

ZCOHP

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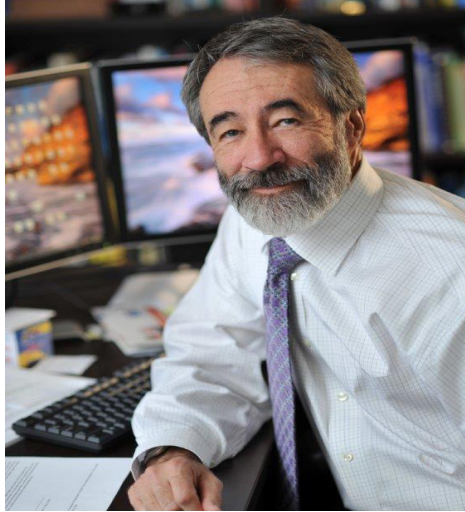
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A Message FROM DEAN PREWITT

The spring semester is coming to a close and our faculty and staff continue to work toward achieving the goals and objectives of the Marshall University College of Health Professions. Commencement is just around the corner and the COHP is proud to have 256 undergraduate and 63 graduate students completing their degrees in May 2014. Our college will be honoring one of our many graduates during the Alumni Weekend Awards Banquet. Kelly Levy, a 1983 cum



laude graduate from our social work program, has been chosen to receive the 2014 Alumni Award of Distinction. Ms. Levy, like many others who graduate from our programs, has gone on to do great things for her community and within her field. I want to thank you for your continued commitment and dedication to making the COHP one of the best colleges on campus. Feel free to visit me in my office anytime with any comments or ideas you may have. Have a great week!

Michael Prewitt

Sawhney receives grant for breast cancer research

Dr. Monika Sawhney has received a grant through the Higher Education Policy Commission of West Virginia to conduct breast cancer research in rural communities across the state.

Sawhney, director of the Marshall Undergraduate Public Health program, said this research will provide an opportunity for student-focused research training in regard to breast cancer screenings. The students (*shown right*) chosen to work on this project include undergraduate public health students Minal Patel and Cory Lambert; Marshall School of Medicine resident, Mohamed Alsharedi; and medical students Andrew Myers and Chad Crigger.

"These students will collaborate and practice the skills they've been learning in the classroom and apply them within a practical setting," Sawhney said. "As director of the public health undergraduate program, I think it is very essential for our students to gain exposure to public health research of this nature and enrich their educational experience."

Crigger, a second-year medical student from Charleston, W.Va., said he was interested in becoming involved in this research study due to personal reasons.

"I have a history of breast cancer in my family so there's a strong personal interest for me," Crigger said. "I also wanted to do something outside of a lab and get more involved in improving the health in our rural communities."

Patel, 22, of Huntington, said growing up in West Virginia allows her to view this research study with an open mind. "Many people associate stigmas with our state especially within our rural areas," Patel said. "Because many of us grew up in West Virginia, we will be able to relate to our rural community members and in turn, hopefully we can produce better data and results because of that level of understanding."

Sawhney submitted her application for the grant in Dec. 2013 and received notification of her grant's acceptance in Feb. 2014. The one year grant is titled, "Improving recruitment of health workers in rural areas through student-focused research training: The case of breast cancer screening in rural West Virginia."



Marshall Physical Therapy Professor

to lead team of experts for the National Children's Study

Dr. Rose Rine of the Marshall University College of Health Professions has been selected to lead a team of experts in the sensory domain for the National Children's Study (NCS).

The National Children's Study, a multi-year research study, will examine the effects of environmental influences on the health and development of more than 100,000 children across the United States, following them from before birth until age 21. The goal of the study is to improve the health and well-being of children, according to the NCS Web site. The National Institutes of Health (NIH), an agency of the United States Department of Health and Human Services, was charged by Congress to plan and implement this study in accordance with the Children's Health Act of 2000.

Dr. Jerry Slotkin, scientific director for the South Regional Operations Center for the NCS, said the study will build a unique set of data that investigators can use to better understand the factors – known and not yet imagined – that affect our children as they grow.

"We don't know enough about how the environment and other factors work together to influence the health and development of our children. The National Children's Study is improving the research process with new and innovative methods to study these components," Slotkin said. "The sheer scale and variety of data to be collected is unprecedented—including urine, blood, saliva, maternal breast milk, skin and stool samples, disease exposure histories, dust, air, noise, immunization histories, dietary information, existing medical conditions, exposure to pets, and more. This is an investment in the health of America's children."

