

W2COHP

The College of Health Professions
Faculty Newsletter Feb. 2014 Vol. 2, Issue 7



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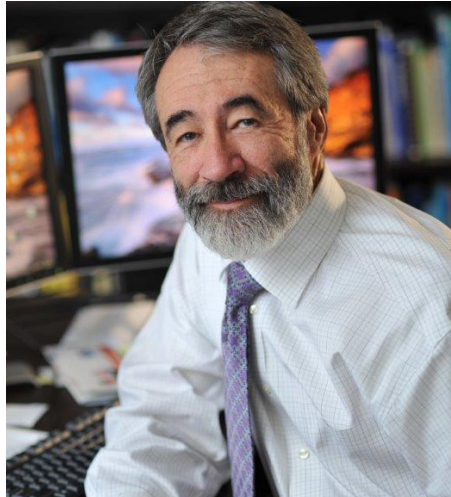
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GREETINGS FROM DEAN PREWITT

The spring semester is just beginning and our faculty and staff continue to work hard to advance the mission of the College of Health Professions. As you may know, we were one of the few colleges on campus to increase enrollment for our programs this past year and I could not be more proud of your efforts. In the upcoming months, you will see campus-wide initiatives to improve the productivity and longevity of Marshall University through the 20/20 strategic planning process. These work groups made of up varying MU faculty, staff



and administrators will help us determine how we can thrive in a dramatically changing public funding environment. Please feel free to share any ideas or thoughts with me about ways to improve our college and the university as a whole. As always, I want to thank you for your continued commitment and dedication to making the COHP one of the best colleges on campus. Feel free to visit me in my office anytime with any comments or ideas you may have. Have a great week!

Michael Prewitt

MU Capitol Day scheduled for Feb. 18th



This is the annual opportunity to occupy the second-floor rotunda and foyers leading to the House and Senate chambers to showcase Marshall University for our state leaders. The College of Health Professions will host a display table with information promoting the programs and services within the college. The university has partnered with Spring Valley Charter to provide a 56-seat charter bus for everyone's convenience, since parking is limited at the Capitol Complex. The bus will arrive by 7 a.m. and depart from the West Stadium Lot at 7:30 a.m. Please arrive well in advance of departure time to allow time for loading of materials. The bus will drop participants off and pick them up in front of the Capitol and return to the Huntington campus no later than 3 p.m. Please complete the online registration form to secure your exhibit space for this special event. For other questions and event information you may visit www.herdalum.com and look under Events for MU Day at the Capitol. If further assistance is needed, please email the Office of Alumni Relations at alumni@marshall.edu or call 304.696.3134.

Biomechanics faculty to conduct medical evaluations at NFL Combine, Feb. 16 - 20



Photos courtesy of Sholten Singer: *The Herald-Dispatch*

Dr. Suzanne Konz of the Marshall University College of Health Professions is heading to next month's NFL Combine to assist in the medical evaluation of more than 300 professional football hopefuls.

Konz, director of the biomechanics laboratory and an associate professor within the college, said this is her seventh year attending the Combine to conduct isokinetic testing on collegiate athletes from across the U.S.

"Isokinetic testing is a speed-based test which measures the strength and endurance of a muscle. This type of testing is necessary to determine the stability of the knee and possible longevity of these athletes," Konz said. "To be invited back for the 7th year in a row gives me the opportunity to build upon my knowledge of these testing devices, which benefits our own athletes here at Marshall University."

Konz said isokinetic testing was performed on members of the Marshall football, basketball, soccer, and baseball teams this past year. Brandi Anders, assistant athletic trainer for the Marshall women's basketball and tennis teams, said the information provided by the isokinetic testing helps show if the players were at risk for injury or already had an injury, which may need to be addressed further.

"We conducted the test twice: once at the beginning of the semester and again following their pre-season. We

compared results to see if the athlete had improved their muscle balance between the hamstring and quadriceps. Additionally, we will conduct testing following the season and going into their off season workouts," Anders said. "Dr. K does an excellent job of explaining the benefits of this testing to the athlete and the gains it can help them achieve athletically. By providing these numbers, the athlete can focus more on ways to improve their body and decrease risk of injury moving forward."

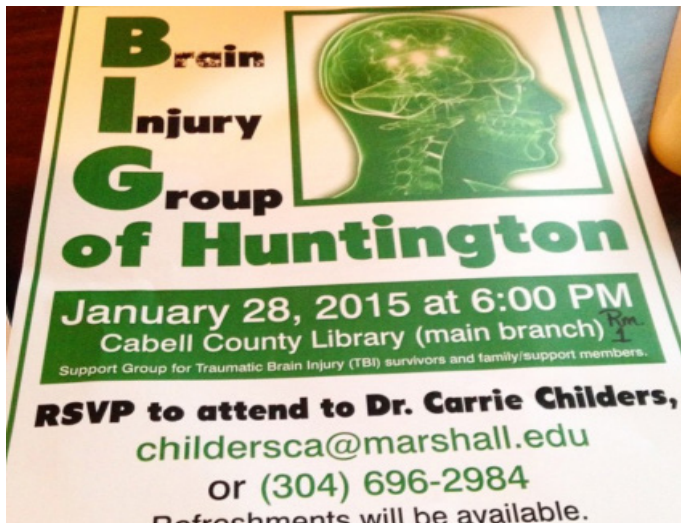
Dr. Gary McIlvain, chair of the School of Kinesiology and associate dean for the college, said many people do not know the benefits of studying biomechanics and how the university has their own expert here on campus.

