

Marshall University Classified Staff Council Minutes February 15th, 2024, Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

Members Present: Jesse Baldwin, Nina Barrett, Lacie Bittinger, Tim Cline, Carol Hurula, Becky Lusher, Nick Martin, Anita Mathis, Lisa Maynard, Carleen O’Neill, Lisa Ransbottom, Terri Thompson, Justin Tyler, Tony Waugh, Amy Weaver, Rob Williamson

Members Absent: Beretta Coleman, Anna Evans, Samantha Holiskey, Larry Morris,

Members Absent (Excused): Heather Lowe,

Guests: Diana Adams, Mike Adkins, Sam Aretz, Michaela Arthur, Jean Ann Bevans, Hailey Bibbee, Mistie Bibbee, John Bowen, Mark Brame, Kathy Brannock, Butch Burriss, Jesseka Bush, Pat Campbell, Perry Chafin, Courtney Chapman, Latrenda Clay, Cassandra Contreras, Jon Cutler, Meg Cyrus, Tiffani Daniels, Amy Marie Davis, Kaleigh Decker, Maggie DeLong, Misty DiSilvio, Bruce Felder, Melanie Gallaher, Kenneth Greenwood, Katherine Hetzer, Eric Himes, Alyssa Hudson, Brandi Jacobs-Jones, Paige Kennedy, Chris Key, Simone Kompanek, Dena Laton, Kelly Marcum, Christina McDavid, Michael McGuffey, Char McKenna, Teresa McSweeney, Rebecca Meek, Glen Midkiff, Susan Midkiff, Nathan Miller, Amad Mirzakhani, Terri Morgan, Brian Morgan, Avinandan Mukherjee, Katherine Murphy, Becky Neace, Ginny Painter, Jyotsna Patel, Sara Payne, Jodie Penrod, Daniel Persinger, Tina Powell, Tabby Puckett, Erika Riley, Alice Roberts, Angie Rose, Jerry Ross, Emily Roush, Tyler Sharp, Marcy Simms, Tracy Smith, Wes Spradlin, Robyn Stafford, Sarah Stephens, Allen Taylor, Robin Taylor, Kim Thomas, Seth Thomas, Matt Tidd, Lora Varney, Laura Walker, Eric Wallace, Mary Waller, Charlotte Weber, Cora Westmoreland, Tracie Wheeler, Kathi Wintz, Miriah Young, Jodi Zimmerman

Chair Tony Waugh called the meeting to order. Parliamentarian Becky Lusher verified there was a quorum.

Avi Mukherjee – Provost

- **Enrollment & Retention** – We are beginning to turn around a 13-year steady decline in enrollment. We are tracking these numbers with Anthology, a company that helps us to do analytics as well as contact students to help get them to the next stage in the application process.
 - **Spring 2024 Enrollment** – we are at a 7.1% total enrollment increase compared to last spring. Individual student population numbers compared to last spring are:
 - 7.6% increase in undergrad students
 - 5.8% increase in graduate students
 - 20% increase in metro students. (168 more students compared to last spring)
 - After lowering our metro rate to that of the in-state student rate, we needed 90-92 more students to break even, and we have gone well past that.
 - 37.4% increase in high school dual enrollment students
 - Our current number of dual enrollment students is 1226, and our goal is to reach 1500 students.

- We've had a decrease in international students from 160 in the fall to 145 in the spring, so this is a place to work on improving.
- Fall-to-spring retention has increased.
 - Entire student body retention is at 91.1% and first-year student retention is 86.1%.
 - We met our retention rate target of 90%, but still have work to keep it there and continue to further grow that number.
- Fall 2024 Enrollment
 - Green & White Days have been very successful.
 - We had 6 in the fall compared to 3 in fall of 2022.
 - 170 students came to February 2024 Green & White Days.
 - We will hold our final Green & White Days on April 5th and 6th.
 - 80 students are registered for our February 24th Admitted Student Reception.
 - Currently, we have a 22% increase in applications compared to this time last year.
 - We have 7,843 applications, which is close to our Fall 2023 final numbers.
 - We have a growth in completed applications of 8.2%.
 - We have a growth in admissions admits of 7.4%.
 - We have a growth in deposits of 82%.
 - Last year, we removed the requirement of a fee required for deposits.
 - We ended Fall 2023 with nearly 2200 deposits, and we are already at 1700 deposits for Fall 2024.
- **Employee Searches**
 - Two major searches currently underway:
 - Executive Director of the Center for Cyber Security
 - Executive Director of Forensic Science Center
- **National Rankings**
 - Overall, our masters programs are ranked 154th amongst all universities in the country.
 - Masters in Criminal Justice – ranked 33rd in the country
 - Undergraduate Engineering – ranked 86th in the country
 - Nursing, Social Mobility – ranked 207th in the country
 - School of Physical Therapy – ranked 27th in the country
- **Almanac 2023** – Annual HEPC data report
 - The total undergraduate student body consists of:
 - 81% in-state students
 - 13% adult students (25+)
 - 12% minority students
 - 8% transfer students
 - 1% international students
 - Fall 2023 Freshmen consisted of:
 - 33% Promise Scholarship recipients
 - 44% Pell Grant recipients

- Graduation Rates:
 - Entire Student Body
 - 31% graduate in 4 years
 - 50% graduate in 6 years
 - Promise Scholarship Recipients
 - 54% graduate in 4 years
 - 74% graduate in 6 years
 - Minority Students
 - 26% graduate in 4 years
 - 45% graduate in 6 years
 - Pell Grant Recipients
 - 23% graduate in 4 years
 - 40% graduate in 6 years
 - Adult Students (25+)
 - 9% graduate in 4 years
 - 18% graduate in 6 years
- Other Data
 - 70% receive some kind of financial aid
 - 56% work in WV two years after graduation
 - 49% work in WV four years after graduation
 - 60% of bachelor's degree students graduate with an average of \$31,000 in student loan debt.
 - Median wages of students two years after graduation:
 - \$35,000 for undergraduate degrees
 - \$50,000 for graduate degrees
 - Median wages of students four years after graduation:
 - \$43,000 for undergraduate degrees
 - \$55,000 for graduate degrees
- **Q:** How do these enrollment numbers compare to pre-COVID numbers?
 - **A:** Spring 2020 had a slightly higher enrollment than Spring 2024, but we have reversed the declining enrollment trend and hope to get back to those numbers, and beyond.

Matt Tidd – CFO

- **FY25 Budget Development Process**
 - Finance will soon be emailing budget development templates.
 - Meetings will be scheduled with individual units.
 - The budget process will be a parallel process: using the old system and templates while also adding some new templates and information that will help to create a new process the following year.

- **Save-to-Serve**
 - This money saving initiative was well received by the West Virginia Legislature.
 - As part of this initiative, the Marshall Marketplace will be live July 1st and everyone is encouraged to attend a training or opportunity to learn more.

Bruce Felder – Human Resources

- **University Closed March 22nd**
 - The University will be closed the Friday of spring break to observe an extra holiday given by the WV Governor at the holidays. Marshall was unable to take the extra holiday over break, so it will be observed on Friday, March 22nd.
- **PEIA Changes**
 - Potential PEIA changes are being closely monitored, and the universities are united in trying to work with the State Legislature to figure it out together.
- **Open Enrollment**
 - Open Enrollment for benefits will take place from April 2nd-May 15th. Changes can be made to your benefits at that time.
 - Employees who have had a change in dependents due to divorces or children over the age of 26 are encouraged to ensure that those individuals have been removed from their benefits.

Tracy Smith – Health and Safety

- **Senate Bill 10 – West Virginia Self Defense Act**
 - This bill was signed by the governor on March 1st, 2023 and will go into effect on July 1st 2024.
 - The bill allows students and employees with a valid concealed carry license to carry a firearm in certain areas on campus.
 - We have had an action team, led by Lieutenant Parker of MUPD, charged with researching and looking at other institutions for best practices. They have also been working with Homeland Security, which has done a third party risk assessment to help aid us in readying a policy and procedures.
 - Most of the policies and procedures are developed in a draft form with the exception of a few.
 - An email communication will be sent out soon with the specifics of the bill and the policies and procedures on campus.
 - We are currently working on a training video.
 - Town hall meetings will be held, during which questions can be answered.

Sara Payne – Government Relations

- **Legislative Session**
 - We have hit the midway point of the legislative session.

- Currently, there have been 2,498 bills introduced.
 - 62 bills directly mention higher education.
- The government relations team has a daily presence at the Capitol and are watching approximately 45 different bills, some of which include:
 - A libraries bill regarding books and materials.
 - American Campus Act
 - A bill dealing with research and certain countries.
 - A bill that adds economic development to the mission of our research corporation, allowing more flexibility on economic development projects to hopefully drive innovation and research dollars to the corporation.
 - A Hunger Free Bill for students.
- The previous Tuesday marked the deadline for the House to introduce new bills unless it's coming from a committee or affects supplemental appropriations.
 - The same deadline for the Senate will be the following Monday.
- Crossover day will take place later in February, during which bills must have moved from House to Senate or Senate to House in order to continue.
- Government Relations is also watching pay raises, especially since when the Governor gives money for a 5% raise, Marshall actually requires more money than he provides in order to give 5% to everyone.
- The Government Relations team is happy to help coordinate educational opportunities with legislators for anyone who is interested.
- If anyone is interested in getting the government relations weekly newsletter please let us know.

Approval of Minutes

- The January 18th, 2024 minutes were approved as written.

Carol Hurula – Board of Governors

BOG Representative – Carol Hurula

** This is my interpretation of each meeting, presentation, and individual reports. Notes are written in my words and are not verbatim words of speakers. I have attempted to share the updates as closely as possible to the content. Any questions or clarification, please notify me. *Forgive any typos.*

BOG Meeting on Wednesday, February 7, 2024 - Shawkey Room.

- Approval of minutes for December 13, 2023.

Academic and Student Affairs Committee /Provost Update: Avi Mukherjee and BOG Committee Chair – Kathy D'Antoni

- Provost update (see handout provided by Academic Affairs) on each college highlights and summary page.
- Fall enrollment update from Provost Mukherjee.

- Dr. Mry Beth Reynolds presentation during the committee meeting on HLC Quality Initiatives.
- Dr. Karen McComas presentation during the committee meeting on Expanding Our Borders – Affiliations & Articulation Agreements.
- Dr. Marcie Simms provided an update on Student Affairs since last meeting.