Rine, an associate professor in the Marshall School of Physical Therapy, was selected to serve on the Scientific Coordinating Committee for Health Measurement based



on her expertise in the area of vestibular function and pediatrics, according to Dr. Richard Gershon, co-primary investigator for the South Regional Operations Center for the study.

"Dr. Rine was instrumental in developing measures of vestibular function and balance for the NIH Toolbox project which was completed in 2012," Gershon said. "As a result of her success on that project and her knowledge of the field, she was nominated for her current position on the NCS. She continues to play an important role in the identification, selection and development of measurements in the area of sensory function."

Rine said her involvement with the NCS serves as confirmation her contribution to these worthwhile research efforts are appreciated and valued.

"A long-standing study of this nature can have a major impact on how we care for our children and youth from an educational standpoint, a social standpoint and in general, who they become," Rine said. "Throughout my career I've worked with the health and welfare of children and this is what I've worked toward...being asked to sit on this was truly a compliment and something I couldn't say no to."

Rine said she believes the most rewarding feeling will come many years from now.

"Who knows what we will know in ten or twenty years down the road thanks to this study," Rine said. "We will be able to look at the measure we identified and say 'Ah-ha!' - it did work and we did identify how this problem came about and maybe we can work toward making that problem go away. That's going to be amazing."

According to the NCS Web site, the National Children's Study will be one of the richest research efforts geared towards studying children's health and development and will form the basis of child health guidance, interventions and policy for generations to come. To learn more about the National Children's Study, visit www.nationalchildrensstudy.gov online.

MUSHC held annual fundraiser for children with speech disorders



Emily Neal (pictured left) was born deaf and by the age of 5, she was given cochlear implants in each ear to hear the world around her. Now at age 11, she will serve as guest speaker at the 2014 Scottish Rite dinner. Krista Price (pictured right) has been coming to the Marshall Speech and Hearing Center since she was just three years

As a child, Krista Price couldn't even say her own name. When she came to the Marshall University Speech and Hearing Center (MUSHC), she was diagnosed with severe apraxia of speech, which denied her the ability to be understood by her family. Now at five years old, Krista has made incredible progress working with the speech therapists at Marshall University. Her father, Dillard Price, said the changes in her speech are like night and day.

"We first noticed a problem when she was just two years old and had trouble saying even the most basic words, including her own name. She would get so frustrated and start crying," Price said. "Since coming to the Speech and Hearing Center, she has the ability to communicate with anybody and although we have a long way to go, we have hope that one day, you won't be able to tell there was ever a problem with her speech."

Krista is one of the many children who have been helped over the years through the Scottish Rite Childhood Speech and Language Program at Marshall University. Due to the improvements in her speech, Krista was chosen as the 2014 Scottish Rite Poster Child and will be honored at the annual Scottish Rite dinner on Monday evening.

Emily Neal, guest speaker for the dinner, came to the Speech and Hearing Center as an infant when her parents realized their daughter had been born deaf.

Emily's mother, Shelley Neal, said after much prayer, the family decided to give Emily her first cochlear implant at 13 months old and her second cochlear implant at 5 years old.

"When we found out she was deaf, we weren't upset because we knew God had a plan for her life. People view children with differences as having a disability, but I see them as a gift from God," Neal said. "I'm excited she can be a role model for other children and can show the parents of other children that there is hope and that there is success in deafness. It doesn't have to be a disability. It's not a reason to be sad, but a reason to be an advocate for other children like my daughter."

Pam Holland, clinical director for the Speech and Hearing Center, said she is grateful for organizations like the Scottish Rite Foundation who raise money to help children like Krista and Emily achieve the best quality of life possible.

"Both girls will grow up to be independent, productive, communicative young ladies and the Scottish Rite Masons are the reason for that," Holland said.

Since 2002, the Scottish Rite Program has provided comprehensive services to children with communication disorders, without regard to creed, race or a family's ability to pay.

The 7th annual Scottish Rite dinner was held 7 p.m., Monday, April 7th in the Don Morris Room on Marshall's Huntington campus.



Some of the #COHP gang in attendance for the 7th annual Scottish Rite dinner.

Exercise Physiology Research to Improve Human Performance within the U.S. Military



A member of the Marshall University ROTC is shown having his resting blood pressure measured. Prior to the test, as well as post-test, subject body weight, resting heart rate, hematocrit and specific gravity of urine are measured.

