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WE ARE... MARSHALL®

The Newsletter for Marshall University

April 29, 2020

University making tentative plans to offer on-campus classes for fall semester



President Gilbert sent the following message Monday, April 27:

Dear Marshall University community,

Let me start by saying how incredibly proud I am to be your president, now perhaps even more than ever.

Over the past weeks, I have repeatedly been awed, inspired and almost brought to tears by the dedication to our educational mission by our faculty and staff, the acts of kindness and generosity by our students and employees, and the commitment to our community's safety and wellbeing by every member of the Marshall family.

As I wrote in a column for *The Parthenon* last week, I know our world is forever changed by the COVID-19 pandemic—in some ways for the better, although it may be hard to see that right now. I also know we all have questions that cannot be completely answered quite yet.

What will next academic year look like? (More on this in a minute.) Will we be able to gather 1,800 freshmen around the John Marshall statue for the traditional class photograph in August? Will we have football in the fall? Will we all be able to participate in traditional programs like Freshman Convocation and Commencement, with large numbers of people in the audience?

We will all know much more in the coming weeks and months, as incidences of the virus hopefully continue to decline and our communities start opening back up.

In the meantime, we must keep hope alive. Here are just a few of the things keeping hope alive for me right now:

- Our faculty and students have taken the transition to distance learning head on and, for the most part, made it work. It has been difficult, I know, but we have adapted and will get through this semester.

- Dr. Suzanne Strait from Biological Sciences, along with her West Virginia Mask Army, as well as a number of our theatre students, have sewn thousands of cloth masks for health care workers.
- When our community's first responders were having trouble finding supplies, our School of Pharmacy made and bottled hand sanitizer for them.
- Our research laboratories generously gathered up their stocks of masks, gowns and other personal protective equipment and sent it to local hospitals.
- Marshall scientists addressed a state-wide shortage of the solution used to transport testing swabs by making the mixture in one of our labs.
- Our Robert C. Byrd Institute (RCBI) led the state's efforts to 3D print N95 masks for use by health care providers.
- Dr. Marianna Linz, chair of our Psychology department, was a driving force in putting together the inspirational Huntington COVID-19 Care Plan to help the most vulnerable in our local population.

There are many, many more examples of how the Marshall family has stepped up time after time to take care of one another, their neighbors and their communities. Thank you all for everything you have done and will do as we continue to face obstacles on the path to our new normal.

Fall 2020 Semester

We know our students and their families place great value on the personal approach we offer at Marshall, and we are working steadily toward safely and responsibly providing an on-campus academic experience for our students in the fall. Given the trends and projections available to us today, we believe that modifications to the fall semester—such as creative class scheduling and other social distancing strategies—can make that possible.

Provost Jaime Taylor is coordinating with the deans and our campus health/safety experts to develop academic and student life plans for the fall. We will be sharing more information as their plans are finalized, but I wanted you to know that at this time, we are committed to having as close to a normal fall semester for our students as we possibly can.

Campus Offices

We are also starting to plan for a re-opening of campus offices, although we are likely a few weeks away from taking that step. Our [Office of Environmental Health and Safety](#) is working with [Human Resource Services](#) and Marshall Health's chief medical officer to develop a comprehensive plan that we will share with all employees as soon as it is finalized. In the meantime, offices will continue to operate remotely and staff will continue to telecommute until further notice.

Budget Challenges

Due to the pandemic and the related uncertainty regarding enrollment, financial markets and other factors, we know we face a multimillion-dollar budget hole in the fall. Universities across the country are grappling with these same issues, so we are certainly not alone.

Most national higher education surveys are predicting a possible decrease in enrollment as families navigate the financial hardships associated with this crisis. We will continue to work diligently to ensure that a Marshall education is affordable and attainable, but we must face the possibility of a decrease in the tuition revenue that funds Marshall University—lower enrollment means less money to support our operations. It's as simple as that.

Add in the unknowns about college athletics, interest earnings on our endowment and possible effects of the economic downturn on our donors, and it becomes clear we have some great challenges still ahead. While we are in one of the strongest financial positions of any public higher education institution in West Virginia, we must prepare for the worst and hope for the best.

With this in mind, I have already put the following actions into motion:

- I have asked Chief Financial Officer Mark Robinson to convene a budget work group made up of representatives of the student body, the faculty and the staff. The group will begin meeting virtually on Tuesday to help identify ways to make significant reductions to the university budget for the coming year. I am sorry to say that these cuts will be deep and they will be painful. I have charged the group with identifying savings of \$15-25 million. Nothing is off the table, so if you have ideas, I urge you to complete our [online form](#). All submissions will be forwarded to the university's leadership team for consideration.
- We have put a hard freeze on all hiring of faculty and staff until further notice. Senior leadership is reviewing positions currently posted to decide which are critical to university operations and which can wait.
- We have placed a hold on all state-funded travel for the next year.
- Athletics leadership is planning for significant budget reductions next year. There is considerable uncertainty right now about the future of intercollegiate athletics at all levels, so they will need to be proactive about managing their budget, too. Reorganization and reductions will be necessary in Athletics just as they will be in the rest of the university's operations.
- Beginning June 1 and extending for up to one year, Provost Taylor and I are taking voluntary pay cuts of 10% and 15%, respectively. Everyone at Marshall will have to make sacrifices in the coming months and, as two of the university's highest-paid administrators, we wanted the savings to start with us.

Marshall University has been through even tougher times than this, and we have a history of perseverance. Although the short term may be challenging, I am certain we will come out much stronger for the future.

Please stay safe and healthy. I look forward to when we can all be together again.

