Let the spirit of love gently fill our hearts and homes. In this loveliest of seasons, may you find many reasons for happiness.

Sincerely,
President Jerry and Leigh Gilbert

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Board of Governors approves graduate program in cybersecurity

The Marshall University Board of Governors (BOG) last week approved plans for a graduate degree in cybersecurity, making Marshall one of the state’s first public universities to offer a master’s-level degree program in the emerging discipline.

The College of Information Technology and Engineering’s Weisberg Division of Computer Science will administer the new academic program set to begin in spring 2019.

Cybersecurity is one of the fastest-growing fields in the world, with the Bureau of Labor Statistics projecting more than 200,000 unfilled positions in the United States alone.

“This area of study is critical to meeting the online security needs around the world,” said Dr. Jaime Taylor, provost and senior vice president for academic affairs. “All of us are aware of the proliferation of cybersecurity events over the past few years and the havoc they create for businesses and individuals. We are pleased to offer the new Master of Science in cybersecurity, which will produce professionals capable of addressing these burgeoning issues.”

University officials say the new master’s program will also strengthen existing programs by creating exciting new pathways for students in existing bachelor’s programs across three of Marshall’s colleges, including computer science, technology management, digital forensics and information assurance, electrical and computer engineering, management information systems, and criminal justice.

In other action, the BOG approved an official name for the new graduate student housing facility under construction adjacent to the Erma Ora Byrd Clinical Center. The name, Fairfield Landing, pays tribute to the surrounding Fairfield West neighborhood and the university’s former football stadium, which was located in the area and was in use from 1928-1998. Leasing for the new facility will begin in January with occupancy slated for August 2019.
Additionally, the board approved naming a wellness classroom in Jenkins Hall the *Dot Hicks Wellness Classroom* in honor of retired professor, coach and benefactor Dr. Dorothy “Dot” Hicks. Hicks served the university for decades as a valued faculty member and continues to support the university through scholarships and other gifts.

The board also approved an investment earnings update, as well as a three-month financial report ending Sept. 30.

Three new board members, William A. Smith Sr., Geoffrey S. Sheils and H. Toney Stroud, were sworn in today by Cabell County Circuit Judge Chris Chiles. The three new members replace outgoing members Oshel Craigo, Michael Sellards and Joseph McDonie, who were commended for their service during the meeting.

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*Photo:* Cabell County Circuit Judge Chris Chiles administers the oath of office to incoming Marshall University Board of Governors members (l. to r.) H. Toney Stroud, William A. Smith Sr. and Geoffrey S. Sheils.

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**Important Notice for Time Clock Plus Managers**

**Posted on November 21, 2018**

Due to Marshall’s holiday schedule, Time Clock Plus (TCP) will close at 5 p.m. Thursday December 20, 2018, to allow adequate time to generate the paychecks for the January 4, 2019, pay date. To ensure paychecks are generated for all employees, Managers will need to complete the following in TCP by **12 p.m. Thursday, December 20, 2018:**

- Enter and approve clock out times for Thursday, December 20th.
- Input and approve hours for employees expected to work on Friday, December 21st.

Any difference between the actual hours worked and hours projected will need to be manually adjusted on the next pay period.

If you have any questions please email them to payroll@marshall.edu. Any adjustments to the hours submitted must be emailed to the payroll office by **5 p.m. December 24, 2018,** to payroll@marshall.edu. Thank you for your attention to this matter, and Happy Holidays.
New scholarship available for incoming pharmacy students

School of Pharmacy students now have another scholarship opportunity. Through a donation from Daniel and Gayle Brazeau, the Marshall University Foundation has established the “Pioneer in Pharmacy” fund.

Applicants for the scholarship must be full-time, incoming first-year students with a 2.75 GPA or higher and residents of West Virginia or any bordering state (Kentucky, Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Virginia). Preference will be given to students who are the first in their family to attend college.

“My husband and I were both first-generation college students, and we are passionate about helping other first-generation college students develop their love of learning,” said Gayle Brazeau, Ph.D., dean of the Marshall University School of Pharmacy. Dan Brazeau, Ph.D., is an associate professor at the Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine and Marshall University School of Pharmacy.