"Dr. Konz and her expertise in isokinetic testing is a valuable resource for the School of Kinesiology programs, our students and campus athletes. Her experience in testing Olympic, collegiate and professional athletes is a resource students seek out when learning to test and interpret isokinetic testing," McIlvain said. "There is nothing that brings the classroom to life more than real life experience and that is exactly what Suzanne Konz brings to those studying biomechanics here at Marshall University."

Konz will travel to Lucas Oil Field in Indianapolis February 16-20th for the 2015 NFL Combine. To learn more about Konz's work with isokinetic testing in this year's Combine, contact her at konz@marshall.edu or by calling (304) 696-2926. For more information on the Marshall School of Kinesiology and the programs and services offered, visit www.marshall.edu/cohp online.



Marshall faculty joins with CED to offer traumatic brain injury group this spring



Faculty members in the Marshall University College of Health Professions have partnered with the Center for Excellence in Disabilities (CED) at West Virginia University to offer a local support group for those with traumatic brain injuries.

According to a study conducted by the West Virginia University Injury Control Research Center, there are 22,000 new traumatic brain injury cases each year in West Virginia. In addition, there have been 1.3-3.8 million sports-and-recreation-related traumatic brain injuries in the United States each year, according to a study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Due to the increasing number of these life-altering injuries, communication disorders professor Dr. Carrie Childers said the Brain Injury Group (BIG) was created to provide support, education and information about services for individuals with brain injuries and the people associated with them.

“My colleague Kelly Rutherford and I have clinical expertise working with individuals who have experienced traumatic brain injury,” Childers said. “We learned the CED had recently received a grant to provide community-based services throughout the state and they were very interested in providing support for the group we were planning. Since then, we have been collaborating with the CED to develop

and implement the Brain Injury Group.”

Jennifer Tenney, program manager for the CED’s traumatic brain injury group, said as the state’s designated lead agency on traumatic brain injury services, the CED has specific responsibilities to the federal and state governments regarding service to survivors of traumatic brain injury as they navigate the rough waters after experiencing such an injury.

“We felt that the Cabell County area has a significant need for this type of support group, especially with the location of the VA hospital in the area. We were excited when Dr. Childers and her team reached out to us in regard to starting this group in Huntington,” Tenney said. “The Center for Excellence in Disabilities looks to create strong partnerships with Marshall University on many grant levels, and we feel that working with the university is critical to the success of the support group and any other traumatic brain injury-related work done in Cabell County.”

The Brain Injury Group will have two groups at each meeting: one for individuals with traumatic brain injuries and one for those associated with them. Tenney said she hoped traumatic brain injury survivors and their family members would find the support group to be a place to share ideas, concerns and identify areas for more work to be done. Tenney said, most importantly, this is a place for traumatic brain injury survivors and their support systems to make connections with other families who are experiencing the same issues.

The first support group met 6 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 28 at the main branch of the Cabell County Library. Subsequent meetings are scheduled for Feb. 25, March 25 and April 29. To attend Wednesday’s first meeting, RSVP to Childers at childersca@marshall.edu or by calling 304-696-2984.

For more information on the CED, contact Tenney at jtenney@hsc.wvu.edu or visit <http://www.cedwvu.org>. To learn more about the programs and services in Marshall’s College of Health Professions, visit www.marshall.edu/cohp.

Cottrell certified as only LSLS-Auditory Verbal Educator in the state of West Virginia



Dr. Jodi Cottrell of the Marshall University College of Health Professions recently passed her credentialing and is now the only Listen and Spoken Language Specialist-Auditory-Verbal Educator (LSLS-AVED) in the state of West Virginia. Cottrell, a program director within the college's Department of Communication Disorders, said she has been working on this certification for three and half years.

"This was a long and rigorous process, which required 900 hours of teaching children with hearing loss and speech disorders," Cottrell said. "As the program director for Marshall's Luke Lee Listening Learning Language Lab, I wanted to meet this credential to become a Listening and Spoken Language Specialist with the specific credential of AVED, or Auditory Verbal Educator. This was very important for my professional development to provide specialized services which allow our children to learn something most of us take for granted: how to listen and talk."

Wendelyn DeMoss, an LSLS-certified speech language pathologist in Oklahoma City, served as one of Cottrell's mentors. DeMoss said the Alexander Graham Bell Academy for Listening and Spoken Language requires specific criteria for certification including continuing education hours, direct patient contact experience,

observation of certified professionals and 20 hours of mentoring over a three to five year period.