Sincerely,

Jerome A. Gilbert, Ph.D.
President

School of Medicine to celebrate Class of 2020 with virtual ceremony



two additional Class of 2020 students.

A virtual graduation ceremony for the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine will be available for viewing Friday, May 1, on Facebook (www.facebook.com/MUSOMWV) or YouTube (www.youtube.com/HerdVideo).

This annual celebration was shifted to a virtual ceremony due to the 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and social distancing requirements.

The ceremony is expected to include recorded interviews from School of Medicine Dean Joseph I. Shapiro, M.D., the class president and

Photo: The Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine graduation set in the television studio on Marshall University's Huntington campus.

Marshall celebrating Class of 2020 on social media



Marshall has postponed May 2 commencement exercises due to the coronavirus pandemic and plans to hold a formal commencement ceremony for spring 2020 graduates when it is safe to do so.

While the formal ceremony has been postponed, the semester completion date and timeline for students earning their degrees has not been affected.

To help students commemorate the milestone of reaching the end of their college careers and officially becoming Marshall University alumni, the university is conducting a virtual celebration on social media through May 2.

"We plan to celebrate with our Sons and Daughters of Marshall on our social channels throughout the week leading up to their official graduation date on May 2," said Tiffany Davis, digital marketing manager at Marshall. "We will be highlighting some of our graduates and sharing photos and videos throughout the week."

Davis said university officials, including President Jerome A. Gilbert, will also deliver congratulatory messages via social channels. Additionally, there is an online contest for graduating students.

"We plan to celebrate with our graduates throughout the entire day on Saturday, May 2. Graduates will be encouraged to take selfies in their caps and gowns and share them on Instagram using our new graduation stickers and campus effects for a chance to win Marshall University alumni gear and to be added to the official MarshallU graduation story," Davis said.

In addition to the planned posts and contest, graduates and families are invited to share photos and memories throughout the week using #MarshallGrad2020. Follow @MarshallU on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#) to celebrate with the Class of 2020.

A specific date for the formal ceremony has not been decided at this time. The university plans to make an announcement as soon as details are finalized. For questions regarding Commencement, please e-mail commencement@marshall.edu or call 304-696-6410.

Marshall University General Faculty Meeting



WEDNESDAY
APRIL 29, 2020
2:00 P.M.

Video Available at:
livestream.com/marshallu

Sponsored by Faculty Senate
www.marshall.edu



Board of Governors receives update on university operations during COVID-19 crisis

Acknowledging unprecedented circumstances and in its first-ever online meeting, the Marshall University Board of Governors met Thursday, April 23, and received an update on the university's operations during the COVID-19 pandemic and approved a new degree program and student fee schedule, but tabled action on the university's budget because of fluid financial conditions.

"It is amazing to me, and really nearly miraculous, that our faculty, staff and students have been able to adjust from face-to-face instruction to online classes in such a short period of time," said James R. Bailes, board chairman. "I want to commend President Jerry Gilbert, his administration and our faculty for their tireless efforts to ensure our students' needs are met during this extraordinary time."

In financial matters related to the pandemic, the board tabled discussion of the university's 2020-21 budget because of uncertainty regarding fall enrollment, financial markets and other factors. Tuition will remain unchanged for the new academic year, but the student fee schedule, including nominal increases, was approved.

Additionally, the board authorized up to \$4.5 million in university funds to be used this week for emergency financial assistance grants to students to help compensate them for disruption to university services during the pandemic. The grants will pay students for unused room and board plans, and parking and Recreation Center fees. Federal stimulus funds will be used to reimburse the university when Marshall receives the money from the U.S. Department of Education in May.

In his report to the board, Marshall President Jerome A. Gilbert said that while the university is operating in a forward-looking manner, he has asked a university budget committee to find ways to deal with projected reductions in funding due largely to uncertainty created by the pandemic.

"Our core operating budget is heavily dependent on tuition revenue, and lower enrollment means less money, it's as simple as that," Gilbert said. "Most higher education surveys are predicting a nationwide reduction of 10-15% of incoming freshmen for next year and we must address that probability. Students and their families seem to be very much on the fence about whether they want to be on campus next fall with so many unknowns. While we are in one of the strongest financial positions of any public higher education institution in West Virginia, we must prepare for the worst, and hope for the best. Marshall has been through tough times before and persevered. I am committed to keeping our institution strong."

Gilbert also announced at the meeting that he and Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Jaime R. Taylor, who are the two highest-paid administrators at the university, will take temporary, voluntary pay cuts of 15% and 10%, respectively, in a show of good faith as the university moves forward with cost-saving measures he said will affect everyone at the university.

The board also approved a capital project program statement for aviation buildings and a 30-year lease agreement with Yeager Airport. The lease agreement involves construction of a classroom building,

hangars and parking at the airport for Marshall's new flight school. The airport's board approved the tentative agreement yesterday.

Other board action included the following:

- Approval of a new Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering. Until now, the university has offered an engineering degree with an emphasis on civil engineering. Officials believe the change will help with marketing of the program;
- Recommended continuation of 21 academic degrees following a review process;
- Approval of a new curriculum for the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine, which features more weight on the clinical years. Medical School Dean Joseph I. Shapiro said the change is in line with curricula at medical schools across the country. The change, which also includes a small increase in the fee schedule, will begin with the class of 2023; and
- Approval of an investment earnings update.

Additionally, the board accepted a financial report detailing the refinancing of bonds, which will save the university a million dollars annually in bond payments and will provide \$27 million in extra funding for capital projects, including a new building to house the Lewis College of Business.

All summer orientation sessions to take place online

Marshall University announced Monday, April 27, that all new student orientation sessions will be conducted online this summer in keeping with safety and health guidelines as directed by the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#).

