11-13-2019

We Are...Marshall, November 13, 2019

Office of Marshall University Communications

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Forty-ninth annual Memorial Fountain Ceremony to feature son of couple who perished in crash

On Nov. 14, 1970, Dr. Matthew M. Ralsten III lost both parents when Southern Airways Flight 932 crashed with 75 Thundering Herd teammates, coaches, staff, supporters and flight crew members on board. At noon this Thursday, he will take the stage as keynote speaker for the 49th Memorial Fountain Ceremony on Marshall’s Huntington campus.

Ralsten said the ceremony has become an important part of the fabric of Marshall and the surrounding community.

"The loss of the 75 lives that tragic evening included many of the leaders in our academic, business and political community, as well as the players, coaches, pilots and crew," said Ralsten. "The ceremony allows us to remember our loved ones while allowing us to also celebrate the amazing progress our school and community continues to achieve."

Ralsten said the crash had a particularly profound effect on his family, especially on him and his sister, Molly.

"My sister and I lost both of our parents," said Ralsten. "The impact of such a loss is hard to describe, but we were very fortunate to have been raised by our amazing extended family."

Ralsten’s parents, Matthew Murrill Ralsten and Helen Ralsten, were among the 24 Marshall supporters who died in the crash. At the time, his father operated a clothing store called The Ralsten Ltd. and was also a member of Huntington City Council. His mother was a school teacher in Chesapeake, Ohio. Both were Marshall graduates.
A graduate of the Marshall University School of Medicine in 2002, Ralsten now works as an obstetrician-gynecologist. His wife, Tammy, graduated with a B.S.N. from Marshall in 1996. The couple resides in Fayetteville, Georgia, and has twins, Matthew Murrill Ralsten IV, a student at the University of South Carolina, and Helen Claire Ralsten, a student at the University of Georgia.

Ralsten said he is honored to be the keynote speaker and is excited to return home to see family, friends and former classmates.

"The ‘Marshall Family’ are those who have shared their memories of my parents with me and those who I continue to meet, sharing the virtues of our state, community and Marshall University."

To watch the Memorial Fountain Ceremony via livestream, visit www.marshall.edu/it/livestream.

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NOVEMBER 14, 2019

49th Annual Memorial Service
Noon

In the middle of Huntington, West Virginia, there is a river.
Next to this river, there is a steel mill.
And next to the steel mill, there is a school.
In the middle of this school, there is a fountain.
Each year, on the exact same day, at the exact same hour...
...the water to this fountain is turned off
And in this moment, once every year...
...time stands still.

WE WILL NEVER FORGET.

We Are...Marshall
Greetings, Marshall Family:

The fall semester is well underway and the holiday season, the season of giving, is nearly upon us. As such, I want to remind our employees about the annual United Way workplace campaign, which kicked off Oct. 17. Last year, our Marshall Family raised nearly $18,000 to contribute to our community’s greatest challenges. This translated to 79 youth who were better prepared for school, 142 individuals assisted with fighting substance use and 20 individuals who received meals. This is an amazing accomplishment, but I am confident our university community can do even more this year to make an impact.

We’ve set a goal for this year’s United Way campaign of $20,000, and to reach this goal, we need your help. Whether it is a commitment of time or financial support, I hope I can encourage more of our faculty and staff to consider giving back.

If you wish to pledge your support today, you may do so by printing and filling out the paper pledge form and sending via departmental mail to Will Holland in the MSC’s LEAD Center. Marshall University employees may also pledge online by visiting https://www.marshall.edu/unitedway/give-now/ and using the login MarshallUniversity (case sensitive) and the password united and following the necessary steps to create an account.

Marshall employees have the option of payroll deduction; however, if you are employed by Marshall Health, MURC, INTO, the Campus Recreation Center, the Marshall Foundation or other units, you may choose to donate by a one-time credit card contribution, cash or check. You also may choose to be billed.
If you want to learn more about our annual workplace campaign, please visit www.marshall.edu/unitedway.

