

3-16-2016

We Are...Marshall, March 16, 2016

Office of Marshall University Communications

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Recommended Citation

Office of Marshall University Communications, "We Are...Marshall, March 16, 2016" (2016). *We Are ... Marshall: the Newsletter for Marshall University*. Paper 309.

http://mds.marshall.edu/mu_newsletter/309

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WE ARE... MARSHALL®

The Newsletter for Marshall University

March 16, 2016

Marshall University faculty member receives prestigious NSF CAREER award



Dr. Nadja Spitzer of the College of Science has been awarded a prestigious CAREER award from the National Science Foundation.

Spitzer, an assistant professor of biological sciences, earned the award for her work to study how exposure to silver nanoparticles could be affecting the brains of children and adults. The award comes with funding of \$508,708 over a five-year period.

Dr. Chuck Somerville, dean of the college, said he is very excited for Dr. Spitzer and what her success means for the progress of world-class research at Marshall.

“Through the NSF-EPSCoR RII program, we were able to provide the kind of infrastructure and support that it takes to be competitive,” Somerville said. “Nadja took full advantage of that support and brought a tremendous amount of talent and hard work to the mix. She has proven that Marshall students and faculty are prepared to compete on a world-wide stage.”

President Gilbert also praised Spitzer, saying, “Once again, our researchers are exploring some of today’s most important scientific questions. I salute Dr. Spitzer for her scholarly accomplishments and her dedication to mentoring students. She is one of our leading scientists and truly exemplifies the role of teacher-scholar.”

According to Spitzer, many common consumer products like clothing, toys and food containers, claim anti-microbial properties that feature silver nanoparticles applied as coatings to the product. She said that although silver has been used as an antimicrobial since ancient times, the use of pure manufactured nanoparticles—tiny beads of silver—is new.

She added, “Unlike more traditional forms of silver, these nanoparticles are able to bypass human defense systems and enter tissues like the brain, where they tend to stay and accumulate. Over the course of a lifetime, then, people can be exposed to low doses of silver nanoparticles, shed from the products we use daily, through ingestion or inhalation.

“In my lab, we are interested in the changes or damage that may be happening in the brain due to this low-level chronic exposure, which is currently thought to be non-toxic.”

Spitzer said even though she is not a toxicologist in the traditional sense, she always has been concerned about the things to which humans are exposed.

“I chose neuroscience because the nervous system is so powerful and fascinating, and there is so much left to learn about it,” she said. “This research is important because it addresses a significant lack of knowledge regarding a substance that is increasingly used in consumer products.

“The findings will be especially applicable to children whose brains are still developing, and who face decades of exposure to silver nanoparticles through daily interaction with common products.”

She said the results of their research eventually may contribute to the development of guidelines for the use of silver nanoparticles in products and the release of the particles into the environment.

As part of the project, students from the university also will be going out to elementary schools throughout rural West Virginia to teach children scientific concepts in entertaining, interactive ways. The activities will be an offshoot of the Brain Expo event, which brings hundreds of schoolchildren to Marshall each year to learn about the nervous system and brain from Marshall faculty and students.

Spitzer earned her doctorate in neurobiology and behavior from Georgia State University in 2006, after completing her bachelor’s degree in biochemistry at the University of Victoria in Victoria, British Columbia.

The Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) program is the National Science Foundation’s most prestigious award in support of junior faculty who exemplify the role of teacher-scholars through outstanding research, excellent education and the integration of education and research within the context of the mission of their organizations

Photo: Dr. Nadja Spitzer is shown working with undergraduate biology student Swayde Carpenter in her laboratory at the College of Science. Carpenter is just one of the many students who will be given the opportunity to work on Spitzer’s research project funded by the National Science Foundation through its prestigious CAREER program for junior faculty.

Marshall's Chamber Choir performance tour to Spain to begin this week



The Marshall University Chamber Choir will be performing across Spain from March 16 to 27.

