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The College of Health Professions
Faculty Newsletter May 2015 Vol. 2, Issue 10



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GREETINGS FROM DEAN PREWITT

Summer time is officially here and I know all of our faculty and staff have worked hard this past academic year to make our college one of the best on campus. During this year's spring commencement, we had over 300 graduates receive degrees and I could not be more proud of these students' efforts to advance in their chosen profession. As many of you know, our college is also seeing an increase in enrollment for first-time students for the fall semester. This is outstanding news when one considers the current educational climate and



how many colleges across campus have seen a decrease in their numbers. I want to thank you for your continued commitment and dedication to making our programs some of the finest on campus and in the state. I hope each of you takes advantage of these summer months by spending time with family, perhaps taking a fun trip and getting refreshed for a brand new semester. As always, feel free to visit me in my office anytime with any comments or ideas you may have. Have a great summer break!

Michael Prewitt

Nursing Recognition Ceremony honors 153 grads



The Marshall University School of Nursing held their Nursing Recognition Ceremony for 153 graduates May 7 at Christ Temple Church in Huntington. In addition, the first two graduates from the Shenandoah University cooperative program were recognized for receiving a master's degree with an emphasis on nurse-midwifery.

Ninety-seven graduates received a Bachelor of Science Nursing (BSN) degree including 13 from the RN to BSN program; 44 graduates received a Master of Science (MSN) in Nursing with an emphasis of family nurse practitioner; eight received a MSN with an emphasis on nursing administration; two received a MSN with an emphasis in nursing education plus the first two graduates of the cooperative program with an emphasis in nursing midwifery.

(Shown left): Dr. Robert Stanton is shown hooding Krista E. Parcell, one of two students who received their MSN with a nurse midwifery emphasis on May 7th.

Department of Athletic Training takes 2nd place in national video contest



Athletic training students from the Marshall University College of Health Professions placed second in the National Athletic Trainers' Association student video contest earlier this month. There were 10 submissions, with Chapman University taking first place and Ithaca College finishing third. Senior students in the program are encouraged to participate in the video contest each year, according to Zach Garrett, clinical coordinator and assistant professor in the college's Department of Athletic Training.

"I encourage students to participate in the NATASC video contest every year because it allows them to show their creativity and show what we can do as professionals, as well as highlighting the importance of having an athletic trainer," Garrett said. "There is still a huge misunderstanding of the role of an athletic trainer so any attempt to educate others about our profession is something we take seriously."

Kelsi Barnes, a senior athletic training student in the program, said although the production of the video was taken seriously, it was fun to watch her classmates learn the choreography for their video titled "The Hobble," which was their video version of the popular rap song, "The Wobble."

"We had twenty-five students involved in the

making of this video with three days of filming, two days of vocals and two weeks for editing," Barnes said. "When a group of students come together like this, it just demonstrates our pride for the program and our dedication to making Marshall's athletic training department the best it can be."

Garrett said he hopes to generate more awareness about Marshall's athletic training program not only at the state level, but nationally as well.

"When students come to Marshall I want them to know who we are and, more importantly, what we are about," Garrett said. "Creating these videos has been one way for our program to gain exposure on many different levels and has allowed us to showcase the amazing students here at Marshall University."

To view Marshall University's second-place winning entry, visit https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z_Gtq0J9V2o. For more information on the National Athletic Trainers' Association, visit <http://www.nata.org>. To learn more about Marshall's Department of Athletic Training, visit www.marshall.edu/cohp.

Success of Marshall's Center for Wellness in the Arts prompts program expansion



Since August 2014, the Marshall University Center for Wellness in the Arts (CWA) has provided health and wellness education to the university's performing arts students through a collaboration between the College of Arts and Media and the College of Health Professions. Due to the positive response from participants and the amazing impact on student success, the CWA will expand the services offered in years to come, according to college deans Don Van Horn and Dr. Michael Prewitt.

"Over 150 performing arts students utilized the training provided by the Center for Wellness in the Arts and each of them said they saw improvements in their craft, whether it was more agility on stage or less anxiety when performing," Van Horn said. "We could see a difference on stage during the performance of 'Cabaret' this past spring after our theatre students went through the CWA's conditioning program. Just after three weeks, we

were able to see a difference in their hip flexor mobility, upper body strength and overall physical activity. Thanks to the work done by both colleges, we now have measurable outcomes that show us exactly how successful this project has been."

This is just the beginning of what the CWA has to offer its students, according to Prewitt.

"Marshall University will continue to offer this destination program for students interested in improving health and wellness within their given professions," Prewitt said. "We believe that by incorporating health and wellness training as a necessary element into our degree programs, we convey the idea that this type of training isn't optional. It remains an integral part of a process, which makes it possible for dancers, actors, musicians and all artists to reach and maintain their highest levels of performance."

In the upcoming academic year, the CWA will offer the following services:

- Injury prevention sessions with certified athletic trainers
- Performance anxiety workshops with health scientists
- Nutrition and weight management training with registered dietitians
- Agility and mobility training with exercise scientists
- Baseline hearing assessments, vocal education and treatment with speech-language pathologists
- Vision training to improve reaction times in performances with exercise physiologists

For more information on the Marshall University Center for Wellness in the Arts, contact Prewitt by e-mailing prewittm@marshall.edu or by calling 304-696-2616, or contact Van Horn by e-mailing vanhorn@marshall.edu or by calling 304-696-2964. Visit the Marshall CWA Facebook page at www.facebook.com/MarshallCWA.