I invite all of the Sons and Daughters of Marshall to join me in making a difference.

Thank you for your time and your generosity.

Sincerely,

Jerome A. Gilbert
President, Marshall University

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Marshall University Athletics will have faculty/staff appreciation days for both football and basketball this month.

The annual Marshall Staff & Faculty Appreciation game for football will take place Friday, Nov. 15.

Each Marshall faculty or staff member can receive up to two (2) complimentary tickets for this game. To pick up tickets, come to the main ticket office, located on the street level of the Henderson Center, and bring a valid Marshall ID. Normal office hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. Deadline to pick up tickets is Wednesday, Nov. 13.

**Important Info**

- Marshall Football vs. LA Tech on Friday, Nov. 15
- Kick-off is scheduled for 7:00 p.m.
- Two complimentary tickets for each valid Marshall Faculty or Staff ID
- You must bring your physical ID to the Marshall Ticket Office
- You may bring other IDs from your department in with you to pick-up multiple staff members’ tickets
- Additional friends and family tickets beyond two (2) complimentary: $15 each
The annual Marshall Staff & Faculty Appreciation game for basketball will take place Tuesday, Nov. 19.

Each Marshall faculty or staff member can receive up to two (2) complimentary tickets for this game as well. To pick up tickets, come to the main ticket office, located on the street level of the Henderson Center, and bring a valid Marshall ID. Normal office hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. Deadline to pick up tickets is Wednesday, Nov. 13.

**Important Info**

- Marshall Basketball vs. College of Charleston on Tuesday, Nov. 19
- Tip-off is scheduled for 7:00 p.m.
- Two complimentary tickets for each valid Marshall Faculty or Staff ID
- You must bring your physical ID to the Marshall Ticket Office
- You may bring other IDs from your department in with you to pick-up multiple staff members’ tickets
- Additional friends and family tickets beyond two (2) complimentary: $8 each
- **DEADLINE TO PICK UP: Wednesday, Nov. 13**

We hope you enjoy the game!

Please call 800-THE-HERD or e-mail herdtickets@marshall.edu for all questions.

Thank you for your support of Marshall University Athletics and GO HERD!
MARSHALL UNIVERSITY THEATRE PRESENTS

THE CURIOUS INCIDENT
OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME

November 13-16
and 20-23
7:30 PM

Joan C. Edwards Playhouse
(304) 696-ARTS (2787)

Based on the novel by Mark Haddon
Adapted by Simon Stephens

TV - PG: Some coarse language:
Viewer discretion advised

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STOCK UP & BUNDLE UP SALE!

25% OFF

Your favorite name brands, assorted fleece, long sleeve tees,
outerwear, cold weather accessories, frames & logoed drinkware*

November 12-14

Marshall University Bookstore
Marshallstore.com

*Discount taken at register. Excludes clearance and better apparel brands. Other exclusions may apply. Sale ends 11/14/2019.
Listening sessions on prevention, treatment and recovery to begin Nov. 14

The Marshall University Center of Excellence for Recovery will host public listening sessions in Calhoun, Jackson, Mason, Ritchie and Roane counties to gather input regarding the prevention, treatment and recovery needs of individuals and communities affected by opioid/substance use. Information will be collected by the Marshall University Center of Excellence for Recovery in partnership with Prestera Center, Westbrook Health Services, local county coalitions and Family Resource Networks (FRN).

At the listening sessions, attendees will be asked to talk about community resources, their strengths and gaps in care, and what the priorities should be for service development.

There is also an electronic survey that community members can complete to help assess where partnerships can be strengthened throughout the five-county area. The survey can be accessed through the Marshall University SBIRT Facebook page at the following link: https://www.facebook.com/290348181350506/posts/943819839336667?d=n&sfns=mo.

Listening Session Dates and Times

- **Calhoun County, Thursday, Nov. 14, 10 a.m.**
  Calhoun County Board of Education, 540 Alan B. Mollohan Dr., Mount Zion, WV 26151. Sponsored by the Minnie Hamilton and Wild & Wonderful Calhoun County Coalition.

