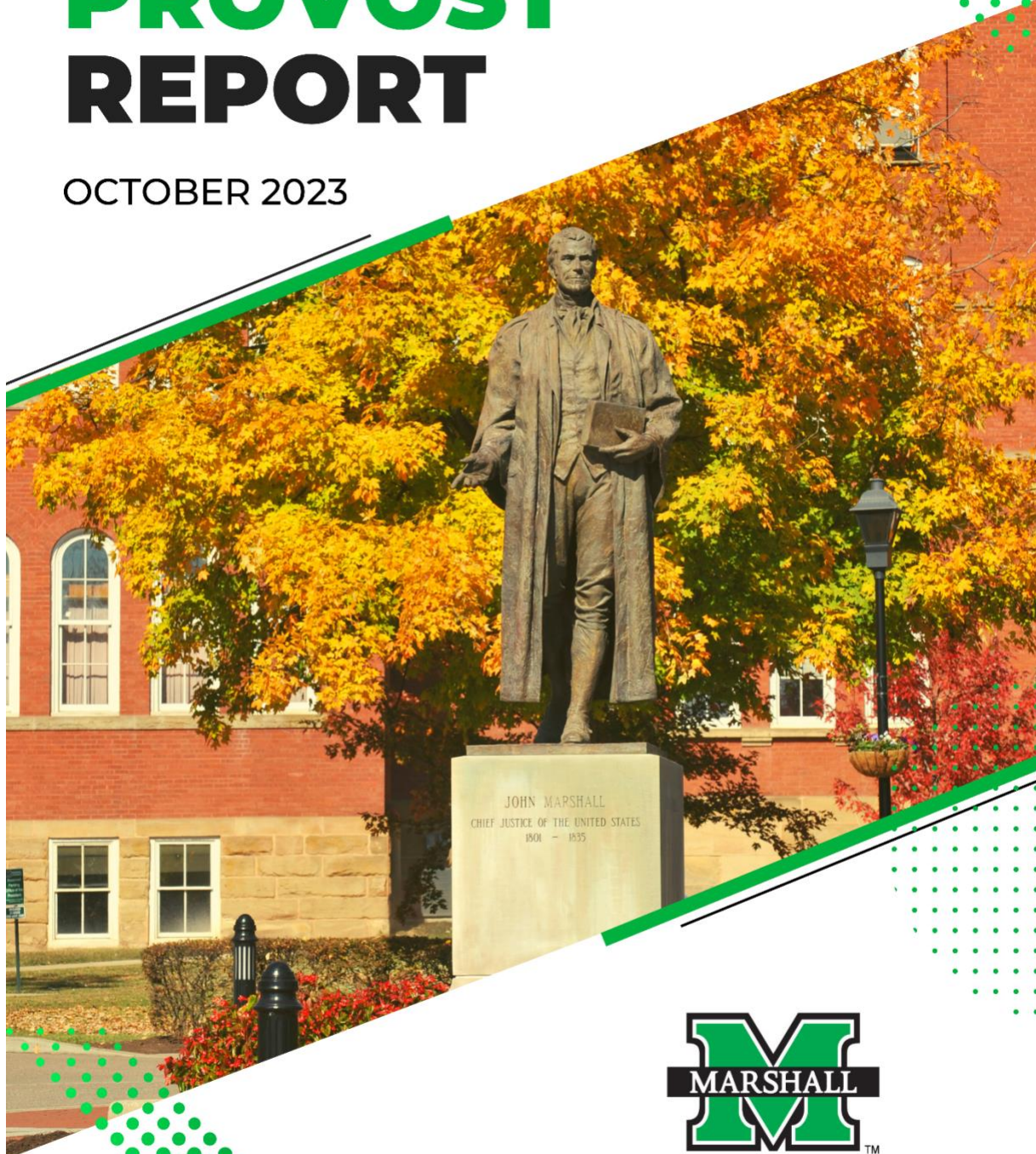


PROVOST REPORT

OCTOBER 2023



ACADEMIC AFFAIRS



Greetings!

We're thrilled to inform you that the new academic year is in full swing, bringing with it a wave of fresh faces, innovative ideas, and exciting projects. Here's a sneak peek at some of the noteworthy highlights in our latest report:

- The Parthenon commemorated its 125th anniversary on September 23, 2023, embodying a century and a quarter of Marshall's student newspaper.
- The 2023 Marshall Safety Conference, sponsored by MURC and CECS Occupational Safety Program Advisory Board, took place on September 29th. Keynote speakers included Scott McKenna, Stacy Spector, and Diana McCoy.
- The MUEE STEAM Center is embarking on an inspiring journey, opening a new classroom for 2 and 3-year-old children, expanding their mission from serving 3 and 4-year-olds.
- The School of Nursing has been awarded a significant nursing expansion grant of \$730,000 by the WVHEPC. This grant will be dedicated to enhancing student retention, recruitment efforts, and faculty development.
- The Psychology Department has received a significant grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to support Graduate Psychology Education programs. This grant, totaling \$1 million over a span of two years, will enable the training of advanced doctoral students in providing integrated behavioral health care and substance use treatment in rural areas.
- A prominent faculty member has been selected as the head coach for the US Cyber Team during the 2024 competition season.
- The Bill Noe Flight School achieved a significant milestone by gaining the prestigious status of self-examining authority. This designation empowers the Flight School to conduct Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) licensing examinations through our certified check airmen and grant aviation licenses directly from our institution.
- The Lewis College of Business chapter of Beta Gamma Sigma has earned "High Honors" for the 2022-2023 academic year. This prestigious academic honor society is exclusively for graduates of business programs. Impressively, this achievement marks the sixth consecutive year that the MU chapter has secured this status, ranking it among the top 10% of all BGS chapters nationwide.

Apart from our academic divisions, our extensive array of student support services and programs have some noteworthy updates to share:

- The Friend-at-Marshall (FAM) Peer Mentoring Program has assigned mentors to 1,812 freshmen, 470 transfer students, and reconnected with 1,201 returning sophomores this fall. With a team of 35 FAM Peer Mentors, they provide weekly support via email, text, or in-person to help students adjust to campus life, address their questions, and guide them to resources. New this fall, freshmen can request FAMs with similar college experiences, including LGBTQ+ community, foster care, neurodivergent students (Autism, OCD, ADHD, etc.), and student parents. There's also a dedicated FAM for e-campus students and the "Marshall-for-All" cohort.
- More than 1,500 students enthusiastically participated in the Week of Welcome (WOW), supported by over 80 dedicated staff volunteers. The week's highlights included the WOW Kick-Off, Breakfast and Bingo, the WOW Challenge, College Sessions, Convocation, Rec Fest, and the engaging Build-a-Bison Fun Factory event.
- Online Education expanded its offerings to include 480 courses in the Ultra format for the fall semester, with a notable achievement of training 30% of faculty members in Ultra. Additionally, the Marshall Skills Exchange, a microcredentialing initiative, experienced robust enrollment, with 230 participants, including 31 from advanced manufacturing, 3 from aviation, and 196 from within the Marshall community, consisting of faculty, staff, and students.

