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Office of Marshall University Communications, "We Are...Marshall, June 30, 2021" (2021). *We Are ... Marshall: the Newsletter for Marshall University 1999-Current*. 708.
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WE ARE... MARSHALL®

The Newsletter for Marshall University

June 30, 2021

Board Chairman gives presidential search update

JUNE 30, 2021



Dear Marshall students, faculty and staff:

I hope everyone is having a safe and enjoyable summer.

I am writing today with the first of what will be regular updates to the university community regarding the progress of the search for Marshall's 38th president.

As you know, the [Board of Governors met June 17 and established a process and tentative timeline](#) for a national search. There are a couple of milestones coming up in the next week or so of which you should be aware.

First, earlier this month, the university released a solicitation for an executive search firm to assist the university in this process.

The deadline for proposals from interested firms is today, Monday, June 28.

Secondly, the [search committee](#) will meet this Thursday, July 1, to start evaluating the submitted proposals. I will let you know as soon as a firm is selected.

In the meantime, please do not hesitate to [contact the Search Committee](#) by e-mail. We also have a robust [presidential search website](#), where you can find details about the process and any updates we have along the way.

Members of the university community are encouraged to [provide feedback](#) and/or [nominate a candidate](#) through the website. **The search committee will consider input from members of the Marshall community throughout all stages of the search process.**

The [Board of Governors](#) has committed publicly to conducting the most inclusive and transparent presidential search that has ever been done at Marshall, and we intend to keep that promise. I look forward to your involvement!

Sincerely,

Patrick J. Farrell

Chairman, Board of Governors

University provides update on fall COVID-19 protocols

JUNE 30, 2021

Marshall University's COVID-19 protocols for the fall 2021 semester are still being developed and will be released to the university community as soon as they are finalized.

We plan on a return to campus that is near normal in most instances. **We are not requiring the vaccine but are strongly encouraging all our students, faculty and staff to get it.**

As of now, vaccinated students and employees will not be required to wear masks indoors but may do so if they prefer. (A decision about masks in classrooms and other instructional spaces has not yet been made for the fall semester.)

Unvaccinated individuals should be prepared to wear masks in all areas, including outdoors when around other people.

[Students are required to submit their current vaccine status in an online registry](#) to help us gauge whether or not we have reached herd immunity on campus. The registry offers several possible responses, including an option to not disclose vaccine status.

Our student vaccine incentive program currently includes a weekly raffle for \$250 gift cards for the campus bookstore and \$300 packages of Herd Points. We will announce the raffle winners on Instagram every Friday beginning tomorrow, June 25, and running until Aug. 20.

Our goal is #thunderingherdimmunity. Truly the best way to combat COVID-19 is for everyone to be vaccinated.

For more information, visit www.marshall.edu/coronavirus or e-mail COVID19@marshall.edu.

In Memoriam: Dr. Robert N. Bickel

JUNE 30, 2021

Dr. Robert N. Bickel, professor emeritus of advanced educational studies in the College of Education and Professional Development, died June 27. He was a member of the Marshall faculty from 1987 to 2010, and taught courses that included education research and writing, statistical methods, sociology of American schools, and history of education in the United States.

He held B.A. and M.A. degrees in sociology from Penn State University and his Ph.D. in educational foundations and policy studies from Florida State University. Before coming to Marshall, he served in several research capacities in Pennsylvania and Florida.

Marshall hosting Governor's Schools this summer

JUNE 30, 2021

The West Virginia Governor's Honors Academy kicked off last week on the Huntington campus. The academy, reserved for some of the brightest high school students in the state, has taken on a bit of a unique look this year.

The three-week program for rising seniors is taking a hybrid approach that allows the GHA 2020 class to get in on the action after their academy was put on hold in the summer of 2020 because of the pandemic. Instead, GHA 2020 students attended a weeklong session from June 20-25 on Marshall's campus. GHA 2021 students will take part in a virtual week of sessions from June 28 – July 2 and then visit Marshall's campus for a week from July 5 – July 10.

The program is titled "Your Dynamic World" and is a multi-faceted program that will involve active learning, energetic classes and activities, and preparation for students to become forces in their community and career. Classes and events will focus on multiple meanings of the word "dynamic," among which are activity, change, variations and creation.

The co-deans for GHA 2021 are Cara Bailey, Yeager coordinator, and Mallory Carpenter, program manager for national scholarships, both housed in the Marshall Honors College.

