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Marshall Publications

8-23-2023

We Are ... Marshall, August 23, 2023

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WEARE...MARSHALL.

The Newsletter for Marshall University Faculty and Staff

August 23, 2023

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Governor, legislative leaders visit Marshall

AUGUST 23, 2023



Gov. Jim Justice, Senate President Craig Blair, and House Speaker Roger Hanshaw, among other state and local leaders, visited Marshall's Huntington campus yesterday for a ceremonial bill signing providing Marshall with \$45 million for its Institute for Cyber Security.

The funding will build a new facility in the Fourth Avenue Innovation District of Huntington and will serve as an important anchor for the area that is being developed as a transformational, innovation-led, mixed-use

area strategically located between downtown Huntington and Marshall's campus.

Justice included the supplemental appropriation funding for legislators to consider during a special session earlier this month.

Photo: The ceremonial signing of the \$45 appropriation for Marshall's Institute for Cyber Security took place yesterday. From left at the table are President Smith, Senate President Craig Blair, House Speaker Roger Hanshaw and Gov. Jim Justice.

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Brunty named head coach of US Cyber Team

AUGUST 23, 2023



Marshall's Dr. Josh Brunty, a faculty member in Cyber Forensics & Security, has been named head coach of the US Cyber Team, a team of talented cybersecurity athletes, coaches, and industry leaders put together by the US Cyber Games to represent the United States in global cybersecurity competitions.

As head coach for the 2024 competition season, Brunty will draft the most talented cybersecurity experts in the country and serve as a mentor on their journey. This team will represent the United States in international competitions such as the International

Cybersecurity Championships (ICC) and European Cybersecurity Championships (ECSC).

Brunty is an associate professor and director of the Cyber Forensics & Security graduate program in the School of Forensic & Criminal Justice Sciences. He joined Marshall in 2012 and before that, worked seven years as a digital forensics examiner, technical leader and technical assessor for both the state and federal government sectors. He is a recipient of the 2019-2020 Marshall and Shirley Reynolds Outstanding Faculty Award and the 2019-2020 John and Frances Rucker Outstanding Graduate Advisor Award.

He has served on boards and in offices for many organizations, including those for Forensic Science International; Digital Investigation; the Journal of Forensic Sciences; the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Organization of Scientific Area Committee (OSAC) on Digital Evidence; the Forensic Science Education Programs Accreditation Commission; and the Mid-Atlantic Association of the High Technology Crime Investigation Association (HTCIA).

"We are excited to announce the appointment of Dr. Joshua Brunty, professor of Digital Forensics & Cybersecurity at Marshall University, as head coach of the Season III, US Cyber Team," said Jessica Gulick, Katzcy CEO and commissioner of the US Cyber Games. "Dr. Brunty has a noteworthy background from both a practitioner and academic perspective, has coached and played in collegiate and federal/professional cyber competitions, and brings a unique blend of experience that will surely benefit the student-athletes in their training and skills building."

Since 2013, Brunty has served as faculty advisor and coach of Marshall's successful Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition Team. During his tenure, Marshall's team has taken top honors in a variety of cybersecurity competitions, including a first-place national championship finish in the National Cyber League in the spring of 2020, and four straight top-10 finishes in its fall and

spring competitions between 2018 and 2020. He has also served as a past mentor for various high school teams for the Air Force Association's CyberPatriot Competition.

"Josh's selection as head coach is a testament both to his commitment to mentoring the next generation of cyber-scientists and to the quality of our faculty in the great cyber forensic program he comes from," said Dr. Wesley Stites, dean of Marshall's College of Science. "They don't pick people for this position at random. I am sure that as his team represents the United States in competition against other countries, he'll do Marshall proud."

In his new position, Brunty and his staff, which includes assistant coaches and technical mentors, "will help guide athletes' training and progress through a series of increasingly difficult activities in which the athletes will learn both offensive and defensive tactical concepts which are reinforced in individual exercises," Brunty said.

He hopes the position shines a light on the excellence of Marshall's cyber programs.

