

Marshall University H.E.L.P. Program

Season's Greetings and a Happy
New Year from the staff of the
Marshall University H.E.L.P.
Program

December 2015



The H.E.L.P.er Newsletter

Thank You from H.E.L.P.	1-2
Staff Changes.....	3
December 2015 Graduates.....	4
Staff Spotlight.....	5
3.00 & Above GPAs.....	6
Short Story Winners.....	6
ACT Course Dates.....	6
How You Can HELP.....	7

Reasons to be thankful...

As the close of 2015 approaches, and as I look back at the past year, the H.E.L.P. Program has many things to be thankful for.

We are thankful, first and foremost, that parents and students have chosen our program for academic support and guidance. We accept this responsibility with the utmost seriousness, and we appreciate the support we receive from the families. The H.E.L.P. Program facilitated individual tutoring and testing accommodations for 140 college students during the Fall 2015 semester. We have been blessed with a wonderful group of students who take their education seriously, and we are proud of their accomplishments. The program could not have achieved this feat if it were not for the people who came before and those who are here now. *(Continued on page 2)*



Marshall University H.E.L.P. Center
Myers Hall, 520 18th Street, Huntington, WV 25703
(304) 696-6252
www.marshall.edu/help

Thank you from the H.E.L.P. Program

(Continued from page 1)

We are thankful for Barbara Guyer and Lynne Weston, our former directors, who paved the way and still serve as advisors and friends. They have an emotional attachment to this program, and we are so grateful for their guidance and love. Barbara is busy writing her 4th book, and she donates all sales to the program. Lynne is a busy grandmother but takes the time to “lend an ear,” offer suggestions, and serve on our Board of Advisors. We are blessed to still have them in our lives.

We are thankful for our co-workers, the staff, who are fully invested in making a difference in the lives of students. Without their expertise and compassion, we would not be a nationally recognized program. The eight staff members have a combined total of 147 years of service with the H.E.L.P. Program, and six of us began our career journey with the H.E.L.P. Program as graduate assistants.

We are thankful for our twelve “extra help” tutors who have supported this program with endless hours of tutoring, mentoring, and guidance. They are true professionals. Many have been with us for many years, and they are part of the H.E.L.P. family. Although they each have their own area of expertise, everyone is in agreement that they are gifted teachers. We are blessed to have them as co-workers and friends.

We are thankful for our graduate assistants who typically spend 1-2 years with our program. As a representative of the H.E.L.P. Program, the graduate assistants have frequent contact with professors, and positive relationships can develop. We appreciate that they care about our students, and we are blessed to have them as co-workers and friends.

We are thankful for our Community H.E.L.P. tutors, who work with students in grades K-12. They are providing a much needed resource for our program and the community. Their experiences in the classroom, their educational backgrounds, and their love of teaching is just the recipe we need to inspire students to learn. They are a true blessing for the students and their parents.

We are thankful, last but not least, for our Board of Advisors. These professionals take time out of their busy schedules to support and guide the H.E.L.P. Program. They understand our students, the program’s needs, and our mission. We are blessed to have them.

In closing, H.E.L.P. would like to extend our greetings for a wonderful holiday session. We wish you all of the wonders of the season and beautiful new memories to carry through the New Year.

Best Wishes,



Debbie Painter

Director, Marshall University H.E.L.P. Center



Good luck on your journey!

Although we have had a busy and productive year, the low point came in September when our Assistant Director, Susie Bruhin, moved to Knoxville, Tennessee. Her husband John was offered a wonderful position at UT, and although we are happy that this opportunity came his way, we were heartbroken that they left. Susie had been with us for four years and was an important part of our H.E.L.P. family. The students and staff loved her, and parents respected and trusted her judgment. Her visions were endless, and she “worked her magic” in every aspect of this program. Susie was a shining star, and we are confident that she will continue to stand out in any job that comes her way. We miss her tremendously.

Welcome New Tutors

Cheryl Lawson

Cheryl came to us in June, 2015, from Georgia. She was born and raised in the Huntington area. Cheryl graduated high school from Vinson and pursued and received an Elementary Education Degree and a Master's Degree in Learning Disabilities from Marshall University. Upon moving to Georgia, Cheryl completed a Reading Specialist Degree from Georgia State. Cheryl has 31 years of teaching experience working with learning disabled students in a self-contained setting. At H.E.L.P. Cheryl works in our Community H.E.L.P. and our Skills Development Programs where she specializes in tutoring the Wilson Reading System, reading comprehension, and study skills. Cheryl has four adult children.