New student orientation, a requirement for all incoming freshmen and transfer students, serves as the formal introduction to the university. Students can expect an exciting and engaging online experience that will include group sessions, live Q&A, academic college meetings with deans and academic advisors, student life and housing information, additional resource information and the opportunity for one-on-one contact with members of the Marshall community.

Students who have already received a confirmation for orientation will maintain their original date. Students who have not yet registered may reserve a date by completing the orientation registration form at www.marshall.edu/orientation. There are at least 10 online orientation sessions available across June, July and August.

To participate in orientation, a student must have paid their \$100 deposit or have been approved for an enrollment deposit waiver. The deposit is applied to their first semester tuition bill and can be paid online at <https://www.marshall.edu/recruitment/enroll/> or by phone at 304-696-6620.

Students with new and previously confirmed registrations should watch for additional information about logging in to the virtual, online Marshall experience. Details will be mailed closer to the scheduled date.

Questions may be directed to the Office of New Student Orientation by phone at 304-696-2354 or by e-mail at orientation@marshall.edu.

N95 mask decontamination for community health care organizations available through Cabell Huntington Hospital, Marshall Health



With limited supplies of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) across the country, Cabell Huntington Hospital (CHH) and Marshall Health are working together to help local health care organizations decontaminate N95 respirator masks for reuse.

N95 masks are tight-fitting respirators that filter out at least 95% of particles in the air, including large and small particles. The Xenex LightStrike™ Pulsed Xenon UV robot quickly decontaminates the N95 masks using bursts of intense, germicidal UVC light to deactivate viruses and bacteria. After

the 10-minute disinfection process, CHH staff also inspects the respirators to ensure that damaged or soiled masks are appropriately discarded.

After testing the effectiveness of the process, CHH, part of Mountain Health Network, began decontaminating N95 masks for clinic and hospital employees earlier this month, followed by St. Mary's Medical Center and Pleasant Valley Hospital last week. After testing internally, CHH is now offering this service to other local health care facilities in need, such as nursing homes. Marshall Health is facilitating mask collections and deliveries.

"Maintaining our supply of PPE is essential so that front-line workers can appropriately protect themselves and others," said Kara S. Willenburg, M.D., chief of infectious disease at the Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine and Marshall Health. "N95 decontamination helps preserve that supply, while keeping our health care workers on the front lines of the COVID-19 crisis safe."

Organizational guidelines limit reuse with pulsed UV light technology to five decontamination cycles before the mask is discarded. Cabell Huntington Hospital can decontaminate approximately 500 masks a day. The masks are back in circulation within 24 hours.

Health care organizations that would like to participate should contact Jamey Montgomery, director of environment of care and safety compliance/operations for Marshall Health, at 304-691-1642 or montgomerych@marshall.edu.

Photo: The Xenex LightStrike™ Pulsed Xenon UV robot at Cabell Huntington Hospital decontaminates N95 masks using intense bursts of UVC light to kill germs.

Marshall student Zac Doss wins award in ‘NextGen: The Voices of Tomorrow’



Zac Doss, a fourth-year student majoring in voice and English, has received the Chip Hand Prize for Vocal Excellence at the "NextGen: The Voices of Tomorrow" competition sponsored by the American Pops Orchestra. The award carries with it a cash prize and possible performing opportunities.

"Winning the competition turned out to be a really nice surprise," Doss, who is from Scott Depot, West Virginia, said. "I'm really excited for the opportunities it may bring." He said that after the Marshall Chamber Choir trip to Europe was cancelled and the tour with his band, Cypress, was postponed, the change to the online format for this competition, rather than a trip to Washington, D.C., seemed to be just another disappointment until he was announced as the winner.

The award was announced online April 26 after semifinal and final rounds on April 24 and 25, respectively. Making the announcement and hosting the sessions was Luke Frazier, founder and conductor of the American Pops Orchestra, and, coincidentally, a West Virginia native from, according to his Facebook page, the Parkersburg area. Frazier attended Alders-Broadus University, West Virginia University and Ohio University.

I hope this accomplishment inspires every young student in West Virginia," said Dr. Alexander Lee, assistant professor of voice at Marshall, who is Doss' teacher. "Compared to his competitors in this competition, he started learning music quite late, but he worked hard for the last four years at Marshall University. If there was an opportunity, he did not hesitate to challenge himself to participate in it ... he participated in numerous competitions, opera workshops, chamber choir, musical theater and concerts. Last year, he won in the Eastern National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) competition and this year he won in the NextGen competition. I truly believe that students of West Virginia can have

careers in the arts if they trust themselves and work hard, as Zac did. As his voice instructor, I cannot express enough how proud I am of Zac."

"I can't thank Dr. Alexander Lee enough for everything he has taught me and for always being the most supportive and hard-working teacher a person could ask for," Doss said.

Photo: Zac Doss is interviewed online after announcement of his win in the American Pops Orchestra's "NextGen: The Voices of Tomorrow" competition.

Jerrod Justice, M.D., named April Resident of the Month at School of Medicine



The Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine has named Jerrod D. Justice, M.D., its Resident of the Month for April, announced Paulette S. Wehner, M.D., vice dean of graduate medical education at the school. Justice is completing his fourth and final year as an obstetrics and gynecology resident.

"Medical residents are in a unique position during this pandemic," Wehner said. "Not only are they developing their skills as clinicians, but they can offer valuable assistance to their attendings. We are fortunate to have leaders like Dr. Justice who innately exceed expectations to assist others."