Student Representative Update: Walker Tatum

- Student organization funding is one of their #1 support items and to date have given to student orgs \$20,810.
- May resolutions have been written, passed and forwarded to the President.
- SGA had a large presence at MU Day at the Capitol, an event they enjoy supporting.
- Upcoming elections. Nominations in March with election held in April.
- HEPC Vice Chancellor & Advisory Council of Students will be surveying students on topics relating to student retention at both the university and state-wide on efforts of retaining students both in graduate programs and in the state after their graduation. Results will be shared with the universities and legislature.
- Hunger 4 Campus Act – bill was introduced last week at the legislature by Senator Grady. SGA will come back next week to speak on the bill.
- Meeting with Department of Education on collaborating on Pre-K initiatives.
- February is Month of Service for all 2- & 4-year institutions. The topics are, food insecurity, literacy, hygiene and mental health. Donation of product or monetary to the food bank.
- Quote on expanding the Food Pantry & Thrift Store. The proposal is to have 3,000 sqft. whereas the current space committed is 800 sqft.
- Food Fight with Sunbelt Conference at Basketball Games. Score system – all schools participating.
- Attendance of SGA at the Green & White Day Events.

School of Medicine Update: Dr. David Gozal (handout provided)

Finance, Audit, and Facilities Planning Committee (Matt Tidd & BOG Committee Chair – Donald Holcomb)

- Approval of renovations to the Strayer Building. Project estimate \$6,564,871, funding 4 million federal earmark, supplemental state appropriation and clinic revenue.
- Approval of the construction of the second floor of the JCE SOM Facility at Chapmanville. Project estimate \$1,724,154, funding from \$750K HRSA earmark, \$600K in rural health support from Stern Floc Lawsuit, \$50K in community support and \$324K in clinic revenue.
- Approval of the naming of the Softball Building the “Victoria Farley Softball Facility” by a donation from John Farley.
- FY24 Q2 Financial Update.
- FY24 Projected results.

Facilities & Operations and Audit: (handout provided)

Presidents Update (Brad D. Smith) *summarized highlights only.

- MU Momentum – Marshall 4 All, Marshall 4 Ever.
- Financial Health Institution.
 - 1-year strategic roadmap.
 - Path to grow our way out.
 - Save to Serve.
 - Reduced structural deficit 28 million to 22 million.
 - Every unit in FY25 to reduce budgets by 5%.
 - Open discussions with faculty & staff on the FY25 budget plans.
 - If we reduce this by 5% in FY25 that will reduce the deficit by 5 million.
 - Budget work group meeting to provide input.
 - IBM will run parallel to provide colleges with transparency & to better understand the new model.
 - Days of Cash on Hand. An understanding across campus on how this impacts university.
 - Only filling budgeted positions and no increase in operating unless ROI proforma for exception.
 - Everyone is working together.
- Governmental Legislative.
 - Co-host with WVU legislative event. United in working together.
 - MU Day at Capitol was January 31st – painted Capitol GREEN. 250 employees attended. It was a “top shelf” event.
 - Presented at Legislative Committees. Mat Tidd was a “rock star”. Many comments on MU’s presentation.
 - Hosted International leaders on campus.
 - The announcement of LG Electronics will bring over 250 new jobs and invest over \$700 million in WV. MU will be an integral part in the process.
 - Current merit performance model. Every Dean and others know how this works and it’s built into all our plan as an institution.
 - PEIA – having to dig out of 28 million deficits, while PEIA increase adds 5 million. MU & WVU taskforce working together on resolving. We fixed worker’s comp, we can fix PEIA.
 - Supplemental grant requested for aviation expansion – to assist Marshall with expanding and help other schools grow or stand up their programs at Potomac State, West Liberty, and Blue Ridge.
 - MU Advance Center. Build out the (4th avenue) Innovation District. Asking the State to consider helping fund a new building.
 - Partnership with WVU – First Assent. An initiative encouraging WVU and Marshall graduates to not leave West Virginia through a matching opportunity to access amenities the remote workers are receiving.
 - Programming phase for the new Institute for Cyber Security. Breaking ground in the summer.
 - Thanks to legislative funding, now receiving first deposit of the twenty-one million for deferred maintenance. The “shock and awe” is underway. Over spring break will take down Laidley Hall, a former residential hall that had been converted into offices.

- WVU & MU partnering – WV Grant Resource Center. \$500K supplemental allocation. Impacts 55 counties & many non-profits and communities. Will be assisting communities and other applicants in developing competitive grant applications. Services will be 100% free. Over 27 million grants available – WV communities need to apply.
- Mid-Year update.
 - Good percentage of responses to the first annual employee engagement survey. Acting on survey results. (performance assessment, pay equity concerns).
 - Enrollment & Student Success. MU enrollment is up 4.6% and other public WV Institutions' average is down.
 - Growing partnership with legislative leaders.
 - Roll out of AI – Presidential Taskforce
 - Continue working on structural deficit. Not easy but we have a plan, we have momentum, we have a community.
 - The Power of WE will get us where we need to be.

Entered into Executive Session:

- Return from executive session, no votes or action taken.
- Approval to allow President to enter into negotiations for the sale of the property between 23rd and 25th streets of 5th avenue.

Chairman Report: (Mr. Geoff Sheils)

- National Girl & Women's Day – invite to attend Women's Basketball game.
- Continues to be amazed at all the work going on as reflected in the Academic Affairs report, financial plan, enrolment, business school, and baseball stadium.
- Energy & excitement on campus, metro area, and legislative.
- Good time to be associated with Marshall University.
- Thanks to President, arguably toughest job, grateful Brad is at the helm along with Alys.
- Phenomenal job.
- Nothing goes unnoticed.

Adjourn 11.05am

Future Meeting Dates

April 10, 2024

June 12, 2024

August 5-6, 2024 (offsite retreat)

October 9, 2024

December 4, 2024

February 5, 2025

April 9, 2025

June 11, 2025

Committee Reports

Election Committee – Nina Barrett – The election committee is currently holding an election to fill the following vacancies. The election will end at 11:59pm on Monday, February 19th. Those elected will serve through the current term, which will end on June 20th, 2025.

- One Vacancy on EEO 10
- One Vacancy on EEO 30
- One Vacancy on EEO 40
- Two Vacancies on EEO 50
- ACCE Representative

Legislative Committee – Carol Hurula – No report.

Personnel/Finance Committee – Rob Williamson

- The chair of the faculty senate personnel committee reached out to Rob and Tony to discuss collaborating on an informal complaint process. The committee is looking into what that would look like, how to handle it, etc. This will be an opportunity for employees to point out something that needs to be addressed without taking it all the way to a full grievance.

Physical Environment Committee – Becky Lusher – No report.

Service/Staff Development Committee – Carleen O’Neill – No report.

Announcements

- Opening baseball game at the new stadium will be March 1st.
- Employees are always encouraged to nominate deserving employees for the John Marshall Service Award. More information can be found on the Human Resources website.

Minutes taken and prepared by: _____
Katie M. Counts, Program Assistant, Classified Staff Council

Minutes approved by: _____
Tony Waugh, Chair, Classified Staff Council

Minutes read by: _____
Brad D. Smith, University President

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

February 6, 2024



Christian Spears
Director of Athletics

Debra Boughton
Executive Associate AD, Championship
Planning and Resources

SPARTAN UNIVERSITY

Athletic Teams Updates

LEADING THE 303

- #1 Scoring Offense: 91.5
- #1 Steals Per Game: 13
- #1 FG Percentage: 47.9%
- #1 3-Pointers Per Game: 15
- #1 T/O Margin: +7
- #1 Assists Per Game: 17.5
- #1 3PT%: 41.7%



Rafa Simoes



Women's Head Soccer Coach





Sweetheart Clinic, January 20, 2024



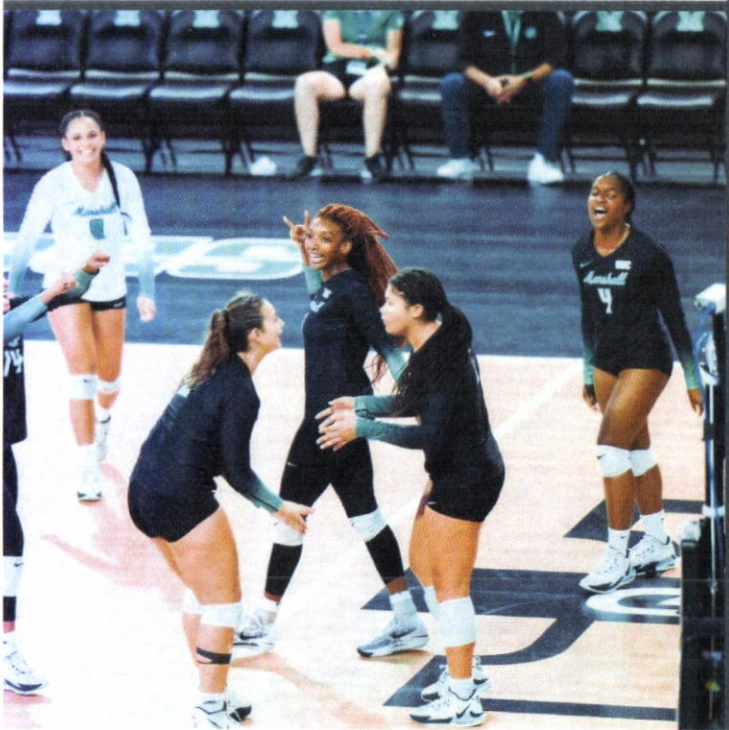
Baseball Opening

Weekend

Inaugural Season: March 1st - 3rd

BUDGET UPDATE

Q2



- Revenue

- Auxiliary Enterprise
- Big Green Transfers
- Student Fee Allocation
- Institutional Support
- Tuition Waivers
- University Allocation and Other Transfers

- Expenses

- Salaries and Benefits
- Team/Staff Travel
- Supplies and Other Services
- Scholarships





BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Christian Spears
Director of Athletics

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Executive Associate AD, Championship
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PROVOST REPORT

FEBRUARY 2024



ACADEMIC AFFAIRS



A MESSAGE FROM ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Greetings!

As we step into 2024, we're delighted to present key moments that capture the energy of new talents, innovative concepts, and inspiring projects across our academic divisions.