Kirk Johnson

Kirk came to us in September of this year after a move brought him and his family to Huntington, WV. Kirk graduated from Ohio University with a B.A. in History. Upon graduation, Kirk taught middle school at Cincinnati Day School, one of Cincinnati's most prestigious independent schools. Next, Kirk worked in the insurance business for a while. He then pursued and received a Master's Degree in Secondary Education from Xavier University in Cincinnati. He went back to work in the Cincinnati Public Schools until he moved to Huntington, WV. Kirk currently works in the Community and College H.E.L.P. Programs tutoring in both Skills Development and academics. Kirk has a big family, which consists of his wife, Kelly, daughters Wynn (13), Avery (12), Lilah (6) and son Henry (4).

Congratulation December 2015 H.E.L.P. Graduates!

Your many years of hard work and determination have finally paid off, and the staff and tutors of the H.E.L.P. Center want to offer you a heartfelt and well deserved congratulations for achieving such an important educational milestone. Many times you may have doubted yourself, and there were many setbacks, challenges, and second-guesses along the way, but you found a way each and every time to continue moving forward, meeting each challenge with a single-minded determination to reach your goal. This is, of course, not the end. You will continue to learn, to grow, and to meet and overcome new and different types of challenges in your life. We would like to “wish you luck” in the future, but we know that it wasn’t “luck” that got you here. Instead, we wish you continued strength, determination, and a strong will to work your hardest to achieve the future successes that you want out of life. We are the ones lucky to have known you and to have worked with you. We wish you all the best and ask that you stay in touch.

Richard “Ricky” Adams

Gainesville, VA
BA, Secondary Education
Concentration: PE Health Wellness, PreK-Adult
Concentration: Mentally Impaired, 5-Adult

Megan Connolley

Mechanicsville, VA
BBA, Economics

Steve Dillon

Palmdale, CA
RBA, Regents’ Degree

Travis Edwards

Scott Depot, WV
RBA, Regents’ Degree

Kyle Hatfield

Hurricane, WV
BBA, Marketing

Lauren Hurd

Orange Village, OH
BFA, Visual Art
Concentration: Graphic Design

Annie Pritchard Kisling

Huntington, WV
RBA, Regents’ Degree

Catherine (Catie) Pinson

Hudsonville, MI
RBA, Regents’ BA

William Slone

Mallie, KY
BS, Mathematics
Minor: Biological Sciences

Madison Steele

Gallipolis, OH
RBA, Regents’ Degree

Staff Spotlight

“Develop a passion for learning. If you do, you will never cease to grow.”

-- Anthony J. D'Angelo



“I hope to use my talents, gifts, and education to offer hope, and to empower those who are hurting.”



“We are either progressing or falling behind . . . I choose to keep working toward learning and achieving more in both my personal and professional pursuits.”

The importance of education, self-improvement, and lifelong learning are qualities that we not only seek to instill and cultivate in our students, but they are guiding principles for the staff here at the H.E.L.P. Center as well. Below, we shine the spotlight on two outstanding members of our staff who continue to seek out new opportunities to learn and to grow both personally and professionally.

Renna Moore

Renna has been the administrative assistant at the H.E.L.P. Center for over twenty-two years. During that time, she has tirelessly sought out ways to improve and better herself and to lift up those around her at the same time. Renna is nearing her final semester completing her Master's Degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling with a Minor in Psychology from Marshall University. She will graduate in May 2016. Currently, Renna is working on her Internship in Medical Emergency Counseling at St. Mary's Medical Center Department of Mental Health Counseling and Employee Assistance Program. In terms of pursuing her education, Renna says, “I hope to use my talents, gifts and education to offer hope, and to empower those who are hurting. If I can do that, then my living will not have been in vain.” Her areas of interest are women's issues, college students, and marriage and family. Renna has worked in ministry with her husband, Sam Moore, for over 32 years, and she is the cofounder and past director of the Kids of the Kingdom

Missi Fisher

Missi has been the business manager at the H.E.L.P. Center for a little over a year, but she brings with her over twenty years of business and accounting experience. Missi has an RBA from Marshall University with areas of emphasis in Organizational Leadership and Psychology. Currently, she is working toward a Masters degree in Human Resource Management. Missi says, “Since I enjoy working with people and know personnel is the key to any organization, I felt this program would help me reach my educational goals as well as assist in my vocation. Earning this degree will equip me with the skills and knowledge to recruit and manage talent in a more effective way to meet organizational goals.” Missi's life philosophy is that people don't just stand still and stagnate. She says, “We are either progressing or falling behind. With that thought in mind, I choose to keep working toward learning and achieving more in both my personal and professional pursuits.”