The Pioneer in Pharmacy scholarship will be renewable for an additional year if the student remains in good academic standing. Recipients will be chosen by the School of Pharmacy Scholarship Committee in cooperation with Marshall University’s Office of Student Financial Assistance.

For the first five years, the annual scholarships will total $1,000 per recipient. After that, the award will be determined by what’s available in the endowed fund.

Additional information is available by emailing MUSOPScholarships@marshall.edu.

For information on establishing a scholarship or to make a gift by phone, please contact the Marshall University Foundation at 304-696-6264. To make a gift online, please visit www.marshall.edu/donate.

Photo: Drs. Gayle and Dan Brazeau have established the Pioneer in Pharmacy scholarship through the Marshall University Foundation.
A Marshall senior has won a Benjamin A. Gilman Scholarship to study abroad. Gilman Scholars receive up to $5,000 to apply towards their study abroad or internship program costs, with additional funding available for the study of a critical language overseas.

The Gilman Scholarship supports American undergraduate students of limited financial means to study or intern abroad and, since 2001, has enabled more than 25,000 outstanding Americans of diverse backgrounds to engage in a meaningful educational experience abroad. The program has successfully broadened U.S. participation in study abroad, while emphasizing countries and regions where fewer Americans traditionally study.

Chloe Litzenberger, a senior Japanese major, will travel to Hirakata, Japan, to study at Kansai Gaidai University for the Spring and Fall 2019 terms. Litzenberger is one of 1,201 American undergraduate students from 363 colleges and universities across the United States selected to receive the prestigious Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship to study or intern abroad during the spring of 2019. After she returns to Marshall and graduates, she hopes to work for the JET Program teaching English in Japan and eventually work as a translator.

“Going abroad is an opportunity that truly cannot compare when it comes to language acquisition,” Litzenberger said. “Being able to immerse myself while in country will help boost my listening and speaking abilities to levels not attainable at a college in the United States.”

Litzenberger is the 16th Marshall University student and the 10th Japanese major to win a Gilman Scholarship. The Gilman program is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and is supported in its implementation by the Institute of International Education (IIE).

For more information about the Gilman scholarship, visit its website at www.gilmanscholarship.org/ or contact Mallory Carpenter at by phone at 304-696-2475 or by e-mail at Mallory.carpenter@marshall.edu.
Marshall study finds differences in umbilical cord blood metal levels between urban and rural newborns

New findings from a team of Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine researchers reveal urban and rural differences in prenatal exposure to essential and toxic elements.

The team's finding were published Nov. 22 in The Journal of Toxicology and Environmental Health.

The research team of Jesse N. Cottrell, M.D., D'Andrea S. Thomas, M.S., Brenda L. Mitchell, M.D., Jason E. Childress, M.D., Diane M. Dawley, M.D., Lawrence E. Harbrecht, M.D., David C. Jude, M.D., and Monica A. Valentovic, Ph.D., conducted a comparative, cross-sectional study on 172 pregnant women—79 who were considered rural and 93 considered urban as determined by U.S. Census Rural-Urban Commuting Area Codes. Umbilical cord blood was collected at the time of delivery and analyzed for 20 inorganic elements.

The study found significant differences between urban and rural samples for two elements. Copper and molybdenum were higher in urban samples. No marked differences between groups occurred for arsenic, barium, cadmium, calcium, cobalt, lead, lithium, magnesium, manganese, mercury, selenium, strontium or zinc. All samples were devoid of platinum, silver, thallium or uranium. Self-reported tobacco use was 25% and 26.9% in the rural and urban groups respectively. Nicotine product exposure was confirmed by measuring cotinine, a stable metabolite of nicotine. Nicotine usage was associated with higher levels of lead, manganese and copper levels compared to non-smokers.

“The fetus and placenta are particularly vulnerable to toxins due to the immaturity of the blood-brain barrier and diminished biotransformation enzymatic activity,” said Valentovic, the study’s principal investigator. “Excess or inadequate levels of inorganic ions may induce significant acute and long-term irreversible dysfunction in humans. Further analysis is needed to determine if there is a link between neonatal outcomes and prenatal exposure to these elements.”