- **Roane County, Tuesday, Nov. 19, Noon.**
  Roane County High School Room 5, 1 Raider Way, Spencer, WV 25276. Sponsored by Roane County FRN.

- **Mason County, Tuesday, Nov. 19, 3 p.m.**
  Mason County Courthouse Annex, 200 Sixth Street, Point Pleasant, WV 25550. Sponsored by Mason County FRN.

- **Ritchie County, Thursday, Nov. 21, Noon.**
  2479 Ellenboro Rd. Ste. D, Harrisville, WV 26362. Sponsored by Ritchie County FRN.
• Jackson County, Friday, Nov. 22, 2 p.m.
WVU JGH Hospital Learning Center, 122 Pinnell Street, Ripley, WV 25271. Sponsored by Jackson County FRN.

For more information contact Amy Saunders by e-mail at saunde22@marshall.edu or by phone at 304-696-4800.

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Artists, Scholars, & Innovators

A L E C T U R E S E R I E S

The Language of Turning Frustration Into Beauty

PRESENTED BY

Dr. April Fugett
Professor of Psychology and winner of the 2018-2019 Hedrick Outstanding Faculty Award

Thursday, November 14, 2019
4-5 p.m. | Dranko Library 402

Light refreshments to follow.

Contact ctl@marshall.edu to learn more. Hosted by the Center for Teaching and Learning.

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Marshall University School of Music faculty members Dr. Carline Waugh and Dr. Johan Botes will present "Many Moods in Song: A Celebration of Life through Music," at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 14, at Smith Recital Hall.

Waugh, a soprano, and Botes, on piano, will perform works by Mozart, Duparc, Lehár, Strauss, and Previn.

"This promises to be an evening of celebration of our journey through life," said Waugh, an assistant professor of voice. "We will take the audience on a path of intimate exploration and reflection as we closely examine the highs of love, and the lows associated with loss."

The concert is free and open to the public, with sponsorship from the School of Music in the College of Arts and Media.

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Marshall to host internationally acclaimed educator Stephen Ritz

Stephen Ritz, an internationally-acclaimed South Bronx educator who is known as "America’s Favorite Teacher," will discuss how his principles can be applied to the Huntington area to promote healing and growth, as well as how the Marshall University Sustainability and Social Work departments already have similar projects underway.

Ritz is the author of the bestselling book, *The Power of a Plant*, and founder of Green Bronx Machine. He is responsible for creating the first edible classroom in the world, which he has developed into the National Health, Wellness and Learning Center. Ritz and his students have grown more than 85,000 pounds of vegetables in the South Bronx, which has increased school attendance from 40% to 93% daily and also helped provide 2,200 youth jobs in the area.

Ritz was a Top Ten Finalist for the Global Teacher Prize; named Global Humanitarian, Food Tank Hero, TEDx Prize Winner, Global Food Educator; and presented at the White House for President Barack Obama three times. A replica of his classroom was also installed in the United States Botanic Garden in Washington, D.C., and his curriculum is being used internationally, as well as in hundreds of schools across the country.

For more information on Green Bronx Machine, visit [https://greenbronxmachine.org/](https://greenbronxmachine.org/). For more information on Marshall’s Sustainability Department, visit [http://www.marshall.edu/sustainability](http://www.marshall.edu/sustainability).
QPR
Question, Persuade, Refer
SUICIDE PREVENTION TRAINING
FREE 1 HOUR TRAINING
Learn more about helping someone who may be suicidal.

NOV. 18
4-5 PM
DRINKO LIBRARY
ROOM 402

Marshall University
SCHOOL OF MUSIC
PRESENTS
bloom
UNIVERSITY CHORUS CONCERT
MONDAY,
NOVEMBER 18
7:30 P.M.
Smith Recital Hall
The concert will feature 3RD AVENUE, Marshall's contemporary a cappella group, along with the RECOVERY POINT CHOIR and CYPRESS.