The entire Academic Affairs team, from our administration to our dedicated staff, warmly invites you to join us in celebrating the remarkable scholarly and creative achievements of our faculty and staff. We also take immense pride in showcasing the accomplishments of our students and alumni.

Sincerely,



Avinandan Mukherjee

Avinandan (Avi) Mukherjee, Ph.D.
Provost & Senior Vice President for
Academic Affairs



Karen McComas

Karen McComas, Ed.D.
Interim Associate Vice President for
Academic Affairs & Associate Provost

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COLLEGE OF ARTS AND MEDIA (DEAN: DR. MARIA GINDHART)

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- *The Parthenon* celebrated its 125th Anniversary on September 23, 2023.
- The Choral Union, comprised of students and community members, has been reestablished and is now collaborating with the Huntington Symphony Chorus.

FACULTY & STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

- Frederick Bartolovic, Professor of Art, completed a mural with Michelle Strader of Silver Run Ceramics at 1338 Third Avenue in September. This public art project incorporated themes to connect Ukraine, Colorado, and West Virginia.
- Hanna Kozlowski, Associate Professor of Art, is exhibiting new work at the *MFA/50* juried exhibition in the Lee Gallery at Clemson University from September 6 through October 31, 2023.
- Matt Smith, Assistant Professor of Art, is exhibiting in *Degrees of Commitment: Climate, Ecosystems, and Society* at the Sandra J. Blain Gallery at Arrowmont School of Crafts, Gatlinburg, TN, from September 5 through December 16, 2023.
- Sandra Reed, Professor of Art, was a featured presenter at *Piccalilli*, an artists' conference that celebrates the arts while exploring the business of art in Parkersburg, WV, on September 14. She demonstrated the innovative methods that she developed during her recent sabbatical and Drinko Academy fellowship.
- Chris Ingersoll, Associate Professor in Journalism, and Dr. Monisha Gupta from the Lewis College of Business presented "How Design Skills and a Design Mindset Improve Learning with Less Cost" at the West Virginia Statewide Technology Conference in Morgantown in July 2023.
- Burnis Morris, Professor of Journalism, presented on his book, *Carter G. Woodson: History, the Black Press, and Public Relations*, on August 29 to inaugurate the second year of the HLC Quality Initiative: Building a Stronger & More Inclusive Marshall Community.
- Dr. Robert Rabe, Professor of Journalism, presented his paper "Half Out of Our Tree: The New Yorker Magazine and the Vietnam War" at the American Journalism Historians Association conference in September 2023.
- *Musical Family*, a chamber music program featuring Dr. Wendell Dobbs on flute, Dr. Solen Dikener on cello, and Dr. Johan Botes on piano, was presented at the Jomie Jazz Forum on August 30.
- *American Music for Trombone and Piano*, a concert featuring Dr. Michael Stroehrer on trumpet and Dr. Johan Botes on piano, was presented at Smith Recital Hall on September 17.
- *String Faculty Recital*, featuring Dr. Elizabeth Reed Smith on violin, Dr. Solen Dikener on cello, and Dr. Julio Ribeiro Alves on guitar, was presented at Smith Recital Hall on September 21.

STUDENT & ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENTS

- Dawn Kushner, BFA Photography, and Molly Franklin, BFA Painting, were awarded a residency at Anderson Ranch in Aspen, CO as part of the School of Art and Design Higher Education Partnership.
- Zöe Peterman, BA Visual Art & Design, attended workshops at the Penland School of Craft, Bakersville, NC.
- Lauren Wills, BFA Studio Art, attended workshops at Arrowmont School of Crafts, Gatlinburg, TN, in July 2023.
- Amy Pabst, BFA Fibers, was interviewed on *The Quilt Show with Alex Anderson* in Denver, CO, in August 2023.
- Alaina Laster and Bryce Lusher exhibited *Nom (Noun)*, a collection of photographs taken in Paris during a study abroad experience with the Kentucky Institute for International Studies (KIIS), August 21 through September 8, 2023, Student Gallery, Visual Arts Center.
- Alumnae Sophia Simental, BFA Sculpture, received an MFA in Ceramics from Alfred University in May 2023 and accepted a lab manger position at the Arrowmont School of Craft, June 2023.
- A graduate student showcase recital featured Cadence Weaver-Deering, Sean Price, Tori Vankirk-Hochstetler, and James Newsome on September 8.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- The Marching Thunder Band Day took place September 2 at the Joan C. Edwards Stadium featuring 200 students representing about 8 high schools from the tri-state area.
- Ron Lambert exhibited *Divide and Follow*, August 21 through September 15, 2023, in the Birke Art Gallery at the Visual Arts Center.
- Jim Arendt exhibited *Those of Us Still Living*, August 14 - September 7, 2023, in the Carroll Gallery at the Visual Arts Center.
- *Making Place*, the 2023 Biennial Faculty and Staff Exhibition, runs September 18 through October 20, 2023, in the Carroll Gallery at the Visual Arts Center.

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE (DEAN: DR. DAVID DAMPIER)

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- The 2023 Marshall Safety Conference was held September 29 in the Memorial Student Center. The annual conference is sponsored by the Marshall University Research Corporation and the Occupational Safety Program Advisory Board in CECS. Participants heard from keynote speakers in the occupational health and safety industry including Scott McKenna, Stacy Spector and Diana McCoy.

FACULTY & STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

- Dr. Scott Simonton has been appointed to the Energy, Environment, and Water Policy Committee for the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE). Dr. Simonton is a Professor in the Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering.
- Dr. Ross Salary, assistant professor of Mechanical and Biomedical Engineering, received a National Science Foundation Track-4 Research Infrastructure Improvement (RII) grant of \$353,493. Dr. Salary will serve as principal investigator on the project "Investigation of Two-Phase Aerosol Formation, Transport, and Deposition in Aerosol Jet Printing for Submicron Manufacturing of Printed Electronic Devices."
- Dr. Yousef Sardahi, Dr. Asad Salem, and Dr. Sudipta Chowdhury, all faculty in the Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering, were awarded a \$500,000 Civil-Military Innovation Institute (CMI²) grant for their project, "Optimized Single-Operator Lift System for MTRS Loading and Unloading in and out of the M-ATV."
- Dr. Ruiqing Shen and Dr. Sungmin Youn were awarded \$450,000 from the Environmental Protection Agency for their project "EPA Phase I: Climate Pollution Reduction Grant." This is a collaborative project between Marshall and WVU, along with several consulting firms for \$3,000,000 over three years. WVU is the lead on the overall project. Dr. Shen is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering at Marshall. Dr. Youn is an Associate Professor in the Department of Civil Engineering at Marshall.

