



HOLIDAY GIVING & FOUNDATION SUPPORT

Support the College of Liberal Arts This Holiday Season

As we celebrate this season of gratitude and generosity, we invite alumni, friends, and community partners to support the COLA Foundation Fund. Your gift—whether a one-time contribution, a recurring monthly donation, or a tribute made in honor or memory of someone special—helps brighten the year ahead for our students and faculty.

Holiday contributions support student research, conference travel, visiting writers and scholars, and the community partnerships that make our college so vibrant. Even small recurring gifts add up to meaningful, lasting impact.

If you're searching for a heartfelt way to honor a mentor, recognize a milestone, or remember a loved one, a holiday gift to COLA is a thoughtful way to celebrate the season and strengthen our liberal arts community.



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

HerdWork Humanities Internship Program



The College of Liberal Arts proudly highlights the transformative HerdWork Humanities Internship Program, supported by a \$2.8 million Mellon Foundation grant and launched this fall with its inaugural internship experience showcase at the Brad D. Smith Foundation Hall. Interns presented multimedia posters highlighting their community-engaged projects with nonprofits, cultural organizations, and civic partners across Appalachia. As part of the program, students earn course credit and receive a stipend, ensuring they can fully participate in meaningful experiential learning opportunities. Through both their internships and the required HerdWork course, students learn to explore and articulate the workplace competencies gained from their humanities coursework, building confidence in connecting their transferable humanities power skills and values to real-world professional settings. HerdWork strengthens regional partnerships and affirms the enduring relevance of a liberal arts education in preparing students for meaningful, community-centered career pathways.

Thundering Word Speech & Debate Team

Marshall University's Thundering Word Speech & Debate Team proudly celebrates its 75th anniversary, marking decades of leadership in communication and performance. This fall, the team continued that legacy with a strong showing at the Collegiate Forensics Association Tournament, where Marshall placed 4th in Team Sweepstakes. Addison Crum earned 1st place in Extemporaneous Speaking, 2nd in Prose, and 5th in NPDA Debate with teammate Jayden Sullivan; Maxwell Harris placed 1st in After-Dinner Speaking, 2nd in Dramatic Interpretation, and 6th in Impromptu; and Sullivan added top-five finishes in Extemporaneous Speaking, Declamation, and NPDA Debate. The anniversary year also featured workshops, alumni engagement, and community outreach, reinforcing the team's longstanding impact and its role as one of Marshall's signature academic traditions.

Good Morning, Marshall – Geography & Journalism Collaboration

In a dynamic interdisciplinary venture, the Geography Department and the School of Journalism & Mass Communications launched Good Morning, Marshall, a student-produced news-sports-weather broadcast. The program pairs geography majors with journalism students, blending meteorology, GIS, media production, and storytelling. Students gain experience in scripting, filming, editing, and forecasting while creating campus-focused content. The collaboration showcases student talent and prepares graduates for careers that merge data, communication, and multimedia production.

FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS



DR. ZELIDETH RIVAS

Dr. Zelideth María Rivas – Expanding Global Education

As Assistant Provost for Global Education and Professor of Japanese, Dr. Zelideth María Rivas has become an essential force in expanding Marshall University's international profile and building global learning opportunities for students. Under her leadership, the

Office of Global Education has launched and expanded faculty-led study abroad programs to Italy, Ireland, and Costa Rica, providing immersive intercultural experiences that deepen students' academic and personal growth. Dr. Rivas also advanced international partnerships by facilitating new exchange agreements with institutions in countries such as Argentina, India, Kazakhstan, and South Korea, opening avenues for joint research, language study, and cultural exchange. She also brought the national Impact of Exchange photography exhibit to campus, connecting Marshall to a broader network of global education initiatives.

Dr. Kristi McLeod – Sociology & Anthropology Students in War, West Virginia



Dr. Kristi McLeod and her senior sociology and anthropology students continue their partnership with the town of War, West Virginia, through a project supported by the Appalachian Regional Commission. This year, students assisted with the development of a walking and fitness path aimed at improving community health and supporting revitalization efforts. After visiting the route and meeting with local leaders, a student team presented design ideas to the War City Council and helped finalize a community-informed plan. Students recently returned to install signage they designed, working alongside residents and city officials. Their visit coincided with the 3rd Falling Leaves Festival, adding a celebratory dimension to the work.



DR. C. DAMIEN ARTHUR

Dr. C. Damien Arthur – Excellence in Online Teaching

Dr. C. Damien Arthur, Chair of Political Science and Director of the Center for

Consumer Law & Education, received the 2025 Stephen and Sue Zemba Excellence in Online Teaching Award. His courses integrate multimedia tools, applied case studies, and inclusive assessment strategies that create rigorous and engaging online learning environments.

Cicero M. Fain Jr. – Guyandotte Freedom-Fighter Memorial



CICERO M. FAIN JR.

Historian and community scholar Dr. Cicero M. Fain Jr. played a leading role in the dedication of a new historical marker in Guyandotte honoring John Major Monroe, an enslaved man who escaped bondage in 1836. Unveiled on September 28, 2025, the site is among the first in West Virginia recognized by the National Park Service's Underground Railroad Network to Freedom. Dr. Fain's work through the Appalachian Freedom Heritage Tour continues to elevate marginalized histories and broaden public understanding of the region's past.

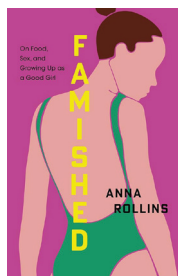
ALUMNI SPOTLIGHTS



ANNA ROLLINS

Anna Rollins (M.A. English, 2012)

Marshall alumna and writer Anna Rollins will release her debut memoir, *Famished: On Food, Sex, and Growing Up as a Good Girl*, on December 9, 2025. A two-time graduate of the Department of English, Rollins blends cultural critique with deeply personal storytelling to examine how purity culture, diet



"Education is simply the soul of a society as it passes from one generation to another."

– Gilbert K. Chesterton

culture, and expectations placed on "good girls" shape women's identities. Her essays have appeared in *The New York Times*, *Slate*, *Salon*, and other national outlets, where she is known for clarity, honesty, and intellectual rigor. *Famished* represents a powerful contribution to contemporary memoir and reflects the creativity fostered through Marshall's liberal arts education.



AMY SAUNDERS

Amy Saunders (M.A. Clinical Psychology; Ed.D.)

Amy Saunders, Associate Vice President of the Marshall University Research Corporation and Managing Director of the Center of Excellence for Recovery, was named one of the Top 50 Women Leaders of West Virginia. Her 25-year career in behavioral health, prevention science, and community outreach continues to advance statewide well-being and demonstrates the lasting impact of Marshall alumni.

LEADERSHIP SEARCH UPDATE

Search for the Next Dean of the College of Liberal Arts

Marshall University has launched a national search for the next Dean of the College of Liberal Arts, seeking a visionary leader committed to student success, faculty development, and the advancement of the humanities and social sciences. Applications are encouraged by January 12, 2026: www.agbsearch.com/searches/dean-college-of-liberal-arts-marshall-university.

Congratulations 2025 COLA Graduates!

Send news about your lives
and your successes to
cola@marshall.edu

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