Nursing faculty member has retention research published in international journal



Dr. Nancy Elkins of the Marshall University College of Health Professions recently had her nursing student retention research published in the latest issue of *Open Journal of Nursing*, a peer-reviewed, international journal dedicated to the latest advancements in nursing.

Elkins, an associate professor in the college's School of Nursing, said her quantitative research on retention is vital to the understanding of our current higher education environment.

"Attrition is a serious issue nationwide, with some nursing programs' attrition rates reported to have been around 50 percent," Elkins said. "The Government Affairs Committee of the American Nurses Association (2014) predicts that by 2022, the United States will need to produce more than one million additional nurses to fill both new nursing jobs and replace the wave of retiring nurses.

"Because this nursing shortage continues to grow, nurse educators cannot afford to lose qualified students hoping to become RNs and must increase the retention rate of nursing students who take one of the limited, sought-after positions in a nursing program."

Elkins plans to continue her retention research by investigating the experiences of students who did not succeed in completing four-year baccalaureate nursing schools. She said the criteria for participation in this study include those who have been a student in a BSN nursing program and did not finish the program within the past 10 years. Participants in the study must have attended schools in West Virginia, Ohio, Kentucky or Virginia.

"The nature of this study is significant because the results could help educators have a better understanding from the students' perspective about what factors played a major role in not successfully completing their BSN nursing program," Elkins said. "The results of this study could assist educators in retention of BSN nursing students, which would help meet the Institute of Medicine's goal of 80 percent of nurses holding a BSN degree or higher by 2020."

Dr. Denise Landry, chair of the college's School of Nursing, said research shows a link between higher levels of nursing education and better patient outcomes, and studies indicate increasing the number of baccalaureate-prepared nurses will lead to fewer medication errors and a lower patient mortality rate.

"Educators may use the results of this study to help identify these at-risk students early on, which would allow for early interventions to assist in retaining these at-risk students," Landry said.

Elkins' research article is titled "Predictors of Retention and Passing the National Council Licensure Exam for Registered Nurses" and has been published in the latest issue (Vol. 5 No. 3 2015) of the *Open Journal of Nursing*. For more information on Elkins' publication and her ongoing retention research, contact her via email at elkinsn@marshall.edu or by calling 304-696-2617.

Marshall social work faculty receives WVHEPC Outreach to Mexico grant award



Dr. Peggy Proudfoot Harman of the Marshall University College of Health Professions has received a \$3000 grant to participate in a West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission “Outreach to Mexico” program. The grant will provide an opportunity for professional development opportunities for selected faculty members from West Virginia colleges within HEPC to visit Puebla.

Harman, an assistant professor within the college’s Department of Social Work, said this project is an indicator of Marshall University’s dedication to creating a university environment that fosters cultural diversity.

“As a native West Virginian I am extremely proud of Marshall University’s focus on creating an atmosphere that is diverse and academically challenging,” Harman said. “I

feel very fortunate to be one of the recipients of this grant and I hope to make valuable faculty and student connections while on the trip.”

Harman said she hopes to connect with international faculty in her field to develop research collaborations with the ultimate goal of increasing visibility of Marshall University.

“Our purpose as social workers requires that we are extremely knowledgeable about cultures and lifestyles in order to be competent at our practice,” Harman said. “During this trip, I hope to establish a broader learning environment that will encourage students from Puebla to travel to Marshall to explore our program and to provide opportunities for our students to study in Puebla.”

Dr. Clark Egnor, Director of International Programs for the WVHEPC, said this statewide initiative seeks to develop academic and research linkages with institutions in Puebla through faculty networking and promotion of student mobility between West Virginia and Puebla.

“I am very pleased to see that Marshall University will be represented on this very important higher education mission to Mexico,” Egnor said. “I value the efforts of our faculty who have dedicated time to this project and I am optimistic that this effort will result in greater exchange of students between Mexico and West Virginia in the future.”

Harman will be joined on her trip by Marshall University College of Business employee Lisa Williamson and dean of the college, Dr. Michael Prewitt. Four students from Marshall University will travel with faculty to Puebla for this study abroad opportunity. For more information on the Puebla study abroad trip, visit www.summerpueblamexico.com or contact Marshall’s study abroad office at 304-696-2379.

Dates To Remember

- **May 25th:** Memorial Day Holiday, University Closed
- **June 4th:** Pullman Concert Series, COHP Recruitment Booth, Pullman Square, 7-10 p.m.
- **June 11th:** Marshall University Leadership Retreat, MSC BE5, Time TBD
- **June 25-27th:** 2nd annual Stuttering U. Camp, MU Speech and Hearing Center.
- **July 3rd:** Independence Day Holiday observed, University Closed
- **July 20-24th:** 5th annual Lose the Training Wheels camp, Huntington High School.
- **July 30th:** Pullman Concert Series, COHP Recruitment Booth, Pullman Square, 7-10 p.m.
- **August 14th:** End of Summer School
- **August 19-21st:** Week of Welcome for incoming freshmen class

Farewell to our 2015 COHP Retirees



Dr. Susan Linnenkohl
Dietetics
24 years of service



Dr. Joy Cline
Nursing
14 years of service



Dr. Susan Frank
Communication
Disorders
12 years of service

Congratulations to Dr. Karen McComas



Dr. Karen McComas, professor of communication disorders and interim executive director of the Center for Teaching and Learning, received a Distinguished Service Award from President Gary White during the 2015 General Faculty Meeting.