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

(DEAN: DR. TERESA EAGLE)

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- The MUEE STEAM Center is opening a new classroom to serve 2 and 3 year old children. This broadens the scope of the current classroom which has served 3 and 4 year old children for a number of years. June Harless Center administrators Dr. Tarabeth Heineman and Dr. Maggie Luma have worked diligently to secure funding for this new classroom. Stacy Hacker, a former COEPD student, has accepted the position of lead teacher.

FACULTY & STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

- Dr. Isaac Larison has been working to organize an agreement with University College Copenhagen. Dr. Kenneth Hansen visited MU from Copenhagen at the end of September with the intent to create a student and faculty exchange program.
- With the assistance of Dr. Zeli Rivas, Assistant Provost for Global Education, COEPD is also in discussions to form a partnership with Osaka Kyoiku University in Japan which specializes in the preparation of elementary school teachers.
- A faculty committee led by Dr. Missy Reed continues to provide virtual programming for faculty and staff. The first "Coffee and Chat" was held on September 13. Lori Thompson from University Libraries presented to the committee on trauma and micro-aggressions.
- The leadership development of college faculty continues this fall with several COEPD participants in the Department Chairs Leadership Academy. Dr. Eric Beeson, Dr. Lisa Heaton, Dr. Conrae Lucas-Adkins, and Dr. Feon Smith are participating in the academy this semester.

STUDENT & ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENTS

- Seven students from the COEPD were placed as Classroom Teachers of Record (CTR) this fall. These are students in their last semester of teacher preparation. They have been hired by a school district to be placed in a teacher vacancy and receive pay and experience while finishing their degrees. These seniors must meet high standards and be deemed ready to manage their own classrooms. These students are:

Bella Vint, Math, Scott High School in Boone County
Cheyenne Ferguson, English, Huntington East Middle in Cabell County
Emma Blatt, Southside Elementary in Cabell County
Lauren Corsaro, Ashton Elementary in Mason County
Ashley Ratcliff, Math Spring Valley High School in Wayne County
Jacob Mollette, Wellness, Fort Gay PreK-8 in Wayne County
Sydney Alderman, Glade Elementary in Webster

- Michael Harshbarger, Master of Arts in Teaching (2015), was a finalist for WV State Teacher of the Year.
- Nineteen COEPD students at Marshall receive the Underwood-Smith Scholars Program scholarship. This is considered one of the most prestigious scholarships in West Virginia. It supports recent high school graduates pursuing rewarding careers as WV teachers in math, science, elementary education, or special education. A maximum of 25 applicants are selected each year after a rigorous application process. The 2023 recipients from MU are:

Lauren Hutchinson, Math
Ryleigh Isaacs, Elementary
Trinity Martin, Elementary
Jaidyn Patrick, Elementary
Jenna Rose, Elementary
Natalie Smith, Elementary
Valerie Smith, Elementary

- In conjunction with MU Athletics, COEPD alumni were recognized on the field during halftime at the September 2 football game versus Albany. These alumni, who work closely with the college and mentor teacher candidates, were celebrated as part of the Extra Yard for Teachers, the College Football Playoff Foundation's primary platform. The Foundation aims to elevate the teaching profession by inspiring and empowering teachers through the implementation of programs in four focus areas: resources, recognition, recruitment, and professional development. These teachers receive recognition and support for classroom supplies. Dr. Paula Lucas and Amanda Preece organized the recognition of the following teachers on behalf of COEPD:

Hannah Caldwell, Huntington Middle School
Amy Cloke, Huntington Middle School
Regina Craft, Buffalo Elementary School
Kelly Kauffer, Huntington High School
Dessie Kernan, Huntington East Middle School
Beth Perry May, Kellogg Elementary School
Molly Runyon, Meadows Elementary School
Karissa Smith, Martha Elementary School
Jared Switzer, Tolsia High School
Wade Williamson, Wayne Middle School

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- New students at Week of Welcome stuffed backpacks with school supplies. This year the backpacks were donated to local students at Central City Elementary School and HSTA Academy program.

COLLEGE OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS (DEAN: DR. MICHAEL PREWITT)

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- The School of Nursing received a WVHEPC nursing expansion grant for \$730,000 for student retention, recruitment, and faculty development.
- The first class of BSN students started this semester at the Glenville campus. Marshall University and Glenville State University have partnered to offer students a program leading to a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree through Marshall's nursing program.
- A ceremony unveiling the first house in the Livable Housing Project was held on September 15. The Livable Housing Project was established through a collaboration between UniCare Health Plan of West Virginia and the Marshall University Minority Health Institute. The \$1 million community grant aims to improve the livability conditions of five homes chosen throughout the state of West Virginia. The partnership seeks to counteract the prevalent issue of substandard housing that often affects minority households, causing health issues.

FACULTY & STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

- Dr. Georgiana Logan, Assistant Professor of Health Sciences, was invited to speak about health equity in the workplace at the 2023 WV Workplace Wellness Conference. Dr. Logan also returns for her 2nd year as the faculty mentor to a group of incoming freshmen and returning sophomores for Marshall's HLC Quality Initiative "Building a Stronger and More Inclusive Marshall Community."
- Dr. Liz Pacioles, Assistant Professor of Health Sciences, presented her research entitled "What Psychological Skills Do Performing Arts Students Need...and Want?" at the American Psychological Association (APA) conference in Washington, DC in August 2023. Her research was based on work with the Marshall University Center for Wellness in the Arts, a collaboration between the College of Health Professions and the College of Arts and Media.
- Professor Emeritus Jo Dee Gottlieb and Professor Phil Carter in the Bachelor of Social Work program retired in Summer 2023.
- Dr. Debra Young, Associate Professor of Social Work, was appointed as BSW director effective Fall 2023. Dr. Young also presented "Human Trafficking 101" at the 2023 WV Adult Education, Inc. Fall Conference in September.
- Margaret McLaughlin, Assistant Professor of Social Work, was appointed as the BSW Practicum Director effective Fall 2023.
- Dr. Rob Powell, Associate Professor in the School of Kinesiology, once again received a gold level accolade from the American Academy of Sports Medicine for his Exercise is Medicine initiative.
- Kelly Rutherford, Associate Professor in Communication Disorders, was selected to serve on the Council for Academic Programs in Communication Sciences and Disorders (CAPCSD) Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee for the 2023-2025 term.

- Ernay Adams, Clinical Assistant Professor in Communication Disorders, attended the Lead With Intent Symposium at the Parkinson Voice Project in Richardson, TX. She joined faculty from 15 other universities that were among the first to be selected as the state's "Therapy & Research Center."
- Jennifer Baker, Clinical Assistant Professor in Communication Disorders, was recently certified as a Structured Literacy Dyslexia Specialist.