"Jodi is now the first professional in the state of West Virginia to earn the LSLS credential which means that she has the qualifications to provide listening and spoken language services to infants and children who are deaf or hard of hearing, as well as mentor other professionals toward the certification," DeMoss said. "The families that Jodi serves can be confident in the standard of care they are receiving because of the specialty credential Jodi earned to demonstrate her competency. She will also be a valuable consultant to other health and education professionals within the state."

Sherri Fickenscher of the Clarke Schools for Hearing and Speech in Pennsylvania also served as one of Cottrell's mentors toward her LSLS certification. Fickenscher said approximately three in 1,000 babies are born with permanent hearing loss, making hearing loss one of the most common birth defects in America. However, most children with hearing loss who receive appropriate services from trained staff are able to progress at age-appropriate rates, according to *The Journal of Deaf Studies and Deaf Education*.

"There is a crisis of capacity in the United States with well-qualified professionals available to provide this important service so that every child no matter where they live has equal access to this opportunity," Fickenscher said. "It is significant that West Virginia and specifically the Luke Lee program now have built-in capacity through Jodi to expand the opportunities for children in the state. I hope Jodi will continue to receive the support needed to continue to enhance the program, provide more education to professionals in the state and continue to serve the children of West Virginia."

For more information on the value of a LSLS certification, visit www.listeningandspokenlanguage.org. To learn more about Cottrell and her involvement with the Marshall University Luke Lee Listening Learning Language Lab, contact her at cottrellj@marshall.edu or by visiting www.marshall.edu/cohp online.

Health Informatics offers new accelerated master's degree

Marshall University's health informatics program now offers a new accelerated master's degree (AMD) which began this spring.

Health informatics, an evolving specialization that links information technology, communication and healthcare, seeks to improve the quality and safety of patient care, according to the program's director, Dr. Girmay Berhie.

"We have partnered with the department of integrated science and technology (IST) to offer our accelerated master's degree in health informatics," Berhie said. "This new degree will provide these students the opportunity to graduate faster and earn a degree that can help them to get a job with a salary range from \$60,000 to \$125,000 a year."

Brian Morgan, chairman of the integrated science and technology department, said the partnership between the IST department and health informatics is the perfect collaboration for students who want to turn their skills into something marketable upon graduation.

"Our department prides itself on being an applied program and the hands-on nature in which we structure our classes," Morgan said. "This was a way to give students the same skills in five years instead of six years, which saves time and money. The AMD program is a win-win situation for everyone involved and we are happy to be a part of it."

Nikki Spence, 27, of West Hamlin, West Virginia, is one of the first students to take advantage of the new accelerated master's program. Spence said programs like these demonstrate the university's commitment to providing educational opportunities that best fit students' needs.

"This partnership will definitely give Marshall an advantage over other institutions. With the cost of tuition and the growing concern of student debt, students want to graduate as early as possible while still receiving a quality education," Spence said. "Students in IST will already be proficient in many key technology areas such as database, programming and web development. These skills will give them an advantage in upcoming health informatics courses, as well as add to their marketability later when searching for jobs."

To learn more about the programs and services offered through Marshall's IST department, visit www.marshall.edu/isat. For more information on the health informatics AMD program, contact Berhie at berhie@marshall.edu or visit www.marshall.edu/cohp.



Berhie said the program consists of a partnership between three of Marshall University's colleges including the College of Health Professions, the College of Business and the College of Information Technology and Engineering. Berhie said he believes it is the combined knowledge, expertise and skills from the three colleges that make the health informatics program unique.

Alumni Publication, *Connections*, to be issued this spring: Feature Stories Needed



The College of Health Professions will produce and distribute the annual alumni publication, *Connections*, this spring. We are looking for stories about the alumni from your program! Here's an example of one story we will feature in our upcoming issue!

Liz Auvil, a 2014 exercise graduate, was recently hired as the Assistant Director of Health and Wellness at the Phil Cline Family YMCA. Liz works with children of all ages through the Kids in Motion program, helping to improve the overall well-being of our local youth through physical activity and promotion of healthy living. Liz said, "This job is something that goes directly with the classes I took. Exercise science, strength and conditioning, biomechanics are all extremely helpful and luckily I had great professors. The professors always used personal situations in their field to help us not only know the book material, but to prepare us for real life and real jobs like the one I have today!"

Dates To Remember

- **February 6th:** Applications for May graduation due in Dean's office
- **February 9th:** Probational Faculty Retention/Non-Retention Recommendations due to Dr. Prewitt
- **February 11th:** Department Chair Meeting, Dean's Suite, PH 224, 2:30 p.m.
- **February 11th:** Board of Governors Meeting for MSW and M.S. in Biomechanics Approval
- **February 13th:** Distinguished Service Award Nominations due to Academic Affairs
- **February 14th:** Valentine's Day: Tell someone in the college how you appreciate them! <3
- **February 18th:** MU Capitol Day
- **February 25th:** Brain Injury Support Group, 6 p.m., Cabell County Library
- **March 6-7th:** WV Athletic Training Association Conference, Flatwoods, WV