Bailey says it's great to be able to bring these bright minds to Marshall University's campus.

"Marshall is the perfect fit for GHA students," Bailey said. "The inclusive, supportive environment of our community helps the students feel welcome, while our faculty and student leaders encourage the students to push themselves to new intellectual heights. In just a few short days, these students truly become part of the Marshall family."

Faculty and staff for GHA are selected to give students a specifically designed curriculum. Students attend workshops, classes and a variety of extracurricular activities.

Other Governor's Schools include the Governor's School for the Arts (GSA), the Governor's School of Entrepreneurship (GSE) and the Governor's STEM Institute.

GSA and GSE are taking place on Marshall's campus as well, with sessions throughout the months of June and July. GSE kicked off last week with opening remarks from distinguished Marshall alum and benefactor, Brad D. Smith, executive chairman of the Intuit board.

All Governor's Schools are overseen by the West Virginia Department of Education. Students selected are provided the opportunity at no cost to them or their families.

For more information, contact Cara Bailey by e-mail at Bailey160@marshall.edu or by phone at 304-696-2474.

Drs. Maynard to retire from the June Harless Center after years of service at Marshall

JUNE 30, 2021



Dr. Stan Maynard (right) and Dr. Barbara Maynard will retire effective June 30 from the June Harless Center for Rural Educational Research and Development, a program of the College of Education and Professional Development.

Stan Maynard, executive director of the June Harless Center, taught at a variety of programmatic levels in his career and has spent the past 41 years at Marshall University serving in the variety of ways, which have included teaching curriculum and instruction and reading courses, serving as associate dean for the COEPD for three years, founding the Buck

Harless Student Athlete Program, and creating and expanding the June Harless Center over the past 20 years with the initial gift from Buck Harless.

Barbara Maynard, chief of staff of the June Harless Center, also served in public education for 27 years. Her educational career has included public school teaching (K-12), serving as program development director at the Regional Educational Service Agency (RESA II), teaching reading courses at Marshall, serving as the clinical services director in the COEPD, and serving the June Harless Center as chief of staff and financial officer.

“West Virginia’s public education system is far better due to the dedication and work of both Dr. Stan and Dr. Barbara Maynard,” said Tarabeth Heineman, who will succeed Stan Maynard as the executive director of the June Harless Center. “Congratulations on your retirement.”

June Harless Center names new executive director, chief of staff

JUNE 30, 2021



The June Harless Center for Rural Educational Research and Development (JHC), a program of the College of Education and Professional Development, has named Tarabeth Heineman (left) to the position of executive director and Maggie Luma (right) as chief of staff.

Heineman, who is from Wayne County, West Virginia, is a Marshall University graduate, with an undergraduate degree in elementary education with a Pre-K certification and a master's degree in reading education. Her past experience with the center includes as a graduate assistant at

the Kellogg Demonstration site, then as the professional development coordinator for the center, working with educators and administrators from counties across West Virginia and writing and implementing grants for JHC programming.

In 2010, Heineman was named director of the Marshall University Early Education STEAM Center (a program of the JHC), which is a collaborative Pre-K program with Cabell County Schools and the university. In 2012, she was promoted to program development officer, working as part of the administration of 17 staff members making up three teams within the JHC (early literacy, early childhood and STEM).

Her appointment is effective July 1.

Currently at the West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE), Luma will rejoin the JHC July 7.

She started with the JHC in 2013 as a graduate assistant while working on her master's degree. At that time, she provided early childhood classroom instruction, wrote and implemented grants, and supported the JHC staff. In July of 2015, Luma became the first early literacy specialist at the JHC through its partnership with the WVDE. As new specialists came on board at the JHC, she worked with them providing orientation activities.

In 2018, she was recruited by the WVDE as a literacy coordinator in the Office of Special Education and eventually was appointed to lead the statewide Campaign for Grade Level Reading.

Originally from Edison, New Jersey, she holds an undergraduate degree from the University of Maryland and her master's in reading education from Marshall.

Both Heineman and Luma are pursuing doctoral degrees.

West Virginia Behavioral Health Workforce and Health Equity Training Center goes live

JUNE 30, 2021

The West Virginia Behavioral Health Workforce and Health Equity Training Center is now live at Marshall University. The collaboration between the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources Bureau for Behavioral Health and Marshall University provides training for behavioral health professionals throughout the state.

