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We Are...Marshall, May 15, 2013

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WE ARE... MARSHALL®

The Newsletter for Marshall University

May 15, 2013

Newest alumni honored May 11



More than 1,500 new alumni of Marshall University were honored Saturday, May 11, at two commencement ceremonies in the Big Sandy Superstore arena.

Among the 1,507 students who received degrees were 986 undergraduates, 439 graduate students and 72 from the School of Medicine. About 650 undergraduates and 175 graduate students took part in their respective ceremonies.

James C. Smith, president and CEO of Thomson Reuters and a 1981 MU graduate, delivered the keynote speech in the morning ceremony for undergraduates. Dr. Donna Spindel, dean of the Marshall Graduate College, spoke in the afternoon ceremony for those receiving graduate degrees.

Marshall conducted two commencements for the second consecutive year. The morning ceremony was for undergraduates, and an afternoon ceremony the same day was for graduate students.

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Investiture ceremony honors latest medical school graduates



Seventy-five medical students received their Doctor of Medicine degrees Friday, May 10, in the Investiture Ceremony of Marshall University's Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine.

President Stephen J. Kopp, who was among the speakers, conferred the students' degrees.

This year's Investiture speaker was Dr. Gloria A. Wilder, a nationally-recognized pediatrician, public speaker and expert on poverty and social justice. She has served as chair of Mobile Health Programs for the Children's Health Project of D.C. at Georgetown University and the Children's National Medical Center in Washington, D.C. In addition, Wilder is president and chief executive officer of CORE HEALTH, a health care access solutions company dedicated to assisting underserved communities.

The Class of 2013 included three legacies (parents who graduated from the school), a military veteran who served two tours in the Middle East, a student who will train at Yale and volunteers who logged more than 5000 community hours while in Huntington the past four years.

Photo: Class of 2013 members listen as Dr. Kopp confers their Doctor of Medicine degrees.

Physical Therapy students honored at white coat ceremony



Twenty-seven students emerged as future physical therapists when slipping into their white coats during the first-ever Marshall University School of Physical Therapy White Coat Ceremony May 10.

Dr. Tamara Gravano, assistant professor and director of clinical education for the school, said the White Coat Ceremony marks a student's transition from student to clinical intern, as he or she strives forward to earn a doctoral degree in physical therapy.

"It is a rite of passage, which represents a milestone on the journey toward a career in health care professions, and this class has certainly earned it," Gravano said. "The next two years will be even more challenging as they are expected to expand and apply this knowledge and make clinical decisions of their own – and stand behind them."

The White Coat Ceremony was initiated in 1993, at the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons and has since been adopted by many professional and medical schools, both nationally and internationally.

Photo: Ashton Weiss smiles as she receives her white coat from the chair of the School of Physical Therapy, Dr. Penny Kroll, during last Friday's White Coat Ceremony. Photo by Rick Hays.

Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine picks up national award for family medicine



The Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine has received a Family Medicine “Top Ten” award from the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) for being one of the nation’s top schools in the percentage of graduates entering family medicine residencies.

Based on a three-year average ending in October 2012, AAFP reports 18.5 percent of Marshall medical school graduates have chosen family medicine residencies. The average places the school as number five in the country and the only medical school in West Virginia in the Top Ten.

“Educating primary care doctors remains our top priority,” said Dr. Joseph I. Shapiro, dean of the School of Medicine. “As the Affordable Care Act is implemented across the country, many more primary care doctors will be needed to provide care for the millions of patients entering the health care system. I am pleased our School of Medicine is doing its part to educate doctors on the front lines of medicine in this country.”

Dr. John Walden, chair of the Department of Family Medicine, says Marshall’s contribution to growing the nation’s ranks of primary care physicians and more specifically, family medicine doctors, shows the school is doing its part to address the shortage of primary care physicians in the country.

“As of 2012, our Department of Family Medicine has placed residency graduates in 31 different communities throughout West Virginia,” Walden said. “Not only are we encouraging our medical students to choose family medicine as is evidenced by this award, we are then training family medicine residents who choose to stay in West Virginia and meet the health care needs of our state.”

Since 1992, Marshall has been honored 19 times by the AAFP for its high percentage of medical students choosing family medicine residencies.

Dr. W. Mitchel Shaver, residency director for the Department of Family Medicine, accepted the award during a ceremony May 3 at the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine Annual Spring Conference in Baltimore.

Photo: Dr. W. Mitchel Shaver (left) accepts an award for the number of graduates who enter family practice residencies from Jeff Cain, M.D., president of the American Academy of Family Physicians. *Photo credit:* American Academy of Family Physicians.

