

WCOHP

**The College of Health Professions
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GREETINGS

FROM DEAN PREWITT

Welcome to the first issue of the Marshall University College of Health Professions newsletter!

The purpose of the newsletter is promote networking amongst our faculty members. With its delivery, we hope to develop ideas, projects and resources which can be shared amongst departments and faculty in the college. Ultimately, we hope many of our stories will be featured within campus and community news, which will generate a positive awareness about what we do here



in the MU COHP. I want to thank Megan Archer for her hard work in obtaining feature stories about departments and individual faculty, and assembling the newsletter for distribution. We will send out another newsletter this summer and once the fall semester begins, we hope to publish on a monthly basis. If you have ideas for stories, please contact Megan at archer15@marshall.edu.

Have a great summer!

Michael W. Prewitt, Dean

Michael Prewitt

School of Kinesiology's Dr. Jennifer Mak recognized as top researcher in her field



Dr. Jennifer Mak of the Marshall University School of Kinesiology was recently named the No. 1 leading contributor to research in the discipline of leisure and recreation for the past 20 years.

Top researchers were recognized by the Research Consortium of the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (AAHPERD). Mak was acknowledged as a high-visibility researcher in the 2013 issue of the *Measurement in Physical Education and Exercise Science Journal*. Lead author of the study, Dr. Bradley Cardinal of Oregon State University, said the Research Consortium is one of the most recognized and respected research societies in the U.S.

"Dr. Mak was one of five women honored with this recognition which is a tribute to her ongoing contribution to the organization," Cardinal said. "She was chosen based on the continued frequency of her publications and presentations at the conference level." Since August 2000, Mak has been director of sport management and a full professor in the Marshall University School of Kinesiology. In addition to being one of five women

recognized, Mak was one of four international scholars identified in the study. As a prolific researcher, she has over 50 refereed publications and book chapters in highly respected journals across the world. Mak's research centers on applied behavioral science with a focus in consumer behaviors, sports and marketing management as well as organizational behavior in the sport and leisure industry.

Dean of the College of Health Professions at Marshall University, Dr. Michael W. Prewitt, said he is very pleased Dr. Mak was recognized by AAHPERD.

"Many researchers who received this honor represent Research I universities who engage in extensive research activity," Prewitt said. "The fact she has been able to sustain such a productive research program over an extended period of time says a lot about the level of commitment she has to her chosen discipline.

Mak said the key to her commitment is intrinsic motivation

"You have to be able to motivate yourself from within," Mak said. "I was doing the research because I enjoyed to do so. I feel it is very rewarding to be recognized by the colleagues in my field."

Dietetics Program is one of two accredited programs in state of West Virginia

The Marshall University Didactic Program in Dietetics received continuing accreditation May 3 from the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND).

The didactic program has been offered at the undergraduate level since 1923 and currently has over 60 students enrolled. Jana Hovland, director of the Didactic Program in Dietetics, said Marshall's program is one of two accredited dietetics programs in the state of West Virginia, alongside West Virginia University.

"With an increase in obesity rates across the region, dietitians are needed to work to prevent and manage the impact chronic disease has on our state," Hovland said. "We are the food and nutrition experts in today's society."

Accreditation also was continued for the non-degree Dietetic Internship, which enrolls 10 full-time interns annually. Dr. Kelli Williams, chair of the Department of Dietetics, said Marshall has had an accredited supervised practice program since 1993.

"In order to become a registered dietitian you must go through an accredited undergraduate program and then complete the Dietetic Internship to sit for the national exam," Williams said. "Most of our graduates stay within the Tri-state area, which is great because it allows them to serve the needs of the rural population in a localized and affordable setting."

According to their Web site, ACEND is responsible for setting the national standards for what dietetics students are taught as well as evaluating, recognizing and publishing a list of education programs that meet these standards.

The Marshall Didactic Program in Dietetics and the Dietetic Internship will participate in an on-site visit in 2017 to continue to meet accreditation standards.



March 26, 2013 - The COHP's Pablo Gonzales gave the opening invocation during the Senate session at the West Virginia Capital in Charleston. Chaplain Gonzales was invited by Democratic Senator Evan Jenkins (pictured above) and said he always feels so welcome when speaking at events like these.

"I felt very privileged to address the Senate in a spiritual format," Gonzales said. "Everyone was very hospitable and very receptive to me as a veteran. I am honored to represent Marshall and have the opportunity to address the needs of those in West Virginia."

Chaplain Gonzales is a bioethics consultant for the College of Health Professions and currently the only Chaplain at Marshall University.

What's The Word with The Herd?

