

MUSOP BULLETIN

Marshall University School of Pharmacy

April 2026

From the Dean



**DR. ERIC BLOUGH, PHD
DEAN**

Celebrating Achievement, Service, and Innovation at MUSOP

As spring continues, the Marshall University School of Pharmacy remains energized by the dedication, compassion, and excellence of our students, faculty, staff, and alumni.

Together, you continue to advance our mission through meaningful service, academic achievement, and a shared commitment to improving patient care and community health. This month, we are proud to recognize Casey Hambrick as our Student of the Month. Casey's leadership, enthusiasm, and active engagement across student organizations reflect the spirit and strength of our Pharmily.

We also celebrate outstanding contributions across our community. Dr. Amanda Capino's recognition with the MHN Excellence in Advocacy Award highlights the impact of passionate leadership in advancing patient care, while Megan Russell's honor as a Student Success Champion reflects the profound difference mentorship and support make in our students' journeys. Additionally, we are pleased to feature Dr. Francis Wright, whose professional path and continued dedication to patient-centered care exemplify the lasting impact of a MUSOP education.

From campus initiatives and fundraising efforts to alumni achievements, this issue showcases the many ways our community continues to grow, lead, and make a difference.



The West Virginia Pharmacists Association is a statewide professional organization that advocates for the interests of licensed pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, and student pharmacists. Scan the QR code above for more information about WVPA and how to join.

Walgreens Walking Challenge

Students, faculty, and staff participated in our annual Walgreens Walking Challenge set in the month of February. Each week, steps were submitted by those who registered for their division to see who could total up the most to win a free lunch. This year, the P2 class had the most in the student division at 2,529,786 steps! The Pharm Sci department had the most for faculty and staff at 826,821. Thank you, Walgreens, for your continued sponsorship of a healthy lifestyle for MUSOP!

Pharmacy News

Glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1) receptor agonists are no longer a diabetes drug class with a useful side effect. In the span of just a few years, they have become one of the most broadly consequential drug classes in modern medicine, with an evidence base expanding faster than many pharmacists can track. At the 2026 American Pharmacists Association Annual Meeting and Exposition in Los Angeles, Emily Eddy, PharmD, BCACP, BC-ADM, CDCEs, associate professor of pharmacy practice and director of clinical services at Ohio Northern University, delivered a rapid-fire, evidence-packed session surveying the current landscape of GLP-1 and GLP-1/glucose-dependent insulinotropic polypeptide (GIP) therapies - from newly approved formulations to phase 3 data on emerging indications that once seemed far outside the incretin orbit. (to read the full article, click the link below)

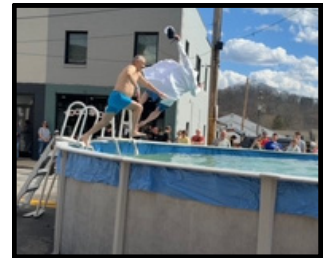
www.pharmacytimes.com

This digital newsletter connects you to many of our other online sources of information. As this newsletter continues to evolve, we encourage your feedback and story ideas by emailing sopnews@marshall.edu.

MUSOP Happenings



ASHP held a highly successful fundraiser for the Special Olympics of WV, raising a total of \$560! As an incentive, students and faculty volunteered to participate in a “Polar Plunge” activity. Thank you to all students, staff, and faculty who donated to such a great cause!



Dr. Jeremy McAleer has once again claimed the MUSOP traveling football trophy in our annual NFL contest. He successfully took the lead spot, winning by one point during the Super Bowl game. Second place went to Megan Russell.



Be on the lookout for more information about our upcoming MUSOP Gala and 10-year reunion for the MUSOP Class of 2016.

Current Fundraising Opportunities

• Dominate Diabetes 5K

The APhA-ASP chapter is holding its annual 5K at Ritter Park on April 9, 2026. Proceeds from the race are going towards the American Diabetes Association and the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. Entry fee is \$20.00 (\$25.00 on race day). Participants will receive a t-shirt and complimentary snacks and water, and the top 3 male and female finishers will be awarded with medals. Registration begins at 5:00 pm with the race beginning at 6:30 pm. You can preregister with the QR code below.



• Easter Donation Drive

The Pediatric Pharmacist Association is hosting an Easter Donation Drive from March 23 - April 1, collecting items to go towards creating Easter baskets for children at the Huntington City Mission. Requested items include baskets, bags of candy, small toys and stuffed animals, fun surprises for kids, and monetary donations to help fill the baskets. You can drop the items off at MUSOP and donations can be made via Venmo @ppa_at_musop.

• Gear for Good

The Pediatric Pharmacist Association announces the “MUSOP Gear for Good” fundraiser supporting Hoops Family Children’s Hospital. New designs include a pharmacist teddy bear and a Marco. The online store is open until April 1st at midnight. If you select the “pickup” option, items will be available at the pharmacy school once they are ready.