CBER to Host Energy Efficiency Conference

The Center for Business and Economic Research (CBER) at Marshall, in conjunction with the West Virginia Division of Energy and the U.S. Department of Energy, will host an energy efficiency conference Wednesday, May 22, at Marshall University Foundation Hall, home of the Erickson Alumni Center.

The one-day conference, "Energy Efficiency in West Virginia: Projects and Prospects," offers participants the opportunity to learn more about commercial, residential and industrial energy efficiency initiatives, both locally and nationally.

"This will be the first multi-sector energy efficiency event in West Virginia in that it will include presentations from industrial, commercial and residential energy efficiency experts," Jeff Herholdt, director of the West Virginia Division of Energy, said.

Speakers during this one day conference include subject matter experts from various state and government agencies, private agencies and academic institutions. Free lunch will be provided. Registration is highly recommended and available by visiting www.marshall.edu/cber.

Click to view flyer.

Graduate health informatics program at Marshall is one of three accredited in U.S.

Marshall's Master of Science in Health Informatics (MSHI) degree program was awarded national accreditation April 19 from the Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management.

It is one of three nationally accredited programs in the United States, joining the University of Illinois at Chicago and Oregon Health and Science University in Portland, Ore. It is also the only accredited, graduate-level program in health informatics within the state of West Virginia.

Bruce Felder, manager of human resources at Cabell Huntington Hospital, said the MSHI program at Marshall is shedding light on how technology and one's ability to become self-sufficient can spill over into the gigantic, multi-faceted industry of health care.

"In today's age, we can buy, sell, exchange money, goods and services without leaving home," Felder said. "In the future, visiting your doctor, making appointments and viewing your medical records will be common practice, all from a mobile device. MSHI students will be the infrastructure, bridge and crossroad between technology and health care information."

Dr. Girmay Berhie, program director for the Department of Health Informatics, said the accreditation process took more than two years to complete and would not have been possible without the unique collaboration among faculty in the College of Health Professions, the College of Business and the College of Information Technology and Engineering.

"We have such a supportive relationship among these three colleges here at Marshall," Berhie said. "It's a unique model we've used to develop a program of this nature, which combines the skills and resources from each department. The program would not be possible without this partnership."

Dr. Michael W. Prewitt, dean of the College of Health Professions, said receiving accreditation sets the MSHI program among the elite programs for health informatics in the country.

"The standards of our program exceed what is required by the national accrediting agency," Prewitt said. "We are a premier destination for health professions programs in the tri-state. Our graduates will be very marketable in the health informatics community."

The MSHI program received 10-year accreditation and will participate in a designated on-site visit in one year in order to continue to meet accreditation requirements.

Marshall professor in Greece for her work with the Global Burden of Disease



Dr. Monika Sawhney of the College of Health Professions is currently in Greece attending the “Global Burden of Disease” workshop taking place until Friday, May 17. The Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation organized this technical workshop to train interested researchers and policymakers in the data, methods, findings and implications of Global Burden of Disease Study of

2010.

Sawhney, program director for the public health program, has an extensive background in the coordination and implementation of programs that strengthen the public health sector around the world.

“I’ve worked with the World Health Organization and Center for Disease Control to coordinate and manage the polio and measles immunization campaign in Ethiopia,” Sawhney said. “With the Clinton Global Initiative University, I was able to collaborate with a nonprofit organization to start the diarrhea management center in India.”

The Global Burden of Disease (GBD) study, the most comprehensive effort to date, measures epidemiological levels and trends worldwide. For more than two decades, it has measured the impact of hundreds of diseases, injuries and risk factors in 187 countries around the world. Given her knowledge and experience working with the GBD in several foreign countries, Sawhney hopes to make her research applicable in West Virginia in regard to childhood obesity and diabetes.

“Since setting up the new public health program at Marshall, I am very aware of West Virginia’s rate of chronic disease,” Sawhney said. “This opportunity to travel and share information with scholars from across the world allows me to learn more about controlling our burden of disease.”

Dr. Michael W. Prewitt, dean of the College of Health Professions, said Sawhney’s trip to Greece is an opportunity for the Marshall academic community to exchange research and ideas with other disciplines.

“I am excited Dr. Sawhney has been selected to attend this global burden of disease workshop, which is designed to provide the most comprehensive information on population health,” Prewitt said. “This will create a strong foundation for strategic decision making, collaboration, and, ultimately, better health outcomes for people of West Virginia.”

Throughout the course of her career, Sawhney has attended more than 20 conferences and given presentations about the public health sector in countries across the world such as Austria, China, Kenya and others.

Photo: Working in Ethiopia with the World Health Organization and the Center for Disease Control, Dr. Monika Sawhney (second from right) coordinated and managed the measles immunization campaign, which helped the ministry strengthen their health system by focusing on design and implementation of training programs for their staff.

