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We Are...Marshall, July 15, 2020

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WE ARE... MARSHALL®

The Newsletter for Marshall University

July 15, 2020

Marshall cancels Aug. 8 commencement ceremony

The university has announced it has cancelled the commencement ceremony tentatively scheduled for Aug. 8 at the Joan C. Edwards Stadium. The ceremony had already been delayed from May 2 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In an e-mail message yesterday to eligible graduates, President Gilbert called the decision "incredibly difficult" and said the university will honor the Class of 2020 at the Winter Commencement planned for Saturday, Dec. 12, tentatively at the Mountain Health Arena in downtown Huntington.

He emphasized that when the university announced the August ceremony more than two months ago, it was predicated on COVID-19 infection levels remaining relatively low.

"Unfortunately, West Virginia and Cabell County have experienced a steady and significant increase in COVID-19 cases in recent weeks," he added. "We consulted with the Cabell-Huntington Health Department and our own Marshall Health chief medical officer, and they do not believe it is safe to host such a large, in-person gathering due to the increased risk of transmitting the virus, even with the measures we had planned to protect graduates and guests.

"As one of the newest Sons and Daughters of Marshall, you have reached a significant milestone—one that certainly calls for celebration. I look forward to welcoming the Class of 2020 back as soon as we can safely host large events once again."

Gilbert said the decision was made today so anyone who was planning to travel to Huntington for the event had adequate advance notice.

Marshall's registrar sent eligible graduates an e-mail last week to let them know the university was monitoring the COVID-19 situation in the community and to alert them there was a possibility the ceremony would not go on as planned. Since that message was sent, the number of cases statewide has continued to climb and West Virginia Gov. Jim Justice yesterday issued an executive order that closed down fairs and festivals, and prohibits indoor and outdoor concerts.

Today's announcement relates only to the graduation ceremony and public celebration; it does not change the semester completion date for students, nor does it affect the timeline for students earning their degrees.

Members of the Class of 2020 should monitor their official Marshall e-mail account or visit Marshall's [commencement website](#) for more information as plans for Winter Commencement develop.

Additional information about COVID-19 and the university's response is available at www.marshall.edu/coronavirus.

Marshall to offer students financial assistance to offset fall e-delivery fees



Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Marshall University officials have announced the school will be providing financial assistance to all students who register for fall e-courses. The effort is intended to help students who may prefer to take at least some e-courses for the fall semester, and families who may be struggling financially from economic fallout related to COVID-19.

According to an e-mail sent Friday to students and employees, the university will give anyone who registers for an e-course emergency assistance funds to offset the e-delivery fee of \$40 per credit hour, or \$120 for a three-hour course.

The offer means the usual e-course tuition rate for in-state undergraduate students will be reduced to \$333.50 per credit hour from \$373.50. The rate for in-state graduate students will be \$462.25 per credit hour, down from \$502.25 (plus any applicable program and other fees).

When students register for a course that has an e-delivery fee, the university will automatically apply a \$40 per credit hour emergency financial assistance grant to their accounts. The grants will cancel out all e-delivery fees.

"We want to make as many instructional alternatives as possible available to our students this fall," Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Jaime Taylor said in the e-mail. "We hope these extra funds will help those who may need additional flexibility to continue their studies during the pandemic."

The provost encourages students who are thinking about enrolling in fall e-courses to contact their advisors for advice regarding courses and registration. He said support is available on Marshall's [Keep Learning](#) page, which was designed specifically for students making the transition to the online learning environment.

Photo: Provost Dr. Jaime Taylor has announced the availability of emergency assistance funds to offset the e-delivery fee for e-courses this fall.

ONLINE LIBRARY INSTRUCTION

Choose an option that works best for your students' needs:

100% Live & Virtual

100% Recorded Presentation

Combination of Recordings + Live Presence

Request a session for your class at:
[https://marshall.libwizard.com
/f/instructionrequestform](https://marshall.libwizard.com/f/instructionrequestform)





Herd Green Friday Contest

Follow us July 3-July 31
to find out how you can win!

@MarshallU
#HerdGreenFriday

 

New contests will be posted *each Friday*.
One winner will be randomly selected and
announced the following Monday.

Sponsors: Hometown Sportswear and the Marshall University Bookstore



Marshall musicians join celebrities, jazz greats in a recording to benefit Arts for Illinois Relief Fund



Marshall School of Music faculty members and former students performed last month for a music video of "Sweet Home Chicago" to benefit the Arts for Illinois Relief Fund, a recording that featured 100 artists, including stars such as Julia Louis-Dreyfus, Jim Belushi, Keegan-Michael Key and George Wendt, as well as jazz greats Ramsey Lewis and Kurt Elling.

Marshall Jazz Studies faculty members Martin Saunders and Jeff Wolfe, along with Marshall graduate Thomas Cavender and former student Colten Settle, were invited to participate in the recording by adjunct Marshall faculty member Jesse Nolan, who lived in Chicago for several years. And they did it without leaving their homes.

Nolan was called upon to arrange and direct the recording, which was made to raise money for a fund helping Chicago artists struggling as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. He turned to the talent at Marshall.

