

MCOHP

**The College of Health Professions
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WELCOME BACK FROM DEAN PREWITT

Another summer has come and gone and as we enter Fall 2013, it is evident the College of Health Professions is thriving like never before, thanks to our exceptional students, faculty and staff. Our departments continue to develop creative projects to engage students in the learning process. These include encouraging undergraduate /graduate student research, writing, presentations and publications; devising new strategies to improve student retention; supporting interdisciplinary programs;



and, in general, working hard to advance the university strategic plan especially in the areas of faculty academic excellence and student success.

We have several new and exciting things in the works and look forward to sharing them with you through this monthly newsletter. If you have any ideas to maintain and advance our initiatives, my door is always open.

Welcome back and best wishes to all for a great semester!

Michael Prewitt

Master of Public Health Program Approved

The Marshall University Board of Governors met Aug. 27 to grant approval for the Master of Public Health program (MPH) offered through the College of Health Professions.

President Stephen J. Kopp said the master's degree in public health is a logical addition that complements Marshall's other professional doctoral schools, including medicine, pharmacy and physical therapy. He said he believes it builds on the university's reputation for serving the region's rural communities.

"The interdisciplinary approach is very important to our shared goal of improving rural health outcomes," Kopp said. Dr. William Pewen, program director, said the program would help position students to be at the forefront of change, as our state faces among the most serious health challenges in the nation.

"While there are many programs in public health, few offer the sort of synergies that we will see at Marshall," Pewen said. "Interdisciplinary, collaborative practice is a key to improving health in our nation, and with our diverse health professions programs and institutions – and the opportunity for students to begin making practical contributions in a region facing critical health challenges– Marshall provides exceptional opportunity for public health students."

Dr. Michael W. Prewitt, dean of the Marshall College of Health Professions, said the MPH program will be among the most affordable, ensuring that many graduates can build careers in West Virginia.

"The Marshall MPH program will meet a critically important need for public health professionals in the region which will strengthen existing partnerships with local, state and national agencies necessary to engage in public health practice," Prewitt said.

Dr. Harry Tweel, physician director of the Cabell Huntington Health Department, is a strong advocate for public health education at the university-level.

"This is a program that has been needed in our state for a long time and the changing landscape of health-care has solidified the need to move in this direction," Tweel said. "Every day we work to protect the public. In order to continue to improve the services of public health, we will need trained leaders for the future. I certainly encourage the students of Marshall University to reap the benefits of this opportunity."

For more information on the master's in public health program, contact Dr. Pewen at pewen@marshall.edu.

FALL MIXER 8.23.13

Living-Learning Communities (LLCs) are communities that allow students who share a common interest in academics, social and cultural issues, or other topics, the opportunity to live together on a floor. Residents of LLCs will be assisted with getting the resources they need to accomplish their academic goals and will create life-long relationships with faculty, staff, and other students living on the floor and at Marshall University.

The COHP has been a LLC partner since Fall 2005.

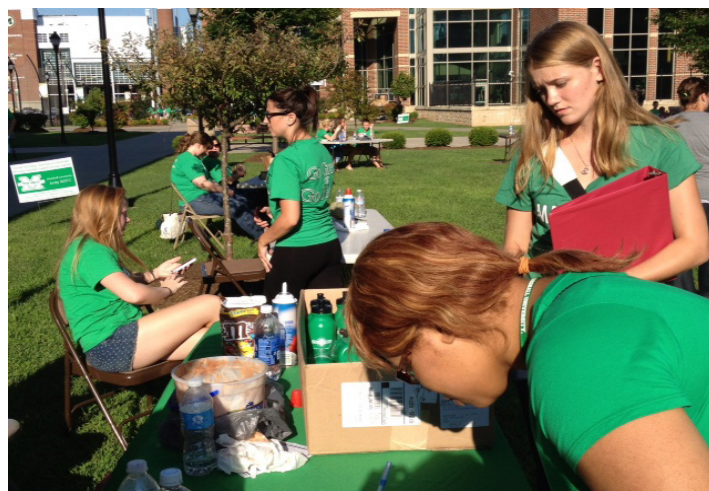


Photo 1 (Far Left): Thanks from the First Year Residence Halls! A screen shot of the **#MU_COHP** Twitter feed shows @1stYearResHalls congratulating its partners on another successful Fall Mixer.

Photo 2 (Top Right): The LLC/FIG Fall Mixer was just one of many activities going on during the 2013 Week of Welcome. Many students could be found on campus sporting their new **#Wow** gear.