Sponsored by the School of Music in the College of Arts and Media.
www.marshall.edu
WAIT, THAT’S TRAUMA?

Presentation on Trauma and its Effects

5-7 p.m. | Tuesday, November 19, 2019
Man Elementary School Gymnasium
1 Pioneer Path
Mallory, WV 25634

Attendees can expect to learn about childhood exposure to trauma and its negative impact on development, learning, and social, psychological, and biological systems. This brief presentation will discuss how to effectively and healthily combat stress using a trauma-informed approach.

Learn what we, as mentors, can do to help children with previous trauma exposure.

This community-wide event is free and open to the public.

The event is sponsored by SAMHSA, the WV State Opioid Response Grant and Marshall University’s Department of Social Work in partnership with Man Elementary and the Logan County Prevention Coalition. Contact whitek@marshall.edu to learn more.
Reminder: Important purchasing meeting Nov. 20 regarding timing of purchase orders

Marshall University has received communication from the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission (HEPC) and the West Virginia State Auditor’s Office (WVSAO) regarding Purchase Order/Agreement and Change Order acceptance dates in connection to the dates Marshall University receives the goods/services. Specifically, some Purchase Order/Agreement and Change Order documents are being submitted to the Office of Purchasing AFTER the goods/services are received by the university.

In the past, the Marshall University Office of Purchasing has processed After-the-Fact procurements when an office/department has ordered/received materials, services or construction prior to a Purchase Order/Agreement or Change Order being issued by the Office of Purchasing.

If you or any member of your team is involved with acquiring/procuring goods/services for your department, it is imperative you take a moment to read this notification in its entirety.
Effective immediately, the Marshall University Office of Purchasing **MUST** sign and approve all Purchase Orders/Agreements and Change Orders and issue the award document to the vendor **PRIOR TO** any goods/services being received. If a vendor provides goods/services to Marshall University prior to Purchase Order/Agreement and Change Order issuance/approval, Marshall University will be unable to issue payment using state funding.

To allow our university partners to comply with this new policy, we will allow a one-month grace period for After-the-Fact purchases. You may continue to submit them to the Office of Purchasing until November 30, 2019, with a letter of justification outlining the reason(s) an award was made prior to the purchase. Any After-the-Fact Purchases received after that date will not be processed by the Office of Purchasing.

An information session is scheduled for Wednesday, **Nov. 20, at 10:30 a.m.** in the Shawkey Dining Room in the Memorial Student Center, with representatives from Purchasing and Finance for further explanation and to answer any additional questions.

We look forward to working with you on this new process. If you are unable to attend the information session and have questions regarding a pending After-the-Fact purchase, please feel free to contact the Office of Purchasing via e-mail at purchasing@marshall.edu.

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**SNACK CHATS**

with Libraries and Online Learning

1 p.m., Wednesday, November 20
South Charleston Campus Library

This month’s drop-in workshop covers **Copyright Do’s and Don’ts**

- Keep up with current litigation that changes how we handle copyrighted material
- Be aware of what you can and can’t put in your own material

Monthly snack chat events are open to faculty, staff and students. Additional events are scheduled for October 15 and November 12.
**Marshall University CLASSICS DEPARTMENT presents**

**HOPLITES: THE FIGHTING RICH OR THE FIGHTING POOR?**

by RICHARD FERNANDO BUXTON
of Colorado College

**WEDNESDAY, NOV. 20**
**3:00 P.M.**
**DRINKO LIBRARY 138**

Free and open to the public.
Refreshments and Reception to Follow

Sponsored by the Classics Department in the College of Liberal Arts

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**Marshall University presents**

**THE REALITY OF CLIMATE CHANGE**

A presentation on the impacts, solutions and what YOU can do to help drive action.

**Wednesday, November 20 | 7:00-8:30 p.m.**
**Memorial Student Center BE-5**

Community by community, we are demanding action on climate change.