STUDENT & ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENTS

- Kaydean Eta, Health Sciences student, was selected as a summer fellow for the Destination Dental School program at the University at Buffalo in June-July 2023. This program prepares students who have been historically underrepresented in the profession to successfully apply to dental school.
- William Moynihan, MS Biomechanics student, along with co-authors Dr. Suzanne Konz, Brian Morgan (COS), and Dr. Steven Leigh presented their study "Minimizing the effect of camera bump on 3D DLT motion capture" at the American Society of Biomechanics conference at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville.
- Jeromy Miramontes, MS Biomechanics student, along with co-authors Catherine Bowyer (MUSOPT), Dr. Suzanne Konz, and Dr. Steven Leigh presented their study "A center of pressure transform for commercial smart insoles" at the American Society of Biomechanics conference at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville.
- Kayleigh Coleman, MS Communication Disorders student, was selected as one of two second-place winners of the 2023 Student Ethics Essay Award contest from The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) and the ASHA Board of Ethics. Kayleigh received \$750, a certificate of achievement, a 1-year national NSSLHA membership, and recognition on the ASHA website and their social media.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- The Healthy Connections Developmental Clinic opened September 8 in the MU Speech and Hearing Center. The mission of the clinic is to provide a comprehensive and collaborative environment for families who have experienced substance use disorders to ensure children and families are supported.
- Dr. Zach Garrett, School of Kinesiology, was asked by Channel 13 News to provide athletic training tips on safety and safe play.
- The Nursing faculty worked with WVU to provide a Science Camp at Heritage Farm for local middle school students from Wayne and Cabell counties. This 4-day camp was held September 12-15 and September 19-22.
- Dietetics faculty are working in with elementary school students in four WV counties and engaged in multiple nutrition education for recovery courses in WV and KY via the Nutrition Education Program. The MU Food Pantry also continues to thrive providing approximately 100 people per week with fresh produce, meat, and dairy products in addition to the typical pantry items.

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS (DEAN: DR. ROBERT BOOKWALTER)

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- The Psychology Department was awarded a grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) for Graduate Psychology Education programs which will fund the training of advanced doctoral students in integrated behavioral health care and substance use treatment in rural settings. The total award is \$1 million over two years.

FACULTY & STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

- Dr. Eric Lassiter, Professor and Director of the Graduate Humanities program, received an honorary doctorate from Malmo University in Sweden. The honor was conveyed by officials at Malmo to Dr. Lassiter and his wife, Dr. Beth Campbell, formerly a faculty member in Education, now associate professor at the Reich College of Education at Appalachian State University. The award recognizes their outstanding work in anthropology and cultural studies, particularly their emphasis on participatory research, where researchers, students, and community members collaborate in the research process from inception to publication.
- Dr. Allison Carey, Professor and Chair of the English department, was invited to serve as a visiting scholar at the University of Wroclaw in Poland, May 9-May 24, 2023. Dr. Carey delivered a lecture to the English Department as well as participated in a symposium for the Education Department, plus several class visits.
- Dr. Masa Toyama, Assistant Professor of Psychology, was the PI on a grant received through a partnership with the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine to study the benefits of art and creativity on mental well-being in seniors in West Virginia.
- Dr. Wendi Benson, Assistant Professor of Psychology, has also partnered with community mental health agencies in Ohio to assist in documenting needs and service satisfaction.

STUDENT & ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENTS

- Hayley Humphries, second year graduate student in History, has been hired as Community Outreach Specialist for the Appalachian Freedom Initiative. The initiative, funded by a grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission and the Lawrence Economic Development Corporation, locates and documents Underground Railroad sites in Ohio, Kentucky, and West Virginia.
- Creative Writing major Jaden Ellison was awarded an Undergraduate Creative Discovery and Research Award for Summer 2023. Jaden worked with faculty mentor Dr. Deborah Thurman to complete his project "4rtificial: Recoll3cting A B1onic Life," an experimental creative nonfiction piece inspired by generative AI.
- Dennis Taylor has been named Director of the Thundering Word and Instructor of Communication Studies. Dennis earned a BA and MA in Communication Studies from Marshall University. He is also an alumnus of the speech and debate team. After graduating from Marshall, Dennis earned a JD from Washington & Lee University. He served as Vice

Chancellor for Administration of the HEPC and Chief of Staff to the WV Department of Education and the Arts.

- Baleigh Eppersley has been promoted to Director of Creative Reuse for the Coalfield Development Corporation. Baleigh is a 2022 BA graduate in Sociology. She has served as Reuse Corridor manager and Associate Director of Creative Reuse, focusing on reusing, upcycling, and recycling efforts in WV. Baleigh is also a Generation West Virginia 2023 fellow.
- Jaclyn Hackett, 2014 Communication Studies BA, has a new position as Assistant Executive Director of Sigma Alpha Mu Fraternity. Jaclyn previously she spent 3 years at the North American Interfraternity Conference where she served as Assistant Director of Education and Leadership Development and Vice President for Campus Operations.
- Christopher Cendana, 2006 Psychology BA, is completing his first year as Business Development Executive at Advantage Technology in Charleston, WV. Chris previously worked in project management and IT support for PNC, Cenergy, Clearpath Solutions, and Rimsys during the 19 years since his graduation from Marshall.
- Doug Evans is now Vice President and Executive Director of the Foundation for Forsyth Technical & Community College. He earned two Psychology degrees at Marshall, a BA in 2008 and an MA in 2010. Doug held previous positions in foundation and fundraising for Presteria, ACLU of WV, Marietta College, and Centre College.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- The Psychology Department, with the help of Harmony House and the Huntington City Mission, was awarded a grant to develop treatment services for substance use and co-occurring disorders in those experiencing homelessness in Cabell County. The MURC grant is part of the Grants for the Benefit of Homeless Individuals (GBHI) through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and totals \$2.5 million over two years.
- Dr. Robin Riner (Anthropology) and Dr. Christina Franzen (Humanities) are leading a grant project with 13 veterans from the local community. The vets started new discussion groups and created multi-generational vet groups to promote individual therapy for themselves and other vets. The project incorporates journal writing techniques that help vets open up to family and friends about their experiences. They also study ancient texts about war and warriors, learn to facilitate text-based discussions, lead dozens of discussion groups for veterans across the state of WV, and engage in classrooms with MU students to provide perspectives about their military experiences.