Photo 3 (Bottom Right): Hundreds of students participated in this year's Fall Mixer. Marshall's COHP gave out **#HERD** water bottles to the first students on the scene.

School of Kinesiology's Dr. Suzanne Konz attends international conference in Brazil



Dr. Suzanne Konz of the Marshall University College of Health Professions traveled to Natal, Brazil this summer to present research at the 2013 International Society of Biomechanics (ISB) conference, which takes place once every two years. Konz, an assistant professor of biomechanics in the **School of Kinesiology**, said she shared her research among the biggest players in the biomechanical field during her oral presentation on her work titled, "Changes in Windmill Pitch Over Time."

"This was one of those conferences, as a biomechanist, that seemed more challenging because I was presenting in front of scholars from all around the world," Konz said. "It was exciting to think I could potentially expose someone else to a different perspective of biomechanics research."

Cristina Arikawa, a member of the ISB organizing committee, said only 40 percent of the 858 submitted abstracts were chosen for an oral presentation. She said 53 countries were represented at this year's conference.

"Konz was chosen to give an oral presentation due to the quality of her research and the fit of her research into the (sports biomechanics) theme of

the session," Arikawa said. A 2002 Winter Olympic Games athletic trainer, Konz now serves as a member of the USA Track & Field sport science biomechanics group specializing in throwing events, specifically the hammer throw. Konz said she will continue to develop relationships with other professionals in this global forum and showcase the amazing work being done at Marshall University.

"I believe this opportunity put Marshall on the map in terms of research capabilities in the field of sports science," Konz said. "From a university standpoint, we want students to see what we do and help provide them with similar opportunities to meet the scholars they read about in their textbooks. This makes our department more personal."

Dr. Gary McIlvain, chair of kinesiology and associate dean of the college, said Konz's work continues to impress him.

"Dr. Konz is an undeniable asset to the College of Health Professions and the School of Kinesiology," McIlvain said. "I look forward to her future research endeavors which can only highlight the breadth of possibilities available here at Marshall." The conference took place Aug. 4 to 9. For more information about this year's conference, visit <http://www.isbbrazil.com>.

Marshall Respiratory Care Program is 1 of 2 accredited bachelor's programs in WV

With COPD on the rise, licensed respiratory therapists are wanted to evaluate, educate and treat patients with all types of breathing disorders.

Chris Trotter, associate professor of respiratory therapy at Marshall, said respiratory therapists will continue to be in high demand due to the many respiratory hazards in this region.

"We live in an area dependent on the special metals and coal industries," Trotter said. "As great as this is for our economy, it is equally detrimental to the respiratory health of our residents. We understand the urgency of this problem, which is why Marshall University was one of the first to step up and do something about it."

Since 2005, the St. Mary's/Marshall University cooperative school has offered a Bachelor of Science degree in respiratory care. Currently, it is one of two nationally accredited programs in West Virginia,

joining Wheeling Jesuit University in Wheeling, W.Va. Keith Terry, associate professor of respiratory therapy at Marshall, said unlike the traditional four years required for most undergraduate programs, the respiratory therapy program only takes three years to complete. Housed in the St. Mary's Center for Education on 29th street in Huntington, the respiratory care classrooms have state of the art equipment complete with an on-site library and brand new high fidelity simulation lab.

"Our program provides a comprehensive, faced-paced environment which allows for a better understanding of our profession," Terry said. "Our advanced coursework engages our students, fostering the foundation of knowledge necessary to result in better patient outcomes."

The **St. Mary's/Marshall University cooperative respiratory care program** accepts 20 new students each year.

Lose the Training Wheels Camp:

A Volunteer's Perspective

By: Megan Archer
Dean's Staff

We all need to be challenged. Challenges make us grow. Challenges make us our best. When I realized I would be working with special needs children during the Lose the Training Wheels camp this past summer, I knew it would be a challenge. I had never worked with special needs individuals and I'd certainly never taught anyone to ride a bike. When I arrived at Huntington High School that very first day, I met a young lady I'll never forget – ten-year-old Sarah Brown. Sarah had been diagnosed with pervasive developmental disorder- not otherwise specified (PDD-NOS). PDD-NOS is one of three autism spectrum disorders, which causes severe and pervasive impairment in the development of social interaction, verbal and nonverbal communication skills. To say that first day was a challenge would be an understatement. Sarah was unable to communicate with me using words, so I struggled to find a way to understand her and help her to understand me. Each day I worked with Sarah, I began to recognize her method of communication– whereas another child may tell me “we’re going too fast,” I became aware of the strong grip on Sarah’s handle bars or the emotion in her eyes as we sped up. For 75 minutes a day, we developed our own language with one another. Using my hand signals, facial expression and very few words, she slowly began to trust me. Each day, I worked with Sarah, teaching her how to ride a bike for the very first time.