"The exposure of being head coach will provide visibility and access to highly talented students who might be considering studying cybersecurity or digital forensics at the collegiate level," Brunty said, adding that current Marshall students may benefit as well. "The tactics that I will learn as part of the national team will help me be a better coach and mentor to Marshall's Collegiate Cyber Team. Additionally, I will also be able to help onboard hopeful competitors into the US Cyber Team's Pipeline Program, which will help prepare and train them for future selection on the U.S. National Team.

US Cyber Games hosts its own competitions, including its US Cyber Open in June, which is open to all students. Top performers compete in the US Cyber Combine, an invitation-only series of competitions in June through October and includes selection of the 30-person US Cyber Team.

"Josh is an absolute perfect fit for the coach of the US Cyber Team," said John Sammons, associate director for Marshall's Institute for Cyber Security. "He's had such a long track record of success with our own cyber competition team, it's no surprise he was selected for this incredible honor. Josh brings the same traits and characteristics to cyber competition that other successful coaches bring to football, baseball, etc. He's technically very competent, relates to his players, can motivate them, gets them to grow and can get them to function as a team. He's the same in the classroom, and his success there has been recognized as well.

"Marshall is lucky to have someone like Josh," Sammons added. "He's a big part of our overall success in cyber security and cyber forensics. The fact that he's a homegrown talent from West Virginia and a Marshall alum is icing on the cake."

For more information about cyber offerings at Marshall, visit <u>www.marshall.edu</u>. For more information about the US Cyber Team, visit <u>www.uscybergames.com</u>.

O'Keefe's research demonstrates cause of ice age extinction

AUGUST 23, 2023



Dr. Wesley Stites.

Dr. Robin O'Keefe has led research that was published today on the cover of the prestigious journal *Science* and demonstrates that the extinction of ice age mammals — dire wolves, sabretooth cats, horses and other species — was driven by a series of catastrophic fires in Southern California.

O'Keefe, a professor of biological sciences at Marshall, and his team used a large sample of new radiocarbon dates on extinct species from the tar pits at Rancho La Brea in Los Angeles. The data show that most species disappeared during a massive fire event that peaked about 13,000 years ago and was caused by humans and climate change.

Having research published on the cover of *Science* is a tremendous achievement, said College of Science Dean

"To put this in context for non-scientists, *Science* magazine is arguably the most prestigious place in the world to place peer-reviewed research," Stites said. "So just getting your work into *Science* is a lifetime ambition for many scientists. To get into *Science* means that the paper is thought by the editors to be very influential, of interest to the broad scientific community, and novel. And Robin O'Keefe is the lead author. And the article was selected for the cover of the magazine. It just doesn't get better than that in scientific publishing. The work of Robin and his team is a scientific home run. Marshall and the College of Science could not be prouder of this gifted researcher."

O'Keefe's team's complex research presents evidence to answer a long-standing question of scientists.

"Humans co-existed with megafauna for thousands of years before the extinction event," O'Keefe noted. "Why did this event happen when it did?"

The study, funded by a National Science Foundation grant, used rich pollen records and detailed climate proxies to show that the climate in Southern California warmed and dried significantly as the ice age ended. Econometric modeling was then used to analyze causal factors and strongly implicates humans as the primary cause of the fires, both directly through ignition, and indirectly through the elimination of herbivores. However, the fires were also promoted by the warming and drying climate, O'Keefe said. Together, the confluence of human and other factors enabled an ecological state shift, from one ecological regime (megafaunal woodland) to another (human chaparral).

This state shift entailed a major floral reorganization and the elimination of megafauna, O'Keefe said.

"Humans were largely responsible for the extinction, but not through overkill. Increasing human impacts in a warming, drying climate set the stage for ecological catastrophe," O'Keefe said. "This event is a cautionary tale for today, particularly considering our warming climate."

To view the article, visit:

https://www.science.org/content/article/raging-wildfires-may-doomed-californias-ancientmegamammals-tar-pit-fossils-reveal

"Dr. O'Keefe's innovative research highlights how our actions impact the environment's delicate balance," said Dr. Avinandan Mukherjee, senior vice president for academic affairs and provost at Marshall. "By understanding our history, we can wisely navigate modern challenges towards a sustainable future."