MUSOP Store

Student of the Month

Casey Hambrick, a transfer student from UC, is our March Student of the Month. Casey has taken on an active role in SEC, fundraising, and is now a Student Ambassador. Casey tackles every challenge head on with great ideas and a smile. We are very fortunate to have her in our program!



Women's History Month



March is Women's History month, an annual celebration in the United States that recognizes and celebrates the contributions of women all throughout the nation's history.

The National Women's History Alliance selects and publishes the yearly theme. The theme for Women's History Month in 2026 is Leading the Change: Women Shaping a Sustainable Future.

To read more, click the link below.

www.womenshistory.org

National Nutrition Month

National Nutrition Month started in 1973 as National Nutrition Week, and it became a month-long observance in 1980 in response to growing interest in nutrition. This public health initiative highlights the role that food and fitness play in leading happy, healthy lives.



www.fmi.org

Alumni Spotlight - Dr. Francis Wright



Our alumni spotlight this month is Dr. Francis Wright, class of 2022. Since graduating from the Marshall University School of Pharmacy, Francis has built a dynamic career centered on patient care, leadership, and a commitment to ongoing professional growth. His journey has taken him from West Virginia to Maryland and back again - each step adding new depth to his practice and perspective.

After earning his PharmD, Francis began his career as a staff pharmacist at Cabell Huntington Hospital. In 2024, he relocated to Baltimore, MD, where he served as a pharmacy manager at Walgreens, gaining valuable experience in autonomy, team leadership, and upholding organizational standards. In June 2025, he returned to West Virginia and resumed his role as a staff pharmacist at CHH. Today, he works in the inpatient setting, a space he enjoys for its variety and the unique challenges that come with serving patients across the Tri-State region.

Dr. Wright traces much of his leadership development back to his time at MUSOP, where he served as President of APhA-ASP. That experience taught him the importance of accountability, clear communication, conflict resolution, and the value of mentoring others. He credits MUSOP with shaping his ability to approach diverse situations with an open mind and to work effectively with people from all backgrounds - skills that continue to guide him in practice.

Pharmacy is both a personal calling and a professional responsibility for Francis. Personally, it means sharing the knowledge gained from professors, preceptors, and peers, and giving back to the community through education on the safe use of medications. Professionally, it means building trust, practicing empathy, and treating every patient with respect. He emphasizes that patient care must always remain the top priority, grounded in consistent adherence to federal and state regulations and the oath of a pharmacist.

Dr. Wright encourages students to stay open to feedback and maintain a willingness to learn. "These qualities," he says, "are essential for both personal and professional development and will serve future pharmacists well throughout their careers."

While not currently involved in community service or professional organizations, Francis sees that changing soon. He hopes to become more engaged locally and to continue challenging himself with new leadership opportunities that will expand his skill set and impact.

Thank you, Francis, for sharing your story and for encouraging our current students on their professional journey.



Staff Spotlight – Megan Russell

Student Success Champion!

Congratulations to **Megan Russell, Director of Progressions**, on her success in being recognized as a *Student Success Champion*.

Megan is receiving this award because multiple students have identified her as their student success champion, making their time at Marshall better, their days brighter, and she has shown them kindness and cheered them on.

Megan is one of twenty recipients for this year's recognition and will be honored during a ceremony on Tuesday, April 21 at the Drinko Library Atrium.



Faculty Spotlight – Dr. Amanda Capino

The MHN Excellence in Advocacy Award honors two outstanding individuals who demonstrate exceptional dedication, leadership, and advocacy for the profession on pharmacy and patient care. These individuals embody the spirit of advocacy by advancing the role of pharmacy in healthcare, shaping the profession's future, and improving patient outcomes through their tireless efforts.



This year the award was presented to **Dr. Amanda Capino**.

“Amanda’s impact across CHH and the Hoops Family Children’s Hospital is extraordinary. She has led and contributed to numerous quality improvement initiatives, earning recognition from pharmacy and hospital leadership, as well as the NICU team for her expertise, compassion, and leadership.”

As the Medical Director of Hoops Family Children’s Hospital shared, “Dr. Capino embodies the spirit of advocacy. She identifies gaps in medication access and safety, brings forward solutions, and follows through to ensure every initiative results in meaningful change.” Through her leadership, mentorship, and steadfast dedication, Dr. Amanda Capino exemplifies what it means to be an advocate for both the profession of pharmacy and the patients we serve.

Congratulations, Dr. Amanda Capino. We are honored to have you as part of our Pharmily!

Looking to hire a MUSOP Alumni?

Does your company or organization have opportunities, such as FT or PT jobs, internships, fellowships, or volunteer opportunities that our student pharmacists and alumni may be qualified for? If so, we would love to share with them. Please submit your opportunities through the following link:

<https://www.marshall.edu/pharmacy/opportunity-form/>