- Dr. Rob Quicke, Director & Professor, W. Page Pitt School of Journalism & Mass Communications, published a textbook, 'Finding Your Voice in Radio, Audio, and Podcast Production,' with Routledge Press.
- Dr. Simon Shim, assistant professor of Biomedical Engineering, secured a total of \$15,000 in NASA funding for two groundbreaking research projects exploring the effects of radiation on genomes and mutated clonal hematopoiesis in astronauts after space missions.
- Dr. Marc Ellison, Executive Director of the WV Autism Training Center, achieved distinction as the Chair of the Autism Society of America's Panel of Professional Advisors.
- The College of Health Professions secured a \$50,000 grant from the American Electric Power Foundation to enhance technology training, community outreach, and inclusion initiatives in STEM at the Speech and Hearing Center and the Huntington Scottish Rite Foundation.
- The Thundering Word Speech & Debate Team, under the leadership of Dennis Taylor, earned an outstanding 80 awards in 16 tournaments during the fall season, securing national tournament qualifications and claiming 15 first-place trophies.
- The College of Science proudly installed the state-of-the-art Leica Stellaris 8 STED optical microscope, valued at \$1.2 million, in December 2023, offering advanced fluorescence microscopy with a remarkable 40-nanometer resolution.
- Aviation achieved a significant milestone by deepening its collaboration with Embraer, a prominent global aerospace company, through a comprehensive visit that strengthened relationships, showcased student projects, and paved the way for future educational initiatives and industry partnerships.
- The Brad D. Smith Center for Business and Innovation, a state-of-the-art 77,000 square-foot facility, opened in January 2024, providing Marshall's Lewis College of Business with cutting-edge classrooms, labs, and collaborative spaces to enhance student learning and innovation.
- The School of Pharmacy successfully initiated the development and review of a new master's program in Pharmaceutical Leadership and Informatics, expanding its academic offerings and enhancing its commitment to excellence in pharmacy education.

- University Libraries successfully published ten electronic thesis dissertations for the Fall 2023 semester, showcasing academic excellence and research contributions.

Our commitment to excellence extends beyond the classrooms, with various student support services and programs contributing to the overall success of our academic community.

- The collaborative efforts of students and staff led to a significant improvement in retention and graduation rates, showcasing the program's effectiveness in supporting student success.
- During the fall semester of 2023, the Center for Student Success facilitated the acquisition of course materials for 47 students, with a total expenditure of \$12,633.65. This financial assistance positively impacted students' academic experiences.
- The MU Student Veterans of America (SVA) chapter excelled at the 16th Annual SVA Conference, being honored as Chapter of the Year. This recognition underlines the outstanding support provided to student veterans.
- The Counseling Center provided crucial mental health services, conducting a total of 4,088 appointments from August 16, 2023, to January 10, 2024. This reflects the center's commitment to addressing the mental health needs of the Marshall University community.
- Online student enrollment for Spring 2024 reached a record high of nearly 1,300 students, demonstrating the success of proactive outreach efforts and the growing popularity of online learning opportunities at Marshall University

We're excited to invite you to join us in recognizing and celebrating the outstanding accomplishments of our dedicated faculty, staff, and the achievements of our students and alumni. Your presence will add to the joy as we highlight the scholarly and creative endeavors that make our university community thrive.

Sincerely,



Avinandan Mukherjee

Avinandan (Avi) Mukherjee, Ph.D.
Provost & Senior Vice President for
Academic Affairs



Karen McComas

Karen McComas, Ed.D.
Interim Associate Vice President for
Academic Affairs & Associate Provost

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COLLEGE OF ARTS AND MEDIA (DEAN: DR. MARIA GINDHART)

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- The inaugural BEYOND awards were held on November 27, 2023, to recognize students and alumni, as well as faculty and staff, who make an impact by going above and beyond in their contributions to the W. Page Pitt School of Journalism and Mass Communications.
- The 13th Annual National Juried Exhibition was held January 8 through February 2, 2024, in the Charles W. and Norma C. Carroll Art Gallery. The exhibition featured works from 16 different states including regional works created by students and alumni of the School of Art and Design.
- Visiting artist Beth Livensperger gave an invited talk on January 17 at the Visual Art Center. Her solo exhibition, *All My Mansions*, is on display in the Birke Art Gallery January 18 through February 22. The exhibition features site-responsive, large-scale installations reflecting on keys aspects of communal work, life, and gender roles.

FACULTY & STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

- Miyuki Akai-Cook, associate professor of Fibers, was awarded a WV Department of Arts, Culture & History Living Traditions Folk Arts Grant for her fiber work exploring Japanese Yokai and traditional fibers practice. She was also awarded Special Distinction in the Global Talent Art Prize, 3rd Edition competition, May 2023 through April 2024. She exhibited work in *Intertwined* at the Love Hope Center for the Arts, Fayetteville, WV, October through December 2023.
- Tijah Bumgarner, assistant professor of Video Production, received a professional development grant from the WV Department of Arts, Culture & History in December 2023.
- Dr. Rachel Danford, associate professor of Art History, presented "Theories of Making in Early Medieval North Italy," to the Global Medieval Peasants Research Network in December 2023.
- Sandra Reed, professor of Art, was awarded the SECAC President's Award of Distinction, which recognizes former officers of the organization.
- Matt Smith, assistant professor of sculpture, exhibited *The West Through a New Lens* at the PACE Center Gallery in Parker, CO, November 2023 through January 2024.
- Dr. Rob Quicke, professor of Journalism, had his textbook, *Finding Your Voice in Radio, Audio, and Podcast Production*, published by Routledge Press.
- The *Journal of 20th Century Media History*, a peer-reviewed academic journal founded and edited by Dr. Rob Rabe, professor of Journalism, published its first issue.
- Dan Hollis, professor of Journalism, completed a mini-documentary on West Virginia waterfalls and the WV Waterfall Trail.
- Dr. Henning Vauth, professor of Music, was an artist faculty member at a piano festival in Medellin, Columbia. Calvin Riggs, one of the school's piano majors, also attended the festival.

- Dr. Mark Zanter, professor of Music, presented his paper “Unreal Worlds, an Exploration of 2D Wavetable Synthesis and Soundscape Ecology” at Generative Art Conference XXVI in Rome, Italy in December 2023.

STUDENT & ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENTS

- Alumnae Baylee Gruesser (BFA Painting) was awarded a Meigs County Foundation grant to support the art program she coordinates for Southern Local School District in Racine County, Ohio.
- The winners of CODA, the Fall 2023 Capstone Exhibition, were chosen on December 8, 2023.
 - Gallery Director’s Choice: Katie Spencer, Treat Me Like Your Dirty Laundry
 - First Place: Dawn Kushner, yeah, an American hero
 - Second Place: Levi Simpkins, Indigo Holding Levi
 - Third Place: Oliver Lovejoy, My 9th Birthday and Every Birthday Since
- Projects by Lana Thacker (BFA Graphic Design) and Makayla Welch (BFA Graphic Design) were selected to be displayed at WORK, a national juried student design exhibition, at Jacksonville State University in Alabama, January 18, 2023, through February 20, 2024.
- A quilt by Amy Pabst (BFA Fibers), The Best Medicine, has been selected for the Juror’s Choice Award in Marshall University’s 13th Annual National Juried Exhibition in the Charles W. and Norma C. Carroll Gallery.
- Chylee Strayley (BFA Studio Art), Marcie Kessinger (BFA Graphic Design), Emily Adkins (BFA Graphic Design), Jacob Wood (BFA Graphic Design), and Dawn Kushner (BFA Photography) received Research Scholar Awards for their capstone presentations.
- Sadie Nelson (BFA Graphic Design), Zoë Peterman (BA Visual Art and Design), Alex Vance (BFA Graphic Design), and Makayla Welch (BFA Graphic Design) were awarded an opportunity to decorate sculptures for Artisans Express presented by Mountain Health Foundations to benefit the Hoops Family Children’s Hospital.
- Aaliyah Manns (BA Video Production) and Melia Beckford (BFA Studio Art) were awarded Creative Discovery and Research Awards for Spring 2024.
- Forty-nine members of the Marching Thunder represented Marshall at the Scooter’s Coffee Frisco Bowl in Frisco, TX, on December 19, 2023.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- The Holiday Celebration concert on November 27, 2023, featured various student ensembles and faculty members.
- The Chamber Choir performed with the West Virginia Symphony Orchestra and Chorus on December 16, 2023.
- Faculty members participated in the Huntington Symphony Orchestra Home for the Holidays concert on December 18, 2023.

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE (DEAN: DR. DAVID DAMPIER)

FACULTY & STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

- Dr. Simon Shim, an assistant professor of Biomedical Engineering, secured funding for two research proposals. The first project, titled "Mutable Effects of Radiation on Mouse and Chimpanzee Genome," received \$5,000 in funding from NASA. The second project, "Mutated Clonal Hematopoiesis-Driver Genes in Astronauts after Space Missions," received \$10,000 in funding from NASA.
- Dr. David Dampier and John Sammons successfully obtained funding for their proposal titled "Soldier Cyber Skills Training Project Validation at the Center of Excellence in Cybersecurity for Critical Infrastructure." The Civil-Military Innovation Institute (CMI2) granted \$2,517,000 for this project. Dr. David Dampier, in addition to being the Dean of CECS, is a professor of Computer Science and the Executive Director of the Institute for Cyber Security. John Sammons, a professor of Cyber Forensics and Security, serves as the Associate Director of the Institute for Cyber Security.
- A research article titled "Alkaline-modified biochar and nitrifying microbiome synergistically mitigate the toxicity of oxytetracycline and its toxic by-products" was published in the Chemical Engineering Journal in January 2024. The authors, Dr. Sungmin Youn (associate professor of Civil Engineering at Marshall), Dr. Anh Nguyen, Dr. Seungdae Oh (faculty at the Department of Civil Engineering of Kyung Hee University in Yongin, Republic of Korea), and Dr. Yuyi Yang (researcher at the Key Laboratory of Aquatic Botany and Watershed Ecology at the Chinese Academy of Sciences), collaborated on this work.
- Another research article, "Removal of Amoxicillin by Coffee Grounds Biochar with Different Pretreatment Methods," authored by Dr. Sungmin Youn and colleagues from the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Hongik University in Seoul, Republic of Korea, was published in Environmental Advances in December 2023.
- Dr. Yousef Fazea, an assistant professor of Computer Sciences and Electrical Engineering, along with student Levi Palmer, presented a paper titled "Lattice-Based Cryptography for the Internet of Things in Post-Quantum Computing" at the 7th International Conference of Reliable Information and Communication Technology (IRICT2023) held in Johor Baru, Malaysia, on December 27-28, 2023.
- A research paper titled "Regression Analysis of Coal Production and Tobacco Smoking with Lung Cancer in West Virginia, USA," authored by Dr. Mohammed Ferdjallah (assistant professor of Electrical Engineering), Dr. Fuad Zeid (MD in the department of Internal Medicine at the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine), and Dr. Asad Salem (professor of Mechanical Engineering), was published in the International Journal of Public Health & Safety (Vol. 8:6, 2023).