- The College of Health Professions has joined Twitter! Follow [@MU_COHP](#) for news, events and updates.
- **March 18:** CAAHEP continuing accreditation was awarded to the MU **School of Cytotechnology** at Cabell Huntington Hospital.
- **April 19 :** Dr. Jarrod Schenewark (**SOK**) was chosen as a co- finalist for the William C. Friday Outstanding Article award.
- **May 3:** The **Physical Therapy** Class of 2015 held their first white coat ceremony at the St. Mary Center for Education
- **May 31:** Dr. Suzanne Konz (**SOK**) will attend the annual ACSM Conference for her research on windmill pitch biomechanics.
- **June 4-6:** **St. Mary's School of Nursing** joins with St. Mary's Medical Center to host 3rd annual Health Professions Academy from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the St. Mary Center for Education, 2825 5th Ave., Huntington.

SOK's Dondanville will travel to Spain for Research on Sport Horses

Dr. Abbey Dondanville of the Marshall University College of Health Professions (COHP) will travel to Barcelona, Spain this summer to present her research on the jumping biomechanics of sport horses. For the past 30 years, Dondanville has been an avid horse rider who experienced first hand the power behind a horse's jump.

"In 2008, we started seeing a huge spike in rider and horse deaths from what is called a rotational fall," Dondanville said. "The horses were hitting the obstacles with their legs, which caused them to pivot, fall and ultimately crush the rider. I, too, have had a rotational fall but luckily, only suffered a mild concussion."



Dondanville decided to begin her research immediately by studying the angles of flight within a horse's jump path. She hoped to find the cause behind the rotational falls and determine a course of action to lessen the growing occurrence of rider deaths. What Dondanville found out changed the way she will ride a horse forever.

"We are always taught for safety to have our horse jump close to the fence," Dondanville said. "Unfortunately this is instilled too much and we aren't taught to consider speed as this is happening. By training riders to maintain the right speed and the trajectory of a horse's jump point, we can save many lives."

Dondanville, an associate professor of athletic training through the COHP's School of Kinesiology, said her research on the biomechanics of a horse's

jump was more than an area of interest, it was a labor of love.

"My desire when doing any kind of research is making it applicable," Dondanville said. "I have such a passion for this sport which makes it all the more meaningful that my research may provide a quick solution for a common problem."

Dondanville will present her research in Barcelona at the European College of Sport Sciences conference June 25 – 29. There will be over 5,000 researchers in attendance with over 2900 abstracts and 88 concurrent sessions.

School of Nursing held first Evidence-Based Nursing Conference

The School of Nursing hosted the first "Evidence-Based Nursing Conference" Friday, May 3 at Cabell Huntington Hospital. Guest speaker, Dr. Bernadette Melnyk, gave her presentation titled, "Improving Healthcare Quality and Patient Outcomes with Evidence-Based Practice and ARCC." Melnyk is a pediatric and psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner and is an internationally recognized expert in evidence-based practice.

"Dr. Melnyk is a frequent keynote speaker at national and international conferences and has consulted with hundreds of health-care systems and colleges throughout the globe on implementing and sustaining evidence-based practice," said Andrea Criss, assistant professor of nursing at Marshall. "We were very fortunate to have her here today speaking to our students."

All 73 BSN students participated in the conference and were responsible for presenting evidence-based poster

sessions to the employees of Cabell Huntington Hospital. Senior nursing student, Kyle Mushet, 22, of Wellsburg, W.Va., said the collaboration between Marshall and the hospital provides more opportunities for students like him.

"Cabell Huntington has been so supportive of the students here when it comes to facilitating our education," Mushet said. "We probably would not have had the chance to hear Dr. Melnyk if we did not have this partnership with the hospital."

Criss, co-chairman of the planning committee for this conference, said the Marshall School of Nursing saw a need within the community to have students exposed to research-based evidence.

"Practicing medicine based on evidence is so important because it allows for better patient outcomes," Criss said. "We wanted our students to get involved with this early on in their careers so they will make the best decisions for their patients."

Cabell Huntington Hospital is currently the largest clinical site for the students within the Marshall School of Nursing.



Health Informatics program is one of three accredited in U.S.

The Master of Science in Health Informatics (MSHI) degree program was awarded national accreditation April 19 from the Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management.

It is one of three nationally accredited programs in the United States, joining the University of Illinois at Chicago and Oregon Health and Science University in Portland, Ore. It is also the only accredited, graduate-level program in health informatics within the state of West Virginia.

Bruce Felder, manager of human resources at Cabell Huntington Hospital, said the MSHI program at Marshall is shedding light on how technology and one's ability to become self-sufficient can spill over into the multi-faceted industry of health care.

"In today's age, we can buy, sell, exchange money, goods and services without leaving home," Felder said. "In the future, visiting your doctor, making appointments and viewing your medical records will be common practice, all from a mobile device. MSHI students will be the infrastructure, bridge and crossroad between technology and health care information."

Dr. Girmay Berhie, program director for the Department of Health Informatics at Marshall, said the accreditation process took more than two years to complete and would not have been possible without the unique collaboration among faculty in the College of Health Professions, the College of Business and the College of Information Technology and Engineering.

