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We Are...Marshall, August 28, 2013

Office of Marshall University Communications

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WE ARE... MARSHALL®

The Newsletter for Marshall University

August 28, 2013

Board of Governors welcomes four new members



Four new members of the Marshall Board of Governors were sworn in at the board's meeting Tuesday, Aug. 27, by the Hon. Jane Husted, Cabell County circuit judge. Their appointments had been announced by West Virginia Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin Aug. 2.

The newest members are James Bailes of Huntington, Tim Dagostine of Charleston, Christie Kinsey of Lavalette and Phil Cline of Huntington. Bailes, Dagostine and Kinsey were appointed to three-year terms and Cline was appointed for four years.



"I'm pleased these men and women have accepted this opportunity to serve on the board of governors," Tomblin said. "Together, their knowledge, skills and expertise will help guide (Marshall University) and help ensure a brighter future for our young people."

Bailes is an attorney with Bailes, Craig and Yon, PLLC, in Huntington. He succeeds Letitia Neese Chafin, who could not be reappointed. "I am pleased at the appointment," Bailes said. "It's a significant responsibility. I don't have an agenda, but I am very excited about the progress Marshall has made and I want to do my part to see it continue."



Dagostine is a division manager with Champion Industries in Huntington. He succeeds Verna Gibson, who could not be reappointed. "I'm honored to have been appointed to the board," Dagostine said. "I just want to try to make the right decisions and help move Marshall University forward. Hopefully we can continue the progress we've made the past few years."

Kinsey is a financial adviser with Northwestern Mutual in Huntington. She succeeds John Hess, who could not be reappointed. "I'm thrilled," Kinsey said of being chosen to serve on the board. "When asked if I would accept if asked, I jumped at the chance. It's a privilege. Marshall is very important to the community."



Cline is a retired businessman and a consultant living in Huntington. He succeeds Michael J. Farrell, who could not be reappointed. “I’m thankful to the governor for his having asked me to join. And I look forward to serving,” Cline said.

Current board chair Joseph Touma of Huntington, along with Dale Lowther of Parkersburg and Edward Howard III of Scottsdale, Ariz., were reappointed by Tomblin. Touma’s term is for three years, while the terms of Lowther and Howard are for four years.

Marshall President Stephen J. Kopp thanked Gibson, Hess, Chafin and Farrell for serving on the board.

“I extend our sincere appreciation to Verna, John, Tish and Mike for their outstanding service to the board,” Kopp said. “They have devoted considerable time and energy to serving on the board during this historic time at Marshall University, and they have been instrumental in the progress made here throughout recent years. At the same time, I am looking forward to working with the four new members. I believe Governor Tomblin has made four first-rate appointments.”

Photos: From the top are new Board of Governors members James Bailes of Huntington, Tim Dagostine of Charleston, Christie Kinsey of Lavalette and Phil Cline of Huntington.

Biology faculty member receives federal grant to study rattlesnake habitat at Parris Island



Dr. Jayme Waldron often can be found crawling through dense brush in search of the largest venomous snake in North America – the eastern diamondback rattlesnake.

An assistant professor of biology, she has spent much of her career tracking the snakes to learn more about how and where they live, and how far they roam.

Waldron’s newest research project will take her to the Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island in Beaufort County, S.C., where she will be leading a study to examine the effects of common military land use practices on the snakes. The research is being funded through an \$87,800 grant from the U.S. Department of the Army.

According to Waldron, the eastern diamondback is found in the southeastern part of the U.S., along the coasts of North Carolina down through Florida and along the Gulf Coast, including on several U.S. Department of Defense installations. Due to declining numbers and widespread loss of habit, the species is currently under review for possible protection under the Endangered Species Act.

Waldron said that ultimately the military's goal is to make sure their habitat management practices both ensure the success of their training operations and address the conservation of at-risk species.

She said Parris Island provides an ideal setting for the study, given a history of eastern diamondback rattlesnake research at the facility and recent changes to the habitat.

“Recently, they’ve implemented new land management activities at Parris Island, including prescribed forest thinning and fire, to improve their training operation,” she said. “These activities have significantly modified the habitat structure, and potentially changed the amount of suitable diamondback habitat.”