Under the direction of Dr. David Castleberry, 30 students are set to arrive in Granada, Spain, on March 17, and will kick off the tour the next evening with a joint performance with a University of Granada choir at the Santuario de Nuestra Señora del Perpetuo Socorro. Over the next week, Marshall's Chamber Choir will sing

in Jaen and Seville before a performance at the Toledo Cathedral on Thursday, March 24. The tour will culminate on Good Friday in Madrid.

Castleberry, who led the choir on a 10-day tour across France in 2012, said the experience is designed to expose students to history and culture.

“Many of these students have never been abroad,” Castleberry said. “A number of them have never even flown. During this trip, students will see firsthand a very old and different culture. They will also see the things we share with that culture, and that is, for me, maybe the most important thing.”

Castleberry noted that students would have time to explore, as well as participate in scheduled visits to such historic sites as the tombs of Ferdinand and Isabella in Granada and the Prado Art Museum in Madrid.

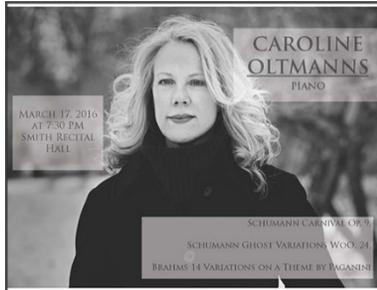
“From Spanish food to an evening of Flamenco dancing to an equestrian show—we will be immersed in culture,” Castleberry said.

Students will provide an on-the-ground look at their tour via social media using the hashtag #MUChoirToursSpain. Look for these posts on Facebook and Twitter.

The Chamber Choir tours the United States each year. The next stateside performance will be at 3 p.m. on Sunday, April 3, at Fifth Avenue Baptist Church in Huntington

Photo: Marshall University's Chamber Choir, pictured at a February event will tour Spain March 16-27.

Pianist Caroline Oltmanns to give recital tomorrow evening



Pianist Dr. Caroline Oltmanns will give a solo recital on the Huntington campus at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 17, in Smith Music Hall.

Characterized as “flawless, eloquent, and always enlightened by clarity” (Daniel Hathaway, www.clevelandclassical.com)

Oltmanns delivers impeccable musical phrasing and engaging stage presence, attracting audiences both in the U.S. and abroad.

This season, she is offering an array of solo recitals and concert tours, along with new creative paths in the coproduction and performance of the concept show “Crumb Kaleidoscope,” based on the works of George Crumb, a living American composer who was born in Charleston, West Virginia.

Past seasons have included concerto appearances with the Youngstown Symphony, the Johnson City Symphony Orchestra, the Harburger Orchester Akademie, and the Cleveland Philharmonic Orchestra, in addition to the commissioning, premiering and recording of several new concerti.

Oltmanns has produced and recorded five solo CDs on the Filia Mundi label; her playing has been broadcast globally on radio and TV stations. As an International Steinway Artist, Fulbright Scholar, and recipient of the Stipendium der deutschen Wirtschaft, she is professor of piano at Youngstown State University and holds degrees from the Staatliche Musikhochschule Freiburg and the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. Her musical mentors were Robert Levin, John Perry, Vitaly Margulis and Malcolm Frager.

Information technology official resigns



Dr. Jan I. Fox, senior vice president for information technology and chief information officer, has resigned effective April 15. She has held various roles at Marshall for more than 30 years.

President Gilbert praised Fox's leadership and vision.

"Dr. Fox has been instrumental in making Marshall University a leader in information technology not only in West Virginia, but regionally and nationally as well," he said. "Her dedication to the university's mission and its students has been remarkable throughout her career at Marshall. Her leadership has left its mark on our institution and has helped set the stage for future growth. The entire Marshall community wishes her the very best in future endeavors."

Fox said, "Being a student, faculty and staff member of Marshall University will always make me proud. The students and employees are the heart of this special institution. The IT family performs incredible accomplishments daily and deserves an enormous amount of respect."

Over the last decade, Fox has provided leadership for more than \$6 million in federal and state grants. She serves or has served on numerous national and local boards including the Higher Education Leadership Board of CIOs, West Virginia Broadband Deployment Council, West Virginia Telehealth Alliance, West Virginia Network for Telecomputing, West Virginia Information Technology Council of CIOs and Mission West Virginia.

