

# WPCOHP

The College of Health Professions  
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# GREETINGS FROM DEAN PREWITT

This fall is off to a great start - it doesn't seem possible we are already into the 6th week of the semester! The new faculty continue to adjust to their new surroundings while the more familiar faces prepare for what is certain to be one of our most productive semesters yet. I want to take this opportunity to thank all faculty and staff as we work together toward achieving the goals and objectives of the Marshall University College of Health Professions.



Without your commitment and dedication, we would not be one of the largest, fastest growing colleges on Marshall's campus. This weekend, the Thundering Herd will take on the Texas - San Antonio Roadrunners for our homecoming game. I hope you take the time to sit back, relax and enjoy this weekend's festivities.

Feel free to visit me in my my office anytime with any comments or ideas you may have.

*Michael Prewitt*

## Prewitt Elected as CoARC Board Member

Dr. Michael Prewitt, dean of the Marshall College of Health Professions, has been elected to serve as a new board member for the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC).

Sponsored by the American College of Chest Physicians, Prewitt will be the first non-physician representative from the organization to serve on the board, according to Tom Smalling, executive director of CoARC.

"As a non-physician, he will provide a unique insight," Smalling said. "(He) has the appropriate credentials and demonstrates a strong involvement in respiratory care."

Darcy Marciniuk, president of the American College of Chest Physicians (ACCP), said Prewitt has been a member of the organization since 2000 and an elected Fellow since 2001. With his extensive experience in the industry, Marciniuk said Prewitt was a natural choice for this position.

"Prewitt has an impressive background in respiratory care from his involvement as director for the respiratory care program at University of Missouri-Columbia for over 20 years to his continued participation in our organization," Marciniuk said. "Being the first non-physician representative to sit on the board for CoARC, he will bring something new to the table."

As a long-time ACCP member, Prewitt will provide input based on the perspectives and experiences he's gained during his 13 years with the organization. Prewitt said he will travel to Bedford, Texas in November for the first CoARC board meeting to officially begin his four-year term.

"Having served as a site visitor for CoARC for over 20 years, becoming a member of the board will allow me to learn more about the accreditation process after the site visit has been conducted," Prewitt said. "This can only strengthen the goals and objectives we have for our departments within the College of Health Professions and for the university as a whole."

Since 2000, Prewitt has been a member of the Allied Health and Respiratory Care ACCP NetWorks and currently serves as Vice Chair of the Allied Health NetWork section. As a CoARC board member, he will be eligible for two consecutive four-year terms. For more information on CoARC, visit [www.coarc.com](http://www.coarc.com) online. For more information on the ACCP, visit [www.chestnut.org](http://www.chestnut.org).

# Communication Disorders Grad Assistant chosen as PROGENY research finalist



One Marshall student has been chosen as a finalist for the American Speech-Language Hearing Association's (ASHA) 6th annual PROGENY research program held Nov. 13 – 17 in Chicago, Ill.

Sara Henson, 22, of Harts, W.Va., is a first year graduate assistant within the Marshall University Department of Communication Disorders. Henson conducted her research on the social, political and cultural considerations of individuals with disabilities in Appalachia. She will share this research in a poster presentation during the annual ASHA conference this November.

“The primary aim for the study was to develop an understanding of the lives of people with disabilities and how the Appalachian culture affects their experiences,” Henson said. “When I started the research project, it wasn't to get an award or to be a presenter at ASHA, it was just to explore my own curiosities about my field and discover other research ideas.”

Karen McComas, assistant director for the Center for Teaching and Learning, said Henson was one of four students chosen from Marshall to attend this year's ASHA conference. Graduate students in the Department of Communication Disorders, Megan Foster, Hillary Johnson and Jordan Lewis will also join Henson at the conference to present their own research projects. McComas, who also serves as a professor of communication disorders, said the department's Community of Research Practice group is the main way these students learn about research and the opportunities offered through the PROGENY program.

“PROGENY stands for promoting the future generation of researchers,” McComas said. “That is exactly what we do at Marshall – we have created CoRP, our Community of Research Practice, to encourage our students to engage in research projects which allow them to pursue an academic-research career.” McComas said developing research skills enhances a student's clinical capabilities and prepares them to be evidence-based practitioners. Since the Community of Research Practice group began in 2008, Marshall University has had six students represented in the PROGENY program three out of the past five years.

“No matter the size of your school or department, it is possible to have a distinct and important impact on a whole discipline,” McComas said. “We are very proud of our involvement with this organization because it highlights the work done by our students who do it because they love it, not because they have to.”