STUDENT & ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENTS

- Tyler Hebert, a Yeager Scholar and student in Civil Engineering, recently published her essay titled "Intumescent Paint Protection in the Transportation Industry" in the Winter 2024 edition of Public Roads, a magazine by the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration. Her essay was featured as part of a student writing competition.
- In the realm of Creative Discovery and Research Awards for Spring 2024, several CECS students were recognized:
 - Colby Perry, a senior in Computer Science, will collaborate with Dr. Tanvir Chowdhury on the project "Immersive VR Active Shooter Preparedness Training."
 - Brady Martin, also a senior in Computer Science, is set to work with Dr. Sudipta Chowdhury on the project "Comparative Analysis of Different Models for Detecting Differentially Expressed Genomic Data."
 - Cade Parlato, a sophomore in Computer Science, will be involved in Dr. Husnu Narman's project, "Determining Tree Biomass in Forests using YOLOv7 Instance Segmentation."
 - Josh Hatfield, a senior in Computer Science, is participating in Dr. Sudipta Chowdhury's project, "Development of A Community Resilience Model for Emergency Management."

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

(DEAN: DR. TERESA EAGLE)

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Dr. Jennifer McFarland-Whisman is finalizing the syllabi for the recently developed Applied Behavior Analysis program within the Special Education Department at COEPD.
- Within the EdD Program in Curriculum and Instruction, students have established support groups to aid in navigating the program. These groups convene weekly, emphasizing writing accountability, goal setting, and mutual support to facilitate successful program completion.

FACULTY & STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

- Dr. Huanshu Yuan, Assistant Professor of Curriculum and Instruction, recently published an article titled "The Need of Global Understanding and Context: Multicultural and International Perspectives on Teacher Education" in the World Journal of Education (December 2023). Additionally, Dr. Yuan presented two papers at the Annual Meeting of the Mid-Western Educational Research Association in Cincinnati, Ohio, focusing on improving teaching practices for historically marginalized students and promoting multicultural teacher education in China.
- Assistant Professors Drs. Yvonne Skoretz and Huanshu Yuan from the Curriculum and Instruction department served as Conference Proposal Reviewers for the 2024 American Educational Research Association (AERA) Annual Conference. Dr. Yuan also contributed as a Conference Proposal Reviewer for the 2024 Eastern Educational Research Association (EERA) Annual Conference.
- Dr. Debra Lockwood, Associate Professor and Director of Special Education, along with Dr. Wendi Dunham, Associate Professor of Special Education, presented "Seas the Day with the edTPA: Pre-service Impact and Implications" at the 2023 Teacher Education Division National Conference in Long Beach, California.
- Dr. Kimberly McFall, Associate Professor of Graduate Curriculum and Instruction, delivered an invited talk titled "Trends and Issues in Education" to the Institute of Pedagogy at the University of Wroclaw, Poland, on December 6, 2023.
- Dr. Marc Ellison, Executive Director of the WV Autism Training Center, was appointed Chair of the Autism Society of America's Panel of Professional Advisors, guiding the ASA in setting standards for evidence-based treatments.
- Dr. Sachiko McBride, Assistant Professor of Curriculum, Instruction, and Foundations, was named one of the finalists for the 2023-2024 MU Council of Chairs Award for Excellence in Teaching. Dr. McBride holds a joint appointment between COEPD and the College of Science.

- Dr. Monica DellaMea, Assistant Professor of Early Childhood Education, and Dr. Mindy Allenger-Prewitt, Associate Professor of Curriculum, Instruction, and Foundations, jointly presented the session "Diverse Literature: Gateway to Connecting Social Studies to Literacy in Pre-K and Kindergarten" at the West Virginia Reading Association Annual Conference on November 17, 2023.
- Dr. George Watson, Professor of Curriculum, Instruction, and Foundations, co-published a paper titled "Academic Cheating in Online and Live College Courses During the COVID Pandemic" in the Journal of Research Education (Volume 32, Issue 2, Fall 2023).
- Dr. Kimberly McFall, Associate Professor of Graduate Curriculum and Instruction, attended the Fulbright Evening at the Polish Embassy in Washington, DC on December 14, 2023, celebrating the power of intercultural academic exchanges and honoring the work of Fulbright alumni.

STUDENT & ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENTS

- Cassie Owens Moore, who completed the School Library Media Specialist Certificate in December 2020, has been honored as a 2024 Global Learner by the National Education Association. Additionally, her library program at Seneca Middle School was recognized as the South Carolina School Library Program of the Year.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- In collaboration with The Clay Center in Charleston and Cabell County Schools, the June Harless Center organized the display of the Clay2Go mobile exhibit at the Huntington Mall throughout November. This interactive exhibit featured hands-on STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) activities, captivating students and families. The Huntington Mall served as the inaugural location for the Clay Center's statewide tour.

COLLEGE OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS (DEAN: DR. MICHAEL PREWITT)

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- In December, the American Electric Power Foundation awarded the Department of Communication Disorders a \$50,000 grant. This funding will support technology training, community outreach, and the promotion of inclusion and accessibility in STEM at the Speech and Hearing Center and the Huntington Scottish Rite Foundation.
- Utilizing funds from the WV HEPC Nursing Expansion Grant, the School of Nursing faculty has developed a self-care and remediation course for students in the program.
- In December 2023, 21 students graduated with a BSN from the RN to BSN online program. The program welcomes 24 new students starting in the spring 2024 semester.
- Approval has been granted for a new graduate certificate in School Social Work. Additionally, an accelerated Bachelor of Social Work to Master of Social Work program has been approved.
- The Master of Social Work program has expanded with the approval of two new areas of emphasis: an online option and a face-to-face/hybrid option.

FACULTY & STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

- David Nelson, Director of the Behavioral Health Center and assistant professor of Social Work, collaborated with the Psychology, School Psychology, and Counseling departments to secure a \$450,000 grant from the Health Resources Services Administration. The grant aims to support behavioral health workforce activities, providing diverse training opportunities for the future workforce. Training placements will be established in integrated primary care clinics and school-based primary care clinics. Additionally, experiential training will be offered in innovative community agency placements, focusing on adolescents and transitional youth with a history of intergenerational trauma.
- Dr. Neil A. Evans, along with Janet E. Simon, Suzanne M. Konz, Arthur J. Nitz, and Timothy L. Uhl, published a research paper titled "Reliability of isokinetic decay slope is superior to using fatigue indices for shoulder horizontal abduction" in the Journal of Bodywork and Movement Therapies (Volume 37, 2024). Dr. Konz is a professor of Biomechanics in the School of Kinesiology.
- Dr. Angela Graham, assistant professor of Nursing, was selected to review abstracts for the National League of Nursing for the year 2024.

STUDENT & ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENTS

- The School of Kinesiology celebrates the acceptance of abstracts from its students for presentation at the 21st Annual Undergraduate Research Day at the WV State Capitol on February 22, 2024. The selected abstracts are as follows:
 - Faith Auvil: "Less Glenohumeral External Rotation is Found in Forearm Pronation Than in Forearm Supination"

- Rileigh Elk: "Elbow Stability Decreases After a Bout of Throwing"
- Jake Hutchison: "Forearm Muscle Pennation Angle Increases during Maximal Grip Contractions"
- Patrick Ringhisen: "Load Carriage Reduces Scapular Motion during Arm Elevation and Gait"
- Brettina Jeffers: "Load Carriage Increases Trunk Flexion during Arm Elevation and Gait in ROTC Cadets"

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Dr. Sandra Prunty, professor of Nursing, actively participated in the Cabell County Read Across the River Cities event on November 15, 2023. She engaged with third-grade students at Explorer Academy in Huntington, WV, by reading a chapter from Charlotte's Web, contributing to community literacy initiatives.

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS (DEAN: DR. ROBERT BOOKWALTER)

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- The Thundering Word Speech & Debate Team, led by Dennis Taylor, achieved remarkable success during the fall season. Seventeen students participated in 16 tournaments, securing a total of 80 awards that contribute to national tournament qualifications for the National Forensics Association and the American Forensics Association. The team claimed 15 first-place trophies, with George Urling earning 10, Lilly Mills earning 3, and novices Olivia Hindman and Gabe Corbin each earning one. Additionally, the squad achieved 52 top 3 finishes for individual speakers and ranked as a top 3 team in five of the 16 tournaments.

FACULTY & STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

- Dr. Boniface Noyongoyo, assistant professor of Sociology, recently published his article, "Living Without My Foods: African Students' Eating Habits Compared to All in the United States of America," in the July 2023 edition of the Journal of Higher Education Politics and Economics.
- English instructor Rachel Rinehart's essay, "'Enduring Mystery' and the Ferryman Farmer in Mary Oliver's 'The River Styx, Ohio,'" was featured in Issue 33 of the New Ohio Review as part of the Ohio Stories II feature.
- Kae Bradley, Director of the English Language Institute, is currently completing a 10-month fellowship at Zhubanov University in Kazakhstan. She has organized a Conversations Abroad program that connects her Kazakh students with Marshall students in English 201, facilitating communication skills and cultural understanding.
- Dr. Jeremy Barris, professor of Humanities and Philosophy, has published his article, "Teaching Philosophy as a Way of Life with Respect to our Being," in the journal Philosophy in the Contemporary World.

STUDENT & ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENTS

- English MA student Ivy Scoville secured the 2023-2024 Doris C. Miller Scholarship, amounting to \$1,100.
- Jasmine Waite, an English major, received the John Marshall Creative Scholar Research Award for Fall 2023. Under the guidance of Professor Ian Nolte in the Film Studies program, her project resulted in a complete screenplay for a feature film.
- Abigail Cunningham, a Communication Studies major, was honored with a Creative Scholar Research Award for Spring 2024. Under the guidance of Dr. Jill Underhill, Abigail will explore communication challenges in conversations with people who stutter, investigating the impact of listeners' attention span on comprehension and person perception.
- Miriam Crookshanks, an English major, earned a Creative Scholar Research Award for Spring 2024. Her critical study will assess the contributions of the humanities to a university

education, examining whether a thorough study of Greek and Latin language and literature provides essential tools for professional success in the 21st century.