O'Keefe has held a faculty position at Marshall since 2006 and has taught over 2,000 undergraduates in courses ranging from human anatomy to comparative zoology and earth history. He has successfully mentored 19 master's degrees, with two in progress. He received his bachelor's degree in honors Biology from Stanford University in 1992, and his Ph.D. in Evolutionary Biology from the University of Chicago in 2000.

O'Keefe has published widely in journals including *Science, Nature, PNAS, Systematic Biology,* and numerous others. An acknowledged expert on marine reptiles from the age of dinosaurs, O'Keefe was named Distinguished John Deaver Drinko Academy Fellow for academic year 2012-2013, and then received a Drinko Distinguished Research Fellowship Grant in 2017 for his work on plesiosaur reproduction. O'Keefe has also published on the anatomy and relationships of Permian reptiles from Africa, as well as a series of papers on the evolutionary biology of Rancho La Brea carnivores. O'Keefe has done paleontological field work in the Caribbean, Madagascar, Niger, China, Europe, and throughout the American West, with current digs in the Cretaceous of Wyoming and Montana.

"Robin O'Keefe's cover article in *Science* is very exciting in several ways," Stites said. "First, the work itself provides insight into how sweeping changes in the ecology of North America took place 13,000 years ago. All sorts of animals that we all learned about in grade school went extinct then, and a long-running question has been how and why they died off. This international team provides solid evidence for the first time that widespread wildfires and the associated changes in habitat are at least part of the answer. And they raise the possibility that humans may have been part of the reason for the fires.

"Dr. O'Keefe's pivotal role as the leader of a complicated project with 19 investigators across 16 institutions affirms the quality of our faculty and their ability to do cutting-edge work at Marshall," Stites continued. "And, last but not least, this is serious research work that legitimately includes sabertooths. How impossibly cool is that?"

To learn more about the College of Science at Marshall University, visit <u>www.marshall.edu/cos</u>.



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Peter Meineck

Discover the visionary who rejuvenates ancient drama for today's world. His dedication also reaches veterans through the Warrior Chorus program, offering catharsis and camaraderie to those who served.

WARRIOR MIND:

COMBAT TRAUMA FROM ANCIENT AND MODERN PERSPECTIVES

August 24th | 6:00 pm

Francis Booth Experimental Theater

1696 6TH AVE, HUNTINGTON

Lecture, Panel Discussion and refreshments. Free and open to the public.

www.marshall.edu/testament

WEST VIRGINIA



Sponsored by the Department of Academic Affairs, the College of Liberal Arts and the WV Humanities Council.

Annual Herd Rally set for Friday

AUGUST 23, 2023

Marshall and Kindred Communications will kick off the school year and the start of fall sports with their annual Herd Rally at 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 25, on Ninth Street, between Third and Fourth Avenues in Huntington.

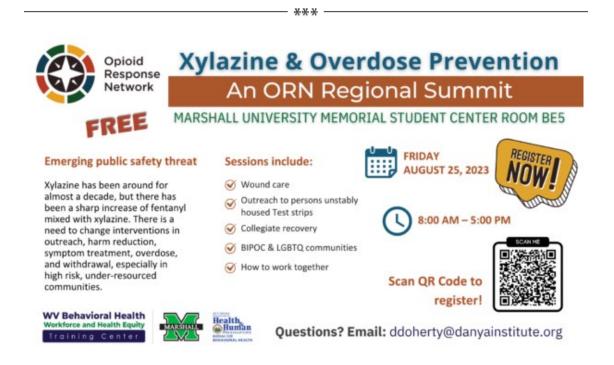
Herd Rally is part of Kindred Communications' 9th Street Live Celebration and will feature Madhouse. At 8 p.m., Marshall's Marching Thunder will march onto Ninth Street to kick off the pep rally portion of the evening.