She added that Parris Island also is located in a coastal area that has faced rapid development pressure from an expanding human population, including in popular vacation and retirement destinations like Hilton Head Island.

“Increased human-wildlife conflicts are expected as species redistribute in response to shifting climatic changes and habitat loss,” she said. “These effects are particularly important for DOD training installations along the southeastern coast, where projected changes in sea-level will interact with current coastal erosion and severe storms to accelerate the rate and magnitude of coastal habitat loss,” she said.

For the study, she and her team, including Dr. Shane Welch, research assistant professor, and graduate student Brad O’Hanlon, will conduct mark-recapture surveys and use radio telemetry to monitor free-ranging diamondbacks over a period of two years. They also will be monitoring the vegetation associated with the new land use treatments.



Waldron said the results will be applicable to the region's other military installations that may employ similar land use practices, including Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune in Jacksonville, N.C., Eglin Air Force Base in northwest Florida and Camp *Shelby* Joint Forces Training Center near Hattiesburg, Miss.

She said, “At the end of the study, we will be providing the Department of Defense with an objective, preliminary assessment of the snakes’ response to the new land management practices in the training areas, as well as regionally applicable home range maps and habit use models for use by natural resource managers.

“These natural resources managers play a critical role in maintaining long-term access to training facilities, particularly when imperiled species like the diamondback occur within training areas. Studies like ours can provide them with a degree of confidence needed to employ adaptive policies for species conservation. It’s fulfilling to think that our results will be used to decrease the likelihood that diamondback imperilment will conflict with military training activities.”

Photos: (Above) Dr. Jayme Waldron takes notes while out in the field in pursuit of rattlesnakes. (Below) Dr. Jayme Waldron gets a close-up look at a rattlesnake as it crosses a road. She has spent much of her career tracking the eastern diamondback rattlesnakes to learn more about how and where they live, and how far they roam.

‘Green Fridays’ begin Aug. 30

One of the ways fans can show their support for the thundering Herd is to wear green Marshall gear every Friday throughout the football season.

Marshall kicks off Green Fridays on Aug. 30 by participating in the ninth annual National College Colors Day. Fans across the nation are encouraged to wear their college colors and support their favorite university. By participating in College Colors Day, Marshall is continuing a tradition of encouraging fans to wear their Marshall gear on this special day.

The Green Fridays promotion continues throughout the season. MU employees, students and fans everywhere are encouraged to participate in Green Fridays to show their pride throughout the season.

In addition, employees of local businesses, schools and organizations may take part in a contest in which they wear their Marshall gear and have a chance to win prizes from the university. Participants must register with Mallory Jarrell, Marketing and Branding Coordinator, to be eligible to win. Registration is available at www.marshall.edu/greenfridays.

Fans also have the opportunity to win prizes this year with the Fan of the Week contest. Herd fans may submit a photo of themselves in their Marshall gear through the contest page at www.facebook.com/marshallu to be eligible.

A Fan of the Week will also be chosen every Friday before a home football game throughout football season. Winners will be notified by e-mail and will receive a \$50 gift card to the Marshall University bookstore. They also will be entered in the grand prize drawing for a \$150 gift card to the bookstore.

For more information, contact Jarrell at 6-3490 or by e-mail at hayel@marshall.edu.

Solo exhibit features drawings of Amanda Burnham



Visiting artist Amanda Burnham is being featured in a solo exhibition that began this week at the Birke Art Gallery. The exhibit opened Aug. 26 and features a site-specific installation of drawings created on site in the days before.

“I make drawings as a way of exploring cities, an exercise that began when I moved to Baltimore years ago,” Burnham said. “More recently, I’ve been developing a series of installations ... this new trajectory allows me to experiment with the forms that interest me on a large scale ... These ‘wall drawings’ afford me ... the chance to more aggressively make use of space, to dramatize the page with atmospheric lighting and to envelop/implicate the viewer.”

