

Scholarships Inspire Generosity

“My favorite part about the biology program is that I am constantly challenged with the courses. I haven’t run into a boring class yet,” said Ariana Swayne, a biology major with minors in chemistry and Spanish.

After graduation, the South Charleston, West Virginia, native intends to pursue pharmacy school and specialize in antibiotic alternative research. She looks forward to learning about making the world more sustainable for future generations.

Ariana chose to attend Marshall for what she calls the normal reasons.

“It was a good distance from home, I liked the campus and they had a good pre-pharmacy program that was a good fit for me. But the main thing that drew me here was how outstanding the customer service is,” she said. “I recall one time when I first got accepted to Marshall, I came to campus to sort out my financial aid. While I was here, I wanted to meet with my academic advisor to ask a few questions, but I had no idea who she was. I called the Student Resource Center because that was the first number that came up and the man on the phone patiently helped me figure out who it (the advisor) was and how to find her. I appreciated that a lot, but what I was really touched by was that at the end of the day, when I was already headed back home, he called me to ask if I found everything okay and how my day went. That exchange has stayed with me.”

Ariana’s favorite place on the Huntington campus is the Memorial Student Center Plaza on warm days because she can visit with her friends and do homework outdoors, but also because it is lively and displays the Marshall community. Her favorite season is fall because it is the perfect temperature and the leaves turn vibrant colors. She acknowledges the difference scholarships have made in her educational journey.

“My scholarships mean a lot to me because they have lightened my financial burden, which allows me to focus more on the most important part of going to school—learning,” said Ariana. “Thank you. I want you to know that your generosity has inspired me to help others and give back to the community. I hope one day I will be able to help students achieve their goals just as you have helped me.”



Fun Facts

Class of 2021

Hometown: South Charleston, West Virginia

Major: Biology, with minors in chemistry and Spanish

Favorite color: Coral

Favorite season: Fall

Textbooks or eBooks: I prefer an actual book, only because the devices I have would not allow reading an e-Book to provide a good experience. If I had a tablet, I think e-Books would be great, especially since saving paper helps the environment.

Favorite place off campus: Harris Riverfront Park near Pullman. It's very relaxing!