Congratulations Students who earned a 3.00 or above G.P.A. Spring 2015

Ricky Adams	Amanda Duncan	Emily Kinner	William Pollard
Jonathan Adkins	Julius Espiritu	Annie Pritchard Kisling	Matt Prandoni
Tyler Albitz	Gavin Evans	Kyela Leadman	Meishon Raglin
Mason Anderson	Morgan Fortune	Jenna Lioi	Luke Rapp
Brian Armbruster	Chana Gellert	Alex Market	Skip Remington
Gregory Ashby	Jacqueline Genter	Sam Miller	Chris Robinson
Sashi Assi	Chris Hale	Chris Monsell	Evan Robinson
Olivia Barlas	Daniel Harless	Jordan Morgan	Emma Rodgers
Anthony Beres	Jacob Harter	Isaac Neal	William Slone
Nathan Bohach	Kyle Hatfield	Jake O'Brien	Madison Steele
Luke Braunlich	Christopher Hinson	Brian O'Keefe	Corey Tindal
Matthew Brown	Madison Hunt	Christine Ombrellaro	Alyssa Turner
Chris Carr	Lauren Hurd	Elyse Panick	Nicholas Uliana
Enjonaë Chambers	Lindsey Johnson	William Papageorge	Harry VanTrees
Michael Converse	Steven Johnson	Catie Pinson	Jacob Waldman
Jeff Dickerson	Calvin Jones	Andrew Pistors	Joseph Wilkinson
	Chris Khodadadi		Michelle Wlotzko

Congratulations to our 2015 Short Story Contest Winners!

First Place
Megan Connolley
"Traditions"

Second Place
Michael Converse
"The Fallen Ones"

Spring 2016 Dates for ACT Prep Course Announced

The H.E.L.P. Center offers ACT Prep courses that cover reading, math, science, and test taking strategies.

For more information and to register, visit our website: www.marshall.edu/help

Spring 2016 Dates:

- Session 1: Jan. 12th – Feb. 4th
- Session 2: March 8th – April 7th
(note: no class week of March 21)

Classes meet Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:00-8:00 pm at Myers Hall.

You Might Not Need H.E.L.P., But H.E.L.P. Needs You

As a 501c3 non-profit, the H.E.L.P. Center relies on the generous assistance and contributions, in whatever size or form, from people just like you. There are several different ways that you can be a part of assisting the H.E.L.P. Center achieve its mission of ensuring that students with a specific learning disability and/or A.D.H.D. receive the academic support and assistance needed to help them succeed at Marshall University and beyond. All of the staff, tutors, and students at H.E.L.P. offer their sincere thanks for any help that you might be able to provide.

Golf, anyone . . .

Save the date: Join us **April 22nd** at **The Silo in Lavalette, WV** (just outside of Huntington) for the H.E.L.P. Center's Annual Marshall University Dr. Paul E. Skeens Memorial Scramble 4 H.E.L.P., a fundraising event and one-day golf tournament. **All proceeds go toward scholarships** for need-based LD/ADHD students at Marshall, as well as elementary through high school students experiencing difficulties with learning.

Check out our website, www.marshall.edu/help, in early January 2016 for registration and sponsorship information!

Read More About It . . .

Dr. Barbara Guyer, founder and Director Emeritus of the H.E.L.P. Center, has written three outstanding books to help others learn about and be inspired by people who have overcome the challenges and obstacles presented by a specific learning disability and/or ADHD throughout their educational, personal, and professional lives.

All proceeds from the sale of these books go toward the “Barbara P. Guyer Scholarship for H.E.L.P. Students with LD and/or ADHD”

Check out our website, www.marshall.edu/help, for more information about purchasing these books for yourself, friends, and family.

A Simple Gift . . .

Sometimes it is just more convenient to make a direct gift of financial support to help provide funds for scholarships and other services to the H.E.L.P. Center and our students.

If you would like to do so, please complete the following form and mail it along with your check made out to “MU HELP Program” to the address provided below:

Your Name: _____ Phone Number: (____) _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

Remember, the H.E.L.P. Center is a 5013c non-profit, so your charitable contribution is tax deductible.

Mail to: Marshall University H.E.L.P. Center
Attn: Missi Fisher, Business Manager
One John Marshall Drive
Huntington, WV 25755

If you have any questions or would like to make a contribution via credit card, please contact our business manager, Missi Fisher, at (304) 696-5220