A research study is in its final stages in the Marshall University College of Health Professions, as one graduate student is using ROTC military cadets to study the physiological effects of dehydration.

David Cottrill, 27, of Charleston, W.Va., is a second-year graduate student in the college's department of exercise science. Cottrill, a nine-year U.S. Army veteran, said the focus of his research was influenced by his own experiences when training for the military.

"The conditions our military face in desert environments like Afghanistan are hard to train or prepare for, as these conditions are very specific to that environment," Cottrill said. "The purpose of my research was to accurately replicate these conditions and test the level of performance in regard to dehydration."

In Cottrill's study, nine members of the Marshall ROTC were asked to dress in full military Army Combat Uniform and carry a heavy rucksack in an 85-degree room for one hour. Currently, it is estimated members of the military can lose up to seven pounds in one hour due to dehydration. For three weeks, Cottrill will study the physiological effects of dehydration in cadets who drink pure water and cadets who drink an electrolyte solution, such as Gatorade.

"My ultimate goal is to determine the best way for soldiers to get what they need to maintain hydration in a physically stressful environment," Cottrill said. "There's very little information available which tells us the best recommendation when determining training protocol. I want my research to help soldiers perform to the best of their abilities."

Cottrill's research will do just that, according to Dr. Terry Shepherd, director of the college's exercise physiology laboratory. Shepherd serves as Cottrill's thesis advisor and an ideal mentor due to his own research with simulated environments.

"The biggest problem we hear from our military is the environmental stress they face," Shepherd said. "For example, we've modified training techniques for members of our U.S. Air Force because they've said sand was a huge problem. We decided to convert racquetball courts into sand pits and allow their bodies to train and adapt to this simulated environment so they could perform at higher levels."

Shepherd said research like Cottrill's allows for a practical application of a real life scenario, which could result in major changes for all branches of the military.

"There is a real effort across all military branches to improve human performance," Shepherd said. "Research of this nature could lead to implications of change in policies for our military. In our department, we only do research that can be applied to the real world and used as a practical resource."

To learn more about Cottrill's research, contact him at tacelite1612@gmail.com. For further information about Marshall's exercise physiology laboratory, contact Shepherd at shepherd@marshall.edu or visit www.marshall.edu/cohp online.



Department of Communication Disorders received continuing accreditation

The graduate program in speech-language pathology at Marshall University's Department of Communication Disorders has been awarded continuing accreditation from the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (CAA).

As of February 22, 2014, the CAA voted to re-accredit the program for a period of 8 years beginning December 1, 2013 through November 20, 2021. The program was originally accredited in 1992.

Dr. Karen McNealy, chair of the Department of Communication Disorders, said accreditation was awarded as a result of an on-site visit from last fall and would not have been possible without the continued support of Marshall University and specifically, the College of Health Professions.

"We are very grateful for the dedicated faculty within our department and the college administration," McNealy said.

"We have been re-accredited for a full eight years which is the maximum number of years for any speech-language pathology program. This is considered a national distinction and we are quite proud of that."

McNealy said receiving continuing accreditation ensures the success of students within the Department of Communication Disorders.

"In order for students to practice in their field they must graduate from an accredited institution to obtain licensing and certification" McNealy said. "Graduates of our program are employed as speech-language pathologists across the U.S."

Dr. Michael W. Prewitt, dean of the College of Health Professions, said he commends his colleagues for their commitment to this program.

"As demonstrated by the efforts to receive program accreditation, we can see continuous improvement for health professions education at Marshall University," Prewitt said.

Currently, the Department of Communication Disorders is home to the Marshall University Speech and Hearing Center, the Scottish Rite Childhood Speech and Language Program, The Luke Lee Listening, Language and Learning Lab, The Oshel Parent Education Program and the Stuttering Clinic.

The 37th annual Appalachian Studies conference was held on Marshall's campus March 28-30, 2014. The College of Health Professions Department of Communication Disorders had many representatives present research at this event. The following research projects were given that weekend:

- *Living in the "Stroke Belt:" Why Studies of Appalachian Discourse Are Important*

Presenters: Katie McComas Maddy (BS and MS in Communication from Marshall University; Doctoral student in Rehabilitation Sciences at the University of Kentucky); Katie Ward (BS in Communication Disorders, Marshall University); Sara Henson (BS in Communication Disorders, MU); and Dr. Karen McComas

- *Having a Disability in Appalachia: Social, Political, and Cultural Considerations*

Presenters: Sara Henson, Megan Foster, Hilliary Johnson, Jordan Lewis (all with B.S. from Marshall University and Dr. Karen McComas



Pictured Above: (Left to right) Katie McComas Maddy, Sara Henson and Katie Ward prepare to present at the 2014 Appalachian Studies Conference held March 28-30.