COLLEGE OF SCIENCE (DEAN: DR. WESLEY STITES)

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Dr. Anna Mummert, Professor of Mathematics, started in her new role as Associate Dean in August.
- Dr. Josh Brunty, Associate Professor and Director of the Cyber Forensics and Security graduate program, was named head coach of the US Cyber Team for the 2024 competition season. The US Cyber Team will represent the United States in the International Cybersecurity Championship and the European Cybersecurity Championship.
- The Math department continues in its collaboration with COEPD to create two junior-level math education courses for double majors in education and mathematics. The Physics department is also working to create an Accelerated Master's Program in Physics.

FACULTY & STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

- Research led by Dr. F. Robin O'Keefe, Professor of Biological Sciences, was published and featured on the cover of the prestigious journal *Science*. The research conducted by Dr. O'Keefe and his team demonstrate that the extinction of ice age mammals such as dire wolves, sabretooth cats, horses and other species was driven by a series of catastrophic fires in Southern California. O'Keefe, FR, et al. (2023) "Pre-Younger Dryas megafaunal extirpation at Rancho La Brea linked to fire-driven state shift." *Science*, 2023.
- Dr. Maria Hamilton, Professor of Physics, completed advising the SURE-supported physics student Joseph Powell with a project on "Identifying nuclear isomers and their role in binary neutron stars simulations."
- Dr. Tom Cuchta, Assistant Professor of Mathematics, was appointed as Webmaster of the Ohio Section of the Mathematical Association of America and to the editorial board of *Fundamental Journal of Mathematics and Applications*. Dr. Cuchta also published the following papers:
 - Tom Cuchta, Dylan Poulsen, and Nick Wintz. "Linear quadratic tracking with continuous conformable derivatives." *European Journal of Control*, 72:100808, 2023.
 - Tom Cuchta and Robert J. Niichel. "Memoryless properties on time scales." *Mathematic Slovaca*, 73(4):911–920, 2023.
 - Tom Cuchta and Dallas Freeman. "Discrete polylogarithm functions." *Tatra Mountains Mathematical Publications*, 84:1-6, 2023.
- Dr. Judy Fan collaborated with faculty in the Department of Physics at West Virginia University on research observing second harmonic generation (SHG) signals in 2D transition metal chalcogenide monolayers as well as super-strong SHG signals in single-crystal thin films.
- Dr. Stephen Deterding presented a talk, "Boundary smoothness conditions for functions in $R_p(X)$ " at the 2023 International Workshop on Operator Theory and its Applications (IWOTA) in Helsinki, Finland.

- Dr. Nadja Spitzer (Biological Sciences) is the co-principal investigator of a grant from the National Science Foundation. The Marshall share of the statewide \$3,000,000 budget is \$729,514. The grant will run through August 2027 and establishes a program for post-baccalaureate trainees who will engage in research under the One Health Framework, a transdisciplinary approach to examine interconnections between environmental and human health. Contributing mentors at MU include Dr. Spitzer, Dr. Mindy Armstead, Dr. Derek Kolling, and David Neff.
- Dr. Habiba Chirchir, Associate Professor of Biological Sciences, and undergraduate student Layne Assif published their paper, "Trabecular bone morphology in big cats reflects the complex diversity of limb use but not home range size or daily travel distance." *The Anatomical Record*, 07 September 2023.
- Dr. Wendy Perkins, Associate Professor of Criminal Justice and Criminology, published her paper "Intimate partner sexual violence: Criminal legal system response" in the *Encyclopedia of Domestic Violence*.

STUDENT & ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENTS

- Jacob Lee, Physics major, received the 2023 Undergraduate Creative Discovery Summer Scholar and Undergraduate Research Summer Scholar Awards for his project, "Optical and Transport Property Investigations on Multi-Layer Metal-Oxide Thin Films for Thermal Protection Applications." The project aims to analyze multi-layered metal-oxide thin films for physics properties, including conductivity and spectrometry.
- Moses Shafer, MS Biological Sciences student, presented his thesis research at the Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting in Portland, Oregon in August.
- Eduard Likhmanov has been hired as the new Chemistry laboratory manager at Marshall. Ed received his BS in Forensics Chemistry at MS in Chemistry at Marshall.
- Alumni Zachary Shamblin, MS Biological Sciences (2022), and Dr. Pamela Puppo, Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences, developed a protocol to produce 3D images from 3D herbarium specimens using free photogrammetry software. Their paper was published in the journal *Castanea*.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Dr. Tom Cuchta became the advisor of the Thundering Herd Amateur Radio Club in August. The club has reached out to Tri-State Amateur Radio Association (TARA), the local ham radio club, and received permission to run a weekly "net" (an amateur radio get-together over the air) on its VHF repeater at 146.76 MHz. Their first net was on September 7, 2023, and had seven participants with three from Marshall and others from the community. The club was also issued its callsign, KE8ZBY, from the FCC on September 7. The amateur radio club has numerous events planned in the future.
- The Chemistry department did an outreach event at Heritage Farm with over 100 local students attending.

DIVISION OF AVIATION (CHIEF AVIATION OFFICER: MR. BILL NOE)

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- A third location of the Bill Noe Flight School will open at Potomac State College with classes expected to begin in the fall of 2024. This new location will be fully served by the technologically advanced Marshall University airplanes and Marshall's top tier flight instructor force. The addition of this location will further enhance Marshall's mission of producing high-quality talented aviators to enter one of the most sought-after professions available today. This is significantly important as this location creates additional 'Line of Sight' to the opportunities that aviation has available to the very talented pool of professionals from West Virginia. The second location of the Bill Noe Flight School is located at West Liberty University, with additional sites to follow.
- The Bill Noe Flight School submitted to the Federal Aviation Administration the required paperwork signaling the Flight School's intention to open satellite training facilities at West Liberty University and Potomac State College. Also submitted was the paperwork to begin rotorcraft training at the Bill Noe Flight School at Charleston Yeager International Airport, and at all satellite locations.
- Transport and logistics giant FedEx gave a jet engine from its fleet of aircraft to the Aviation Maintenance Technology (AMT) program. The engine, a General Electric CF6 motor from a retired McDonnell Douglas DC-10 aircraft, will be used in the daily classroom instruction of AMT students as they work toward their airframe and powerplant certification.
- John Schnatter, founder of Papa John's Pizza, and his chief pilot visited the Bill Noe Flight School in September for a meeting with Mr. Noe. Several students met with his pilots, toured his aircraft, and learned more about opportunities in private aviation.
- In July, the Bill Noe Flight School received the prestigious distinction of self-examining authority which allows the Flight School to administer Federal Aviation Administration licensing exams with our check airman and to issue licenses directly from the Bill Noe Flight School.