Sponsored by the Marshall University Department of Social Work, Sustainability Department and a Climate Reality Leader, one of thousands of volunteers in 135 countries around the globe who have been personally trained by U.S. Vice President and Nobel Laureate Al Gore to educate the public about climate change.

Learn More: www.ClimateRealityProject.org
www.marshall.edu
Retirement reception for Dr. Eldon Larsen to take place

Dr. Eldon Larsen, professor of engineering, is retiring at the end of December after 20 years of teaching at Marshall University. A retirement reception is planned for 2:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 21, in the J. Churchill Hodges Atrium of the Arthur Weisberg Family Applied Engineering Complex. All are welcome.

Those planning to attend are encouraged to send an RSVP to cholley@marshall.edu.

Congratulations, Dr. Larsen, and thank you for your service.
Lecture Recital
Korean Traditional Music
Elements for Classical Music
with
DR. ALEXANDER LEE

NOV. 21 | 6 P.M.
SMITH MUSIC HALL | STUDIO 143

Free and open to all.

Featuring music by Dr. Alexander Lee (tenor), Dr. Wendell Dobbs (flute) and Professor Steven Hall (traditional Korean percussion).

This lecture-recital was supported by the Summer Research Award from Marshall University
www.marshall.edu/music

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Marshall Symphonic Band to present ‘The Places You’ll Go’

The School of Music will present a Marshall Symphonic Band concert, "The Places You’ll Go," conducted by Jesse Stevens, assistant director of bands. The concert will be at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 21, in Smith Recital Hall and will feature works by Robert Sheldon, Samuel R. Hazo, Rossano Galante and Frank Ticheli.

"The Marshall Symphonic Band would like to take you on a musical journey with challenging works representing different locations in America and beyond with exciting flourishes in the woodwinds and epic fanfares from the brass," Stevens said. "From the busy streets of New York to the echoing Shenandoah mountains, this concert will be one that you will not want to miss."

The concert is free and open to the public, with sponsorship from the School of Music in the College of Arts and Media. All are welcome.

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Patients nominate three Marshall surgical residents for ‘Resident of the Month’ honor

For the first time in its five-year history, the Resident of the Month honor at the Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine has been awarded to three residents for the month of October, announced Paulette S. Wehner, M.D., vice dean for graduate medical education at the school.

"In October, we had several patients take the time to write us to tell about their patient care experience with three separate residents," Wehner said. "Given that, we felt we had to change the selection process and honor all three as Residents of the Month in recognition of providing outstanding patient care."

Sharing the Resident of the Month title for October are Keitaro Nakamoto, M.D.; Jenalee Corsello, M.D.; and Jessica Hale, D.O., all residents within the surgery program at Marshall.

"As a program director and chair, anytime we have a surgery resident recognized, I become even more proud of the residents and our program," said David A. Denning, M.D., chair of the department of surgery and residency program director. "But, to have three residents from our surgical team nominated by multiple patients makes me unbelievably proud of them and our program. Our surgery residents work extremely hard for five years and this type of recognition motivates them."

Keitaro Nakamoto, M.D., is in his fifth and final year as a surgery resident. As the education chief resident, Nakamoto leads weekly didactics, a designed and implemented an education curriculum for the residents. He is also involved in the robotic simulation and surgical skills curricula. A graduate of the Okayama University School of Medicine in Okayama, Japan, Nakamoto was one of six Japanese physicians selected in the U.S. Naval Hospital Yokosuka’s Japanese National Physician Graduate Medical Education Program. The published resident is involved with numerous ongoing research
projects and has presented at several national conferences. Nakamoto received the 2019 Seddon Program Award that recognizes the most promising rising fifth-year resident. He will enter a minimally invasive surgery fellowship at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Harvard Medical School, after he finishes residency in June 2020.