Through the training center, a series of professional development webinars will be provided. Professionals can earn contact hours at no cost while building on evidence-based practices to better meet the need for behavioral health services, which have grown due to COVID-19.

Participants will be trained in seven key areas:

1. Trauma-Informed Practice
2. Cultural Humility
3. Decreasing Behavioral Health Disparities
4. Motivational Interviewing
5. Screening Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment
6. Suicide Prevention
7. Person-Centered Care

Keigan Abel-Brown is the coordinator for the West Virginia Behavioral Health Workforce and Health Equity Training Center.

“We are honored to be able to coordinate this behavioral health initiative with the West Virginia Bureau for Behavioral Health,” Aabel-Brown said. “Many populations, such as members of ethnic minorities, individuals who are LGBTQI and rural communities, face additional challenges in accessing and receiving care due to historic and present stigma and discrimination. We are determined to ensure all behavioral health providers in West Virginia have the skills and awareness to provide services that are effective, inclusive, engaging, culturally responsive and culturally appropriate.”

Funding for the center was provided through the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration’s Treatment Block Grant and the Community Mental Health Services Block Grant.

The \$425,000 grant aims to increase behavioral health workforce excellence by providing training in evidence-based practices statewide to reduce behavioral health disparities related to mental health and substance misuse. The center encourages professionals throughout the state to sign up for the free virtual trainings that will run through the summer months.

For more information contact Aabel-Brown by e-mail aabelbrown@marshall.edu.

Maternal diets rich in Omega-3 fatty acids may protect offspring from breast cancer

JUNE 30, 2021

According to researchers at Marshall, a maternal diet rich in Omega-3 fatty acids protects from breast cancer development in offspring. In [a new study](#) recently published by Frontiers in Cell and Development Biology, researchers noted a significant difference in mice from mothers that were fed a diet rich in canola oil, compared with mothers fed a diet rich in corn oil. A maternal Omega 3-rich diet affected genome-wide epigenetic landscape changes in offspring and potentially modulated gene expression patterns.

Dr. Ata Abbas, a former postdoctoral research fellow in Marshall’s Department of Biological Sciences, headed a research team under the leadership of Dr. Philippe Georgel in the College of Science. Research was done in the Cell Differentiation and Development Center at Marshall as part of a collaborative effort

with the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine's Department of Biochemistry and Microbiology, under the leadership of Dr. W. Elaine Hardman.

Researchers noticed a three-week delay in mortality in mice whose mothers were fed canola oil versus corn oil. The early delay in mortality was significantly different, but the ultimate overall survival rate was not. Eventually, all the mice developed tumors, but the ones fed canola oil had tumors that were slower-growing and smaller than the mice fed corn oil. Translated to human time scale, the duration of the protective effect linked to the maternal diet would be equivalent to several months (Sengupta et al., 2016).

This study is among a body of work done by Marshall University scientists and others looking at the link between Omega-3 fatty acids and reduced incidence of various types of cancer including, but not restricted to, Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia and Diffuse Large B-Cell Lymphoma.

“The issue of parental diet and inter-generational transmission has become an important field of research; however, the mode of action often remains partially elusive,” said Georgel, a professor in the Department of Biological Sciences at Marshall. “The MU research group focused on ‘epigenetic’ aspects of trans-generational transmission to explain the reported role of Omega-3 fatty acids. Epigenetics involves changes in gene expression which are not linked to changes in genetic sequences. These results have the potential to promote the design of simple changes in diet which would allow for reduced onset of various types of cancer, not only for the individuals using that diet but also for their offspring.”

The study was conducted with funding from the Department of Defense Health Program and the National Institutes of Health.

Athletic training students, faculty present at national convention

JUNE 30, 2021



Students and faculty from Marshall University's athletic training program presented their research to the National Athletic Trainers' Association Virtual Clinical Symposia & Athletic Training Expo (VNATA), which took place June 22-24.

NATA is the national professional association for athletic trainers and works to unify the profession by providing

standards for professionalism, education, certification, research and clinical practice. The annual Clinical Symposia & AT Expo, which has been virtual both this year and last, provides an opportunity for students and faculty to present research and clinical findings to a national audience.