Nominated by Joseph Derosa, D.O., an OB/GYN at Valley Health, Justice was praised for his willingness to go above and beyond. "He stayed with me on a tough abdominal hysterectomy with bilateral salpingo-oophorectomy and helped complete the case without complications," Derosa said. "Dr. Justice will be an excellent attending."

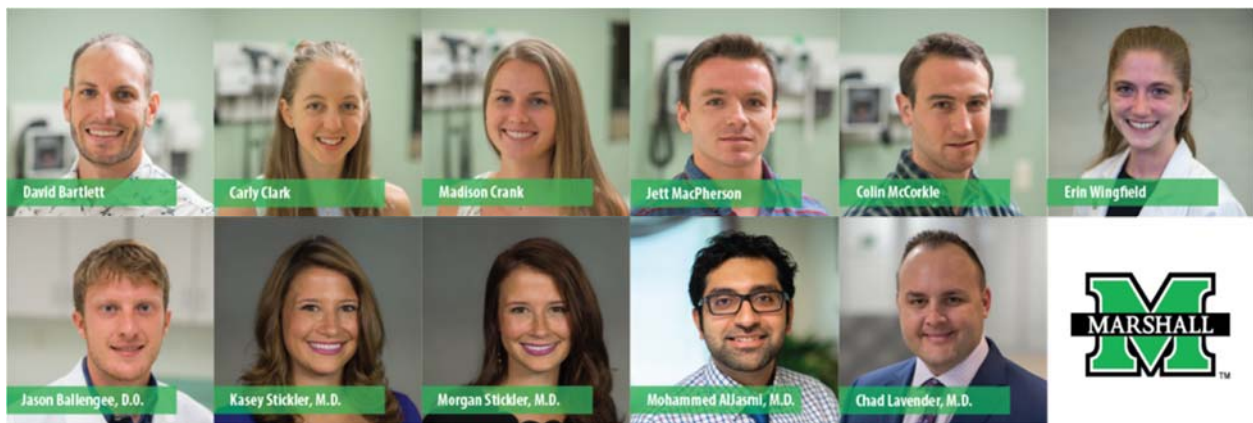
As a chief resident in OB/GYN, Justice performs administrative and clinical duties. He also serves on committees for the Office of Graduate Medical Education and those advising the transition of our electronic health record. "His service to the department and the institution is greatly appreciated," said Kevin Conaway, M.D., OB/GYN residency program director.

Justice, a Parkersburg, West Virginia native, earned his undergraduate and medical degrees from Marshall University. After graduation in June, Justice will join Stuart May, M.D., a 2018 graduate of Marshall's

OB/GYN residency program, to enter into practice at the Women's Health Services of Central Virginia in Lynchburg. Justice and his wife, Kelsi, have one son, Parker, and are expecting a daughter in August.

Photo: Dr. Kevin Conaway (left) presents Dr. Jerrod Justice with his April Resident of the Month plaque.

School of Medicine selects new members for medical honor society



The Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine selected six medical students, three resident physicians and two faculty members for membership into Alpha Omega Alpha (AOA) Honor Medical Society.

New members are traditionally inducted during a ceremony each spring. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the induction ceremony for 2020 has been canceled.

Student inductees are selected from among the top quartile of students in a given class based on academic performance, leadership, professionalism and a firm sense of ethics, promise of future success in medicine and a commitment to service in the school and community. Resident and faculty inductees are selected by a caucus of members of the society, including students.

New inductees include third-year medical students David Bartlett, Carly Clark, Madison Crank, Jett MacPherson, Colin McCorkle and Erin Wingfield. Resident inductees for 2020 are Jason Ballengee, D.O., internal medicine resident; Kasey Stickler, M.D., family medicine resident; and Morgan Stickler, M.D., family medicine resident. Mohammed AlJasmi, M.D., assistant professor of medicine, and Chad Lavender, M.D., assistant professor of orthopaedic surgery, are the faculty inductees for 2020.

The Marshall University chapter of Alpha Omega Alpha is one of 132 chapters across the country. Since the organization's founding in 1902, nearly 200,000 members have been elected to the society nationwide.

H.E.L.P. Center earns recognition for Marshall



Because of the H.E.L.P. Center's outstanding programs for students with learning disabilities, Marshall has been named among the 30 Best Colleges for Students with Learning Disabilities by College Consensus. Learn more at <https://www.collegeconsensus.com/rankings/best-colleges-for-students-with-learning-disabilities/>.

Athletic training student awarded scholarship from NATA Research and Education Foundation



Kimberly Hill, a first-year graduate student in the Marshall University Professional Master of Science in Athletic Training (PMSAT) program, has been awarded the William Prentice / MAATA (D3) Scholarship from the National Athletic Trainers' Association (NATA) Research and Education Foundation.

Hill, a 21-year old Martinsburg native, is the only student in West Virginia to receive the \$2,300 national scholarship. She will be recognized for her award in late June during the NATA Clinical Symposium in Atlanta, Georgia. Dr. Zach Garrett,

director of the university's athletic training program, said Hill is an exceptional student who remains committed to advancing the athletic training profession in the state of West Virginia.

"Kim has held leadership roles in several student organizations on campus and currently serves as a junior senator for the Mid-Atlantic Athletic Trainers' Association (MAATA) Student Senate. Her leadership

role for the MAATA Student Senate revolves around public relations, where she has had the opportunity to promote the athletic training profession and shine light on the need for athletic trainers," Garrett said. "By choosing to pursue a degree in athletic training, she's able to help athletes throughout the Tri-State and has begun to establish herself as a leader with other prospective athletic training students and professionals across the state and district. Her strong didactic, clinical and leadership skills were great contributing factors in her receiving this national scholarship."