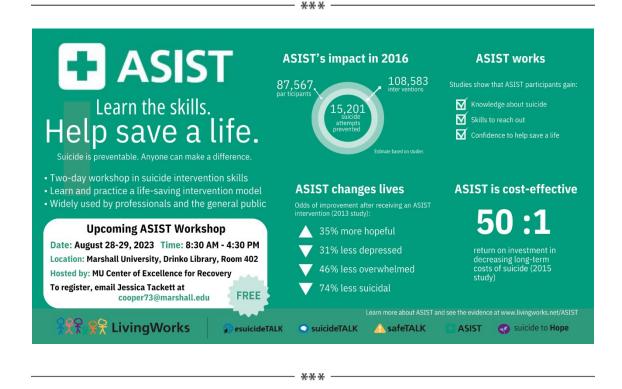
The pep rally will feature Marshall athletes and coaches, including the Thundering Herd football team; swimming and diving team; men's and women's basketball; men's and women's soccer; volleyball; and cheerleaders. Marshall University mascot, Marco, will be meeting fans and available for photos.

"Herd Rally is a great event for Marshall fans and the Huntington community," said Mallory Jarrell, director of branding and events. "This annual event is a perfect opportunity for students new to campus and those that have been fans for years to come together to celebrate the Marshall family."

Herd Rally is a free event open to all community members.

For more information, follow @marshallu on Facebook, X (Twitter), and Instagram.





Yellow Ribbon Program expands to include master's degree offerings

AUGUST 23, 2023

Marshall is expanding its participation in the Yellow Ribbon Program, which is a part of the VA Education Benefit Chapter 33/Post 9-11 GI Bill [®]. The expansion will encompass master's degree programs. Undergraduate programs were already covered under the prior Yellow Ribbon agreement. This expansion further demonstrates Marshall's commitment to supporting military-connected (including veterans, service members and dependents) individuals' affordable educational pursuits.

The Yellow Ribbon Program at Marshall is designed to assist Chapter 33/Post 9-11 GI Bill students who qualify at the 100% benefit level and are pursuing their education as metro or out-of-state students. Under this agreement, the university and the VA cover the metro or out-of-state cost of attendance, providing a valuable opportunity for military-connected individuals to pursue their academic ambitions.

Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Avi Mukherjee says providing veterans the new pathway is important to Marshall.

"Expanding our Yellow Ribbon program to embrace master's degrees underscores Marshall's steadfast commitment to empowering our veterans," Mukherjee said. "By aligning with their academic goals, we strengthen student success and stand strong beside those who've served."

With the addition of master's degree programs, the university provides a spectrum of available undergraduate and master's degree programs that military-connected can take advantage of.

By expanding the Yellow Ribbon Program, Marshall University and the VA collaboratively cover the metro and out-of-state tuition, ensuring that the military-connected can fully focus on their studies and achieve their academic goals.

Military-connected individuals seeking more information about the Yellow Ribbon Program at Marshall University, may direct e-mail messages to <u>vareg@marshall.edu</u> or call 304-696-2254.

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Marshall launches new clinical trial for treatment of elevated blood pressure during pregnancy

AUGUST 23, 2023

The Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine is now enrolling participants in a randomized controlled trial comparing the outcomes of treatment and non-treatment of elevated blood pressures during early pregnancy.

Participants in the clinical trial will have elevated blood pressures, defined as 120 or greater systolic and 80 or greater diastolic, and will be randomly divided into two groups. One group will not receive medication to treat elevated blood pressure, while patients in the second group will be assigned to take one of two medications—nifedipine or labetalol. Both medications are considered safe for the treatment of elevated blood pressure during pregnancy, and all study patients will be closely monitored.

Women with elevated blood pressures during early pregnancy are at significant risk for preeclampsia, premature placental separation, preterm delivery and low birth weight. One of the study's goals is to determine whether treatment decreases the risk of early delivery and infants admitted to the NICU.

"We know based on a recently completed study here at Marshall that our pregnant patients with blood pressure above 120 systolic or 80 diastolic are at higher risk for gestational hypertension and preeclampsia," said Jesse Cottrell, M.D., the study's principal investigator and assistant professor at the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine. "This study uses medications that are routinely prescribed for elevated blood pressure during pregnancy to determine if treatment will improve clinical outcomes."

Marshall is currently recruiting 234 patients for the study. Patients must be aged 18 to 45, between 12 and 16 weeks gestation with blood pressures between 120-139 systolic and 80-89 diastolic. Randomization to control, labetalol or nifedipine will be performed after patient consent. Patients must be receiving obstetric care at Marshall Health's OB/GYN office located in the Marshall University Medical Center in Huntington.