STUDENT & ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENTS

- In August, aviation student Jay Joseph, prior to beginning his third year as a professional pilot student, achieved the coveted Certified Flight Instructor certification making him an Instructor at the Flight School. This milestone is one full semester ahead of schedule and is significant for Marshall University Aviation as Mr. Joseph is the first internal hire to begin Marshall University Aviation's self-sustaining Instructor Force.
- In September, Aviation Maintenance students met with representatives from General Electric Aerospace's Raleigh/Durham facility met with Aviation Maintenance Technology students and provided information about career opportunities with GE Aviation as well as information about their engines and operations worldwide.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Marshall University Aviation's Bill Noe Flight School hosted and welcomed over 400 guests for the Big Green Foundation's "Paint Charleston Green" event. This was the third year that the event was held at the Flight School.
- The Bill Noe Flight School welcomed new and current Girls Scouts from the Black Diamond Council to either begin or continue advancing aviation knowledge and understanding in their next step in earning badges. This is the 2nd or 3rd visit for several young ladies. This ongoing educational series serves to empower, educate, and create aviation career pathways for young ladies of all abilities, socioeconomic backgrounds, and ethnicity.
- Bill Noe Flight School pilot instructors selected by the FAA presented pilot and maintenance technician information for students, community pilots, and technicians not associated with Marshall University. Attendees gained knowledge to become safer together as an aviation community. The BNFS recently held two such events for more than 50 community aviators. Topics for these events included risk mitigation, proper pre-flight planning and self-awareness, preflight procedures, returning aircraft to service, and pilot-in-command responsibility for airworthiness.
- The Bill Noe Flight School hosted the WV Gear Up event "Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs" with over 80 individuals representing WV's grade 9-12 schools in an 11-county area. Gear Up is a federally funded program that helps students in grades 7 through 12 prepare to succeed in education and training beyond high school. This is an important partnership as Marshall University Aviation integrates aviation into WV schools.

LEWIS COLLEGE OF BUSINESS (DEAN: DR. DON CAPENER)

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- The Marshall University Foundation and United Bank have pledged a \$100,000 gift in support of the new Brad D. Smith Center for Business and Innovation at Marshall University. In addition to investing in the new building, the student organization space in the facility will be named in honor of United Bank for their support of Marshall University.
- The Lewis College of Business chapter of Beta Gamma Sigma earned “High Honors” status for 2022-2023. Beta Gamma Sigma is an academic honor society for graduates of business programs. This is the 6th straight year this status has been achieved by the MU chapter putting it in the top 10% of all BGS chapters. LCOB would like to thank Jim Datin, one of the biggest supporters of the chapter and an honorary BGS member.
- The LCOB secured a \$142,000 gift to fund guest appearances for global and inspirational speakers starting August 2024

FACULTY & STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

- The LCOB would like to recognize the contributions of Beta Gamma Sigma staff advisor Lacie Bittinger (Director of Student Services) and faculty advisors Dr. Ben Eng (Marketing), Dr. Nabaneeta Biswas (Economics), and Dr. Tim Bryan (Accounting). The college would also like to thank Dr. Harlan Smith, chapter founder and professor emeritus, who poured much of his time and energy into the organization. Their contributions have set the stage for the chapter’s success.
- Dr. Ben Eng, Associate Professor of Marketing, presented “Digital Marketing Fundamentals” for the Huntington Regional Chamber of Commerce Lunch and Learn series on August 9.

STUDENT & ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENTS

- Student Presentations:
 - Rachel Brassine (August 2023). “How women strengthen the link between CSR-contingent executive compensation incentives and real earnings management.” The 2023 American Accounting Association Annual Meeting. Denver, CO.
 - Amber Chatelain (March 2023). “Business social responsibility and community crisis response: perceptions of small business owners in small to mid-sized communities.” The 78th SAM International Business Conference 2023. Nashville, TN.
 - Clint Arnold (June, 2023). “The Future of Work – Practical Tactics To Enable Immediate Contributions in the Post Covid World.” The 2023 National HBCU Business Deans Roundtable Annual Summit. Orlando, FL.

- Brian Cox (March, 2003). "Impact of EMR/EHR and computer decision support systems on nursing homes and long-term care." MBAA International Conference, Business & Health Administration Association (BHAA), Chicago, IL.
- Teresa Smith (March 2023). "Interpreting mission statements as input to analyzing supply chain strategic fit." 2023 Appalachia Research for Business Symposium (ARBS). Radford University, Radford, VA.
- Lisa Nash (February, 2023). "Designing Acct 2101 to be a "useful course" for all majors." Georgia Association of Accounting Educators (GAAE) Annual Conference. Georgia Gwinnett College, Lawrenceville, GA.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- The College of Business is partnering with The West Virginia High Technology Foundation to utilize one of North America's best and most trusted databases on climate and sustainability measures. This initiative will help LCOB students learn how to better utilize big data and create dashboards for small and mid-sized organizations. Four to six LCOB faculty will engage with the foundation to analyze data and provide insights into industries such as shipping, manufacturing, aerospace, and logistics. The database will also provide valuable environmental, societal, and governance (ESG) data to support WV companies who subscribe to the balanced scorecard philosophy.

SCHOOL OF PHARMACY (DEAN: DR. ERIC BLOUGH)

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- The Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) has extended the accreditation term for the Marshall University School of Pharmacy doctoral program through June 30, 2030. Program accreditation provides a national basis for quality assurance. Marshall University's pharmacy doctorate is one of three ACPE-accredited programs in West Virginia.
- The SOP launched a student wellness program in partnership with Walgreens. Walgreens provided \$9,000 to fund the initiative which will support physical, mental, and financial health for students.
- CVS provided \$3,500 in scholarships for 4th year students pursuing training in rural health initiatives. CVS also provided an additional \$1,000 for the orientation luncheon and a discussion about future healthcare initiatives.
- The SOP secured approximately \$100,000 in scholarships for new Master of Science in Pharmaceutical Science (MSPS) students.
- Staff are being trained to offer the APhA Test and Treat program beginning in Spring 2024.
- Enrollment in the MSPS program has grown from 3 students in 2020 to 12 students in 2023.

FACULTY & STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

- Nick Adams was promoted to Assistant Director of Experiential Learning.
- Dr. Ruhul Amin received a \$444,000 grant from the National Institutes of Health to study squamous cell carcinoma of the head and neck.
- Faculty Publications:
 - "Reducing Student Workload Through Curricular Efficiency." Thornby KA, **Brazeau GA**, Chen AMH. *American Journal of Pharmaceutical Education*, August 2023.
 - "Best Practice Strategies for Retaining Faculty During Times of Rapid Change." Erstad BL, Blakely CG, Romero A, Pérez AA, **Brazeau GA**. *American Journal of Pharmaceutical Education*, July 2023.
 - "Addressing an Uncertain Future with a Culture of Psychological Safety." Robinson ET, **Jones C**, Brazeau **GA**. *American Journal of Pharmaceutical Education*. July 2023.
 - "Modulating the Immune System as a Therapeutic Target for Myelodysplastic Syndromes and Acute Myeloid Leukemia." Putnam CM, Kondeti L, Kesler MBA, **Varney ME**. *Biochemistry and Cell Biology*, August 2023.
 - "What Should Pharmacists Know for 2023? When Considering Outsourcing, Pharmacies Should Use Multi-Stakeholder Team to Weigh Pros and Cons." Maxik, K, **Kimble, C**, Coustasse, A. *Pharmacy Times—Health Systems Edition*. May 17, 2023.