Growing up playing sports, Hill said she always dreamed of being a professional athlete. Eventually, reality set in, and she said she had to figure out what she was going to do with her life.

"I first learned of the athletic training profession while in high school from my mother, who is a physical therapist, and I haven't considered a different career ever since. I grew up 'helping' my mom study for her exams while she was in physical therapy school – I couldn't pronounce half the words on her notecards, but I liked to pretend to help – and then watching her treat patients at a clinic after receiving her license," Hill said. "My mom's passion for physical therapy and helping people has been something I have dreamt to have with a career for as long as I can remember. And athletic training allows me to have that."

Hill said she plans to use the award monies from the scholarship to help with the cost of tuition and advanced certification classes to further her education.

"Winning such an award recognizes the work we are doing at Marshall at the national level and shows that the guidance from our athletic training faculty allows students to be successful and to become leaders in the profession," Hill said. "I wouldn't have been able to win this scholarship without the mentorship I have received while in the athletic training program, so this award is just as much an acknowledgment of the excellence of Marshall's athletic training curriculum as it is of what I have accomplished as a student in the program."

Hill currently serves as an active member and treasurer of the Delta Zeta Sorority as well as the vice president of the Marshall University Athletic Training Association (MUATA).

To learn more about Marshall's 3+2 PMSAT program, which allows students to earn both bachelor's and master's degree in only five years, contact Garrett at garrett46@marshall.edu or visit www.marshall.edu/athletic-training/.

Photo: Kimberly Hill, a first-year graduate student in the Marshall University Professional Master of Science in Athletic Training (PMSAT) program, has been awarded the William Prentice / MAATA (D3) Scholarship from the National Athletic Trainers' Association (NATA) Research and Education Foundation.

Alumnus commits support for aspiring pediatricians

Stephen M. Jones, M.D., a practicing pediatrician and Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine alumnus, along with his wife, Taryn Jones, have established the Dr. Stephen M. Jones Scholarship for aspiring pediatricians.



"I would not be the physician leader I am today without the solid education and rich experiences I received at Marshall University," said Jones, who is the founder of Parkside Pediatrics in South Carolina. "I have been blessed beyond what I deserve and starting a scholarship is one small way I can give back to help meet a need for a student who is on the same path that I once traveled."

Jones earned a Bachelor of Science in biology from Presbyterian College in 1999. He graduated from Marshall with his Doctor of Medicine in 2004 and completed his pediatric residency at Greenville Hospital System in 2007.

The Dr. Stephen M. Jones Scholarship is a one-time award for a medical student pursuing a career as a pediatrician and matched in a pediatric residency. Special consideration is given to a student who has demonstrated experience in or commitment to student ministry, domestic and international medical missions or faith-based student medical associations.

Will T. Lester of Barboursville, West Virginia, is the first recipient of this scholarship. Lester graduated from the University of Kentucky and is among this year's class of Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine graduates. He matched at the University of Florida College of Medicine's Shands Hospital in Gainesville, Florida.

Lester's community service includes leading small group discussion with the Celebrate Recovery addiction recovery program; participation in Marshall Medical Outreach, which provides medical care to Huntington's homeless community; and volunteering at the Hoops Children's Hospital at Cabell Huntington Hospital. He has also been published in the Marshall Medical Journal and is the recipient of Rural Health Information research grants.

For more information or to make a gift to the Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine, please contact Linda Holmes, director of development and alumni affairs, by phone at 304-691-1711 or by e-mail at holmes@marshall.edu or visit jcesom.marshall.edu/alumni.

Photo: Marshall School of Medicine alumnus Dr. Stephen M. Jones, his wife Taryn Jones, and their three children.

Marshall to host virtual Career Expo for students next week



In response to COVID-19, Marshall University's Office of Career Education will conduct a virtual Career Expo from 2 to 4 p.m. Wednesday, May 6, on the university's JobTrax web site. The event is for all majors seeking full-time, part-time and internship positions, and companies seeking employees in those categories.

"With the rapidly evolving situation regarding the COVID-19 coronavirus, Marshall University and the Office of Career Education want to assure you that the health and well-being of our students and employer partners is our priority. For that reason, in response to

guidance from the CDC to limit large gatherings, we are shifting to a virtual Career Expo," said Jennifer Brown, assistant director of the Office of Career Education.

Brown said the virtual Career Expo will have an exclusive chat room with real-time engagement in groups and personalized one-on-one interactions.

"The virtual format may be new to some, but we're confident that job seekers will find this experience to be as valuable and rewarding as attending our traditional in-person hiring events," Brown said. "Thank you for your patience as we continue our mission to connect employers with top job candidates."

More than 40 employers are expected to have recruiters at this virtual event, representing areas of business, health care, education, corrections and many others.

Registration is free for all students and alumni. To register, visit <https://marshall-csm.symplicity.com/events/VirtualExpo2020>.

Training offered for Autism Allies



The Allies Supporting Autism Spectrum Diversity initiative wants to enable Marshall University to broaden student support through an enhanced understanding of autism, the strategies known to be helpful and the creation of welcoming spaces to foster development. Trained allies will promote understanding and acceptance of individuals with ASD in their professional and personal lives in order to spread the ally mentality. Please join us in solidifying that Marshall University is the most accepting and inclusive university in the nation.

Please register at: <https://www.marshall.edu/atc/ally-autism-spectrum-diversity/>.

Blood test offers early warning of chemotherapy-related heart problems

Marshall University scientists have identified a collection of biomarkers that together signal that a person's cancer treatment may be harming their heart. After further validation, the biomarkers could eventually allow doctors to assess cardiovascular side effects of chemotherapy with a simple blood test early in the treatment process.