Her employment history at Marshall includes progressive vice presidential appointments and serving as chair of the Department of Academic Computing at the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine. She previously served as a biomedical research specialist for the Huntington Veterans Administration and an environmental modeling technician for the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers. In 2001, she was on executive loan and served as special assistant to Gov. Bob Wise, whom she assisted with statewide technology issues that contributed to the state's economic development, job creation, strategic planning, e-government, eHealth and statewide infrastructure development initiatives. She was awarded the West Virginia Governor's Excellence in Technology award under three different governors.

Forensic Science faculty member receives prestigious national award



Forensic Science Graduate Program Instructor Catherine G. Rushton, M.S.F.S., Ed.S., received the prestigious Robert Gaffney Achievement Award at the American Academy of Forensic Sciences' 2016 Annual Scientific Meeting.

The award was presented to Rushton at the academy's 68th annual meeting held last month in Las Vegas. She won the award for her oral presentation titled "Multidimensional Model for Assessing Student Achievement," which she had delivered at the American Academy of Forensic Sciences' 2015 Annual Meeting in Orlando, Florida.

The presentation provided the preliminary findings from a study Rushton conducted that was directed at creating a framework academic programs can implement to assess student achievement in forensic science education.

"The model for such a framework would provide a structure for forensic science programs to document student performance as well as demonstrate program quality and accountability to crime laboratories and the public," she said.

Rushton said she wants to be a part of shaping the future of forensic science education.

"Through my research, I investigate ways to improve the way we teach in forensic science," she said.

The Robert Gaffney Achievement Award is designed to promote continual professional growth in forensic science and to encourage new forensic science professionals in their occupational specialties.

It is one of three awards presented each year at the American Academy of Forensic Sciences annual meeting to members of the General Section, which includes forensic science disciplines such as forensic education or research, forensic accounting and forensic archaeology, as well as forensic death and crime scene investigation.

Rushton has been an instructor for 19 years in the MU Forensic Science Graduate Program, and she graduated in the nationally recognized program's first class in 1997. She teaches comparative science, which includes fingerprints, firearms, toolmarks and questioned documents. She also teaches forensic microscopy, which includes polarized light microscopy and scanning electron microscopy for the analysis of fibers, hair, fur, soil, and minerals.

In 2015, once again the Marshall Forensic Science Graduate Program ranked number one in the country for its students receiving the highest overall test scores compared to other graduate programs participating in the Forensic Science Assessment Test, a national assessment test offered each year by the American Board of Criminalistics. It is the sixth time in nine years that Marshall's program ranked number one in the country on the assessment test.

Photo: Forensic Science Graduate Program Instructor Catherine G. Rushton, M.S.F.S., Ed.S., received the prestigious Robert Gaffney Achievement Award at the American Academy of Forensic Sciences 2016 Annual Scientific Meeting.

Koto and Flute performance to take place Saturday on the Huntington campus



The public is invited to experience the koto, a traditional Japanese musical instrument, and flute in performance Saturday, March 19, when Masayo Ishigure returns to Huntington with her student, Tomomi Takamoto. They will perform with Marshall music professor Dr. Wendell Dobbs, who will join them on flute.

The event will take place in Smith Music Hall 133 on the Huntington campus. Doors will open at 3:30 p.m., with the concert to begin at 4 p.m.

Koto is a traditional Japanese stringed musical instrument which originated in China and has 13 strings and movable bridges, which are used to produce various tunings. The body of the instrument is made of paulownia wood and is over 6 feet long.

The event, which was co-organized by the Consulate General of Japan in New York, the School of Music and Theatre and the Japanese program in the department of Modern Languages, is free to the public.

Ishigure, who appeared at Marshall in 2008, is from Gifu, Japan, and studied koto and jiuta shamisen at the Sawai Koto Academy of Music. She has performed at a number of events all over the world, especially since she arrived in New York in 1992. In 2005 she was a recording artist on the Grammy Award-winning soundtrack from the film *Memoirs of a Geisha* by John Williams, along with Itzhak Perlman, Yo Yo Ma and others. She has taught koto and shamisen at Wesleyan University and Columbia University since 2010.