This work was supported by the Robert C. Byrd Center for Rural Health. Funding for the Rural Health Initiative grant comes from the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission. Funding was also provided by a Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine Translational Research Pilot Grant.

To read the article in its entirety, please visit https://doi.org/10.1080/15287394.2018.1547890.
Marshall faculty have begun creating a website to share recovery stories and have been awarded a $5,000 grant from the West Virginia Humanities Council to continue its development.

“Movable: Narratives of Recovery and Place,” is an interactive community website that collects narratives about recovery in West Virginia. It is being developed by faculty from Marshall’s College of Liberal Arts, including Dr. Kristen Lillvis, associate professor of English and director of digital humanities; Dr. Hilton Córdoba, assistant professor of geography; Dr. Stefan Schoebel, assistant professor of English; and Kristin Steele, a visiting professor in the Department of English. They are collaborating with Amy Saunders, director of Marshall’s Center of Excellence for Recovery.

The site will feature a collection of recovery stories from West Virginia and Appalachia at large, with the funds from the Humanities Council supporting compilation of text, images and videos to highlight the importance of place in stories of recovery and to foreground West Virginia’s place in the recovery movement.

“Research shows that one of the best ways to combat stigma and promote recovery is for individuals in long-term recovery to share their stories,” Lillvis said. “We believe that the site will work in conjunction with other recovery efforts to combat substance use disorders while also providing data that will prove beneficial for researchers.”

Lillvis, Steele and Saunders collaborated on the “Addiction in Appalachia: Our Stories” event that took place Sept. 7, 2016, at Marshall University. It brought together 10 stories from local writers, both those in recovery and those affected by a family member’s substance use disorder. Participants workshoped their stories prior to the event and then shared them with the community at a public performance.

The new website will bring stories from that event together with new ones to show how West Virginia is a center for recovery from substance use disorders. Developers hope to have the site available by early 2019.
Mail Services issues holiday schedule – revised 12/14/18

Posted on December 14, 2018

The REVISED 2018 Holiday Schedule for the Mail Services Department will be:

MAIL SERVICES WINDOW HOURS

FRIDAY, DEC. 28, 2018 10:00 A.M. TO 2:00 P.M

THURSDAY, JAN. 3, 2019 10:00 A.M. TO 2:00 P.M.

All mail that is to be round dated (ex. Insured mail) should be in the Mailroom before 5:00 P.M. on Wednesday, December 19, 2018. This does include the Certified and Ineligible Letters.

NOTE – All mail received too late for processing will be worked up and mailed the next scheduled work day.

Any department needing stamps for use during the holidays should contact Mail Services at 304-696-2485 by Tuesday, December 18, 2018.
Marshall University Special Collections, Morrow Stacks and Government Documents in Morrow Library along with South Charleston Campus Library will be closed for training Wednesday, December 19.

We apologize for any inconvenience.

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Marco's Favorite Things
Marco is celebrating the holiday season by sharing a few of his favorite things! Follow us on social media December 1-24 to find out how you can win! #MarcosFavoriteThings

Follow @MarshallU

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Dr. Nancy Elkins of the College of Health Professions School of Nursing recently presented her research titled “A Phenomenological Study: Lived Experiences of Students Who Do Not Succeed in Four Year Baccalaureate Nursing Programs” at the 18th annual Association for the Advancement of Educational Research International (AAERI) conference in Fort Myers, Florida, last month.

Elkins, an associate professor of nursing in the college, said she was honored to be able to present her own research and listen to some of the most distinguished experts and leaders in the field of educational research.

“As a result of my research study, I developed the Nursing 200 course titled, ‘Introduction to Professional Nursing’ to help prepare students for successfully completing a B.S.N. nursing program” Elkins said. “The goal of the development of this pre-nursing course would help with retention of the students admitted into the B.S.N. program and successful completion of the program.