Heart problems are a side effect of several cancer therapies. Anthracyclines, a family of chemotherapy drugs used to treat many types of cancer, carry a particularly high risk. For example, about 17% of patients receiving anthracycline for the most aggressive forms of breast cancer have to stop therapy due to cardiac complications.

Doctors typically use an echocardiogram, an ultrasound of the heart, to look for signs of heart damage at various points during treatment. However, echocardiograms can be expensive, and they show problems only after damage has already occurred.

“Compared to the current standards for diagnosing chemotherapy-related cardiac dysfunction (CRCF), the biomarker panel we have suggested would be cost effective and easy to implement, but more

importantly, would aid in earlier diagnosis, risk assessment and CRCD progression monitoring that would ultimately improve patient care and outcomes,” said study author Hari Vishal Lakhani, a clinical research associate at the Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine. “It is especially relevant to patients in rural, lower socioeconomic communities, who may not have access to serial echocardiography as a means to diagnose CRCD.”

Lakhani is working with Marshall University clinician scientists Komal Sodhi, M.D., associate professor of surgery; Ellen A. Thompson, M.D., professor of cardiovascular services; and Maria T. Tirona, M.D., professor of oncology. The researchers compared blood samples from 17 healthy women with samples from 17 women undergoing anthracycline treatment for breast cancer. The women with breast cancer also received echocardiograms before beginning anthracycline and three months and six months after starting treatment.

The results revealed significant differences in the levels of a dozen biomarkers related to cardiovascular changes between the two groups. While no single biomarker was sufficient to predict CRCD on its own, in combination they provided a reliable predictor of heart toxicity as assessed with echocardiography.

Many of the biomarkers showed detectable changes well before heart damage was visible on an echocardiogram.

The biomarkers include a variety of proteins as well as microRNAs (miRNAs), which affect gene expression. The particular miRNAs identified in the study have previously been implicated in cardiac dysfunction and the proteins have been linked with inflammation, damage to the heart muscle and other processes involved in heart disease.

“Our results support the clinical application of these serum biomarkers and circulating miRNAs to develop a panel for early diagnosis of chemotherapy-related cardiac dysfunction which will enable early detection of disease progression and management of irreversible cardiac damage,” said Lakhani. “A biomarker panel may in fact be better than serial echocardiography, because the information gathered from a biomarker panel could allow appropriate intervention to be taken before any cardiac damage has occurred.”

Knowing a patient is showing signs of heart problems could lead doctors to adjust the chemotherapy type or dosage, or prescribe medications for heart failure. Giving doctors the information they need to take such steps earlier in the treatment process could substantially reduce the number of cancer patients who suffer illness or death as a result of chemotherapy-related heart problems, Lakhani said.

Lakhani was scheduled to present the research at the [American Society for Investigative Pathology](#) annual meeting in San Diego this month. Though the meeting, to be held in conjunction with the 2020 Experimental Biology conference, was canceled in response to the COVID-19 outbreak, the research team’s abstract was published in this month’s issue of *The FASEB Journal*.

Spring 2020 iPED (Virtual) Regional Conference on Teaching and Learning set for May 6; theme is ‘Student Success: The Educational Imperative’



What is success? Merriam-Webster (<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/success>) defines success as “a favorable or desired outcome.” For students, success is broader than checking boxes on a program of study. Indeed, EAB’s Student Success Collaborative claims that student success goes

beyond having a successful classroom experience. “For students, success consists not just of good grades and steady progress toward graduation, but a holistic sense of fulfillment...They want to become strong candidates for careers in their chosen fields, emerge as competent and trustworthy adults, look back on their time without regrets, and make their mentors and family members proud.”

The iPED Teaching Conference is a professional development opportunity to learn more about how to achieve our educational imperative: student success. The theme invites faculty, staff, and administrators from Marshall University and all regionally accredited Colleges and Universities to think deeply about how they define, understand, and promote student success. Conference sessions will demonstrate how to foster student success by creating conditions and opportunities that support steady progress toward graduation and generate personal fulfillment as students prepare for life beyond the academy.

Conference topics of interest include, but are not limited to:

- Classroom structures, projects and/or initiatives that promote student success
- High-impact practices that support success
- Approaches to identifying and mitigating academic barriers to success
- Approaches to identifying and mitigating non-academic barriers to success (such as food insecurity, financial aid, or first-generation status)
- Ways to examine and assess the campus and institutional culture and relative impact on student success
- Ways to build a community that inspires a feeling of belonging in students and faculty
- Ways to define and measure success
- Impact of curricular and co-curricular community engagement opportunities

Conference Schedule and Registration

The Spring 2020 conference will be conducted online, beginning with a virtual informational session at 8:00am. Concurrent sessions will begin at 8:30am and conclude at 5:30pm. Registrants will receive instructions for joining virtual sessions prior to conference day.

[Conference Schedule](#) – overall view of the conference schedule with links to sessions abstracts.

[Registration](#) – registration form for faculty, staff, administration, and teaching assistants.

For questions, contact April Fugett, Ph.D. (fugett5@marshall.edu, 304-696-5268) or Jenny Morgan (jennifer.morgan@marshall.edu, 304-696-2206).

The Pottery Place teams up with Marshall to provide online alternative to Empty Bowls



The Marshall University School of Art and Design is partnering with The Pottery Place to sell bowls online as an alternative to the Empty Bowls fundraising event, which was canceled as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Jessica Stone, owner of The Pottery Place in Huntington and Charleston, has listed over 500 bowls and T-shirts on The Pottery Place website

at <https://www.thepotteryplace.biz>, with proceeds going to the Facing Hunger Food Bank. Bowls and T-shirts cost \$15 apiece.