- Dr. Moriah Harman, a Political Science BA graduate (2017), is the co-author of "African American Coping in the Political Sphere" and currently serves as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science at Texas Tech University, having earned her PhD in Political Science from Louisiana State University in 2023.
- Paige Reger, who graduated with a Communication Studies BA in 2021 and a Communication Studies MA in 2023, now serves as the Industry Engagement Coordinator for the Alliance for the Economic Development of Southern West Virginia at MURC. In her role, she assists Marshall students with placements in internships, apprenticeships, and post-graduation employment.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Dr. Barbara Tarter, professor of Communication Studies, collaborated with Ian Jessee from the Huntington Symphony Orchestra on a \$45,000 grant for the symphony.
- The Psychology department maintains strong community engagement. Psi Chi, the psychology student honorary, collaborates with the Collegiate Recovery program to conduct monthly lunches at Harmony House. Members also partner with the Social Work department to work with children at the Huntington City Mission. PsyD program students volunteer for monthly free mental health screenings with Marshall Medical Outreach. Dr. Marianna Linz trains Cabell County school personnel in Trauma Responsive Education, while Dr. Penny Koontz and Dr. Brittany Canady provide training in motivational interviewing for Williamson Health and Wellness Center providers. Dr. Wendi Benson and a group of undergraduate students collaborated with the Shawnee Counseling Center in Portsmouth, OH, to study turnover, burnout, and treatment effectiveness for staff working with substance use disorder clients.
- Dr. Cicero Fain III, adjunct history instructor and Assistant Provost for Inclusive Excellence, and English instructor Cat Pleska participated in an authors' panel at Huntington High School. The panel, organized by MU English Education graduate and HHS teacher Marissa Dillon, provided students with the opportunity to read Fain and Pleska's books, write papers about their reading, and submit questions to be asked of the authors during the panel.

COLLEGE OF SCIENCE (DEAN: DR. WESLEY STITES)

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- The National Science Foundation EPSCoR funded Leica Stellaris 8 STED optical microscope, valued at \$1,200,000, was installed in December 2023 with advanced training occurring in January 2024. With a resolution of 40 nanometers, the system is state of the art in fluorescence microscopy.
- The MU Chapter of the Society of Physics Students was recognized for the fourth consecutive year as an Outstanding Chapter under the mentorship of Dr. Sean McBride. The MU chapter is among the top 9% of outstanding chapters in the nation.
- The Summer Undergraduate Research Experience Award was renewed for 3 years with an estimated budget of \$144,000. Students pursuing advanced STEM degrees will be selected via a competitive application process for 10 weeks of research during the summer.

FACULTY & STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

- Dr. Stephen Deterding, assistant professor of Mathematics, was invited to give a talk during the American Mathematical Society (AMS) Special Session on New Faces in Operator Theory and Function Theory at the annual Joint Mathematics Meetings.
- Dr. Sachiko McBride, assistant professor of Physics, was selected as one of the finalists for the 2023-2024 MU Council of Chairs Award for Excellence in Teaching.
- Dr. Tom Cuchta, assistant professor of Mathematics, co-published two articles:
 - “Discrete analogues of complementary exponential and sine integral functions.” *Demonstratio Mathematica*, December 2023.
 - “An Approach to Multidimensional Discrete Generating Series.” *Mathematics*, January 2024.
- Dr. Victor Fet, professor of Biological Sciences, co-published the paper, “A survey of proximal sensilla associated with denticle subrows on scorpion pedipalp fingers (Arachnida: Scorpiones), with observations on scorpion fluorescence.” *Euscorpius*, No. 382, January 2024.
- Dr. Pam Puppo, assistant professor of Biological Sciences, co-presented “The diversification of *Micromeria Benth.* (Lamiaceae) in the Canary Islands reflects species syngameon dynamics” at the Annual Meeting of the Portuguese Association for Evolutionary Biology in Lisbon, Portugal, December 18–19, 2023.
- Dr. Rosalynn Quinones, associate professor of Chemistry, received a John Marshall University Scholars Award for Summer 2024. Dr. Quinones was also a faculty mentor and judge at the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minoritized Scientists (ABRCMS) meeting in Phoenix, AZ, November 2023.
- Dr. Derek Kolling, professor of Chemistry, co-published the article, “Chemobiosis reveals tardigrade tun formation is dependent on reversible cysteine oxidation.” *PLoS ONE*, January 2024.

- Dr. Stephen Young, associate professor of Criminal Justice, co-published the article, "Deflecting a "Crisis": The Opioid Epidemic in Appalachia as State Violence." *Contemporary Justice Review*, December 2023.

STUDENT & ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENTS

- Chemistry student Abby Browning secured a NASA fellowship to work in the Markiewicz Lab in Spring 2024.
- Chemistry student Trace Clark won a MURC Undergraduate Creative Discovery and Research award to work in Dr. Derek Kolling's lab in Spring 2024.
- Forensic chemistry student Julia Barnes received a student poster award at the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minoritized Scientists (ABRCMS) national meeting in Phoenix, AZ, in November 2023.
- Criminal Justice undergraduate student Benjamin McElroy presented a poster at the Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology in Philadelphia, PA, in November 2023.
- Criminal Justice graduate student Zoe Pearson presented a paper at the Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology in Philadelphia, PA, in November 2023.
- Dr. Mindy Yeager-Armstead, professor of Natural Resources and Earth Sciences, and her students presented their research at the 44th Annual Meeting of the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry in Louisville, Kentucky, on November 16, 2023.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Society of Physics Students members Sydney Moore and Jacob Lee, along with their chapter advisor, Dr. Sean McBride, assisted local students in building the fastest motors at Marshall University's TRIO 2nd Annual STEAM Day on November 18, 2023, with approximately 60 students participating.
- The Marshall University Astronomy Club hosted first graders and their teachers from the Cabell County Explorer Academy for engaging astronomy-based learning experiences, including telescope viewing and observing simulated comet-making with liquid nitrogen.

DIVISION OF AVIATION (CHIEF AVIATION OFFICER: MR. BILL NOE)

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- In November, Marshall University Aviation leadership hosted representatives from the Embraer maintenance renovation and overhaul facility and the Embraer Foundation. The visit provided a comprehensive overview of programs, operations, facilities, and labs. Students collaborated with Embraer representatives in the hangar, showcasing ongoing projects and engaging in discussions about their educational journey, goals, and industry aspirations. The Marshall University Foundation, Aviation leadership, and Embraer Foundation leaders convened to strengthen their relationship, establish goals, and broaden the collaboration over the coming years.

STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

- In January 2024, Christopher Kidd joined Marshall University Aviation and the Bill Noe Flight School as the Chief of Rotorcraft and Fixed Wing Maintenance. A U.S. Air Force veteran from the Kanawha Valley, Mr. Kidd brings over 13 years of aviation experience, particularly in rotor and fixed-wing maintenance, coupled with strong leadership skills.

STUDENT & ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENTS

- In December 2023, three students from the first cohort of Marshall University's Aviation Maintenance Technology program spent three days at Embraer's Nashville maintenance renovation and overhaul facility. Engaging in hands-on work on engines, avionics systems, and landing gear, the students also attended planning meetings and administrative functions. Embraer expressed satisfaction with the positive experience and plans to extend the job shadowing duration from three to five working days.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- The West Virginia Legislature recently organized a lunch and learn panel discussion on the future of the aviation and aerospace industries in the state. Mr. Bill Noe, Chief Aviation Officer, participated as a panelist alongside experts from Vertx Partners, Aurora Flight Sciences-A Boeing Company, Mid-Atlantic Aerospace Complex, TMC Technologies, and ASSURE-the Federal Aviation Administration's Center of Excellence for UAS Research. The panel highlighted the estimated \$1.35 billion annual value of West Virginia's aerospace industry, contributing \$486 million to the state's GDP and over \$24 million in state and local taxes. Discussions focused on investing in airports, education, and collaboration with institutions like Marshall University to position the state as an innovative hub in the face of potential cyber threats.

- In December 2023, around 70 students participated in Gear Up! from Cabell Midland High School visited the Flight School, gaining valuable insights into aviation opportunities both at Marshall University and throughout West Virginia.
- During the same month, the Aviation Maintenance Technology (AMT) program at Marshall University hosted a tour for 60 students from the Collins Career Technical Center, representing five high schools in southern Ohio. These students were immersed in learning about aviation maintenance careers, exploring the offerings of Marshall University's Aviation program, observing classes and lab sessions, and engaging with current AMT students.
- Members of the executive board from the Maier Family Foundation paid a visit to the Flight School, actively participating in discovery flights and meeting professional pilot students who have benefited from the foundation's support. During their interactions, students had the opportunity to share their experiences and personal journeys in pursuing careers as professional pilots.
- The Aviation Maintenance Technology program played a pivotal role as the host site for drone and robotics competitions targeting middle and high school students on December 9 and 10. The event, featuring teams from West Virginia and beyond, not only promoted STEM learning but also reinforced crucial social skills like cooperation and teamwork. Supported by key entities such as the Marshall Advanced Manufacturing Center, NASA IV&V Education Resource Center, and the West Virginia Robotics Alliance, the competition served as a platform for students to progress to higher levels of competition.
- Additionally, Marshall University Aviation received an exclusive invitation to introduce a variety of aviation career options to students at Logan High School, offering valuable insights into the diverse programs and pathways available for aspiring aviation professionals.

LEWIS COLLEGE OF BUSINESS (DEAN: DR. DON CAPENER)

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- In January, the Brad D. Smith Center for Business and Innovation, a 77,000 square-foot facility, opened its doors for Marshall's Lewis College of Business during the Spring 2024 semester. Nearly 200 students were welcomed to the new building during an open house on January 7. Faculty and staff guided tours of the nine classrooms, computer lab, finance lab, student commons, innovation spaces, advising center, and the Encova Auditorium, equipped with 360 theater-style seats. Visitors explored features such as wheeled flip-top nesting desks, writable surface panels, a 2nd-floor student lounge, private study areas, and breakout rooms. A grand opening for the entire Marshall community is scheduled for early April.
- As of January 2024, Marshall holds the impressive #9 ranking in the Top 20 Best Master's in Health Informatics Programs nationwide, recognized by collegerank.net. Notably, Marshall's program stands out as the most cost-effective while meeting all quality measures on the list.
- A student-led investment fund has been established, providing approximately \$100,000 annually for MU students to invest. Collaborating with wealth managers at City National Bank, students will craft investment strategies involving equities, bonds, and other fixed income vehicles.
- In a valuable collaboration, the Lewis College of Business is partnering with Northwestern Mutual to deliver financial literacy education to students this spring. Northwestern Mutual has expressed its intent to offer 10-25 paid in-state internships, qualifying successful students to become financial advisors upon graduation. Additionally, the LCOB is working with Northwestern Mutual to introduce the "Culture Index," a self-assessment survey measuring work-related preferences and aligning career choices with personality profiles.

FACULTY & STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

- Dean Don Capener was invited to be a keynote speaker and moderator on public private partnerships and corporate engagement at the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) Asia Pacific Annual Conference in Osaka, Japan. Marshall is pursuing several partnerships for exchange and research cooperation in Japan with Waseda University in Tokyo and Doshisha University in Kyoto.
- Dr. Nabaneeta Biswas, assistant professor of Finance and Economics, had her article, "Is merit-aid for all? The effects of aid-eligibility changes on college access in the United States." featured in the journal Studies in Higher Education.
- Dr. Monisha Gupta, assistant professor of Marketing and Director of the Truist Center for Leadership, led the Financial Wellness Workshop and Emerging Leaders Certification program last fall. These programs promote financial literacy and train students in leadership development.