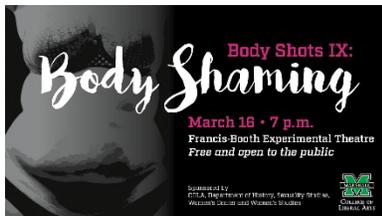
Tomomi Takamoto was born in Japan and moved to the US in 1996. She has studied the koto with Ishigure since 2005. In addition, she is an active flutist and plays for the Ridgewood Concert Band, Livingston Symphony Orchestra, and the South Orange Symphony.

Dobbs has been at Marshall since 1985 and regularly performs in solo and chamber venues in a variety of settings including as principal flute in both the Huntington Symphony Orchestra and the Ohio Valley Symphony, and in Blackbirds and Thrushes, a Celtic band.

“Masayo Ishigure performed at Marshall in 2008 and we were all impressed with her dynamic performance,” said Dr. Natsuki Fukunaga Anderson, associate professor and coordinator of the Japanese program in the Department of Modern Languages. “It was incredible to see her collaboration with a Marshall faculty member, Professor Wendell Dobbs. Dobb’s flute and Ishigure’s koto brought the audience to the world of Japanese music that is both traditional yet new.”

Photo: Masayo Ishigure will give a recital on the Huntington campus Friday, March 19, with her student, Tomomi Takamoto, and Dr. Wendell Dobbs, flute.

Body Shots IX to explore body shaming, call out shamers



Body Shots IX: Body Shaming will be presented at the Francis-Booth Experimental Theatre in the Joan C. Edwards Playhouse tonight at 7:30 p.m.

Those attending are invited to arrive at 7 p.m. to see an art show and enjoy refreshments. Admission to the hour long show is free and it is open to the public.

According to organizers of the event, body shaming is a painful reality that affects the lives of people of every body type. Finger-pointing, ridicule, judgment and exclusion send powerful messages about whose body matters and whose is marked as different and not okay

Body Shots IX will explore body shaming, telling stories about its impact, analyzing how it works, and calling out the shamers, claiming pride and confidence in physical diversity. Performers will use a host of creative forms—prose, performance art, lecture, dance, video and painting—to unmask body shaming.

Body Shots is a unique collaborative effort involving community members and Marshall students and faculty from across disciplines exploring themes relating to gender and the body. This year's participants are from art and design, English, history, sociology and anthropology, theatre and dance, among others.

The performance is being sponsored by the College of Liberal Arts, Department of History, Sexuality Studies, Women's Center and Women's Studies.

For more information, contact Dr. Greta Rensenbrink, associate professor in the history department, at rensenbrink@marshall.edu, or at ext.6-2955

Softball, baseball are underway



Thundering Herd Softball takes on the Kentucky Wildcats today at 4 p.m. Baseball heads to Power Park for their first Charleston battle of the season against the Southern Miss Golden Eagles this weekend beginning Friday at 6 p.m.! For more information, visit HerdZone.com.

Forensic Science Center again achieves national accreditation of its forensic DNA testing laboratories

The Forensic Science Center's accreditation of its forensic DNA laboratories has been renewed for four years.

The Forensic Science Center's DNA laboratory has once again demonstrated technical competence through ANAB (formerly ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board/FQS) meeting the ISO/IEC 17025:2005 as well as the FBI's Quality Assurance Standards for Forensic Testing and for DNA Databasing. The Forensic Science Center has been accredited since 2001 and ISO/IEC 17025:2005 compliant since 2003.

The scope of accreditation includes biological evidence screening, DNA analysis for forensic casework, CODIS (Combined DNA Index System) database testing and relationship/paternity testing.

Dr. Terry W. Fenger, director of the Forensic Science Center, said West Virginia is fortunate to have two accredited forensic DNA testing laboratories that conform with ISO 17025:2005 standards as well as the FBI's Quality Assurance Standards for Forensic Testing and for DNA Databasing.

"Marshall's Forensic Science Center can be used as a resource to help with the state's backlog reduction," Fenger said.