"The general idea is that folks can look through and order bowls online, and through the Pottery Place's efficient pick-up service, folks can swing by and pick up bowls or T-shirts," said Frederick Bartolovic, an associate professor of ceramics who coordinates the Empty Bowls event each year. "Purchases will provide art to patrons and relief to the food bank, all while still complying with the stay-at-home order in effect, because of the Pottery Place's pick-up service."

Empty Bowls was planning its 17th annual event this year, an event which has provided over a million meals for the Facing Hunger Food Bank since its inception. Last year's Empty Bowls event raised a record-breaking \$17,995. The proceeds of each \$15 bowl represent 112.5 meals served.

"The goal of all this is to help out the food bank by what we are hoping can be weekly or bi-weekly checks," Bartolovic said. "Though it may not be the event we all look forward to every year, it is something that I hope will make a difference and continue to fight hunger in our community at large."

Stone is a 2004 graduate of Marshall University and was part of the group of ceramics students who launched Empty Bowls 17 years ago.

"While at Marshall, I was part of the Keramos Club, the driving force behind bringing Empty Bowls to Huntington," she said. "I was one of those students that kept my hands busy so others could keep their bellies full. How the years have changed. I am now a business-owner keeping many hands busy to keep lights on and bellies full."

She's impressed with how much the event has grown over the years and has loved helping out when she could. When her husband, Deacon, told her that Empty Bowls wasn't going to happen this year, she was heartbroken.

"I remember those nights of making bowl after bowl, and doing my little part of such a good cause," she said. "We started brainstorming about how The Pottery Place could help. I had an empty studio due to the stay-at-home order, where we only prep our Party to Go Kits to bring curbside, and employees willing to work."

It's a wonderful way to save a project that this year's ceramics students had been working toward, Bartolovic said.

"In many ways, the students did not get the opportunity they usually have," he said. "Though they got the experience of making the bowls, many students did not have the time to finish their bowls before school was shut down due to the pandemic. The other more obvious experience that they did not get to take part in was the interaction with patrons at the event. This may be the saddest part, because this is the moment where they get a sense of affirmation for all their hard work.

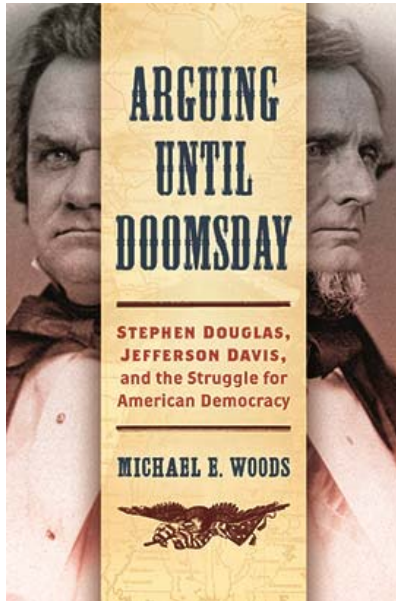
"I am just hoping we can find a way to finish some of the half-finished bowls in the studio right now and make another delivery to The Pottery Place so we might have a Round 2 restock, and some additional choices for our patrons, which will equal more help to the food bank."

The Pottery Place website can be found at <https://www.thepotteryplace.biz>. Anyone interested in buying a bowl as part of the alternative Empty Bowls sale can scroll to the bottom of the website's home page to find links to the sale.

The Pottery Place secured sponsorship from Edward Jones and Fifth Third Bank to cover transaction fees for online purchases.

Photo: Marshall ceramics students, President Gilbert (second row, fourth from right) and Associate Professor Frederick Bartolovic (first row, right) posed with some of their bowls in progress for this year's fundraiser benefiting Facing Hunger Food Bank.

Faculty Achievement: Dr. Michael Woods



Dr. Michael E. Woods's new book, *Arguing Until Doomsday*, has been published this week by the University of North Carolina Press.

“The inspiration for the book came while I was doing research for my first book (*Emotional and Sectional Conflict in the Antebellum United States* [2014]),” Woods, who is associate professor of history, said. “I came across a surprisingly large number of very friendly letters written to Stephen Douglas, the Democratic senator from Illinois, by Republicans, who ordinarily would not have been very supportive of him ... Similarly, I was intrigued by Douglas's intense debates with Mississippi senator Jefferson Davis in the spring of 1860. Both were Democrats, but they clashed ferociously on the Senate floor, at the same time that their party was battling over selecting a presidential nominee. Put together, these stories suggested far more intraparty conflict, over a longer period of time, than many previous scholars had thought. I decided to use the intriguingly

intertwined careers of Davis and Douglas to tell a longer story of struggles within the Democratic Party, from about 1845 to 1860, that ultimately led to a party split in 1860—a split that helped pave the way for the election of Abraham Lincoln that year.

“I hope people read it because the book revisits a vital topic—the origins of secession and the Civil War—from a fresh, dual-biographical perspective. Davis and Douglas are both regularly paired with Lincoln, but I look at their own rivalry, and their long-term battle over the direction the Democratic Party should take. They never got along well, even from their first days together in Congress in the mid-1840s, and it only got worse over time as both men grew in prominence and power. By 1860, their visions for the future of their party and their country were simply incompatible. This is an important but neglected aspect of the origins of the American Civil War.”

More information on the book is available on the publisher's website at <https://uncpress.org/book/9781469656397/arguing-until-doomsday/>.

DONATE BLOOD TODAY

The U.S. Blood Supply Faces a Dire Shortage.

WHY?