- Dr. Liz Alexander, professor of Marketing, led a workshop on QR code use in the classroom at the 2023 Atlantic Marketing Association Conference.

STUDENT & ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENTS

- Tyler Farley, a double major in Economics and International Affairs, won a Benjamin A. Gilman Scholarship to study abroad. Tyler is one of approximately 1,700 undergraduate students from across the United States to receive the scholarship. Farley, who is also a Yeager Scholar, will study abroad this summer in Argentina.
- Accounting student Madalyn Rader placed first in the Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS) WV State Championship with one of the highest scores ever recorded. Madalyn will move on to compete in the 2024 MOS National Championship in June. Her performance, along with two other classmates, placed Marshall at the top of the WV state rankings for Microsoft Excel.
- Aaron Clarke, MS in Health Informatics student, won the 2023 Bugbee-Falk Book Award from the Association of University Programs in Health Administration (AUPHA) for his academic excellence. The award was established by AUPHA in honor of the extraordinary contributions of Mr. George Bugbee and Dr. Isidore S. Falk for their development of health services administration education. The award consists of several books from the field of health administration and a general management library donated to students at member programs. The books serve as a symbol of the selected students' academic success, the need for continued learning, and their commitment to excellence.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- The LCOB is working with Nucor Steel to provide internship opportunities for undergraduate students. Nucor is also looking to further the development of their workforce by eventually creating a cohort of around 20 employees to earn their MBA from Marshall with a combination of online and live classes on their new Mason County campus when it opens.

SCHOOL OF PHARMACY (DEAN: DR. ERIC BLOUGH)

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- The School of Pharmacy is actively expanding its outreach efforts to attract potential students. Dr. Boyd Rorabaugh personally reached out to all accepted BSPS students, offering a t-shirt to those who responded. Additionally, promotional emails were sent to thousands of prospective students through the MU Admissions office. The school's presence was felt at Green and White Days, various college fairs, and Morehead State University.
- A new master's program in Pharmaceutical Leadership and Informatics is currently under development and undergoing review.

FACULTY & STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

- Megan Russell, Director of Progressions, has been accepted into the John Marshall Leadership Fellows program for the Spring 2024 semester.
- Drs. Daniel Brazeau and Gayle Brazeau participated in an American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACCP) delegation to Havana, Cuba, as part of a pharmacy education exchange program.
- Dr. Mindy Varney, SOP alum Dr. Caroline Putnam, and current students Lahari Kondeti and Meredith Kesler published their review article, "Modulating the immune systems as a therapeutic target for myelodysplastic syndromes and acute myeloid leukemia," in *Biochemistry and Cell Biology* in December 2023.
- Notable publications include Rorabaugh BR, Guindon J, Morgan DJ's "Role of Cannabinoid Signaling in Cardiovascular Function and Ischemic Injury" in the *Journal of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics* (December 2023) and Erstad BL, Blakely CG, Romera A, Perez AA, Brazeau GA's "Best Practice Strategies for Retaining Faculty During Times of Rapid Change" in the *American Journal of Pharmaceutical Education* (November 2023).
- Dr. Jordan Browning presented his poster, "Retrospective Analysis of Outcomes of Gram-Negative Bacteremia Treatment," at the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) Midyear Clinical Meeting in Anaheim, CA.
- Drs. Thomas Pile and Craig Kimble, along with Dr. Alberto Coustasse-Hencke (Health Informatics), published "Strategies to Help Eliminate Drug Exposure Risk in the Workplace" in the November issue of *Pharmacy Times Health-System Edition*.
- Drs. Thomas Pile and Craig Kimble presented "Bridging Healthcare Gaps in West Virginia: A scholarly approach to improving pharmacy deserts" at the Marshall Business Research Conference in November 2023.

STUDENT & ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENTS

- PharmD students Ransom Chafin, Hannah Carreon, Dylan Gump, Ashton Rexroad, Jasmine Maynard, Lyndsey Riffe, Andrew Riffe, Drew Wolford, and Brandon Keaton presented posters at the ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting and Exhibition in Anaheim, CA.
- The MU chapter of American Pharmacists Association Academy of Student Pharmacists (APHA-ASP) presented their poster for consideration of the Innovative Programming Award at the APHA-ASP Midyear Regional Meeting in Washington, DC.
- Several first-year students presented posters at the 35th Annual Health Sciences Research Day at Cabell Huntington Hospital. Esther Mensah, MSPS student, won the “Best Graduate Student Poster” award. Samuel Tetteh, MSPS alumni, won the “Best Basic Sciences Talk” award.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- The School of Pharmacy actively engaged with the community by collecting items to create winter weather kits, distributed at Trinity Episcopal Church in Huntington through the Marshall Medical Outreach program. The school also collected over 350 canned goods for Ebenezer Medical Outreach, supporting those facing food insecurity in the Fairfield area of Huntington and the surrounding community.

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES (DEAN: DR. MONICA BROOKS)

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Ten electronic thesis dissertations were reviewed and published for the Fall 2023 semester.
- New marketing materials have been produced to showcase University Libraries' commitment to the Marshall for All, Marshall Forever Initiative and its array of free services.

COLLABORATIONS & PARTNERSHIPS

- In December 2023, Dr. Rob Rabe in the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication launched a new publication, *The Journal of 20th Century Media History*, in the Marshall Digital Scholar (MDS). The MDS, managed by MU Libraries, supports faculty in publishing professional journals. This marks the ninth journal hosted by MDS.
- Progress on the Integrated Services Center in Drinko Library includes features allowing students to work individually or in small groups with trained ISC consultants. The interactive environment utilizes various high-tech and low-tech spaces, accommodating diverse learning styles, projects, and collaborative groups, with movable furniture for creating ideal environments designed for effective communication and learning.

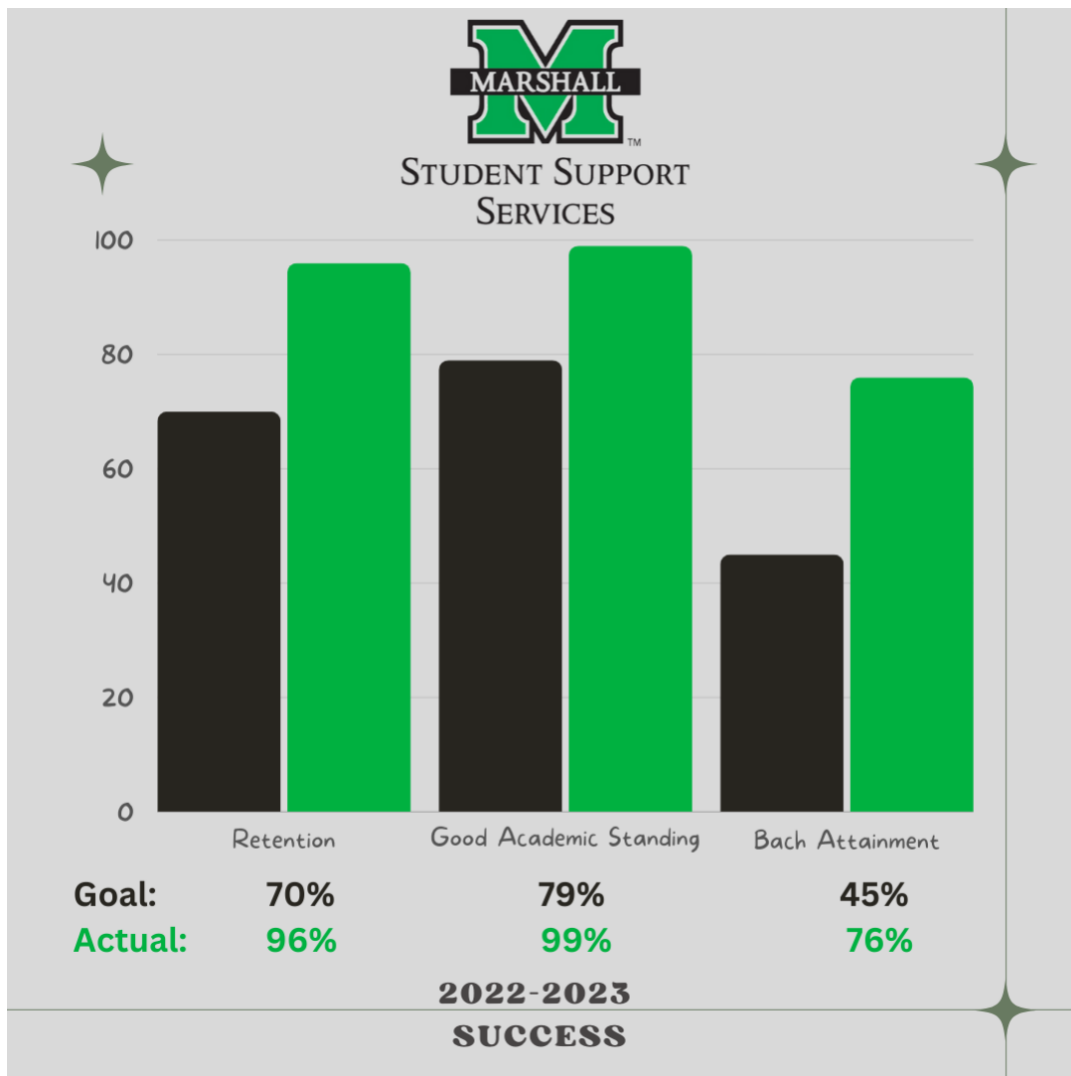
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Assistant Professor Gena Chattin, Research and ETD Librarian, presented on library science higher education options for West Virginia residents at the West Virginia Library Association Fall 2023 Conference. Gena also participated in the Fall COEPD Doctoral Seminar, advising students on ETD manuscript preparation.

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES (DIRECTOR: MS. BONNIE BAILEY)

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Student Support Services is excited to share the ongoing success of the program, a reflection of both the diligent efforts of our students and the unwavering dedication of our staff. The team's collaborative spirit and commitment to excellence have led to remarkable accomplishments, underscoring the program's effectiveness in enhancing retention and graduation rates at Marshall. We extend our gratitude to everyone involved in supporting our students.