For more information about the clinical trial, call 304-691-1400.

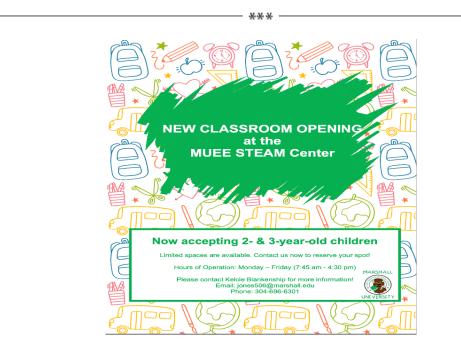
Study #1889318-5 has been approved by the Marshall University Institutional Review Board.

Drinko Library will be raving Sept. 19!

AUGUST 15, 2023

On Tuesday, Sept. 19, from 5 to 8 p.m., a silent rave and resource fair will take place in the Drinko Atrium. Library staff realized that National Talk Like a Pirate Day, National Dance Day and Batman Day all fall within the same week, so they are encouraging attendees and people involved to dress up if they'd like.

The library is currently looking for campus resources that would be interesting in tabling for the event. Additionally, they plan to raffle prizes off for students who attend. Any campus resource group that donates to the raffle will have the opportunity to design a playlist option students can listen to. This will be a great, low-stress way to introduce your department to students through shared musical taste. If you would be interested in tabling for the event and/or making a donation, fill out the form located <u>here.</u>





Morris to serve as featured speaker for inaugural lecture for Year 2 of Marshall's HLC Quality Initiative

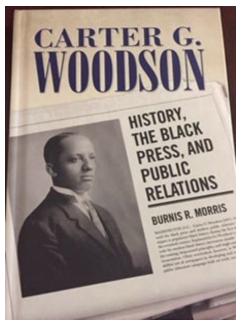
AUGUST 23, 2023



The Office of Academic Affairs has announced the inaugural lecture for the second year of Marshall's Higher Learning Commission Quality Initiative. Burnis R. Morris, Marshall University's Carter G. Woodson Professor of Journalism and Mass Communications, will give a reading/presentation from his book, *Carter G. Woodson: History, the Black Press, and Public Relations*.

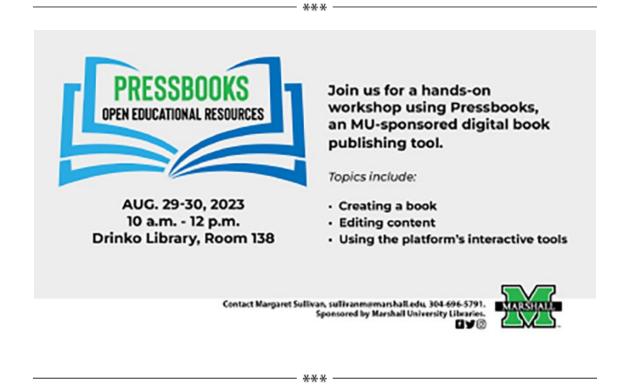
Morris's reading/lecture, sponsored by Academic Affairs, the John Deaver Drinko Academy and University Libraries, will take place at 4 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 29, in the Drinko Library

Atrium. Refreshments will be provided. Morris will sign copies of his book, which will be available for purchase during the event.



Morris has received many honors throughout his career. Marshall University named him a Distinguished John Deaver Drinko Fellow in 2011 and conferred upon him the Distinguished Artists and Scholars Award in 2016, during which year he also was named a West Virginia History Hero. Dr. Alan Gould and Morris co-founded the Dr. Carter G. Woodson Lyceum, a program created through the Drinko Academy and the W. Page Pitt School of Journalism and Mass Communications. Morris is the current director of the lyceum.

Black History has come alive for many students attending West Virginia's public schools through their teachers' participation in Summer Black History Institutes. Morris has conducted these institutes, supported in part through grants from the West Virginia Humanities Council, since 2017.