The Red Cross normally supplies about 40 percent of the nation's blood. But as of March 18, more than 4,500 of its blood drives had been canceled, resulting in nearly 150,000 fewer donations. Red blood cells are viable for 42 days, platelets for only five, so it's essential to keep new donations coming in.

Source: The New York Times, 3/19/20

Learn more at <https://www.redcrossblood.org/>
1-800-RED-CROSS



www.marshall.edu



PRACTICE GOOD HYGIENE



Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water

(try singing Happy Birthday twice)

HOW TO WASH HANDS EFFECTIVELY

1. Scrub palms together in a circular motion.
2. Scrub the back of your hands.
3. Scrub the inside of your fingers and under fingernails.
4. Scrub between your fingers.

For more information, visit:
www.marshall.edu/wellness



PRECAUTIONS IF YOU FEEL SICK

Preventing illness...

- Wash your hands often for at least 20 seconds with soap and water
- Use alcohol-based hand sanitizers and rub hands until dry
- Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or the bend of your arm
- Put distance between yourself and other people

Protecting Others...

- Stay home if you are sick
- Cover coughs and sneezes
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily

If you get sick...

- Call ahead before going to the doctor
- Avoid sharing personal items

Boost your immune system by:

- Getting rest
- Drinking water
- Eating healthy

WHEN TO SEEK MEDICAL ATTENTION:

If you...

Are unable to drink enough fluids

OR

Have a fever for more than 3-5 days

OR

Feel better then get a fever again,
Call the student health center or your doctor.

If you...

Are short of breath, wheezing or coughing up blood

Have pain in the chest when breathing

Have heart disease and have chest pain

OR

Are unable to walk, sit up or function normally
Call 911 or seek medical care right away!

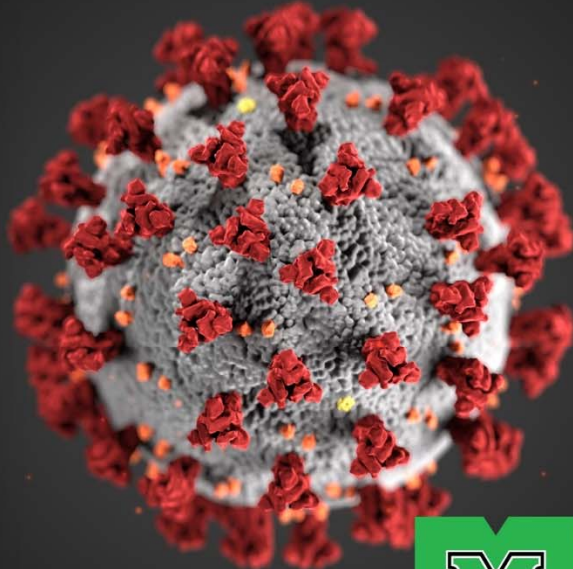


For more information, visit:
www.marshall.edu/wellness



Stay *Informed...*

For COVID-19 and
Marshall University updates, visit:
www.marshall.edu/coronavirus



For additional information, visit:
www.cdc.gov



WMUL-FM takes home awards from national competitions

Students from Marshall's public radio station, WMUL-FM, have received a number of awards recently, including earning 19 awards at the 2019 Vega Digital Awards, as well as being honored with seven awards during the 80th Annual Intercollegiate Broadcasting System Conference's 11th Annual Awards Ceremony in March and 15 recognitions in the International AVA Digital Awards 2020 Competition in February. They also earned 15 awards during the National Broadcasting Society/ Alpha Epsilon Rho (NBS/AERho) 29th Annual National Student Audio/Video Scriptwriting and 57th Annual Audio/Video Production Awards Competition ceremony earlier this month.

Students competed with other broadcasting students from colleges and universities throughout the United States in the IBS Awards. WMUL-FM's student broadcasters fared well in all seven categories in which they entered, said Dr. Chuck G. Bailey, professor of radio-television production and management in the W. Page Pitt School of Journalism and Mass Communications at Marshall University.

"WMUL-FM being declared as having the best news promotion and women's basketball play-by-play plus WMUL-FM being a finalist for College Radio Station of the Year speaks well for Marshall University, the College of Arts and Media, and the W. Page Pitt School of Journalism and Mass Communications," Bailey said.

Of the Vega Digital Awards, Bailey remarked that it's "an amazing accomplishment to be recognized with a Canopus Award by an international panel of judges, who are handpicked from a diverse range of marketing and advertising companies from around the world, for producing another one in a long line of solid exceptional weekly call-in sports talk programs that highlight Marshall's Olympic sports teams."

Their many recent awards recognized the WMUL-FM student broadcasters and community volunteers for having created a compelling weekly statewide high school basketball talk program, for the FM 88 Sports Staff's use of social media through Instagram, for an audio musical entertainment program and for having broadcast excellent play-by-play of Marshall men's basketball. Other WMUL-FM student broadcasters received awards for newscasts, insightful sports reporting, sports play-by-play of Marshall football and men's basketball, a weekly sports program that sums up the week in Marshall athletics, the video presentation of its weekly statewide high school basketball talk program, and the FM 88 Sports Staff's use of social media through Twitter.

The awards "are a tribute to the continual quality and commitment to the news and sports coverage, creative programming, station promotion, and having an online presence that our broadcast students exhibit in competition with professional practitioners," Bailey said.

The next regular issue of *We Are...Marshall* will be distributed May 6, 2020. Please send items for consideration to WAMnewsletter@marshall.edu by 5 p.m. Monday, May 4, 2020.

To read the content of this newsletter online, please click on the following link:

www.marshall.edu/wamnewsletter/April-29-2020.