CENTER FOR STUDENT SUCCESS (DIRECTOR: DR. KATERYNA SCHRAY)

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- During the fall semester of 2023, the Center for Student Success facilitated the acquisition of course materials for a total of 47 students, with an aggregate expenditure of \$12,633.65.
 - Generously supported by Lake Polan, 31 students received assistance for book purchases, amounting to \$9,097.86.
 - Collaborations with publishers McGraw-Hill and Cengage allowed 20 students to obtain codes valued at \$3,020.33.
 - Additionally, four students were provided with textbooks donated to the CSS, assessed at a total value of \$515.48 by the bookstore.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

- Perin Schray, a senior majoring in Chemistry and serving as a Supplemental Instruction Leader, has garnered national acclaim as the Outstanding New SI Leader, as recognized by the International Center for Supplemental Instruction. His achievements will be celebrated at the 13th International Conference on Supplemental Instruction, scheduled for June 4-6, 2024, in Baltimore, Maryland.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Dr. Kateryna Schray, Director of Student Success, continues to co-host the weekly live program, MUKraine, at Marshall University every Friday afternoon. The show, featuring experts and guests from both the national and international spheres, serves as a platform for insightful discussions and engagement.

INTERCULTURAL & STUDENT AFFAIRS (VICE PRESIDENT: DR. MARCIE SIMMS)

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Student Conduct:

- The Office of Student Conduct successfully executed its inaugural sexual misconduct education program, training four facilitators and four Title IX Office staff members.
- During Fall 2023, the Office of Student Conduct conducted 101 meetings with students.
- Michaela Arthur, Assistant Director of Student Conduct, provided conflict resolution training to over 60 Resident Advisors on January 5.

Intercultural & International Student Programs:

- The Intercultural and International Students Office organized 16 programs and events during the fall semester, attracting a total of 1,554 attendees.
- Various Intercultural Center offices received a total of 736 student visits in the fall semester, with specific counts for LGBTQ+ Office (173), International Student Office (69), Center for African American Students (89), Prayer & Meditation Room (86), and World Learning Center (245).
- The annual Winter Donning of the Kente Graduation Ceremony in December gathered 120 guests and graduates.

Fraternity & Sorority Life:

- Interfraternity Council Executives participated in an online workshop with the North American Interfraternity Council, covering topics such as DEI, accountability, health and safety, finances, and recruitment.
- On January 12, Greek Life organized a meeting with organization presidents and recruitment consultants from Phired Up, LLC, a renowned consulting firm for fraternity and sorority membership recruitment and retention.

Military and Veterans Affairs Office:

- The MU Student Veterans of America (SVA) chapter excelled at the 16th Annual SVA Conference in Nashville, TN, with five students and one advisor attending. The MU SVA Chapter was honored as Chapter of the Year, and Jamie Springston, MU SVA President, was recognized as a Finalist for Student Veteran of the Year.
- The MU SVA chapter received recognition at the opening of the WV Legislative session on January 10.

Counseling Center:

- From August 16, 2023, to January 10, 2024, the Counseling Center provided services to 472 new clients and 455 returning clients, totaling 927 individuals. The center conducted 3,983

individual appointments and 105 group/couple appointments, reaching a total of 4,088 appointments.

Wellness/Student Health Education Programs:

- Wellness and Student Health Education Programs hosted seven alcohol and cannabis education sessions.
- The Center distributed 400 stress relief kits containing meditation instructions, eye masks, lip balm, mints, fidget toys, and wellness cards.
- Kaye Godbey, Wellness Programs Coordinator, organized a financial wellness event with 25 Resident Advisors and coordinated MU Paws visits at Drinko Library during finals week.
- The Wellness Center initiated a campus-wide Meditation Challenge through the Better You App.

Student Advocacy:

- In the fall semester, 30 students received Herd Points or Marco Meal Share swipes for use at Harless Dining Hall.
- Excused Absence Requests included 1,537 for Physical Health, 22 for Mental Health, 176 for Family Emergencies, 133 for Military Duty, and 6 for Religious Requests.

STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

- The Office of Student Conduct received the Institutional Award for Excellence at the 2024 Association for Student Conduct Administration (ASCA) Annual Conference in Portland, OR on February 2.
- Dr. Marcie Simms was sworn in as a Tri-State Boys and Girls Club board member.

COLLABORATIONS & PARTNERSHIPS

- Intercultural and International Students, along with Student Affairs, 2nd Coming Family Life Church, The Huntington Links, and Housing and Residence Life, provided food bags for on-campus students during Thanksgiving and Winter break.
- Intercultural and International Students partnered with the English Language Institute and the Office of International Student Services to host an International Student Orientation for 12 new students on January 7.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Intercultural and International Students collaborated with 2nd Coming Family Life Church, B'nai Shalom, and Marshall UKIRK for a Candlelight Vigil of Peace regarding the Israel and Palestine War.
- The National Panhellenic Council organized a community cleanup on January 12.
- Intercultural and International Students, in collaboration with the NAACP, hosted the annual MLK Day of Service and Celebration on January 15.

ONLINE EDUCATION (DIRECTOR: DR. JULIA SPEARS)

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Online student enrollment for Spring 2024 reaches a record high of nearly 1,300 students, achieved through a proactive outreach campaign in late fall using emails, texts, and phone calls.
- The Online Student Engagement Team has relocated to a centralized office in Old Main Room 304, fostering better collaboration with students, campus partners, faculty, staff, and the Marshall community.
- Lalia Brydie-Johnson, a Marshall alum, joins as the Student Engagement Coordinator, bringing a wealth of experience in higher education. Dr. Kish Cumi Price becomes part of the Marshall Skills Exchange, contributing to the Micro Pathways Initiative.
- Approximately 46% of faculty are now trained in Ultra, with 852 sections in Ultra for the spring semester. The faculty liaison program, featuring Drs. Wendi Benson, Laura Stapleton, and Shannon Miller-Mace, supports training and addresses challenges.
- A new website showcases Marshall Online student testimonials, information on online learning, and relevant resources.
- The December issue of the Marshall Online Newsletter focuses on "Instructor Interaction," featuring strategies, tutorials, and faculty spotlights.
- Addressing faculty feedback, the Design Center now offers office hours on Sundays and the day before classes start, responding to 44 time-sensitive service requests before the spring semester.
- A virtual Quality Matters session on "Improving Your Online Course" results in 17 more Marshall faculty becoming QM-certified.
- A workflow resource is created to support the development of new microcredentials, guiding developers through research, development, design, review, launch, and research phases.
- Best Semester Practices and a Bookings link for instructional designers are added to the website, providing valuable insights and support.
- Dr. Julia Spears is featured in the WGU Labs blog, sharing insights on microcredentials and flexibility at Marshall Skills Exchange.

STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

- Dr. Julia Spears was featured in the WGU Labs blog article “What Microcredentials Look Like at 3 Colleges and Universities.” Dr. Spears shared how the Marshall Skills Exchange prioritizes flexibility and portability for learners.

COLLABORATIONS & PARTNERSHIPS

- **Departmental Collaborations:** Online Education partners with departments such as Counseling, Psychology, Aviation, Communications, Biology, and Adult and Continuing Education to conduct Ultra Design Labs tailored to each department's needs.
- **Expert Input:** Dr. David Wiley, Marshall Entrepreneur in Residence, participates in team meetings to contribute to shaping the "Marshall Online Way."
- **Recognition:** The Marshall Skills Exchange is featured in the December Anthology blog article, highlighting the power of lifelong learning.
- **Strategic Planning:** Anthology meets with Online Education to reflect on Ultra adoptions and strategize for the spring semester.
- **Micro Pathways Initiatives:** Two initiatives in health careers and advanced manufacturing, in collaboration with Mountwest Community and Technical College, are in development for launch this fall.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- **Student Involvement:** Six Marshall Online students actively participate in a photo shoot, providing valuable feedback for an infographic on Marshall course delivery modes.
- **Promotional Presence:** Student photos are featured on the website, in the newsletter, and other promotional content, enhancing community engagement.



BOARD OF GOVERNORS REPORT | FEBRUARY 7, 2024

Physician Assistant Program welcomes incoming class

The School of Medicine welcomed last month 30 incoming physician assistant students in the Class of 2026. The class includes students from a variety of backgrounds representing 12 undergraduate colleges and universities. Other statistics about the class include:

- 77% are West Virginia residents
- 40% are Marshall University graduates
- 13% are first-generation college graduates
- 57% were raised in a geographic area with a population of less than 10,000

There are now a total of 84 students enrolled in the 28-month program. The inaugural class completed the program in 2023, and 100% of program graduates passed the Physician Assistant National Certifying Examination and are now employed in health care facilities across the country.

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE APPLICATION TIMELINES

MD & MD/PhD PROGRAMS

- **Nov. 1:** Application deadline
- **Sept. - Jan.:** Interviews
- **Oct. 15-April 30:** Response to offers of commitment
- **Begins Feb. 20:** Plan to enroll
- **Begins April 29:** Commit to enroll

BS/MD PROGRAM

- **Summer:** Applications open
- **Dec.:** Application deadline
- **Feb.:** Notification of acceptance

Marshall Moment

MD Early Assurance Program gives students jump start on medical school



Marshall University's first group of MD Early Assurance students officially started medical school in fall 2023. The program, initiated in 2020, provides a clear pathway to medical school for both in-state and out-of-state high-achieving

undergraduate students at Marshall, like Trace Clark, a senior biochemistry major from Williamson, West Virginia.

Trace had long known he wanted to be an orthopaedic surgeon someday, but after an accident that nearly cost his father his life, he also knew he wanted to serve a rural community. He chose Marshall University as the institution to prepare him for that career, and he's so glad he did.

APPLICATION TIMELINE

MD EARLY ASSURANCE

- **March 27:** Application deadline
- **April 24:** Letters of recommendation due
- **Early August:** Program interviews
- **Late August:** Notification of acceptance





2023 SUMMARY OF SCHOOL OF MEDICINE SCHOLARLY PUBLICATIONS

In 2023, the School of Medicine and its affiliated faculty achieved the following:

- 374 articles were published in peer-reviewed journals.
- 174 of articles have been cited by other publications.
- 28% of articles were cited more than once.
- 36% of articles were found to have online Altmetric attention (e.g., mainstream news, social media, blogs, public policy documents, among others.)