Burnham earned her B.F.A. in painting and printmaking from Harvard University, and her M.F.A. in visual and environmental studies from Yale University. She is currently an assistant professor and foundations coordinator at Towson University in Towson, Md. Burnham has exhibited her work in venues nationally and internationally, with recent installations at Volta 7 in Basel, Switzerland, and in solo exhibitions at the Delaware Center for Contemporary Art, at Benrimon Contemporary in New York City, and at the Dorsch Gallery in Miami, Fla.

The exhibition will be on display until Oct. 11. The Birke Art Gallery is free and open to the public from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, and from 6 to 8 p.m. Mondays.

Photo: Hood (2011) by Amanda Burnham, a drawing installation of paint, paper and tape at Hamiltonian Gallery in Washington, D.C.

Save the Date: Childhood Obesity Conference is Oct. 2



The Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine will host a conference on childhood obesity Wednesday, Oct. 2. The keynote address will be presented by Jeffrey M. Friedman, M.D., Ph.D., who discovered the obesity gene, Leptin. He is the recipient of the 2010 Albert Lasker Basic Medical Research Award. He is the director of the Starr Center for Human Genetics and professor at the Rockefeller University in New York, holding the Marilyn M. Simpson Professorship. He is also an investigator at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute.

Watch for more information soon.

Paint the Capital City Green event kicks off fall season



Marshall University fans attending the sold-out Paint the Capital City Green event Aug. 22 enjoyed a pep rally atmosphere that included a tailgate spread, entertainment by mascot Marco, the cheerleading squad, dance team and members of the Marshall University Marching Thunder.

Thundering Herd fans heard from Doc Holliday, Marshall University's head football coach, athletic director Mike Hamrick and President Stephen J. Kopp, as well as key members of this year's team, as they shared information about the future of Marshall University football.

There was also a special appearance by Miss West Virginia 2013, Miranda Harrison, a broadcast journalism student at Marshall.

The event, presented by Friends of Coal with additional support from Huntington Bank, is the nation's largest indoor pep rally for Thundering Herd alumni, fans and friends. Proceeds will benefit the Big Green Scholarship Foundation and the Marshall University Alumni Association.

Photo: Miranda Harrison, Miss West Virginia 2013 and a Marshall student, poses with Marco at Paint the Capital City Green Aug. 22.

Marshall cardiology fellow receives international award



Christopher Adams, M.D., a cardiology fellow with the department of cardiology, Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine, recently received the James Willerson Clinical Award Competition for Residents and Fellows from the International Academy of Cardiovascular Sciences (IACS). The award was established to promote, encourage and recognize young talents in cardiovascular science, medicine and surgery.

The award is named in honor of James T. Willerson, M.D., president and medical director of the Texas Heart Institute in Houston and current president of IACS.

Adams was recognized for his research, "Perivascular Fat Relation to Hypertension: WV-Appalachian Heart Study," which he has been conducting for several years with faculty members Paulette Wehner, M.D., a professor of cardiology and senior associate dean for graduate medical

education, and Nalini Santanam, Ph.D., M.P.H., a professor in the department of pharmacology, physiology and toxicology.

“Dr. Santanam and I are very fortunate to collaborate with Dr. Adams,” Wehner said. “The award is particularly important because Dr. Adams started the Appalachian Heart project as a medical student and has continued the work through his sixth year of postgraduate training.”

Wehner continued, “The work was partially funded through a translational research grant awarded by Marshall Health to promote research within our institution. According to a recent Gallup Healthcare poll, the residents of the Huntington-Ashland Metropolitan area are twice as likely to suffer from a heart attack as the national average. We are hopeful that our research may help identify why we are having such a higher incidence of heart attacks in our area.”

Adams presented the findings at the Cardiovascular Forum for Promoting Centers of Excellence and Young Investigators meeting earlier this month in Louisville, Ky. He was one of five international applicants invited to participate.

Adams is a graduate of the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine and completed a residency in Internal Medicine at Marshall as well. His future plans include an interventional and structural heart disease fellowship next year at the University of Kentucky.

WV-INBRE summer research program wraps up with annual symposium

Undergraduate college students, the majority from West Virginia, showcased their summer research projects at Marshall University in July as part of the 12th Annual West Virginia IDeA Network for Biomedical Research (WV-INBRE) Summer Research Symposium. The projects, which were researched under the direction of faculty mentors during an intensive 9-week period, included studies on the treatment of chronic low back pain, treatment and prevention of obesity, the pathophysiology of infectious diseases, the harmful effects of diabetes on brain and cardiac function among others.