The Community of Research Practice sessions are held 9 a.m., every Friday in Smith Hall 113 on the Huntington campus. Students and faculty can learn more about these sessions by visiting [www.marshall.edu/corp](http://www.marshall.edu/corp) online. To find out more about ASHA, please visit [www.asha.org](http://www.asha.org) or to learn about PROGENY, visit [www.asha.org/Research/PROGENY/](http://www.asha.org/Research/PROGENY/) online.

# Department of Social Work

## Hosts Job Agency Fair in MSC



Students of the Marshall University Department of Social Work had an opportunity to explore the jobs and internships available in our region from 1:30 - 3:30 p.m., Oct. 1, in the basement of the Memorial Student Center.



Over 35 agencies from around the Tri-State attended the job fair, with employers ready to take resumes and answer questions about potential positions available within their organization. Here is a list of all the agencies in attendance:

TEAM for WV Children  
Barboursville Veteran's Home  
Western Regional Day Report Center (Cabell)  
Coordinating Council for Independent Living  
KISRA  
Ebenezer Outreach  
St. Mary's Skilled Nursing Center  
Mildred Mitchell Bateman Hospital  
Lawrence County Child Development Academy  
Marshall University Student Veteran's Program  
River Park Hospital  
KVC (Wayne County)  
Cammack Children's Center  
MOVC campus  
Mason County DHHR  
Prestera Center  
Pleasant Valley Home Health and Hospice  
Pleasant Valley Hospital  
Pleasant Valley Nursing and Rehabilitation  
Holzer Hospital  
Lakin Nursing Facility  
Serenity House  
Mason County Homeless Shelter  
Early Education Station  
Mason County Daily Report  
Mountain State Healthy Families

DHHR (Wayne, Cabell, Lincoln and Putnam counties)  
WVU Extension services  
Kings' Daughters Hospital  
Stepping Stones  
NECCO  
Rose Terrace Nursing Home  
Children's Home Society  
Huntington Housing Development Corporation  
Huntington Housing Authority  
Information and Referral

## What's the Word with *The Herd?*

- **October 6 - 18:** COHP Department Food Drive, hosted by the Student Assoc. for Nutrition and Dietetics. Four food barrels will be placed on first floor of Prichard Hall for those wanting to bring in non-perishable food items.
- **October 15:** Public Health Informational Session, 7 p.m., Wellman Hall Lounge (Freshman Dorms).
- **October 15-16:** Flu shots will be administered by School of Nursing for \$10 to Faculty/Staff on the Huntington Campus in the Don Morris Room Tuesday from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., and Wednesday from 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
- **October 18:** WV State Nurses Assoc. State Convention, St. Mary's Medical Center. Open to all nursing students and faculty, Registration fee is \$45. [www.wvsna.org](http://www.wvsna.org).



**Prestera Center Employee Specialist, Deanna Bailey, said they were thrilled to be asked to participate in this year's job fair.**

*"This wasn't our first job fair, nor will it be our last," Bailey said. "The Prestera Center always find new applicants when participating in events like these at Marshall University."*

# Ethiopian FEAST

9.5.13

The M.S. in Health Informatics program was accredited on April 19, 2013 by The Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education. Program Director, Dr. Girmay Berhie, hosted an Ethiopian Feast at the St. Mary's Center for Education to celebrate this accomplishment. Currently, the program is one of three nationally accredited programs in the U.S. 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.



**Photo 1 (Top Left):** Delicious Ethiopian food was prepared and served to all members of the #MUCOHP faculty thanks to the hard work and effort by Dr. Berhie and friends.

**Photo 2 (Bottom Left):** Traditional Ethiopian tea being made by one of our gracious hosts.

**Photos 3-6 (Top Right):** #MUCOHP faculty members, Rania Karim (Physical Therapy), Dean Prewitt, Klara Kovacs (School of Nursing) and many others enjoyed the homemade Ethiopian cuisine.

# Former Marshall Professor and Sports Author shares experiences with students in Exercise Science program



For 35 years, Bob Barnett taught sport history at Marshall University. Since then, he has published over 300 articles in publications such as *Saturday Evening Post*, *American National Biography*, *The Washington Post*, *Sports Heritage*, and *The Dallas Cowboy News*. He has been a section editor for the *Journal of Sport History* and the *Encyclopedia of Appalachia*, and has written two documentaries for West Virginia public television. Barnett is the author of “Growing Up in the Last Small Town: A West Virginia Memoir.”

On September 19th, Barnett shared his stories and experiences with Dr. Schenewark’s class - ESS 118: Development of Physical Education and Sports in the U.S. Schenewark said many students were surprised to learn many of their hometowns served as places of interest for several sporting landmarks.

“One student from Bluefield, West Virginia did not know that his town was home to a championship

African-American basketball team,” Schenewark said. “This was from a time when West Virginia held games in a segregated tournament. The student was familiar with some of the buildings and places, but not with the historical significance of those places.”

