

Marshall Makes it Easy to get Involved on Campus

"Scholarships mean everything to me because without them, college might not have been a reality for me," said Noelle Soares. "I find it heartwarming that donors, specifically mine, donate their hard-earned money to fund kids like me so that we can be successful."

A recipient of the Doris and William Crigger Scholarship, Noelle has other scholarships, too, and enjoys reaching out to her donors at the end of the school year to inform them about how her academic year went and to express her gratitude.

Noelle is a criminal justice major, with a concentration in legal studies and a minor in psychology, who begins her junior year this fall. Upon graduation, she intends to pursue law school and become a criminal lawyer. Her dream is to attend law school at Penn State.

Arriving at Marshall from Falling Waters, West Virginia, Noelle fell in love with the university at her first campus visit.

"The size and location of the college were big factors. Marshall is not too big and not too small and has that community feeling," said Noelle, who had already researched the criminal justice program and knew it was one of the best in the state.

Prior to arriving in Huntington, she had done research on which organizations she wanted to join, but quickly found it was easy to get involved in many organizations.

"I love how easy it is to get involved on campus," Noelle said. "I love the size of Marshall's campus and Huntington. It is possible to see the same people on a daily basis and develop a relationship with President Gilbert or Cedric Gathings (Vice President of Student Affairs)."

She enjoys her program because of the passion and experience her professors show and is excited about getting more in-depth learning in legal studies.

"I love learning about the court system side of the criminal justice system," she said. "I am about to get into classes that include research and theoretical aspects of criminal justice. My idea of the court system was more concrete before I came to college. I have taken classes that are able to teach me how to win a court case. I am excited to learn how to comprehend and apply legal research and methods to my future career of becoming a lawyer."

Noelle is active in extracurricular activities including Student Government Association (SGA), Campus Activities Board, National Society of Collegiate Scholars, Student Justice board and Alpha Phi Sigma honor society. She is also a campus tour guide and member of hall council.

"My favorite place on campus is the Memorial Student Center and the Plaza," said Noelle, joking that she lives there when she is not in class. "My favorite time of the year is the spring when it is warm enough to sit on the plaza and hang out with friends or do homework, especially when the Memorial Fountain gets turned back on. It is such a peaceful and beautiful scenery, it makes me appreciate and love my school even more."

Noelle hopes that Marshall continues to expand as a campus and community. She hopes that one day there will be a law school on campus.

"Marshall is the kind of school that you can never let go. Alumni give back to help the campus and community expand," she said. "Thanks to alumni, it is possible for students to further their education with the best experience possible."



Fun Facts

Class of 2020

Major: Criminal Justice with a concentration in legal studies and a minor in psychology

Hometown: Falling Waters, West Virginia

Textbooks or eBooks: Hard copy books, be it a textbook or book for fun!

Favorite color: Purple

Favorite Place on Campus: The Memorial Student Center and the Plaza.