FIGURE 1

The 374 articles divide into five primary fields of research:

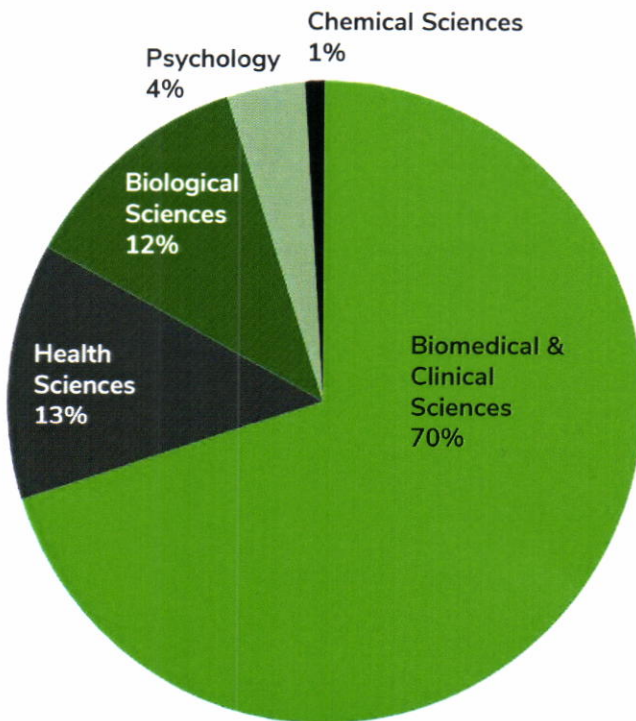
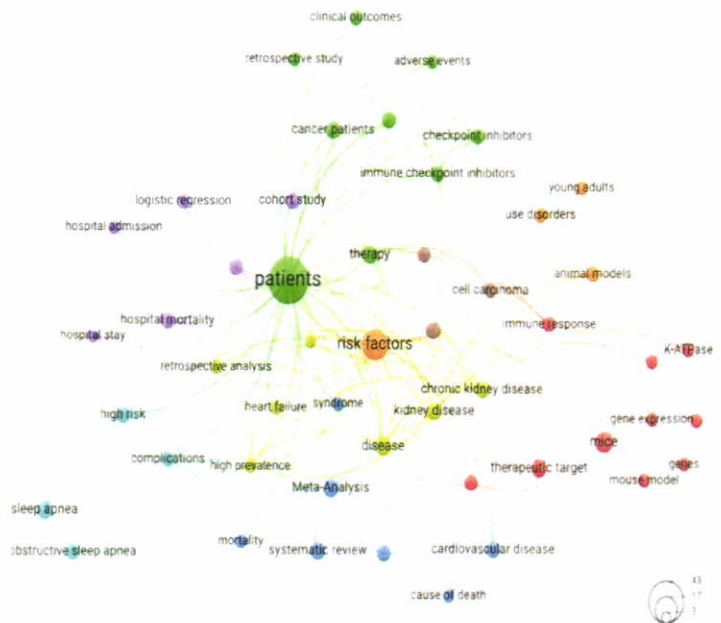


FIGURE 2

Below is a visual analysis of the top 50 concepts in eight clusters featured in the publications. Displayed are the total co-occurrences (490) and the co-occurrence links (273) for those concepts.



Digital Science. 2023 Marshall University School of Medicine and Affiliated Faculty Publication Data. Dimensions Database. 2018-2024. Accessed Jan. 2024. <https://app.dimensions.ai>. Under licensing agreement.

NEW CLINICAL TRIAL: Polyp detection during colorectal cancer screenings

A new clinical trial underway at the School of Medicine uses advanced medical device technology coupled with Computer-Aided Detection (CAdE) systems, a form of artificial intelligence (AI), to reduce the risk of missed polyps, or lesions, during colonoscopy procedures.

Gastroenterologists at the School of Medicine are investigating the combined use of Endocuff, a device attached to a colonoscope—the long, flexible tube with a small camera at the end used during a colonoscopy—and a CAdE system that leverages AI to enhance accuracy in identifying abnormalities. Both devices have individually shown promise in improving colon lesion detection and patient safety during colonoscopies, but this is the first study that combines the use of both tools in a single trial in the United States. Marshall is currently recruiting patients for the multi-year study.

Innovation created through Marshall-Intermed collaboration advances to test phase

Marshall University's partnership with Intermed Labs continues to progress as experts enter the testing phase on an inaugural project.

Gastroenterology fellow M'Hamed Turki, MD, was among the first to bring a concept to the Intermed team through the Marshall partnership. He envisioned a device is designed to keep airways open while a patient undergoes an endoscopy, a procedure that uses a tube with a camera to see inside a patient's intestines. The tube can cause difficulty breathing for some patients.

Dr. Turki and the experts at Intermed created multiple 3D-printed prototypes to determine which worked best and last month tested the prototype on a mannequin.

Dr. Tom McClellan, CEO and founder of Intermed Labs, and Dr. M'Hamed Turki, a fellow at Marshall Health and the School of Medicine, test Dr. Turki's invention on a mannequin.



OUTREACH & OPPORTUNITIES



Medical students visit Marshall for medical education & diversity conference

Marshall University hosted pre-med and medical students from Delaware, Pennsylvania and West Virginia at the Student National Medical Association (SNMA) Region VIII medical education conference last month. During the one-day event, attendees engaged in interactive workshops, networking opportunities, panel discussions and keynote presentations led by esteemed professionals and educators in the medical field.

Project Hope for Women & Children celebrates five-year anniversary

Project Hope for Women & Children recently celebrated its five-year anniversary. Since opening the renovated apartment complex with 17 single-family units in December 2018, the Marshall Health initiative has provided 211 families with a safe living environment and the treatment and recovery resources necessary to facilitate long-term recovery for mothers with substance use disorder.



Learn why Project Hope matters and support the program at marshallhealth.org/projecthope.



Dr. Ali Oliashirazi, chair of orthopaedics, helps an SNMA attendee perform a knee replacement on a Sawbones model.

Did You Know

- Project Hope reunified more than 25 children and saved WV more than **\$100,000** in foster care costs (2023)
- Project Hope admitted 12 clients directly from jail, saving WV more than **\$600,000** (2023)

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **March 13:** 11th Annual Quality & Safety Summit
- **March 15:** Match Day, Class of 2024
- **April 23:** 25th Annual School of Medicine Golf Classic
- **April 26:** 44th Annual Doctoral Investiture & Medical School Commencement



SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS

The School of Medicine has presented resolutions for the following capital projects:

Academic Toxicology Center: Leverage a federal earmark and supplemental state appropriations to renovate the former Strayer Building owned by Marshall Health in Scott Depot. Upon completion, the facility would include dedicated spaces for toxicology, occupational health and dermatology as well as flexible clinic space. The total estimated cost of the project is \$6,564,871.

Chapmanville Facility: A combination of federal earmark, endowment and community support as well as clinical revenue will fund the complete buildout of the second floor of the Robert C. Byrd Rural Health and Education Center, located at 386 Airport Road in Chapmanville, a facility built by the of Medicine in 2008. This renovation will create approximately 5,100 square feet for primary, specialty, and subspecialty care as well as telemedicine and clinical research services. The total estimated cost of the project is \$1,724,154.

WE ARE...



The Power of We

- Leveraging the “power of we” through a newly-integrated **academic health system** that includes the *Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine*; its faculty practice plan *Marshall Health*; and four hospitals: *Cabell Huntington Hospital*, *St. Mary’s Medical Center*, *Hoops Family Children’s Hospital* and *Rivers Health*.
- Caring for our community in **40+ counties** throughout West Virginia, southern Ohio and eastern Kentucky.
- Training **future health care professionals**: Cabell Huntington Hospital and St. Mary’s Medical Center serve as the primary teaching hospitals for medical, pharmacy, physician assistant and nursing students at Marshall University and nursing, respiratory care and medical imaging students from St. Mary’s Medical Center.
- Addressing the state’s most pressing health issues through initiatives focused on **addiction and behavioral medicine; gerontology and healthy aging; obesity and diabetes** and **rural health and primary care**.
- Contributing to a healthier, more productive workforce for West Virginia through expanded **occupational health and wellness** opportunities and access to highly-reliable **toxicology and drug-screening** services.

West Virginia’s Newest Academic Health System: Marshall Health Network

- More than 2 million annual patient visits
- 1,000+ physicians and advanced practitioners
- \$3 billion in annual economic impact
- Nearly 10,500 employees

Training the Next Generation of Health Care Professionals for West Virginia

- 400+ students
- 71% in-state residents
- 100% medical student match rate
- 28 residency and fellowship training programs
- Community health focused research

Providing Care for West Virginians

- 4 Hospitals
- 119 Clinic Locations
- 797 Hospital Beds
- 116 Areas of Specialty Care

On October 17, 2023, a community launch event celebrated the official formation of Marshall Health Network.



2024 Legislative PRIORITIES



In order to expand on the synergies of Marshall Health Network and the Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine and the vital roles they play in supporting our state, we humbly request your support for the following legislative initiatives:

Public Health

- Enhance telehealth and remote patient monitoring capabilities.
- Support statewide tele-behavioral health coverage in emergency rooms.
- Sustain the state's current childhood immunization laws.
- Leverage Marshall Health Network and School of Medicine expertise on issues of importance to the state, including substance use disorder and access to state-of-the-art toxicology services.

Health Care Workforce

- Aid policymakers' efforts in economic development and population growth by improving health care infrastructure through expanded residency programs, loan forgiveness and innovative strategies to grow medical school class size, attract out-of-state physicians, nurses and other health care professionals.
- Support anti-doxing legislation to make it a crime to disseminate personal identifying information with the intent to intimidate, abuse, threaten, harass or frighten.

Affordable Access to Prescription Medication

- Support legislation that requires drug manufacturers and related supply chain parties to ship discounted drugs purchased by safety net providers participating in the 340B program to their pharmacy partners without improper restrictions or conditions. The bill relies on West Virginia's authority to regulate supply chain issues and complements, but does not interfere with, federal law. It also establishes civil penalties for violations and empowers the Board of Pharmacy, Attorney General and Insurance Commissioner to investigate violations and enforce the law.

Strengthen Health Care

- Advocate for maintaining current Certificate of Need (CON) standards.
- Improve financial stability for hospitals and providers through federal matching dollars for the Medicaid Supplemental Payment Program and Direct Payment Program (DPP) (SB294/HB).

Academic Medical Center & Academic Partners

The School of Medicine receives approximately \$14 million annually in state appropriations. These funds serve as a catalyst to recruit, retain and train future health care leaders. Many will practice in the state after earning their degree, providing important medical care to your constituency. Expansion of residency and fellowship programs are also vital to attracting and retaining skilled physicians.

- Protect these invaluable investments in medical education.
- Support legislation to encourage clinically relevant research on topics of value to West Virginia.

West Virginia safety net providers rely on the federal 340B drug discount program to obtain drugs at a significant discount to dispense or administer to their patients. For more than 25 years, safety net providers have entered into mutually-beneficial arrangements with pharmacies, including locally-owned community pharmacies, to allow underserved and vulnerable patients to obtain medications at pharmacies convenient to them. In the past few years, drug manufacturers have exploited a blind spot in federal law and refused to ship discounted drugs to "contract pharmacy" partners. West Virginia can fill that gap, close the loophole and restore the status quo for the benefit of its most vulnerable citizens.

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