Jenalee Corsello, M.D., a third-year surgery resident, earned her Doctor of Medicine from Ross University School of Medicine in Bridgetown, Barbados. She also holds a Master in Public Health (MPH) from Touro University in California and a microbial biology degree from the University of California, Berkeley. After completing residency in June 2022, the California native plans to complete a fellowship.

Jessica Hale, D.O., graduated from the Lincoln Memorial University-DeBusk College of Osteopathic Medicine in Harrogate, Tennessee. The third-year surgery resident is a Tennessee native who earned a biology degree from University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. She is participating in several studies, including a West Virginia Rural Health Initiative grant to study the well-being study of clinical team members in rural and urban hospitals. Hale plans to complete a plastic surgery fellowship after graduation in June 2022.

As part of their recognition as the October Resident of the Month, the trio received items including a small educational fund stipend, plaque and designated parking spot.

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*Photo: Keitaro Nakamoto, M.D. (left), Jessica Hale, D.O. (second from left) and Jenalee Corsello, M.D. (right), were recognized as October Residents of the Month at Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine by David A. Denning, M.D. (second from right), department chair and residency program director for surgery.*
Marshall accepting entries for Appalachian art exhibition

Marshall University Libraries is accepting entries for their annual art exhibition. Titled "Reframing Appalachia: Images, Stories and Dreams for the Future," the exhibition plays off of the library's recent display of Roger May's traveling exhibit "Looking at Appalachia."

"We’re trying to create a yearlong theme on exploring Appalachian identity through actual Appalachians’ eyes, rather than people outside of Appalachia who often stereotype the region," said Sabrina Thomas, instruction and research librarian at Marshall.

Students, faculty, staff and community members are encouraged to enter works that speak to their experiences, including poetry and other short works of writing. All types of visual media, with the exception of video, are welcome and artists may enter as many pieces as they wish for jurying.

"One goal of this exhibition is to fill the walls with original Appalachian artwork that reflects local artists' lives as they define them," Thomas said. "Another is to empower artists and storytellers through the opportunity to showcase their truth in creation. We hope that artists localize their artwork as much as possible."

The exhibition will be open to the public Jan. 13 through May 11, 2020. Submission drop off is scheduled for Monday, Dec. 2 and Tuesday, Dec. 3 in Drinko Library. The show prospectus and entry form is available at the Visual Arts Center and Drinko Library Circulation Desk, and is also available for download at https://libguides.marshall.edu/ReframingAppalachia.

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Call for Participation
BodyShots XIII: Witch, Please
Proposal deadline: December 13
Show is Tuesday, February 25

Artists, writers, thinkers, and everyone in between — submit your proposal for the 13th annual BodyShots multimedia performance.

We are looking for a wide variety of formats to highlight the theme of WITCHES.

All Marshall students, faculty, staff, and community members are invited to submit!

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**FOOD DRIVE**

Marshall University Libraries will be accepting non-perishable food items in place of payment for library fines. All items will be donated to Marshall Food Pantry.

Easy open, pop-top cans are recommended. Donations of basic, manual can openers are appreciated.

For more information visit the Drinko Circulation Desk. email drinkoaccessservices@marshall.edu or call 304-696-2321

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Deadline is Dec. 31 for Sarah Denman Faces of Appalachia Fellowship Award

The purpose of this fellowship award, sponsored by the Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Gender in Appalachia (CSEGA), is to promote scholarship on gender, race, and/or ethnicity in Appalachia. The fellowship is awarded annually to a full-time Marshall University faculty member. The Sarah Denman Faces of Appalachia Fellow, who is selected by the CSEGA Advisory Board and announced at the annual spring faculty meeting, receives a $3,000 cash award. Fellows present their scholarship to the Marshall community in the spring of their fellowship year (spring, 2021).

Application Process

Marshall faculty members interested in being considered for the fellowship award should submit a professional vita along with a 1-2 page abstract of the proposed project. Please include a statement that clearly defines the scope of your work and explains how the fellowship will assist you in your research. The research, must emphasize gender, race, and/or ethnicity in Appalachia, may be a new project or a continuation of a project already underway.