- Faculty and Staff Presentations:
 - Dr. Craig Kimble and Dr. Gayle Brazeau presented “Developing and Implementing a HyFlex Elective Course in Medical Affairs Addressing a Curricular Gap” at the AACP Pharmacy Education 2023 Annual Meeting in Aurora, CO.
 - Dr. Brittany Riley presented “Screen and Intervene: How to Implement SBIRT from the Classroom to the Community” and “How Can Preceptors Put the P in PIF” at the AACP Annual Meeting in Aurora, CO. Dr. Riley also presented “Medications Used in Mental Health Settings: What You Need to Know” at the MU Center of Excellence in Recovery.
 - Drs. Tiffany Davis, Michael Hambuchen, Angel Kimble, Thomas Pile, Brittany Riley, and Melinda Varney along with staff members Megan Russell, Hannah Osburn, and Allison Green presented “Strengthening Student Success: Investing in the Pharmily at MUSOP” at the AACP Annual Meeting in Aurora, CO.

STUDENT & ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENTS

- Angelina Tetteh completed an APPE international healthcare elective experience in the summer at Kori Bu Teaching Hospital in Ghana.
- Third-year student Taylor MacKenzie Campbell represented Delta Alpha, the MU chapter of Phi Delta Chi, at the 74th Grand Council in Houston, Texas over the summer. Taylor was elected as the Mid-Atlantic Regional Correspondent to the organization.
- Students were able to earn their Medical Affairs Competency Certificate through the Accreditation Council for Medical Affairs (ACMA) for the first time during the Spring 2023 semester. The certificate program is being offered again this fall.
- In August, alumni of the MU SOP met to form a new affinity chapter dedicated to serving Pharmacy alums across the country.

CENTER FOR STUDENT SUCCESS (DIRECTOR: DR. KATERYNA SCHRAY)

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- The Friend-at-Marshall (FAM) Peer Mentoring Program assigned peer mentors to 1,812 freshmen, 470 transfer students, and reconnected with 1,201 returning sophomores. There are a total of 35 FAM Peer Mentors working with students this fall reaching out on a weekly basis by email, text and/or in-person to help students get adjusted to campus, answer any questions they might have, and point them to any resources they might need. New for this fall, freshmen can request a FAM who is able to relate to some aspect of their college experience: understanding what it means to be part of the LGBTQ+ community; knowing what it is like to grow up or spend time in foster care; experiencing campus as a neurodivergent student (a student with Autism, OCD, ADHD, etc); and understanding what it is like being in college while parenting young children. In addition, there is a dedicated FAM to serve e-campus freshmen, e-campus transfer students, and the pilot “Marshall-for-All” cohort.
- This fall, 35 students are being served by the Alternative Suspension Program. This high-touch program allows students who are suspended for academic reasons to serve their suspensions while taking UNI 104 instead of sitting out a term. Students in the program receive support from CSS as they work to identify and overcome the challenges that impeded their success in the past.
- The Supplemental Instruction (SI) Program continues to expand and supports seven courses this semester: BSC 120, BSC 227, CHM 205 (two sections), MTH 127 (two sections) and MTH 230. SI is a proven high impact practice and a non-remedial peer-led support for high-enrollment gateway courses with historically high D/F/W rates.

COLLABORATION & PARTNERSHIPS

- CSS is deeply grateful for the generous support of Steele Memorial United Methodist Church in Barboursville. Members of the church’s adult Sunday School class purchased twelve high-quality backpacks and filled them with school supplies, dorm essentials and snacks to be given to Marshall students who are coming from foster care and/or experiencing homelessness.
- The FAM program participated in Week of Welcome’s “Find Your Herd” event organized by Student Affairs on Friday, August 18, 2023, “Know Your IX” events the week of August 21st, and the Student Resource Fair on August 30, 2023.
- Partnering with the College of Science, CSS hosted the HErd REady Math and Chemistry workshops during the first two weeks of the semester. Top faculty in each of these subjects – Dr. Shannon Miller-Mace, Prof. Devon Wright, Dr. Leslie Frost, and Prof. Jen Markiewicz – facilitated workshops for freshmen taking introductory Math and Chemistry classes as part of Marshall’s ongoing efforts to help new students catch up on any learning they may have missed in high school because of the pandemic. Thirty-nine students participated in the

workshops. Results from the post-survey are overwhelmingly positive and indicate that the workshops helped students not only with the course content but also with feeling more connected to and welcomed at Marshall.

- CSS hosted the first of four Intercultural Dinner Groups on Tuesday, September 12, 2023, as part of Marshall's three-year HLC Quality Initiative "Building a Stronger and More Inclusive Marshall Community." The theme for this second year of the QI is "Building Bridges." Forty-four students met in small groups to make new friends and celebrate their identities over a Peruvian and Brazilian dinner and engaging discussion prompts.

INTERCULTURAL & STUDENT AFFAIRS (VICE PRESIDENT: DR. MARCIE SIMMS)

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Over 1,500 students registered for Week of Welcome (WOW) and over 80 staff members volunteered to help. Key events included WOW Kick-Off, Breakfast and Bingo, the WOW Challenge, College Sessions, Convocation, Rec Fest, and a Build-a-Bison Fun Factory.
- Tiffany Hartman, the new Assistant Dean for Student Life, started her position on August 5. She will oversee the areas of Student Life, LEAD Center, Fraternity and Sorority Life, Military Services, and Community Service. Ms. Hartman will also serve as an SGA Advisor and assist with planning WOW and Homecoming.
- David Miller also started his position on August 5 as the new Student Affairs Communications Coordinator. Mr. Miller will oversee the Mobile App operations and develop digital marketing and websites for Intercultural and Student Affairs.

Veteran and Military Affairs

- Jamie Springston, President of the MU chapter of the Student Veterans of America, was chosen as a Senior Fellow of the SVA Leadership Institute.
- The National Student Veterans of American leadership team visited Marshall in September to launch their Visibility Exchange campaign.

Intercultural and International Students

- An International Student orientation was held on August 18 for all new and transfer international students.
- The office hosted an International Student Reception on September 13 in partnership with the Office of Academic Affairs and the English Language Institute.

Counseling Center

- The Counseling Center received 86 new clients between August 21 and September 5. Over 200 student clients have returned to continue services. The total number of client appointments for this semester is 580.
- The Counseling Center hosted the annual We Are...Here for You Day on September 21. The outreach event provided mental health information and hygiene/care packets for Marshall students.