Professor Schenewark felt his students gained much knowledge about the development of sports in West Virginia due to Barnett’s skills in highlighting the challenges many athletes had to overcome to achieve success in their sport.

“The kinds of stories shared by Mr. Barnett serve as life lessons that can inspire students in other aspects of their lives,” Schenewark said.

Barnett recently published a book titled, “Hillside Fields: A History of Sports in West Virginia,” which provides a broad view of the development of sports in West Virginia, from one of the first golf clubs in America at Oakhurst Links to the Greenbrier Classic; from the first girls basketball championship in 1919 to post Title IX; from racially segregated sports to integrated teams; and from the days when West Virginia Wesleyan and Davis & Elkins beat the big boys in football to the championship teams at WVU, Marshall, West Virginia State and West Liberty.



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# Marshall Offers New Sonography Program; only accredited bachelor's program in state with abdominal, vascular and echo

Students of Marshall University now have the chance to learn a medical technique used more every day in hospitals around the world.

With the collaboration between the Marshall College of Health Professions and the St. Mary's School of Medical Imaging, a bachelor of science degree in medical imaging with an emphasis in diagnostic medical sonography will be offered to students who have completed their sophomore year in medical imaging. Sonography, a painless medical procedure that uses high-frequency sound waves to produce visual images of organs, tissues and blood flow inside the body, is considered interchangeable with "ultrasound" due to the use of these sound waves to create an image.

Rita Fisher, director of the St. Mary's School of Medical Imaging, said Marshall's program will be the only accredited bachelor's degree program in the state, which offers its students the choice to specialize in abdominal, vascular or echo sonography.

"We wanted to be able to offer all three modalities so our students can choose what truly interests them," Fisher said. "This field is advancing because the equipment is relatively inexpensive and patients don't have to worry about radiation exposure. In the next year, we hope to add another instructor to develop coursework with breast sonography."

Nancy MacClellan, clinical coordinator of the sonography program, said growth is expected to con-

tinue for this profession and graduates should expect to find jobs immediately after completing the program.

"Our graduates will have opportunities for employment in hospital ultrasound departments, clinics and physicians' private offices to name a few," MacClellan said. "St. Mary's Medical Center is the reason why we even considered offering this degree because they are desperately in need of sonographers so it's a win-win for everyone. We do a lot of clinical rotations through the hospital and the sonographers there go above and beyond to make sure our students gain great experiences and become experts in their field."

Chelsea Belcher, 20, Peytona, W.Va., is a junior in the medical imaging program and plans to study cardiovascular sonography. Belcher will be asked to sit for her first board exam this year to ensure she will be ready for specialty exams which will qualify her for employment upon graduation.

"Many sonographers are losing their jobs because they aren't passing their boards. In this program, we are made to pass the physics boards before we even graduate," Belcher said. "It makes such a difference to have people in our corner who want us to succeed. You don't just get that anywhere."

The St. Mary's medical imaging program accepts 24 students a year and eight of those students will be chosen for the sonography track.



*(Shown Left):* Since August 2013, the sonography program has been offered to selected students within the St. Mary's School of Medical Imaging. The program will graduate its first class in 2015. Pictured left to right: Grace Carter, Chelsea Belcher, Jasmine Smith, Kristen Blankenship, Crystal Bryant, Erica Browning and Tabby Price.

# WELCOME NEW FACULTY: Fall 2013



**CARRIE CHILDERS**  
**COMMUNICATION**  
**DISORDERS**

Carrie Childers, CCC-SLP, is an assistant professor in the Department of Communication Disorders within the Marshall University College of Health Professions. Since August 2013, Professor Childers has served as an instructor for two sections of CD 624: Foundations in Neurogenic Communication and Swallowing Disorders. Prior to her position at Marshall, Childers worked as speech-language pathologist for 10 years with her last four years working as a pediatric outpatient speech therapist at Madonna TherapyPlus in Lincoln, Nebraska. In addition to being a full-time professor, Professor Childers will complete her Ph.D. in Human Sciences with a specialization in speech pathology at University of Nebraska-Lincoln in December 2013. Childers received her M.A. in speech pathology from Western Michigan University in 2000, and her B.A. in speech pathology and audiology from Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan in 1998. Since 2001, Professor Childers

has had her certificate of clinical competence as a speech-language pathologist and also holds her WV Licensure in speech pathology from the WV American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

Childers' research interests include the exploration of accommodations and strategies for individuals with traumatic brain injuries. She hopes to extend her research initiatives with local middle and high school students and further facilitate her work with strategic brain injury screenings. Childers recently submitted a contract for an innovation grant to study and develop a four-year program to supplement her research objectives.