Please send application materials by email to Mary Thomas at mthomas@marshall.edu by December 31, 2019. The award winner, as well as other applicants, will be notified early in the spring, 2020 semester.

For additional information about the Sarah Denman Faces of Appalachia Fellowship Award, contact Lori Thompson, assistant professor, at thompson39@marshall.edu

Sarah Denman Faces of Appalachia Fellowship Award*

2020–2021 Academic Year

DEADLINE DECEMBER 31, 2019
*This award is funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

MU INFORMATION SECURITY ADVISORY: DON'T GET HOOKED BY A HOLIDAY E-MAIL SCAM

STOP. Do not click links or open attachments.

THINK. Am I expecting this? If not, delete the e-mail or verify the sender.

CONNECT. Directly type the organization's known URL into your web browser to visit the site.

For more information contact Information Technology
itservicedesk@marshall.edu
Timely identification of newborns exposed to both opioids and gabapentin during pregnancy could mean more appropriate care for newborns experiencing withdrawal, according to researchers at Marshall University, in collaboration with Marshall Health, Cabell Huntington Hospital and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Infants exposed to opioids during pregnancy may experience withdrawal symptoms after birth. However, according to the retrospective review study e-published Oct. 24, 2019, in The Journal of Pediatrics, those exposed to both opioids and gabapentin during pregnancy may have atypical withdrawal symptoms such as rapid eye movement, restlessness of the arms and legs, tongue thrusting, back arching and involuntary muscle twitching. As a result, health care providers may have a more difficult time treating infants who are co-exposed.

Gabapentin is an FDA-approved medication for nerve pain, epilepsy and in combination with medication-assisted treatment for opioid use disorder, but its misuse has been documented. Because maternal self-reporting can underestimate prenatal exposure to substances, Marshall researchers examined the impact of universal, post-delivery maternal toxicology screening including gabapentin.

"Our study found an increase in identification of co-exposure, which led to more timely treatment and likely shorter hospital stays for those newborns experiencing withdrawal," said Sean Loudin, M.D., lead author and associate professor of pediatrics at the Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine, a board-certified neonatologist with Marshall Health and medical director of the Neonatal Therapeutic Unit at Cabell Huntington Hospital and Lily’s Place.

Before universal screening, newborns with co-exposure began treatment around day 20, on average. After universal screening began, newborns with co-exposure began treatment around day 14 of life, on average. Likewise, before universal screening, newborns with co-exposure had an average hospital stay of 58 days. After universal screening began, newborns with co-exposure had an average hospital stay of 48 days.
"While the charge for laboratory testing did increase slightly with the additional testing, the potential cost savings by reducing the average length of stay in a medical facility was much greater," Loudin said.

Data are limited on the long-term effects of gabapentin exposure during pregnancy on an infant’s development. More research is needed to understand the full impact of multiple substances during pregnancy on infants.

Amy Saunders, managing director of the Marshall University Center of Excellence for Recovery, said the research was an excellent example of interdisciplinary work at an academic medical center.

"Our team of researchers included a neonatologist, a pediatric neurologist, a nurse and two psychologists from Marshall," Saunders said. “Interdisciplinary research is the key to understanding the whole person and responding to their unique needs. By bringing together multiple disciplines, along with local and federal researchers, we were able to draw on the expertise of multiple partners to examine the benefits of universal screenings.”

To read the article in its entirely, please visit https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jpeds.2019.09.029. The study will also be published in an upcoming print issue of The Journal of Pediatrics.

Additional quotes from Loudin are available at http://bit.ly/2KhE9IM.

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Study 1192053-2 was approved by Marshall University Institutional Review Board #1.
The next regular issue of *We Are...Marshall* will be distributed November 20, 2019. Please send items for consideration to WAMnewsletter@marshall.edu by 5 p.m. Monday, November 18, 2019.

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To read the content of this newsletter online, please click on the following link: www.marshall.edu/wamnewsletter/November-13-2019.

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