When the day came for Sarah to ride solo, the feelings I had were conflicting – extremely proud she’d come so far and extremely scared she wasn’t ready. Much like a parent I’m sure, I was most afraid that I hadn’t prepared her for what was to come. By the end of the camp, Sarah was riding and riding fast, without assistance. Watching her as she rode and seeing the smile on her face, I realized something – Sarah, in her determination and astounding resilience, taught me anyone has the power to demonstrate everything is possible.

The **School of Kinesiology’s** Lose the Training Wheels camp is an amazing initiative that teaches special needs children how to ride bikes. However, that is not all that is taught. As a volunteer, I learned something I’ll never forget. No matter our circumstance, whether we are deemed “normal” or labeled otherwise, we are more alike than different. We are all individuals, with unique abilities and needs. Learning how to appreciate our similarities, rather than dwell on our differences is one of life’s many lessons. I can only hope you, too, will experience the same kind of adventure some day soon.

What’s the Word with **The Herd?**

- **September 5th: Health Informatics Accreditation Celebration:** *An Ethiopian Feast* will be held 4-6 p.m. at the St. Mary’s Center for Education. This event is open to all faculty and staff.
- **September 17-19th:** Behavioral Health Conference at Charleston Civic Center.
- **September 19th:** Cabell Midland Recruitment Fair.
- **September 19th:** Public meeting for Dept. of Communication Disorders Reaccreditation Visit, 4:30-5 p.m., Smith Hall 134. For info on the CAA’s policy on public comment, contact the ASHA accreditation office at 800-498-2071 or ASHA’s Web site at <http://www.asha.org/Academic/accreditation/PublicCommentList/>.
- **October 15-16th:** 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.



Marshall staff member, Megan Archer (left), stands with COHP student Amy Bowen (center), and camp volunteer Brianna (right) as they help 10 year old Sarah Brown learn to ride a bike during the 2013 Lose the Training Wheels Camp. For more information on how to get involved with next’s year camp, visit www.marshall.edu/LTTW.

Marshall Speech and Hearing Center

hosts “Tiny Talkers” program for children with speech disorders



Four year old Cooper Frasher was diagnosed with apraxia of speech when he came to the **Marshall University Speech and Hearing Center (MUSHC)** two years ago. Cooper’s mother, Terri Frasher, said this speech disorder caused her son to have language delays which kept him from learning to speak, spell and even read.

“As a mother, I am his biggest advocate,” Frasher said. “I knew I needed to help him and when a speech therapist at Cooper’s school suggested the Marshall Speech and Hearing Center, I didn’t hesitate to come.”

In order to help children like Cooper, the program “Tiny Talkers Book Club” was created to facilitate speech therapy through the use of books. Jen Baker, speech language pathologist in the Speech and Hearing Center, said one of the main points of the program is to focus on emergent literacy.

“Kids with speech and language delays are at-risk for having challenges with literacy,” Baker said. “We saw a great need for a program like this

which would help strengthen a child’s language skills in a group setting to decrease the chances of literacy problems in the future.”

Since coming to the MUSHC, Frasher said she has seen dramatic improvements in her son’s language development.

“This time last year Cooper spoke approximately five words,” Frasher said. “By the end of the summer, he was up to 80 words and using complete sentences.”

Baker said the program holds parent seminars once a month to provide strategies for families to continue teaching their children at home.

“We want to build a solid foundation for our clients,” Baker said. “While working with these children, we are also able to provide great training opportunities for our graduate students within Marshall’s College of Health Professions.”

The final session of the “Tiny Talkers Book Club” was held Thursday, August 1 from 9:30 – 10:45 a.m. in the Marshall Speech and Hearing Center located on campus in Smith Hall. For more info on this program, please contact Jen Baker at jen.baker@marshall.edu.



Graduate assistant Catherine Counts worked with the Tiny Talkers kids all summer.



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Marshall Public Health Professor Dr. Sawhney

presented research in Australia for 9th World Congress on health economics

Dr. Monika Sawhney of the Marshall University College of Health Professions traveled to Australia this past July to attend the 9th International Health Economics Association (iHEA) World Congress.

Sawhney, assistant professor and director of the **Public Health** program at Marshall, said she gave an oral presentation detailing her research on “The performance of India’s health care system: Evidence from a stochastic frontier analysis.”