The following Marshall University students presented their research to the convention attendees:

- Taren Bone, ATC, presented a research project titled "The Effects of Concussion on Quality and Quantity of Sleep."
- Kim Hill, ATC, presented a research project titled "Frequency and Magnitude of Rotational Impacts in Collegiate Football Players."

In addition, faculty members Dr. Suzanne Konz, ATC, CSCS, and Dr. Zach Garrett, ATC, participated in a virtual chat session as part of VNATA 2021 titled "Ethics/Professional Values VNATA Chat: From PRAT and COPE Committees." The session's purpose was to inform participants about the roles and responsibilities of COPE (Committee on Professional Ethics) and PRAT (Professional Responsibilities in Athletic Training), explain each committee's current activities and answer members' questions. Konz currently serves as the chair of COPE, and Garrett is an at-large member to COPE representing the mid-Atlantic region. Both faculty members are currently conducting original research into the attitudes and behaviors toward sports betting by athletic trainers.

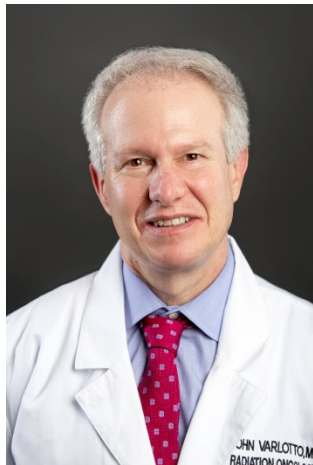
Konz serves as program director for the Marshall biomechanics program, and Garrett serves as the program director for the Marshall athletic training program.

For additional information about the Marshall University Biomechanics program, please contact Konz by e-mail at konz@marshall.edu or visit www.marshall.edu/biomechanics.

For additional information about the Marshall University athletic training program, please contact Garrett, by e-mail at garrett46@marshall.edu or visit www.marshall.edu/athletic-training.

Marshall research offers insights into nervous system control of walking movements

JUNE 30, 2021



Dr. Sasha N. Zill was senior author on a major research paper recently published in the prestigious Journal of Neurophysiology. This work was a national and international collaboration with Dr. Nicholas Szczecinski of West Virginia University, Dr. Chris Dallmann of University of Washington, Dr. Ansgar Büschges at the University of Cologne and Dr. Josef Schmitz at Bielefeld University in Germany.

To study walking, the experiments used ‘naturalistic’ stimuli derived from measurements made in freely moving animals. Application of these stimuli showed that sense organs in the legs signal the dynamics of changing forces, not simply the levels of load. These findings could aid in directing rehabilitation in stroke patients as well as the design of artificial, or prosthetic, legs to make walking movements more fluid and natural.

This research was supported by a pilot grant from the West Virginia Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute as well as funds from sources in Germany. To read and download the article in its entirety, please visit <https://journals.physiology.org/doi/abs/10.1152/jn.00120.2021>.

Marshall Health, Edwards Comprehensive Cancer center welcome radiation oncologist

JUNE 30, 2021

[Marshall Health](#) and the [Edwards Comprehensive Cancer Center \(ECCC\)](#) at Cabell Huntington Hospital, a member of Mountain Health Network, welcome John Varlotto, M.D., a board-certified, fellowship-trained radiation oncologist. Varlotto will also serve as a professor at the [Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine](#) department of oncology.

Varlotto earned his medical degree from the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He completed a radiation oncology residency at Tufts University in Boston, Massachusetts, and a radiobiology fellowship at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Prior to joining Marshall Health, he served as a provider and faculty at University of Massachusetts Memorial Medical Center and Medical School in Worcester, Massachusetts.

Varlotto specializes in lung cancer and cancers affecting the brain. He is currently leading a clinical trial through the ECOG-ACRIN Cancer Research Group that is investigating the role of immunotherapy with concurrent chemo/radiation in locally advanced lung cancer.

Varlotto will see patients at the Edwards Comprehensive Cancer Center located at 1400 Hal Greer Blvd, in Huntington, West Virginia. For appointments or referrals, call 304-399-6500.

Fellowship-trained podiatrist Sheila Feaster joins Marshall Orthopaedics

JUNE 30, 2021



[Marshall Health](#) and [Cabell Huntington Hospital](#), a member of Mountain Health Network, welcome board-certified, fellowship-trained podiatrist [Sheila R. Feaster](#), D.P.M., to its team of orthopaedic providers. Feaster will also serve as an assistant professor at the [Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine](#) department of orthopaedics.