Assessors from ANAB conducted an on-site reaccreditation assessment to evaluate the management system as well as the competence and conformance of Marshall's Forensic Science Center's DNA laboratory in November 2015.

Laboratory accreditation provides a benchmark for laboratory competence for specific types of testing, measurement and calibration. It assures customers that test data supplied by the laboratory are accurate and reliable. Laboratories are evaluated periodically to ensure continued compliance with requirements and maintenance of operations standards.

Marshall's Forensic Science Center's forensic DNA laboratories conduct DNA databasing on convicted offenders for the West Virginia State Police Forensic Laboratory. DNA profiles of convicted offenders become part of a state and national searchable database.

Pi Day a "hit" for faculty member Michael Schroeder



Marshall University's Department of Mathematics gave students the opportunity to pie their favorite professor Monday on Buskirk Field.

Tickets were sold last week to vote for the professors who would be "pi-ed" and to raise money for the Thundering Nerds Math Club.

Pi Day is the annual celebration of the mathematical constant π and is held every year on March 14, according to Dr. Michael Schroeder, assistant professor of mathematics

Photo: Wearing his pie is Dr. Michael Schroeder, assistant professor of mathematics.

WMUL wins Intercollegiate Broadcasting System awards

Students from MU's public radio station, WMUL-FM, received one first-place award and three finalist awards during the 76th Annual Intercollegiate Broadcasting System Conference's 7th Annual Awards Ceremony at the Hotel Pennsylvania in New York City March 5.

"Know Your Rights," written and produced by Marshall sophomore and Bridgeport native Rebecca Turnbull, received first place for Best Campus News. The piece was broadcast during the "5:00 p.m. Edition of Newscenter 88" on Friday, Oct. 15, 2015, and is available online on WMUL's soundcloud.com account.

The station received finalist awards in the following categories:

Best College/University Station (more than 10,000 students).

Best Sports Play-by-Play Basketball for WMUL-FM's broadcast of the Marshall versus Brescia University college women's basketball game on Saturday, Dec. 22, 2014. The students calling the women's basketball broadcast over FM 88.1 were James Collier, as play-by-play announcer, and Adam Rogers.

Best Sports Play-by-Play Football for WMUL-FM's broadcast of Marshall Football versus North Texas on Saturday, Oct. 24, 2015. The students calling the football game broadcast over FM 88.1 were Collier as play-by-play announcer; color commentator Adam Polsky, and engineers Gabi Warwick, Jacob Queen and Mark Hess.

Dr. Chuck G. Bailey, professor of Radio-Television Production and Management in the W. Page Pitt School of Journalism and Mass Communications and faculty manager of WMUL-FM, said the students competed with other broadcasting students from colleges and universities throughout the United States.

"WMUL-FM's student broadcasters fared well in the four categories entered out of the 40 IBS news, sports, production/on-air, web/social media and best radio stations categories available," said Bailey. "Having had Newscenter 88 being declared as having the best campus news coverage and WMUL-FM being a finalist for College Radio Station of the Year speaks well for Marshall University, the College of Arts and Media, and the W. Page Pitt School of Journalism and Mass Communications."

Thundering Word to compete in upcoming tournaments without longtime coach



Two graduate assistants in Communications Studies have taken the reins to lead the Thundering Word, Marshall's speech and debate team, to two upcoming national competitions only weeks after the sudden death of coach Danny Ray.

First-year graduate assistants Victoria Ledford and Garrett Walker will lead the award-winning, eight-member team to the Pi Kappa Delta National Comprehensive Tournament in Lexington, Kentucky, March 17 to 20, and to the National Forensics Association National Speech and Debate Tournament in Muncie, Indiana, April 14 to 18.

Ledford, who led the team to the fifth consecutive state tournament championship last year, said she feels "pretty prepared."

"Danny spent the last year teaching me how to run tournaments and how to run the team," Ledford said. "Even when I joked with him about how I didn't want to do his job, he'd say, 'Well, one day you might do it,' and one day I'm doing it."

"It's kind of impossible to fill Danny's shoes; it's more of just trying to collectively fill them," Walker said. "Danny was kind of our rock and our foundation. Now, without him, Victoria and I have had to really step up to that place and take on that parental role that Danny gave all of us on the team."