Staff/Faculty Appreciation Game to take place Sept. 2

AUGUST 23, 2023

The season-opening Marshall Football vs. Albany game set for Saturday, September 2nd at 6:00 p.m. has been designated as the annual Marshall University staff & faculty appreciation game!

All Marshall University staff & faculty are eligible to receive **two (2) complimentary game tickets**.

To claim your tickets, please fill out the form here: <u>https://app.herdzone.com/staff-appreciation-game</u>

All claimed tickets will be sent to your email before the game.

The deadline to submit for the complimentary tickets is Wednesday, August 30th.

For all questions, please contact the Marshall Ticket Office at 800-THE-HERD during normal office hours (M-F, 9-4).

We look forward to seeing you at The Joan!

GO HERD!

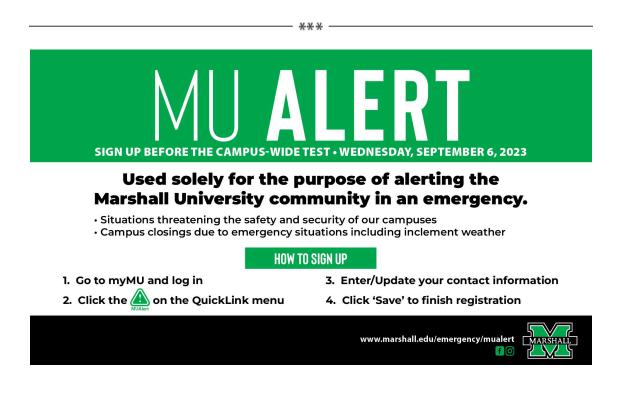
Football Game Information

OPPONENT: Albany

WHEN: Saturday, September 2nd at 6:00 p.m.

WHERE: Joan C. Edwards Stadium

www.herdzone.com





"Live with a Librarian!" information sessions to start Sept. 10

AUGUST 23, 2023

Library Information Sessions!

*Have a question—You can get an answer!

*Great time to ask a Librarian!

*open to students, faculty, or staff with questions!

Sessions on Tuesday: Sept. 12th at 6 p.m.

Oct. 10th at 6 p.m.

Nov. 7th at 6 p.m.

Log onto Teams:

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device!

Click here to join the meeting

Meeting ID: 290 723 142 163 Passcode: gNpCwK

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Contact for Information:

Heather Lauer

Marshall University Libraries

South Charleston Campus

Email:Lauer2@marshall.edu

Phone: 304-746-8906

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Nomination period for faculty awards underway

AUGUST 23, 2023

Nominations for Marshall University Faculty Awards for the 2023-2024 academic year will be accepted through September 15, 2023.

Access the online nomination form here: NOMINATION FORM

Nomination guidelines:

Faculty, staff and administration may nominate a faculty member for the following awards:

- Hedrick Outstanding Faculty Award
- Reynolds Outstanding Teacher Award
- Pickens-Queen Teacher Award

Students may nominate a faculty member for the following awards:

- Reynolds Outstanding Teacher Award
- Pickens-Queen Teacher Award

ONLY **members of the Council of Chairs** may nominate a faculty member for the Council of Chairs Award.

Brief descriptions of each award are provided below. For additional information, click on the award name.

Hedrick Outstanding Faculty Award

The \$5,000 award is the most prestigious form of faculty recognition at Marshall University.

Eligible Nominees

- must be in a full-time, tenured appointment in a unit that reports to Academic Affairs;
- must have a minimum of seven years of full-time teaching experience at Marshall University (*a person is first eligible for nomination in the fall of the 8th year*);
- must have a record of outstanding scholarship, research and/or creative activity plus outstanding undergraduate or graduate teaching.

Marshall & Shirley Reynolds Outstanding Teacher Award

The \$3000 award is presented to a faculty member who demonstrates superior teaching.

Eligible Nominees

- must be in a full-time tenured appointment in a unit that reports to Academic Affairs;
- must have a minimum of six years of credited full-time teaching experience, at least three of which are at Marshall. (For the purposes of this award, "credited full-time teaching experience" refers to the total years of experience that Academic Affairs counts as part of a faculty member's tenured or tenure-track appointment at Marshall University.)

