Hero, for which he will be honored during the West Virginia History Day at the Legislature program Friday, Jan. 29.

The program will be held in the State Theater at the Culture Center, on the grounds of the State Capitol in Charleston, beginning at 9:30 a.m.

Morris was nominated by the Carter G. Woodson Memorial Foundation Inc., for his work and support of the foundation's historical programs and services.

"I am truly honored and humbled to have been selected as a 2016 History Hero," Morris said. "This is an honor I don't take lightly."

The program is expected to last about an hour. The honorees will then go to the House of Delegates gallery, where it is anticipated they will be recognized during the floor session.

Joseph N. Geiger Jr., director of West Virginia Archives and History, informed Morris of his award in a letter dated Jan. 8, 2016.

"We again congratulate you on this most deserved recognition for your many contributions on the preservation and promotion of West Virginia's history," Geiger wrote in his letter to Morris.

Sponsors of West Virginia History Day at the Legislature include the Archives and History Commission, Friends of Culture and History, the Mining Your History Foundation, the Preservation Alliance of West Virginia Inc., the West Virginia Association of Museums, the West Virginia Division of Culture and History, and the West Virginia Humanities Council.

## **School of Medicine researchers review thyroid cancer test for efficacy**

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Clinician researchers from the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine have published a review looking at the efficacy of a diagnostic thyroid cancer test becoming routinely used in hospitals and medical centers across the country.

Their research study was published online in the January issue of the peer-reviewed journal, [Medical Oncology](#).

The review, which was conducted by a team of physicians in the department of internal medicine, looked at individual patient data from seven different studies of the Afirma® Gene Expression Classifier (GEC) and concluded the test is an excellent tool to rule out malignancy.

“This review was important because there have been no large-scale studies examining the diagnostic accuracy of the test,” said Henry K. Driscoll, M.D., section chief and professor of endocrinology. “We performed a systematic review and meta-analysis and determined that the test is indeed a very helpful tool.”

The GEC is a new technology that is designed to distinguish benign from malignant thyroid nodules, thereby possibly eliminating the need for surgical biopsy.

Marshall physicians who participated in the study include Prasanna Santhanam, M.D.; Rodhan Khthir, M.D.; Todd Gress, M.D.; Ayman Elkadry; Omolola Olajide, M.D.; and Driscoll, as well as Abid Yaqub, M.D., from the University of Cincinnati.

Marshall Internal Medicine is currently using the GEC test for its patients with indeterminate thyroid nodules.

## Marshall faculty, recent graduates contribute to book on digital forensics

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Marshall faculty and graduates have contributed to the book “Digital Forensics: Threatscape and Best Practices,” published by Syngress. John Sammons, assistant professor, and director of the digital forensics and information assurance program, served as editor of the book, which includes chapters on a wide array of topics including cryptocurrencies, mobile device forensics, psychological profiling using digital evidence, social media forensics, cyber crime and legal challenges involving digital evidence among others.

Marshall faculty contributing to the book included Dr. Dhruva Bora, Dr. Kimberly DeTardo-Bora, Peggy Brown, and Josh Brunty. Recent graduates Preston Miller (graduate of the forensic science program) and Shawn Jordan (graduate of the undergraduate digital forensics and information assurance program) also contributed chapters.

In addition to the Marshall faculty and graduates, other contributors included faculty from the Purdue Cyber Forensics program and a retired agent from the FBI.

*Digital Forensics: Threatscape and Best Practices* surveys the landscape of the problems and challenges that confront professionals today and provides a coherent overview of the various possible threats on a broad range of topics, providing practitioners and students alike with a comprehensive overview of the threat landscape and what can be done to manage and prepare for it.

## Women of Color award nominations due Feb. 14

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The Marshall University Women of Color Committee is in search of nominations of women on Marshall University's campuses and/or the Huntington community for the 2016 Women of Color Award.

The Women of Color Day celebration will be held on Tuesday, March 1, at noon in the Memorial Student Center room BE5.

### **Qualifications:**

Nominees must be a Cabell County resident or Marshall University employee or student.

### **Criteria:**

Nominees will be selected based on the following areas:

1. Community and/or University service,
2. Contribution towards promoting multicultural understanding and gender equality.

### **Required Materials:**

1. Nominee's resume and list of honors and activities
2. A letter from nominating person stating why the nominee should receive the MU Women of Color Award. Letters need to have contact information (names, phone numbers and e-mail addresses) of both the nominee and the person recommending the nominee.

### **Deadline:**

Thursday, February 14, 2016

**Send To:**

Women of Color Committee  
C/O Center for African American Students Program  
1W25 MSC

or e-mail: [tolliver@marshall.edu](mailto:tolliver@marshall.edu); [glover11@marshall.edu](mailto:glover11@marshall.edu); or [allenl@marshall.edu](mailto:allenl@marshall.edu)

**Nominee:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Nominating Person:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

## **Marshall, WVU collaborate to offer free online access to West Virginia history**

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Marshall University and West Virginia University have teamed up to provide free online access to publications for courses on the Mountain State's history.

Titled "West Virginia History: An Open Access Reader," the project was assembled by Dr. Kevin Barksdale, associate professor of history at Marshall, and WVU's Dr. Ken Fones-Wolf, professor of history and holder of the Stuart and Joyce Robbins Chair.

From European settlement to mountaintop removal, this collection of previously published essays from the journal "West Virginia History" and other WVU Press publications chronicles the history of the territory we now know as West Virginia.

"By partnering with WVU Press and Libraries, this open access reader will hopefully inspire current and future state historians to advance our understanding of West Virginia's past and to promote a deeper appreciation of our state's cultural and historical significance to the larger world," Barksdale said.

Marshall University President Jerome A. Gilbert said he sees the value and appeal of the open-access reader.

“Not only will it make these relevant articles about our state’s history available to everyone online at no cost, but it also will promote West Virginia scholars, including the outstanding faculty members we have at Marshall and WVU,” Gilbert said. “I am excited to endorse this collaborative project.”

The reader was launched this month by WVU Press and WVU Libraries and can be accessed at <http://textbooks.lib.wvu.edu/index.html>. For more information about Marshall’s history department, visit [www.marshall.edu/cola](http://www.marshall.edu/cola).

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The next regular issue of *We Are...Marshall* will be distributed Jan. 27, 2016. Please send any materials for consideration to [Pat Dickson](#) by 5 p.m. Monday, Jan. 25.