"We compete regularly in 11 individual speaking events in categories ranging from limited preparation, public address and oral interpretation," Ledford said. "The type of debate we do is called Individual Public Debate Association debate, and in that form of debate, you do not know what you'll be debating until you get to the tournament."

Last year, the Thundering Word placed 13th in the nation out of more than 80 colleges and universities, 4th in its team division, and had a national finalist (Ledford) for the first time in 40 years.

Photo: Members of Marshall University's Thundering Word speech and debate team pose for a photo following their performance at the National Forensics Association tournament in 2015. At left is their late coach, Danny Ray.

Marshall Lewis College of Business offers new major in health care management



The Lewis College of Business has established a new bachelor's degree major in health care management for students interested in learning about the business of health care.

Health care will never disappear, which means the job opportunities in health care will always be a major area of employment, according to Kent Willis, director of the new program.

“Health care is more than work done at the hospitals and clinics – it is skilled rehabilitation facilities, large corporations, nursing homes, Hospice care, insurance companies, dental facilities, managed care organizations, drug manufactures and many more who need administrators and managers,” Willis said. “The graduates earning health care management degrees have unlimited opportunities and even after they leave Marshall, they will have a degree that can provide them with a career anywhere they go.”

Willis said according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, health care administrative jobs are estimated to increase by over 20 percent in the next 10 years.

The health care management program is set to launch in fall 2016, but current students can begin taking courses that will apply to the major this semester.

Photo: Alyce Crist (shown left) will be one of the first students to graduate with her bachelor's degree in health care management in May 2018. Crist currently serves as vice president of marketing for Alpha Kappa Psi, and as a senator with Marshall's Student Government Association. At right is Kent Willis, director of the health care management program.

Marshall School of Pharmacy publishes in national education journal; on veterinary pharmacy course



Jennifer C. Miller, a 4th-year student at the School of Pharmacy, along with Dr. Inder Sehgal, professor of pharmacology at the school and a graduate veterinarian, recently published an instructional design and assessment article in the *American Journal of Pharmaceutical Education*. The article effectively marks the first time a school of pharmacy student has published as first author in a peer-reviewed research article since the school's inception in 2012.

“We at the School of Pharmacy are very proud of Ms. Miller for her hard work on this publication,” said Dr. Kevin W. Yingling, dean of the school. “First-author status is a huge accomplishment for a student. This success highlights the valuable mentorship and expertise (veterinarian and pharmacologist), provided by excellent faculty like Dr. Sehgal.”

The study, *A Veterinary Comparative Counseling Elective Featuring Web-based, Student-created, Client Information Sheets*, was designed to review an elective class on veterinary pharmacy currently offered at Marshall. According to the authors, a growing number and complex animal-related prescriptions are being referred to retail community pharmacies.

Miller said the course instructed students on comparative animal disease states, counseling on common pet prescriptions, where to access information about specific veterinary drugs and how to create client information sheets (CIS), which are educational documents for pet owners.

Sehgal, who teaches the class, reported there are about 35 pharmacy schools in the country that offer veterinary-related elective courses, but there is no standardized format for competencies.

“Our hope is that the publication of this course and its learning outcomes will build enthusiasm for veterinary pharmacotherapy in pharmacy programs across the nation” Sehgal said. “To our knowledge, the student-generated CIS and the establishment of a CIS website completed by Marshall students is a first for a veterinary pharmacy course. And finally, we were excited to be able to successfully deliver inter-professional education between the veterinary and pharmacy professions. ”

Photo: Darby, a seven-year-old black Labrador retriever mix, helped School of Pharmacy students enrolled in a veterinary pharmacy course understand basic animal behavior and the difference between medications for humans and animals. Darby's owner, Dr. Inder Sehgal, teaches a veterinary medicine class at the school.

The next regular issue of We Are...Marshall will be distributed March 23, 2016. Please send items for consideration to [Pat Dickson](#) by 5 p.m. Monday, March 21.

To read the content of this newsletter online, please click on the following link:
<http://www.marshall.edu/wamnewsletter/march-16-2016>.