SURE program selects 13 undergraduates for research fellowships

Thirteen undergraduate students have been selected to receive the Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE) Fellowship at Marshall University for 2013.

SURE is aimed at undergraduates who are interested in performing research, according to Dr. Michael Norton, professor of chemistry and director of the program. Norton said SURE will fund thirteen research projects that have been selected for support by the SURE proposal evaluation committee.

“We want students to know how strongly Marshall supports undergraduate research,” Norton said. “This is the time when these young minds start utilizing their research skills in preparation for graduate school.”

The program has been conducted at Marshall since 2005, and is funded through the West Virginia Research Challenge Fund, administered by the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission, Division of Science and Research.

Students will receive stipends totaling \$4,000 each for their research for a period of ten weeks uninterrupted by classes during the summer. The SURE program, now in its ninth year, will begin Monday, May 20, and end Aug. 2. The awardees and their hometowns, majors, projects, and research mentors are listed below:

- Tanner Bakhshi; Ironton, Ohio: Molecular Biology; A Foundation for DNA Structures; Dr. Michael Norton
- Heath Blankenship; Huntington; Biology; Epigenetic Role of MLL2 in Spermatogenesis; Dr. Guo-Zhang Zhu
- Hannah Bott; St. Albans, W.Va.; Chemistry; Probing a Complex Dissociation Energy Surface with Experimental and Theoretical Methods; Dr. William Price
- Amber Campbell; Woodstock, Va.; Biology; Effects of phthalates on stem cells; Dr. Nadja Spitzer
- Arrin Carter; Biology; Wytheville, Va.; Biological Engineering of a Neural Migratory Stream; Dr. Elmer Price
- Sumaiya Chaudhry; Huntington; Biochemistry; Detecting Forces in a Reference Frame; Dr. Sasha Zill

- Erin Fankhanel; Huntington; Biology; Nano-therapy for sepsis induced lung injury; Dr. Eric Blough
- Lindsey Harper; Belington, W.Va.; Psychology; Birth Practices Meta-Analysis; Dr. Paige Muellerleile
- Nguyet Le; International student from Vietnam; Chemistry; Combinatorial Approach to Studying Metal; Dr. Timothy Corrigan
- Brianna Mayfield; Weirton, W.Va.; Biotechnology; Cell Culture Bioassay Development for *Prymnesium parvum* Toxins; Dr. Elizabeth Murray
- Cody Stover; Point Pleasant, W.Va.; Chemistry; Bioavailability of Capsaicin in Small Cell Lung Cancer; Dr. Piyali Dasgupta
- Brian Warner; Ironton, Ohio; Chemistry; Thermal Decomposition of Propionaldehyde; Dr. Laura McCunn
- Christian Warner; Ironton, Ohio; Chemistry; Synthesis and Characterization of DNA/Dendron; Dr. Scott Day

The SURE program also has a Web page with more information including last year's awardees and their projects, at www.marshall.edu/SURE.

Faculty Achievement: Dr. Kevin Law

Dr. Kevin Law, associate professor of geography and the West Virginia State Climatologist, coauthored a poster with two geography students titled "Analyzing the Environmental Preconditions of the 2012 Mid-Atlantic Derecho." It was presented at the Association of American Geographers' Conference in Los Angeles during April.

Law said that climatologically, one to two derecho events occur annually throughout the Midwest and Mid-Atlantic. However, derechos of similar magnitude as last June's occur about every 20 years. The last derecho that caused as much widespread damage in West Virginia occurred in April of 1991.

Rec Center observing annual shutdown this week

The Recreation Center is closed this week through Friday, May 17, in observance of its fifth annual shutdown week. It will reopen Saturday, May 18.

Members of the center staff will be busy during shutdown week. They will have various tasks, such as wiping down fitness and exercise equipment (cardio machines, jump ropes, physio balls, yoga mats and dumbbells). There also will be some painting and window washing, as well as resurfacing of the fitness studio floors, remodeling of the second-floor fitness desk, carpet repair and replacement, lighting fixture repairs, cleaning of the rock wall holds, and more.

Staff members also will be de-scuffing the racquetball court walls and buffing the gym court floors. The locker room/restroom areas will be cleaned and disinfected. Staff will also be repairing the locker locks and replacing batteries.

Keith Hernstrom, assistant director of facilities and operations, said he expects each of the staff members to work as a team to systematically knock out the duties assigned to them.

No part of the facility goes untouched during shutdown week, and each year there are areas that get a little more special attention than others. The Rec would like to thank all members and guests for their patience and understanding during this short time, said Michele Muth, the center's assistant director of marketing and membership.

For more information contact Muth at pallante1@marshall.edu, or call ext.6-2943.

The next issue of We Are...Marshall will be distributed May 22, 2013. Please send any materials for consideration to [Pat Dickson](#) by noon, May 20.