"No matter what the project, there's always a little bit of Marshall University somewhere in there," Nolan said. "For this one, I had the privilege of being joined by my colleagues and students."

The video can be viewed on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V7-Nxgwa2iM&feature=youtu.be>. Viewers are encouraged to donate to the Arts for Illinois Relief Fund at <https://artsforillinois.org/sweethomechicago>.

Saunders, director of jazz studies, and Wolfe, assistant professor of music, provided trumpet parts, while Cavender — a two-time Marshall graduate — played trombone and Settle performed the rhythm guitar track. Nolan played drums. They made audio and video recordings separately in their homes and then sent the files to Nolan to be compiled.

"Spring and summer are usually busy times for musicians, but with COVID, we just kept seeing gig after gig cancelled," Wolfe said. "So to have an opportunity to make music on the same virtual stage as Ramsey Lewis and Kurt Elling was a true gift. Knowing that other artists would benefit from the work made it even more special."

The arts play an important role in providing people with encouragement during these challenging times, Saunders said.

"Nearly everyone has used music, movies and other forms of art to help take their minds off the stress of the pandemic," Saunders said. "What better way to say 'thank you' to people who have created that art than to support efforts such as this? Live music and theatre will be back, but until then, we need to do what we can to help artists in need."

—

Photo: Jazz Studies faculty member Jeff Wolfe appears in a YouTube video, "Sweet Home Chicago," which will benefit the Arts for Illinois Relief Fund.

Marshall Orthopaedics welcomes board-certified foot and ankle surgeon



The [Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine, Marshall Health](#) and [Cabell Huntington Hospital](#) medical and dental staff welcome Michael A. Gentile, D.P.M., FACFAS, to their orthopaedic team of providers.

Gentile has been named an assistant professor in the department of orthopaedic surgery at the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine. His practice is focused on traumatic and non-traumatic disorders of the foot and ankle.

His particular areas of clinical interest and research include arthroscopic surgery; repair of cartilage, ligament and tendon; surgery for flatfoot deformity and high-arched feet; bunion correction; tarsal tunnel syndrome; neuromuscular disorders; and Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome.

He earned his medical degree from the California College of Podiatric Medicine in Oakland, California, and completed his reconstructive foot and ankle residency at Presbyterian/St. Luke's Medical Center in Denver, Colorado. He is certified by the American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgery in Foot and Rearfoot/Ankle Reconstructive Surgery.

"We are incredibly excited to bring another physician of such reputation and caliber to Marshall Orthopaedics," said Ali Oliashirazi, M.D., professor and chair of the department of orthopaedic surgery at the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine. "Dr. Gentile is known as being a most compassionate individual, an excellent physician, a phenomenal surgeon and a remarkable educator. Those are all separate skill sets, and he excels in them all."

Gentile is accepting new patients and referrals at Marshall Orthopaedics, an outpatient department of Cabell Huntington Hospital, located at 1600 Medical Center Drive in Huntington. To schedule an appointment, call 304-691-1262.



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



Oliashirazi, Shuler receive certification for independent medical exams



Ali Oliashirazi, M.D. (left), and Franklin D. Shuler, M.D., Ph.D., of Marshall Orthopaedics recently became certified by the American Board of Independent Medical Examiners.

An independent medical examination, or IME, occurs when a doctor who has not previously been involved in a person's care examines an individual to calculate the degree of impairment or to offer a professional opinion on the patient's treatment course or return to work status. No prior doctor-patient relationship exists, meaning the doctor

performing the IME will not prescribe medications or see the patient for follow-up care. They are commonly required in legal cases.

Oliashirazi and Shuler join the ranks of five other Marshall Health physicians with this certification: Natavoot “Nick” Chongswatdi, M.D.; Charles W. Clements II, M.D.; Alan Koester, M.D.; Mohammed Ranavaya, M.D., J.D.; and David P. Rupp, M.D.

To schedule an IME, contact Marshall Orthopaedics at 304-691-1262 or Marshall Family Medicine at 304-691-1100.

Marshall Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery July Specials



This month we are also offering 40% off select Obagi products while supplies last: Toner, Retinol 0.5, Hydrate, Exfoderm, Exfoderm Forte, 360 Exfoliating Cleanser, Elastiderm Eye Cream.

Signage available for Return to Campus

The Office of University Communications has made available signage for use on the campuses and centers, covering a variety of situations, and including a template for other situations. Faculty and staff may download and print the signs at <https://www.marshall.edu/coronavirus/campus-covid-signage/>.

Coronavirus Statistics for Summer as of 7/10/2020:

Number of People Tested: 180
Confirmed Cases: 11
Recovered Cases: 8
Currently Active Cases: 3

The most recent information is always available at www.marshall.edu/coronavirus.



**Stay
*Informed...***

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

For additional information, visit:
www.cdc.gov
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Yeager Scholar, Society of Black Scholars member interning for Northrop Grumman



Morgan Johnson is a rising sophomore, mechanical engineering student, and a member of both the Society of Yeager Scholars and the Society of Black Scholars. This summer she's working for Northrop Grumman as an aeronautics systems engineer intern.