Office of Disability Services

- The Office of Student Disability Services is changing its name to the Office of Student Accessibility and Accommodations.
- So far this fall, 541 students have registered with the office to receive assistance. Thirty-six students have received approval for emotional support animals to live with them in the Residence Halls. Since August, 101 academic accommodations have been processed.

Student Advocacy and Success/Parents and Family Programs

- The Office of Student Advocacy has provided 50 students with Herd Points to assist with food insecurity needs and assisted 45 students in getting a loaner laptop through IT.

- The office continues to work closely with the Counseling Center and Student Conduct to advocate for students in crisis.

Violence Prevention & Response Program

- The Violence Prevention and Response Program collaborated with the Title IX Office to provide Bystander Intervention Training for 184 faculty and staff, 77 Resident Advisors, 19 Facilitators for UNI 100, and 568 students attending Week of Welcome.
- In partnership with the Student Government Association, posters that provide sexual violence and dating violence prevention resources are displayed in bathrooms inside the Memorial Student Center, the first floor of Smith Hall, Drinko Library, and the Residence Halls.

Wellness Center/Student Health Education Programs

- Wellness strategies and technologies are being incorporated into UNI 100 courses by training instructors on Digital Card Sort and the Better You App to assist students in developing their own personalized wellness plans and goals.
- The office distributed 1,500 Wellness Kits to students.
- The office held the Women's Equality Day Luncheon on August 30 in collaboration with the Drinko Academy, the Simon Perry Center for Constitutional Democracy, the League of Women Voters of the Huntington Area, and the Women's Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program.

Fraternity and Sorority Life and Campus Activities

- The National Pan-Hellenic Council held a Minority Business Expo with over seven minority businesses for students who wanted to learn more about minority services.
- Greek Life held its 3rd Annual Greek Life Leadership Summit on August 26 where members of the IFC, NPHC, and PHC participated in a series of risk management trainings including alcohol safety.
- The Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life partnered with Student Activities to sponsor the Glow Up Sneaker Ball during the week of Homecoming featuring live bands, a DJ, and food trucks.

Office of Student Conduct

- Student Conduct trained 26 justices during its Conduct Hearing Board training.
- The office held training on the Behavioral Management System and student conduct policies for faculty and staff throughout September.

STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

- Shaunte Polk, Director of Intercultural and International Students, has been fully trained as a Student Conduct Hearing Officer.
- Stephanie Shaffer was hired as the new Be HERD Coordinator in the Counseling Center.
- Kaye Godbey, Coordinator of Wellness Programs, received her certification as a Tobacco Cessation Specialist.
- Cadyn Fraley, Student Conduct Case Manager, was selected to be a Hearing Officer for the Title IX Office.

ONLINE EDUCATION (DIRECTOR: DR. JULIA SPEARS)

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Online Education participated in Week of Welcome (WOW) Blackboard Ultra training sessions for students, preparing them to use Blackboard in their student career. Approximately 40 students attended across 2 in person and 1 remote session.
- The Online team has developed various faculty resources on the Design Center website including a Panopto tutorial, guidance on course copying, and applying UDL principles to course design in Ultra.
- A “Back-to-School” themed newsletter was distributed by the Online team that promoted the following: Ultra Introductory Trainings; virtual “big-picture” introductions to Ultra every Monday-Friday throughout August and September; shared MU’s Ultra communication plan for students, including a walkthrough by student body president Walker Tatum; highlighted learner analytics and gradebook in Ultra; and featured an interview with Dr. Sandra Prunty, Director of RN to BSN program and nursing professor, who has led the transition to Ultra in her department.
- Graduate Student Online Orientation was launched through Genius and currently has 131 students enrolled. This was a joint effort between Student Services and the Design Center to create an orientation course for online graduate students. There are videos from multiple employees around Marshall including President Smith welcoming online students to Marshall and describing services available to students.
- The iCenter launched the Innovation Catalyst Program. This microcredential training course was developed by Dr. Ben Eng to introduce the principles of Design Thinking to faculty, staff, and students. So far, 30 people have been credentialed in Design 4 Delight through the course.
- Dr. Julia Spears, Assistant Provost for Online Education and Certification, presented at the Faculty Senate meeting on August 29. Dr. Spears shared updates related to the Ultra transition and microcredentials, including Design for Delight, and introduced the Marshall Online team.
- The Design Center responded to over 1,000 inquiries (including calls, emails, and walk-ins) and resolved 147 tickets from August 1 to September 13.
- Online Education is offering 480 courses in Ultra this fall. To date, 30% of faculty have been trained in Ultra.
- The Online Education team has submitted a donor grant proposal to the US Department of Education for the Marshall RISE program (Re-engaging through Internships, Service, and Experiences).
- The Marshall Skills Exchange, a microcredentialing program, enrolled 230 learners from August 1 to September 13: 31 from advanced manufacturing, 3 from aviation, and 196 from Marshall (faculty, staff, and students).

STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

- Dr. Julia Spears and Dr. Jodie Penrod, Chief Information Officer, shared Marshall's reflections on the HyFlex pilot project at the national EDUCAUSE Annual Conference October 9-12, 2023.

COLLABORATIONS & PARTNERSHIPS

- Online Education hosted the Ultra Design Lab and Lunch on September 22. The event was an open forum for faculty to talk with Blackboard representatives and instructional designers about Ultra. Jim Chalex, Vice President of Product Management at Blackboard, was the guest speaker.
- Marshall Online launched an Online Student Engagement series in collaboration with Career Education, Counseling, and other student support services across campus. The sessions "An Introduction to Support Services for Online Students" and "Time Management for Online Students" were held in August and September.
- Instructional Designers Heidi Blaisdell and Mary Welch were certified as Quality Matters (QM) facilitators with WV Rocks.
- The Design Center hosted the QM workshop "Improving Your Online Course" on August 11 with 15 Marshall faculty completing the session.
- As part of the Ultra transition plan, the office is working with K16 Solutions to bulk convert select courses to Ultra to hand over to faculty by mid-November.
- Online Education partnered with IT and University Libraries to host a "Tech Time" day for both online and on-campus students. Workshops focused on enhancing skills in Blackboard, Microsoft applications, and using AI for research.
- The office partnered with Graduate Studies to host two "Finding Your Herd: Graduate and Online Students" sessions at Week of Welcome.
- The office also partnered with Dr. Wendi Benson, Assistant Professor of Psychology, in the development of online Belongingness Interventions. Surveys were sent out and the responses will be used as a baseline for belongingness narratives in future iterations of the intervention program.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- The Online Education team mailed out welcome boxes for new online students. These boxes include a Marshall sweatshirt, mug, and other Marshall gear. Students have been invited to post their unboxing videos online.
- The team also attended the Marshall vs. University of Albany football game on September 2.