WV-INBRE, which is designed to support biomedical research in the state, is supported by a grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to Marshall University, in cooperation with West Virginia University and eleven other colleges and universities in the state. The program allows students at undergraduate institutions research opportunities in labs at both Marshall and WVU. In addition to the formal research training they receive, students attended workshops and seminars aimed at helping them understand the research process and graduate education.

This year’s summer research symposium featured keynote speaker Brad Goodner, Ph.D., professor of biology at Hiram College in Ohio.

Students in this year's WV-INBRE program at Marshall University included Jaya Ale, University of Charleston; Joshua Easterling, University of Charleston; Bishnu Kafley, Berea College; Rebecca Martin, Davis and Elkins College; Hajer Mazagri, University of Charleston; Noah Mitchell, Bluefield State College; Rishi Reddy, West Virginia State University; Anthony Schnelle, Wheeling Jesuit University; and Linh Vu, University of Charleston.

Also participating in this year's symposium were three students with the university's Summer Research Internship for Minority Students (SRIMS) who worked closely with WV-INBRE interns. They included Emmanuel "Manny" Rosas, University of Texas at Brownsville, Annesha King, University of the Virgin Islands and Ashlea Hendrickson, Oakwood University.

In addition to the participants listed above, students and faculty associated with WV-INBRE through other programs were selected to present their research findings in an oral presentation. They are:

- Jessica Allen, Concord University
- Cara Halldin, Ph.D., an alumnus of the WV-INBRE program and currently an epidemiologist with the Centers for the Disease Control and PreventionMahavadi_2013
- Kathy Loughman, John Marshall High School (WV-INBRE high school component)
- Rebecca Martin, Davis & Elkins College
- Sricharan Mahavadi, Shepherd University
- Jennifer Franko, Ph.D., Biology Department, Bethany College

Applications for next year's WV-INBRE internship will be available after January 1 at www.wv-inbre.net.

Students interested in applying to the SRIMS program may find the application information at www.marshall.edu/wpmu/bms/future-students/summer-research-internship.

Marshall offers master's degree in public administration this fall

Marshall's new master's degree in public administration (M.P.A.) is available to students beginning in the fall semester, which began Aug. 26.

Dr. Marybeth Beller, M.P.A. director, said this is an interdisciplinary program offering students concentrations in nonprofit management, urban governance and general administration policy.

"The College of Business and the departments of political science, geography, leadership studies, sociology and psychology are combining their expertise to offer students in the Tri-State region a flexible program, with courses taught in Huntington, South Charleston and online," Beller said.

Both daytime and evening courses will be available to students. Anyone interested in learning more about the program may contact Beller at ext.6-2763 or beller@marshall.edu.

Classified Staff Council to hold election Sept. 17-20; nominations due Sept. 5

The Classified Staff Council is holding an election to fill vacancies for the following:

- One vacancy in EEO 10 – Executive, Administrative & Managerial;
- One vacancy in EEO 40 – Technical and Paraprofessional;
- One vacancy in EEO 50 – Clerical; and
- Three vacancies in EEO 60/70 – Service/Maintenance.

The staff members elected during this election will finish the remainder of the current terms, which will end on June 30, 2015.

Nomination forms will be distributed by mail on Wednesday, Aug. 28. The forms are due in the Staff Council Office no later than 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 5. No nominations will be accepted after that date.

All employees of EEO Groups 10, 40 and 50 are permitted to nominate one eligible person from their respective EEO Group for these positions, including themselves. All employees of EEO Group 60/70 are permitted to nominate up to three eligible employees from their EEO Group, including themselves. Consult the Classified Employees By-Laws, Bylaw VI, Section 4, for questions on eligibility at <http://www.marshall.edu/wpmu/staff-council/forms/>

Electronic voting will be available from Tuesday, September 17th at 6 a.m. through Friday, September 20th at Midnight. All voting will be electronic. There will be no paper ballot voting. Detailed instructions on electronic voting can be found on the Staff Council website: <http://www.marshall.edu/wpmu/staff-council/forms/>

For any questions regarding the election, contact Joe Wortham, Election Committee chair, at wortham@marshall.edu or ext.65402; or Katie Counts in the Staff Council Office at easter@marshall.edu or ext. 62222.