New to the Marshall community, Professor Childers said she has been impressed with her department's dedication to academic excellence and their support of research endeavors. Childers looks forward to sharing her clinical research experiences with her fellow faculty, staff and students.

Saurabh Mehta, PT, PhD, is an assistant professor within the School of Physical Therapy. Since August 2013, Dr. Mehta has served as instructor for PT 771: Case Scenarios; PT 731: Basic Skills; and PT 764: Evidence Based Practice.

He received his entry-level degree in physiotherapy from Baroda, India. He completed thesis based in rehabilitation sciences from the University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Canada. Most recently, he



**SAURABH MEHTA**  
**PHYSICAL THERAPY**

completed his PhD in Rehabilitation Sciences from McMaster University, Canada. Dr. Mehta is excited to advance his career as a Physical Therapy educator and researcher. He also wants to pursue an active research program looking at outcomes of musculoskeletal conditions in older adults and how physical therapists can screen individuals who are at risk of poor outcomes such that their unique treatment needs are met to minimize the disablement.

Ted Fox, DNP, BSN, is an assistant professor nursing within the Marshall University College of Health Professions. Since August 2013, Professor Fox has served as a lab and clinical instructor for NUR 221: Foundations of Professional Nursing I and NUR 323: Nursing and Human Responses III. Prior to his position at Marshall, Fox worked as a pediatric ICU nurse for seven years at Shands Jacksonville Hospital in Jacksonville, Florida and worked as a special education public school teacher for 12 years in Clay/Putnam counties, also in Florida. In addition to being a full-time professor, Fox continues to work with the Air National Guard as he has done for the past 18 years where he has been responsible for law enforcement, military intelligence and combat arms instruction.

Professor Fox received his Doctorate of Nursing Practice from Florida State University, his BSN from Florida State University and his ASN from Florida Community College in Jacksonville. In addition to his nursing education, Fox received his B.S. in Psychology from Florida Atlantic University. His research interests include emergent diseases, autism and communication disorders. Professor Fox currently resides in Kentucky with his wife and five children where he enjoys being outdoors with his family. Fox looks forward to sharing his experiences with undergraduate, entry-level nursing students.



**TED FOX**  
**SCHOOL OF NURSING**

# Green and White Fridays



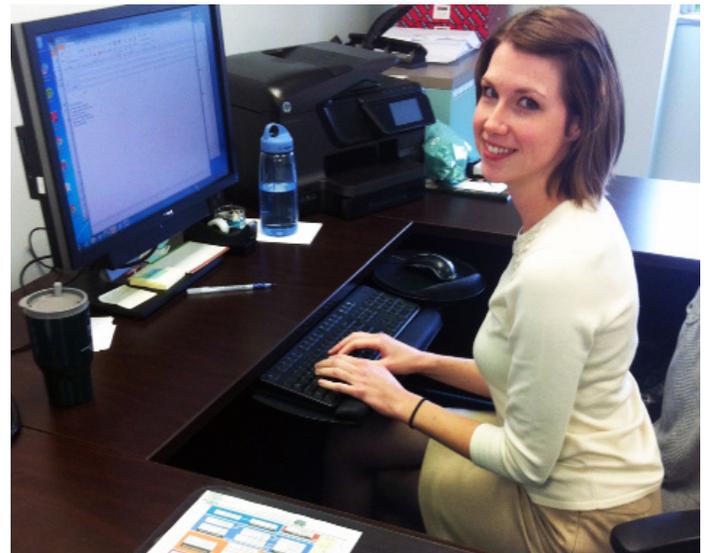
Associate Dean of the MUCOHP and Chair of the School of Kinesiology, Dr. Gary McIlvain, participates in **Green and White** Fridays.

**Why don't you?** Show your **HERD** pride by sporting your green and white gear this Friday for the Homecoming Football Game - Saturday, Oct. 5th, at 2 p.m.

## STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Jessi Lowman serves as an administrative associate within the Marshall University College of Health Professions. Since August 2013, Lowman has been responsible for the oversight of the budget for various departments; coordinating travel plans for the dean and these departments; and providing general administrative support. Prior to her position at Marshall, Lowman was a library specialist at Oxford College of Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia, and also worked at the Huntsville Public Library in Huntsville, Alabama.

As a 2011 graduate from the University of Georgia, Lowman received her B.A. in art history with a minor in women's studies. Her research interests include Italian Renaissance painting, specifically the narrative of religious paintings of Southern Italy. Lowman is a member of the American Library Association and the Phi Kappa Literary and Debate Society. New to the Marshall community, Jessi is most excited about learning the inner workings of one of the largest colleges on campus. She feels her experience within a university setting will further prepare her for future career endeavors.



**To submit suggestions or ideas for next month's COHP Faculty newsletter, please email [archer15@marshall.edu](mailto:archer15@marshall.edu)**