Trotter Traveled to DC to Rally for Respiratory Care



This past week, Professor Chris Trotter of the Marshall School of Respiratory Care, traveled to DC to represent the state of West Virginia in support of both respiratory therapists and pulmonary patients, for house bill HR2619. This house bill states: “As health care costs continue to soar for patients with multiple chronic conditions and physician shortages become a major concern, the status quo in health care is no longer an option. With the evolution of pulmonary medicine over the years since the Medicare law was enacted, it is time to recognize the expertise respiratory therapists (RTs) can bring to pulmonary patients. Respiratory therapists are the only allied health professionals with comprehensive education in all aspects of pulmonary medicine, including management of patients with chronic lung disease.” (Pictured left) During Trotter’s visit with representatives from both the House and Senate, he and the Director of Respiratory Care from CAMC, Chuck Menders (far right), were pleased to meet Senator Manchin. For more information on House Bill 2619: visit https://www.aarc.org/headlines/13/09/hr2619/2619_backgrounder.pdf.

Dates To Remember

- **April 23rd:** Board of Governors Meeting, Memorial Student Center, 9 a.m.
- **April 25th:** COHP Research and Practice Day, Drinko Library, 1-4 p.m.
- **April 25-26th:** Alumni Weekend with Awards Banquet, Saturday, Don Morris Room, 6:30 p.m.
- **April 28th - May 2nd:** Dead Week
- **May 1st:** 2014 Donning of Kente Ceremony, Joan C. Edwards Theater, 5 p.m.
- **May 8th:** Faculty Senate Meeting, 4-5pm
- **May 8th:** Nursing Recognition Ceremony, Christ Temple Church, 7 p.m.
- **May 9th:** St. Mary’s Pinning Ceremony, First Baptist Church of Proctorville, 7 p.m.
- **May 10-11th:** Mid-Atlantic Athletic Training Regional Conference, Virginia Beach



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Marshall Athletic Training Students Bring

Home 2nd place in WVATA Quiz Bowl Competition in Charleston

Three students from the Marshall University College of Health Professions traveled to Charleston last month for the West Virginia Athletic Training Association's Quiz Bowl competition and brought home a second-place finish.

The University of Charleston took first place and West Virginia University finished third. Other teams in the competition included Alderson Broaddus University, Concord University and West Virginia Wesleyan College.

Katie Barr, Matthew Schneider and Amanda McGuire are junior athletic training students in the college's School of Kinesiology. Barr, 21, of Mason, W.Va., said this year's competition proved to be more successful for Marshall than it was in previous years.

"It was nice to see us come out on top over WVU who has a very well-known athletic training program," Barr said. "Our outlook wasn't very positive going into the competition because we hadn't done very well last year. However, we started preparing months in advance and we ended up getting second place. It was great knowing we successfully took on our state rivals."

Although she enjoyed seeing Marshall toward the top of the scoreboard, McGuire, 20, of Union, W.Va., said the Quiz Bowl competition was a learning experience for her.

"We worked hard and being involved in competitions like these shows how dedicated we are to our field," McGuire said, "Everything I learned will help to better my future in athletic training."

Zach Garrett, interim program director for the college's Department of Athletic Training, said these three students were chosen based on the high scores they received during an in-class placement exam.

"Our program is very competitive - we only take 25 new applicants every year - therefore, our students are very competitive," Garrett said. "I'm very proud of this year's Quiz Bowl team. They showed enthusiasm and passion and I believe their commitment to the field of athletic training demonstrates the level of excellence the students have within our college."

The 2014 WVATA Quiz Bowl Competition was held Friday, Feb 21, in Charleston.

For more information about the West Virginia Athletic Training Association and future Quiz Bowl competitions, please visit www.wvata.org online.



Pictured Above (from left to right): #MUCOHP
Athletic Training interim director Zach Garrett stands with Katie Barr, Matt Schneider and Amanda McGuire at this year's annual WVATA Quiz Bowl competition.