Lajterman scramble moved to Twin Silos, tees off Sept. 6

The seventh annual Marcelo Lajterman Memorial Golf Scramble, held in New Jersey the past six years, will take place this year at Twin Silos Golf Course in Lavalette, W.Va.

The event tees off at noon Friday, Sept. 6, with dinner and an awards ceremony at 5:30 p.m. Cost to play is \$100 per person or \$400 per team.

The tournament is played in honor of Lajterman, a former place kicker/punter on the Marshall University football team who died along with 74 others in the 1970 Marshall plane crash. Lajterman was just 19 years old when he died.

The Lajterman family decided to move the tournament to the Huntington area this year. Proceeds, which are processed through the Marcelo Lajterman Memorial Scholarship Fund, benefit both athletic and academic endowments to Marshall. Checks should be made payable to the fund.

The top four or five teams will be awarded prizes, and there will be a closest to the pin contest.

For more information, call Ted Wilson at 304-523-9779, or Mike Stapleton at 304-634-5274. Or, visit www.marcelo23.com.

Faculty/Staff Achievements

Dr. Jess Morrissette, associate professor of political science and director of the international affairs program, has had an article published in *PS: Politics & Political Science*, and John Van Kirk, professor of English, has published his first novel.

Morrissette's article is titled "Marxferatu: The Vampire Metaphor as a Tool for Teaching Marx's Critique of Capitalism." *PS: Politics & Political Science is* the journal of record for the discipline of political science reporting on research, teaching, and professional development.

A release from the journal summed up the article: "What do vampires and capitalists have in common? According to Karl Marx, more than you might think. While the young women and men who step onto college campuses today may not have spent considerable time pondering the inherent contradictions of capitalism or the implications of class struggle, they are remarkably well-versed in vampire lore. This article demonstrates how professors can draw on their students' extensive knowledge of fictional vampires to introduce key concepts in Marxist

thought. The result is an approach to teaching Marx's critique of capitalism that is both relevant and readily comprehensible to today's undergraduate audiences."

The official link for the article is http://journals.cambridge.org/abstract_S1049096513000607

Empire Books in Pullman Square will be hosting a book launch party for Van Kirk's novel, *Song for Chance*, from 7 to 9 p.m. Friday, Sept. 6. *Publisher's Weekly* called the novel a "passionate elegiac tale," and *Library Journal* praised it as "highly authentic." Van Kirk's short stories and essays have earned him such prizes as the O. Henry Award and the Iowa Review Fiction Prize. A winner of the Pickens-Queen Teaching Award and the Distinguished Artists and Scholars Award at Marshall, Van Kirk has taught writing and literature in MU's English department for 20 years. "Song for Chance," published in August by Red Hen Press, is his first novel.

Choral Union accepting new members

Marshall University's Choral Union is looking for interested singers for the 2013-2014 season.

This fall, the choir will be performing Anton Bruckner's Mass No. 2 in E Minor for eight-part choir, which will feature an instrumental ensemble of oboes, clarinets, bassoons, trumpets, horns and trombones.

The group will be under the direction of Robert Wray, associate professor of music.

"The Mass in E Minor is a work of inspiration and incredible artistry," Wray said. "Composer Anton Bruckner combined wonderfully his unique approach to harmony and counterpoint with many of the traditions and sounds of the older sacred music he cherished."

Rehearsals will begin on Monday evening, Sept. 9, and take place each Monday evening from 7 to 9 p.m. in Smith Music Hall, Room 150. Music will be available for purchase at rehearsal. Music reading skills are a plus, but not necessary, and any singing level is accepted, Wray said.

For further information, contact Wray by phone at ext.6-2399 or by e-mail at wrayr@marshall.edu.

The next issue of We Are...Marshall will be distributed Sept. 4, 2013. Please send any materials for consideration to [Pat Dickson](#) by 5 p.m. Friday, August 30.