That native of Martinsburg, West Virginia, is handling projects for Northrop Grumman from her own home during her paid internship. Although she can't talk about the specific projects she's been involved in, Johnson says the internship has been invaluable.

"There are a variety of really awesome projects that I've been able to learn about," Johnson said. "So far I've aided in making testing plans and in developing designs. I'm about halfway through my internship and I've had the opportunity to work on two difficult, awesome projects."

As a member of the Marshall University Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation program (LSAMP), Johnson was able to attend the Black Engineers of the Year Conference (BEYA) in Washington, D.C., in February. That led to a connection with Northrop Grumman and an interview. The interview went so well that later that day a job offer came for a summer intern position for Northrop Grumman's Space Park facility in California. She says it's been a great experience.

"Despite only going into my sophomore year at Marshall in mechanical engineering, I feel very welcomed and encouraged in the Northrop Grumman workplace," Johnson said. "Taking on projects that contain material that I have not yet learned in school has been overwhelmingly fulfilling."

The LSAMP program, funded through the National Science Foundation, allows students like Johnson to have opportunities like this one. LSAMP works to recruit and retain minority students in the STEM fields. The LSAMP program includes nine other universities, including the University of Kentucky, West Virginia University and the University of Louisville.

Maurice Cooley is the vice president for student affairs and intercultural affairs, and the principal investigator for the LSAMP program at Marshall.

"Morgan is among the most intellectually prepared, ambitious and culturally balanced students I've had the opportunity to know over the past 18 years," Cooley said.

Through the combined support of LSAMP and the Marshall University Society of Yeager Scholars, Johnson was able to take advantage of the job offer. Cara Bailey, the coordinator for the Society of

Yeager Scholars, says Morgan is an example of what makes programs like the Society of Yeager Scholars, the Society of Black Scholars and LSAMP special.

"Morgan is the perfect example of a student who benefits from the support we at Marshall provide our students," Bailey said. "She is a special student and with the backing of these programs she'll be elevated to a national level."

Johnson says at times it's been difficult, but whenever she's needed help, others at Northrop Grumman have provided help and clarification on the projects.

She says by the end of the three-month internship she'll have earned job experiences that are invaluable to someone this early in their college career.

Faculty Achievement: Dr. Tim Long and Dr. Jeremy McAleer

Associate Professors Dr. Tim Long and Dr. Jeremy McAleer of the School of Pharmacy, and School of Pharmacy alumni Dr. Jonah Moore, Dr. Michaela Meakin, Dr. Mikaela Earl and Dr. Tiffany Kummer have had an article published in the Journal of Global Antimicrobial Resistance. This research explores how other medications can alter MRSA susceptibility to vancomycin.

The entire article may be read online

at https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2213716520300783?via%3Dihub&fbclid=IwAR1FKoqmgvNzmEVFhtY8I7Yh7gC5II3etnM54Ia9oUvXxQCq8Xtl-k7tQ_A.

Marshall freshmen among the state's first Underwood-Smith Teaching Scholars



Two incoming Marshall University freshmen have been named among West Virginia's first class of Underwood-Smith Teaching Scholars.

Olivia Burns (left), a graduate of Hurricane High School in Putnam County and Isabella Vint, of Scott High School in Boone County, both plan to study mathematics at Marshall in preparation for teaching careers and are among 25 new high school graduates selected as West Virginia's first Underwood-Smith Teaching Scholars. These students will receive up to \$10,000 per year – or \$40,000 total – for their

college education.

"I'm incredibly proud of these young scholars, and I can't wait to see what they accomplish over the next four years and beyond," said Dr. Sarah Armstrong Tucker, chancellor of West Virginia's Higher Education Policy Commission and Community and Technical College System. "When we worked with the Legislature and Gov. Justice last year to revamp this program, we knew we wanted to create a preeminent scholarship that would produce new generations of strong, committed teachers for years to come in the Mountain State. This cohort is just the beginning, and it's certainly a bright one."

The program – the first in the state to be open to a national applicant pool – is designed to help West Virginia address ongoing teacher shortages in the fields of math, science, special education and elementary education. Recipients commit to teaching in one of these high-demand fields in West Virginia for at least five years after graduation. To give students the greatest chance at success, each is paired with a practicing classroom teacher mentor, who will provide guidance throughout their college careers

A video highlighting the scholars can be found on [YouTube](#). A virtual celebration of the scholars will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, July 29, on Facebook Live at <https://www.facebook.com/HEPCMediaCenter/>.

For rising high school seniors who want to become teachers in West Virginia, applications open on July 15, 2020, for the 2021 cohort. Visit underwoodsmith.org for more information. The Underwood-Smith award is stackable with other forms of financial aid. West Virginia residents who receive the PROMISE Scholarship as well (\$4,750 per year) receive nearly \$15,000 per year to help pay for college.

The next regular issue of *We Are...Marshall* will be distributed July 22, 2020. Please send items for consideration to WAMnewsletter@marshall.edu by 5 p.m. Monday, July 20, 2020.

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

www.marshall.edu/wamnewsletter/July-15-2020.