“My research involved the basic principle of efficiency,” Sawhney said. “We have so many economic challenges all over the world. In order to be efficient, we have to implement the best healthcare practices. One of the ways to do this is to make efficient use of available resources.”

Sawhney said this is a very timely topic for not only developing countries such as India, but for nations across the globe as well as within the U.S., especially West Virginia.

“Many national and local governments—both in the developing and developed world—are faced with the possibility of a decline in resources for health and other social sectors,” Sawhney said. “As a researcher of health economics, this conference provided an opportunity to be exposed to cutting edge research that

can help policymakers implement strategies which encourage high levels of efficiency.”

Tom Getzen, iHEA executive director, said there was over one thousand researchers in attendance representing over 60 countries in the world.

“This was a large forum where like-minded people could present their ideas and connect with one another on a global front,” Getzen said. “This was a great way for researchers to get feedback on their methodology and meet others interested in the field of health economics. Those who attended this conference have presented work that meets an international standard.”

Sawhney said she was thrilled to be given an opportunity to share her knowledge with others in her field.

“I was very excited to see what other researchers have been working on in the area of health economics,” Sawhney said. “This opened many doors for the Marshall community to be able to collaborate with scholars around the world on future research initiatives.”

Sawhney gave her oral presentation at the 2013 iHEA Conference from 11:45 a.m. – 1 p.m., Monday, July 8th in Sydney, Australia. The 10th iHEA World Congress will be held in Dublin, Ireland in 2014.



(Shown Left): Professor Monika Sawhney stands overlooking Budapest - she has traveled all over the world for her work on global health economics. She will travel to Tanzania in summer 2014 for her public health initiatives.

WELCOME NEW FACULTY: Fall 2013



PEGGY HARMON
SOCIAL WORK

Peggy Harman, Ph.D., MSW, LCSW, is an assistant professor in the Department of Social Work at Marshall University. Dr. Harman came to Marshall in the fall of 2013 and serves as instructor for Human Behavior and Social Environment (SW 310), Social Work Research (SW 340) and the Capstone course (SW 475). She received her doctorate degree from the Raymond A. Kent School of Social Work at University of Louisville in 2006, and attended WVU to receive her MSW in 1990 and her B.F.A. in theatre in 1980. Prior to her position at Marshall, Professor Harman worked for Ohio University (1996-2008) and Salisbury University in Maryland (2008-2010). She has

also worked as a substance abuse counselor for the military and as an itinerate therapist for villages in Alaska. However, her most interesting work began in 2011 when she served as a mitigation specialist/investigator for the Federal Public Defender - Third Circuit of Western Pennsylvania where she was responsible for examining inmates on death row. Originally from West Virginia, Professor Harman said she has always wanted to teach at Marshall University and share her years of clinical experience with students. Harman hopes to bring knowledge and critical thinking skills to those in her classroom and help them realize how truly powerful the field of social work can be.

Mark Timmons, Ph.D., ATC, is an assistant professor of athletic training within the Marshall University College of Health Professions. Since fall 2013, Dr. Timmons has served as instructor for HS 365: Functional Kinesiology, HS 625: Evidenced Based Practice Therapeutic Electrical Agents, HS 440: Modalities in Athletic Training and other graduate courses within the School of Kinesiology. Prior to his position at Marshall, Professor Timmons worked as an athletic trainer for the University of Chicago (1988-1999) before attending University of Michigan to receive his master's in kinesiology (2001). He also served as faculty at University of Toledo where he received his Ph.D. in exercise science (2007).



MARK TIMMONS
SCHOOL OF KINESIOLOGY

Professor Timmons conducted his postdoctoral research at the Hunter Holmes McGuire Veterans Administration Medical Center at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Va. (2009-2012) where he explored shoulder pain biomechanics within the general population as well as veterans in Iraq and Afghanistan. In addition to being a certified athletic trainer, Professor Timmons is a member of the National Athletic Trainers Association, the American Society of Biomechanics and the International Society of Biomechanics. Fully aware of the opportunities the field of sports medicine has to offer, he hopes to bring an equal balance of academic and clinical experience to his students within the athletic training program.



KAY SWARTZWELDER
SCHOOL OF NURSING

Anita Kay Swartzwelder, PhD, MSN, RN, FNP-BC, CNE is an assistant professor of nursing within the Marshall University College of Health Professions. Since August 2013, Dr. Swartzwelder has served as an online instructor for NUR 305, NUR 427 and NUR 427 lab. She also teaches the clinical coursework for NUR 325: Nursing and Human Response V. Prior to her position at Marshall, Professor Swartzwelder worked as an assistant professor of health technology at Ohio University and instructor in the nursing program. She also serves as an online adjunct professor for the College of Health Professions at Drexel University and the Chamberlain College of Nursing. She served as director of nursing at Collins Career Center in Chesapeake, Ohio for 16 years.