Feaster earned her doctorate in podiatric medicine from Kent State University in Independence, Ohio. She completed a residency at Henry Ford Health Systems in Wyandotte, Michigan, and two fellowships: one at the Eastern Colorado Health Care System in Denver, Colorado, and the second at Bako Podiatric Pathology Services in Alpharetta, Georgia.

Prior to joining Marshall Health, Feaster served as a provider for an OSF Medical Group specialty clinic in Monmouth, Illinois. She specializes in foot, ankle and wound care.

Feaster will see patients at [Marshall Orthopaedics](#) and the [Cabell Huntington Hospital Center for Wound Healing](#) in the Marshall University Medical Center located at 1400 Hal Greer Blvd, in Huntington, West Virginia. For appointments or referrals, call 304-691-1600.

Volleyball camps to resume this summer

MAY 5, 2021



Herd Volleyball will be hosting multiple volleyball camps this summer and we would be honored to have your child and/or children join our Herd athletes and coaches on the Huntington campus. This year, we will be hosting Team Camp, Elite Camp, All-Skills Camp, and of course, a Little Herd Camp. These camps are designed to prepare everyone for the upcoming season, teach volleyball fundamentals, competition, and elite skills, while most importantly reminding them to have fun!

- Elite Camp (Ages 13-18): July 9th -11th
- Little Herd (Ages 8-12): July 12th -13th
- All Skills (Ages 9-18): July 13th – 14th
- Team Camp (Freshman, JV and Varsity Teams): July 15th-17th

For more details and registration click on the following

link: <https://herdzone.com/sports/2019/2/26/volleyball-camps-html.aspx>

If you have any questions, please feel free to send an e-mail to Charlie French, assistant volleyball coach, at frenchc@marshall.edu.

Lange named director of nursing for Marshall Health

JUNE 30, 2021



Pediatrics nurse Tracy N. Lange, R.N., has been named director of nursing for Marshall Health.

Lange joined Marshall Pediatrics in 1997 as a patient service representative before becoming a licensed practical nurse (L.P.N.) in 2010. She earned her associate degree as a Registered Nurse (R.N.) at the University of Rio Grande in Rio Grande, Ohio, in 2015 and has served as nurse manager for Marshall Pediatrics since 2016.

“Tracy is bright, hardworking and kind. She is an excellent leader who leads by example,” said Joseph E. Evans, M.D., chief medical officer of Marshall Health. “She has extensive knowledge of our clinical operation, having worked with us for 24 years as a PSR and a nurse.”

As director of nursing, Lange will ensure that nursing standards of practice are consistent across the organization and work to maintain a high quality of patient care by the nursing staff. She will also lead quality improvement efforts and assist departments in the recruitment and training of nursing staff.

“Working at Marshall Health for more than two decades has been so fulfilling,” Lange said. “When I think about where I started and where I am now, I feel so blessed to be in career field like nursing where I can make a difference, not only in the lives of my patients but for my fellow nurses.”

First internet and phone stipend payment for FY 22 set for July 30

JUNE 9, 2021

Please make note!

The first internet and phone stipend payment for FY 22, covering the period 7/1-7/16, will pay on Pay #15, dated 7/30/2021.



Save THE DATE
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2021

FOR THE DEDICATION
OF THE STATUE HONORING
MARSHALL UNIVERSITY
and **NBA GREAT**
HAL GREER

Corner of 3rd Avenue and 18th Street
Adjacent to the Cam Henderson Center
Huntington, West Virginia

DETAILS TO FOLLOW.

University Communications | ucomm@marshall.edu
www.marshall.edu



Coronavirus Statistics:

New Cases Since June 15, 2021

Students: 0

Faculty: 0

Staff*: 0

** Includes auxiliary employees (Sodexo, Aetna, Rec Center, etc.)*

All testing is being done in partnership with Marshall Health, Cabell Huntington Hospital, Pleasant Valley Hospital, Q Labs Inc. and MedExpress Urgent Care.

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



**Stay
*Informed...***

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

For additional information, visit:
www.cdc.gov



The next regular issue of *We Are...Marshall* will be distributed July 7, 2021. Please send items for consideration to WAMnewsletter@marshall.edu by noon Tuesday, July 6, 2021.

To read the content of this newsletter online, please click on the following link:
www.marshall.edu/wamnewsletter/June-30-2021.