Pickens-Queen Teacher Award

The \$1000 award provides encouragement and incentive for teaching achievement by newer faculty members and is presented to three junior faculty members.

Eligible Nominees

- must be in a full-time tenure-track appointment in a unit that reports to Academic Affairs;
- must have at least one year full-time, tenure-track teaching experience at Marshall and no more than five years of credited full-time teaching experience. (For the purposes of this award, "credited full-time teaching experience" refers to the total years of experience that Academic Affairs counts as part of a faculty member's tenured or tenure-track appointment at Marshall University.)

Council of Chairs Award for Excellence in Teaching

The \$1000 award has been established to recognize teaching excellence in Marshall University's full-time term and temporary faculty. Nominations for this award must be submitted by department chairs or the Council of Chairs. Each fall, members of the Council of Chairs (excepting the School of Medicine) will be permitted to nominate up to two candidates from a given department.

Eligible Nominees:

- must be in a full-time *term* or full-time *temporary* faculty appointment;
- must have at least two years' full-time teaching at Marshall University. A person is first eligible for nomination in the fall of the 3rd year of teaching.

For questions, contact <u>ctl@marshall.edu</u>.

Annual Health Sciences Research Day set for Nov. 10; abstracts due Sept. 18

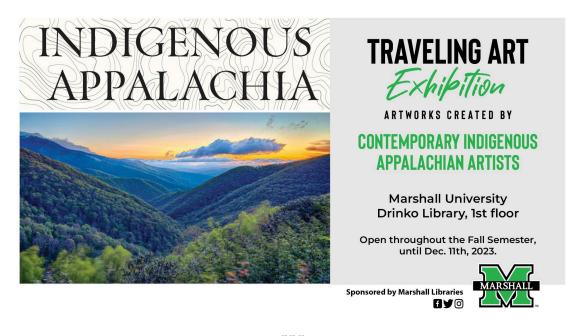
AUGUST 23, 2023



The 35th Annual Marshall University Health Sciences Research Day will be held Friday, Nov. 10. Organized and sponsored by the Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine, Health Sciences Research Day partners with the School of Pharmacy, the College of Health Professions and the College of Science to highlight original research and educational innovations. Participating students include undergraduates as well as graduate,

medical, pharmacy, nursing, health professions and postdoctoral trainees in medicine, biomedical sciences and clinical and translational sciences.

Submit your <u>abstract</u> now at jcesom.marshall.edu/researchday. Deadline to submit is Sept. 18.



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Sarah Denman Faces of Appalachia Fellowship Award accepting applications until Dec. 31

AUGUST 23, 2023



Sarah Denman Faces of Appalachia Fellowship Award*

2024– 2025 Academic Year DEADLINE DECEMBER 31, 2023

The purpose of this fellowship award, sponsored by the Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Gender in Appalachia (CSEGA), is to promote scholarship on gender, race, and/or ethnicity in Appalachia. The fellowship is awarded annually to a full-time Marshall University faculty member. The Sarah Denman Faces of Appalachia Fellow, who is selected by the CSEGA Advisory Board and announced at the annual spring faculty meeting, receives a \$3,000 cash award. Fellows present their scholarship to the Marshall community in the spring of their fellowship year (spring, 2025).

Application Process

Marshall faculty members interested in being considered for the fellowship award should submit a professional vita along with a 1-2 page abstract of the proposed project. Please include a statement that clearly defines the scope of your work and explains how the fellowship will assist you in your research. **The research must emphasize gender, race, and/or ethnicity in Appalachia**, may be a new project or a continuation of a project already underway. Please send application materials by email to Mary Thomas at <u>mthomas@marshall.edu</u> by **December 31, 2023.** The award winner, as well as other applicants, will be notified early in the spring, 2024 semester.

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

*This award is funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.



The next regular issue of *We Are...Marshall* will be distributed Aug. 30, 2023. Please send items for consideration to <u>WAMnewsletter@marshall.edu</u> by 5 p.m. Monday, Aug. 28, 2023.

To read the content of this newsletter online, please click on the following link: link: <u>www.marshall.edu/wamnewsletter/August-23-2023</u>.

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