“This course is required for freshman nursing students and sophomore nursing students who are admitted in their sophomore year. The outcomes from completing this course include being able to increase students’ self-efficacy, increase critical thinking and test-taking skills and utilizing the resources available such as the Writing Center and the MU Library research journals, as well as practice using APA guidelines for writing papers.”

Elkins said the AAERI conference provided professional learning opportunities to exchange ideas and networking opportunities with educational leaders from around the world, including those who specialize in nursing, education, engineering, science and geophysics.

“Analyzing students’ needs can help faculty and staff identify student concerns and issues that can affect the student achieving success in their educational pursuits, whether they are academic or psychosocial concerns,” Elkins said. “Many students are dealing with factors that can affect their performance in the clinical and classroom setting, such as psychological stress, test-taking anxiety, juggling family obligations,
work responsibilities, health issues and economic instability. The nursing shortage is expected to continue to grow and [it is] projected that there will be a need for an additional 1.1 million RNs in the United States by the year 2022, according to the American Nurses Association.”

Elkins serves as course coordinator for the “Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing” course and is responsible for classroom lecture and clinical experiences at the psychiatric hospitals for students in the undergraduate B.S.N. program. She has worked as a registered nurse for 19 years and has experience teaching nursing students for the past 14 years.

To learn more about her research, contact Elkins by e-mail at elkinsn@marshall.edu. For more information on the B.S.N. program, visit www.marshall.edu/nursing.

Rec Center to offer Winter Kids’ Camp

Drop your kids off during their break from school at the Rec to play great games, create awesome crafts, swim and rock climb! All they need is a swim suit, towel, change of clothes and closed-toed shoes. The Marshall Rec Center will be hosting a Winter Kids’ Camp from Wednesday, Jan. 2, through Friday, Jan. 4. The camp will take place at the Rec Center from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. each day. Before and after care is available if needed. The rate is $70 for members and $80 for non-members. The camp is for children ages 4-12.

Register online or at the Pro Shop: https://north-a-60ols.csi-cloudapp.net/Marshall/Members/Camp/CampCategories.aspx?isKiosk=False&pname=Camp&pid=CMP.0. For additional information contact the Rec at 304-696-4732.

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Next Honors College seminar proposal deadline is Wednesday, Jan. 30

The Honors College provides faculty of programs from across the university the opportunity to design and teach seminars on subjects that inspire their interest and creativity. Faculty in our small seminars work with outstanding, highly motivated students to actively explore a subject together from an interdisciplinary approach. We believe the Honors College serves as an “incubator” for pedagogical exploration and innovation that enhances the quality of educational experiences across the university. We think of our relationship with those who teach for us as collaborative partnership for the common good.
The deadline for new proposals to teach an upper-level seminar for the Honors College in the Fall 2019 semester is Wednesday, Jan. 30. Accepted proposals are scheduled as Special Topics sections of HON 480, which serves as the core course in the Honors Curriculum. Seminar proposals undergo review by the Honors College Curriculum and Policy Committee at least one semester prior to the semester an approved seminar is offered. For faculty who have previously taught sections of HON 480, repeat and updated applications are also due Wednesday, Jan. 30. For full details, helpful information, and links to online submission of all required material, please visit the Teaching Honors page on the Honors College website. Due dates for Honors Seminar proposal and repeat application submissions are published for each academic year on the Honors College Curriculum and Policy Committee page.

The mission of the Honors College at Marshall University is to foster academic excellence in a community of learners whose undergraduate education is enhanced through innovative teaching and learning, an engaging interdisciplinary curriculum, creative and critical inquiry with talented faculty, and diverse leadership and service opportunities. We deeply appreciate the contributions of faculty from across the University to our achievement of this mission.

If you are interested, but not sure if you’re ready to submit a proposal for review next semester, please reach out to discuss your ideas with Brian Hoey, associate dean of the Honors College, at hoey@marshall.edu.

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The next regular issue of We Are...Marshall will be distributed Jan. 9, 2019. Please send items for consideration to WAMnewsletter@marshall.edu by 5 p.m. Monday, Jan. 7, 2019.

To read the content of this newsletter online, please click on the following link: www.marshall.edu/wamnewsletter/December-19-2018.