"We have such a supportive relationship among these three colleges here at Marshall," Berhie said. "It's a unique model we've used to develop a program of this nature, which combines the skills and resources from each department. The program would not be possible without this partnership."

Dr. Michael W. Prewitt, dean of the College of Health Professions, said receiving accreditation sets the MSHI program among the elite programs for health informatics in the country.

"The standards of our program exceed what is required by the national accrediting agency," Prewitt said. "We are a premier destination for health professions programs in the tri-state. Our graduates will be very marketable in the health informatics community."

The MSHI program will participate in a designated on-site visit in one year in order to continue to meet accreditation requirements.

Public Health professor traveled to Greece for work with GBD

Dr. Monika Sawhney of the Marshall University College of Health Professions traveled to Greece to attend the "Global Burden of Disease" workshop held May 7-17. According to their website, the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation organized this technical workshop to train interested researchers and policymakers in the data, methods, findings and implications of Global Burden of Disease Study of 2010.

Sawhney, program director for the Marshall public health program, has an extensive background in the coordination and implementation of programs that strengthen the public health sector around the world.

"I've worked with the World Health Organization and Center for Disease Control to coordinate and manage the polio and measles immunization campaign in Ethiopia," Sawhney said. "With the Clinton Global Initiative University, I was able to collaborate with a nonprofit organization to start the diarrhea management center in India."

Given her knowledge and experience working with the Global Burden of Disease in several foreign countries, Dr. Sawhney hopes to make her research applicable in the state of West Virginia in regard to childhood obesity and diabetes.

"Since setting up the new public health program at Marshall, I am very aware of West Virginia's rate of chronic disease," Sawhney said. "This opportunity to travel and share information with scholars from across the world allows me to learn more about controlling our burden of disease."

Throughout the course of her career, Dr. Sawhney has attended more than 20 conferences and given presentations about the public health sector in countries across the world. The "Global Burden of Disease" workshop took place at the Elysium Resort in Rhodes, Greece.



FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Bill Pewen

There is a new face in the hallways of the College of Health Professions. In January 2013, Dr. William Pewen joined Marshall as assistant professor of Public Health and Family Medicine. Pewen cited unique opportunities he found here.

"Few universities are successful in balancing the missions of education and research and each certainly complements the other," Pewen said. "But here there is a commitment to providing solid training as well as conducting relevant research. Both of those synergize with our critical third mission: service to our community and region."

Pewen noted the growing Public Health program's potential to impact health in West Virginia and beyond.

"Our region faces the greatest health challenges in the nation," Pewen said. "A number of obstacles have made progress difficult. Yet I have been impressed by the remarkable talent and commitment I have seen throughout the university and community. Our successes in improving health could provide models for our nation."

One of Pewen's primary objectives is to achieve higher value healthcare through "comparative value research", which he describes as essential to make healthcare both more effective and affordable. He brings to Marshall a long history of work in both chronic and infectious disease, as well as a long history of work in health information technology. Pewen looks forward to collaborating on innovative initiatives to bring advanced technology to improve patient care

For Pewen, both rigorous training and research are complemented by pragmatism. He believes, "Outcomes are critically important. For our graduates, that means achieving preparation for solid, rewarding careers in health. More broadly, it also means that we achieve substantial progress improving the health of those we serve." He added, "It's a gratifying to join with so many others who share that same vision."

Prior to joining Marshall, Dr. Pewen served as senior health policy advisor to Senator Olympia J. Snowe in Washington, D.C. where his work spanned a broad spectrum of health policy, including the development of health reform legislation in 2009. In addition to his academic publications, Pewen is contributor to *Health Affairs*, *The New York Times*, and *The Atlantic*.

To find out more about Dr. Pewen, visit him in Prichard Hall 218 or send him an email at pewen@marshall.edu.



STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Megan Archer



A member of our alumni joins the staff in the College of Health Professions. In March 2013, Megan Archer began working as a communications assistant to Dean Prewitt. Archer said being a Marshall graduate was the "cherry on top" when considering this opportunity.

"I loved my four years here and being given the chance to come back and work for the university which taught me so much is a source of pride for me," Archer said. "I look forward to bringing awareness to the amazing things the College of Health Professions does on Marshall's campus."

After graduating in 2010 with her B.A. in public relations, she attended Marietta College (Ohio) and received her master's degree in corporate media in 2012. Archer has a strong background working in print and broadcast media industries including *The Parkersburg News & Sentinel* and WOWK-TV Channel 13 News. She traveled to Australia in 2011 and attended Bond University where she worked extensively on the production of a promotional video for the Marietta College study abroad program. Archer was also fortunate enough to travel to Spain in May 2009 and receive her minor in Spanish through the MU study abroad department.

"I love traveling and meeting new people," Archer said. "I am excited to see what else life has in store for me. But for now, I'll be at Marshall University and I couldn't be happier."

If you'd like to know more about Megan, visit her in the dean's office in Prichard Hall or send her an e-mail at archer15@marshall.edu.