Professor Swartzwelder received her Ph.D. in education from Capella University in 2011; her M.S. in nursing with a nurse practitioner specialty from Marshall University in 2000; her B.S. in nursing at Ohio University in 1992 and became a certified nurse educator in

2010. She is currently a member of the National League for Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau Honor Society and the Ohio League for Nursing. In Fall 2012, she presented research on Students' Perception of Learning at the National League for Nursing Conference in Anaheim, California. Her research interests include improving learning techniques for her students – she recently was published in the Nursing Education Perspectives for her work titled, "Examining the effect of texting on students' perception of learning."

Professor Swartzwelder is very passionate about online teaching and will continue to find ways to engage students in an online educational environment. As a life-long resident of the Tri-state area, Professor Swartzwelder enjoys teaching students at her alma mater and being a part of the Marshall community. She remains active in the community and volunteers as a Family Nurse Practitioner at the Ebenezer Medical Outreach in Huntington and as chairperson of the Shawnee Mental Health Board of Directors.

WELCOME NEW FACULTY: Fall 2013

Paula Reilley, PhD, ARNP, CNS, MBA is an associate professor of nursing within the Marshall University College of Health Professions. Since fall 2013, Dr. Reilley has served as instructor for NUR 626 in the nurse practitioner program and NUR 322 in the BSN program. Prior to her position at Marshall, Professor Reilley taught nursing at the University of Charleston for 14 years; and also at West Virginia State University for four years, Texas Tech University for two years and served as a teaching assistant at the University of Texas in Austin. She is a Certified Family Nurse Practitioner as well as certified as a Clinical Nurse Specialist in Adult Psychiatric

Nursing. In order to maintain her clinical expertise, she also works part-time as a nurse practitioner for Highland Hospital in Charleston, W.Va., on the substance abuse unit.

Professor Reilley received her ADN from West Liberty State College in 1973; her BSN from West Liberty State College in 1981; her MSN from WVU in 1985; her Ph.D. in nursing from The University of Texas at Austin in 1993; and her MBA from The University of Charleston in 1999.

In addition to her extensive academic background, Professor Reilley is a member of Sigma Theta Tau, a member of the board for Highland Hospital, and

a member of the International Club in Charleston. Her research interests include substance abuse, addictions, self-defeating behavior patterns, and drug-screening policies in BSN and other nursing programs in the United States.

Professor Reilley is very passionate about education – she wants to provide her students with “value-added education,” allowing her to be more effective as an educator and ultimately, giving her students the tools needed to work safely and competently with patients. She is excited to be at a public institution such as Marshall University and to be teaching in the graduate nursing department.



PAULA REILLEY
SCHOOL OF NURSING

School of Physical Therapy receives Hedrick Grant

Dr. Penny Kroll and Dr. Rania Karim of the **MU School of Physical Therapy** have received the Hedrick Program Grant for Teaching Innovation for the 2013-14 academic year.

The Hedrick Grant is given annually from the Faculty Development Office in the Center for Teaching and Learning at Marshall. The grant funds an award of up to \$5,000 for a project that supports innovations in teaching at the program level. With the aid of the Hedrick Grant, Karim said students can build on these experiences and continue their interactions with different professionals to learn about improving patient care.

“If we can get our students exposed to this collaborative environment of working with individuals of different disciplines, we create meaningful interactions that improve student outcomes,” Karim said. “Growing up in this educational environment will allow them to be more prepared for real-world situations. That’s our ultimate goal.”

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Richard “Rick” Rogers is the new administrative associate within the College of Health Professions. Since August 2013, he has been responsible for providing administrative support to the dean while managing daily operations of multiple departments within the COHP. Rogers also serves as liaison with university units, outside organizations and the general public.

Prior to his position at Marshall, he worked for the city of Huntington as the assistant finance director for 23 years as well as the state of West Virginia Tax Department and the Cabell Huntington Health Department. Rogers received his bachelor’s of business administration from Marshall University in 1984. Growing up in a big family in Huntington, Rogers said he has always been a fan of Marshall athletics and considers himself lucky to work for the best university in the state.

**To submit suggestions
or ideas for next month’s
COHP Faculty newsletter,
please email
archer15@marshall.edu**